



THE DIE-HARDS

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

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VOL. XII No. 2

AUGUST, 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," "Seringapatam," "Albuhera," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyrenées," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsular," "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa 1902-02."

The Great War—46 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Aisne, 1914," "La Bassée, 1914," "Messines, 1914," "17, 18," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "17, 18," "Gravenstapel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Bellevue," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme," "1916," "18," "Albert," "1916," "18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Fiers-Coulette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "18," "Bapaume, 1917," "18," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "18," "Arleux," "Pillcote," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrouck," "Baillieux," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suva," "Landing at Suva," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell Asur," "Palestine 1917-18," "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murmur, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

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

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

Territorial Army Battalions
7th Bn. (1/7th Bn. and 2/7th Bn. amalgamated after 1939-45 War).
8th Bn. Now 11 Bn. The Parachute Regiment (8th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) T.A.).
9th Bn. Now 571 L.A.A. Regt. R.A.
(9th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment, (D.C.O.) T.A.).

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

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

NEW ZEALAND.
The Wellington Coast and Taranaki Regiment,
Toku, Taranaki, New Zealand.
HONG KONG REGIMENT.
British Army Post Office, 1, Hong Kong.
Colonel of the Regiment: Lt.-General G. C. Bucknall, C.B.,
M.C., 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.E.

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Editorial	52	31st Field Regiment Notes	87
1st Battalion Notes	53	Officers' Club Notes	88
Depot Notes	66	Newsletter by M.B.	91
7th Battalion Notes	78	Extracts from London Gazette	93
11th Battalion Parachute Regiment Notes	81	Unveiling of Bayeux Memorial	94
571 L.A.A. Regiment Notes	82	Obituaries, etc.	97
Hong Kong Regiment Notes	84	Minutes of Meetings	99

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

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

All Contributions intended for publication should reach the Editor not later than the 1st of the month previous to that of issue. CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE TYPED IN TRIPLICATE, AND BE ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY, and signed, stating whether it is desired to publish the contributor's name or not. Rejected manuscripts, etc., will only be returned if accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope. The Editor will thankfully receive Contributions from past or present members of the Regiment or others interested, but necessarily reserves to himself the right of publication. All communications concerning the paper, including Advertisements, should be addressed to the Editor, "The Die-Hards" Journal, The Middlesex Regiment, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

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 G. W. Kempster

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

EDITORIAL

As reported elsewhere, our late Editor-in-Chief, owing to circumstances beyond his control, has been obliged to discontinue his admirable work for the Journal, and another takes over.

This one—as yet not “in the saddle”—is firmly of the opinion, though, that there is much to be said for a short editorial, especially as so often it is not read. However, should this one be perused by any intending contributor he hastens to assure him that anything he may submit will be received gratefully, and considered for publication—especially if it is concise, colourful and of general interest.

Oh! and we always want new readers, if you can help.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Autumn Golf Meeting

September 24/25, 1955. North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, Hants.

Regimental Reunion

Seymour Hall, London, W.1, on Friday, October 28, 1955.

Remembrance Day

At Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, on Saturday, November 5, 1955, at 10.45 a.m.

At Depot, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, on Sunday, November 6, at 10.30 a.m.

REGULAR OFFICERS' DINNER 1955

As the date of return of the 1st Battalion to the United Kingdom is as yet indefinite, arrangements for the Regular officers' dinner will be notified to all concerned at a later date.

STOP PRESS—The above dinner will be held on September 29, at the United Service Club.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

June 15, 1955.

The Editor,

I am wondering whether any old member of the 2nd Battalion can come to my assistance.

In 1923 the garrison of Singapore threw out a challenge to the 2nd Battalion “to Mortal Combat at the real game of Football—Rugby,” being somewhat fed up with the Battalion's monotonous successes at soccer.

There was no rugby team in the Battalion at the time, but after some six weeks a side took the field and defeated the challengers.

I have tried on several occasions to obtain an account of this match which was reported in the Singapore local press, but it appears that their records were lost during the Japanese occupation.

Can anybody supply me with an account of the game, the names of the players, and the score? No account appears in the Journal of the time unfortunately. (The challenge was written in old English on parchment and has been carefully preserved. It is not complete, however, without a short account of the game and, if possible, the names of the players, many of whom I can remember, but not all.

E. L. HEYWOOD,
Depot, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.)

UNITED SERVICE CORPS

We wish to bring to the notice of other ranks about to leave the Regiment the opportunities of employment which can be provided by the above Corps. The chief type of employment for which the Corps caters, mainly in the London area, is as commissionaires, clerks, messengers and receptionists.

Those requiring further details can obtain them by writing to the Secretary, United Service Corps, 19 Hans Court, Holborn, London, W.C.1.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR EMPLOYMENT OF REGULAR SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN

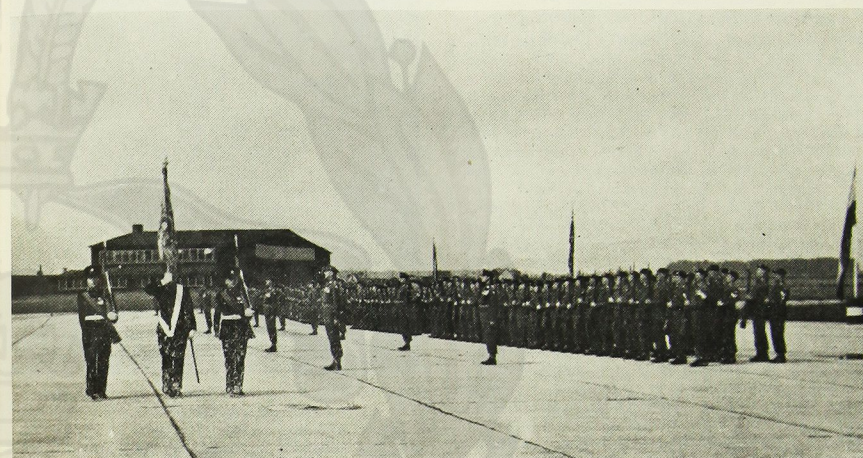
Headquarters: 62 Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Ex-Regulars of the Regiment are reminded that the above Association exists to assist them in obtaining suitable employment should they desire it. It provides a nation-wide service to them through a network of fifty-odd Branches. In 1954 forty-five soldiers of the Regiment were placed in employment by this Society.

ROYAL ARTILLERY CHARITABLE FUND

Readers who may be interested are reminded that the Woolwich Searchlight 1955 Tattoo will take place at Woolwich Stadium, London, from September 21-22, 1955, in aid of the above fund.

It promises to be its usual spectacular success and tickets ranging in price from 3s. 6d. to 15s. can be obtained from the Tattoo Box Office, Artillery House, 58 Woolwich Common, London, S.E.18 (Tel. WO 1494), who can supply any further particulars that may be required.



QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PARADE

Colour Party comprises 2/Lt. Lloyd, C.S.M. Thorogood and C.Q.M.S. Burgess

1st Battalion Notes

TRAINING

The Battalion took part in United States Forces Exercise “Round Up” in March as part of the Aggressor Force and acquitted itself most creditably. The weather was extremely cold, but many valuable lessons were learned. The general instructions for the exercise included a paragraph stating that Gasthauses were out of bounds. However, since the Battalion were incapable of translating American, all members of the Battalion gravitated wherever possible to the warmth and comfort of the nearest Gasthaus. One American officer reporting to the Commander of Aggressor Force was overheard to say, “Say Colonel, those British are in a Gasthaus. If there is no Gasthaus in their next location I guess they will remove the one they are in brick by brick.”

Each Company has in turn carried out classification at Warmbad Ranges and field firing at Schmelz. At the latter “B” Company encountered five snowstorms in mid-June in five days. The majority of Companies have marched the last 70-odd miles back from Warmbad, taking four days to do it. This march was regarded at

The tragic disaster at Mattighofen at the tail end of Exercise “Round Up” hit the Battalion most deeply. The Battalion were able to show their affection and sorrow at the very solemn funeral held at Annabichl cemetery on March 16, 1955.

But as everyone knows so well, no matter what is written in black and white nothing can really express the profound feeling of the whole Battalion. We offer our most heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved and the relatives of the injured. We sincerely hope that the injured will soon regain their full health, strength and happiness—to which end we dedicate our thoughts and hopes.

I think it is true to say that all ranks of the Battalion have enjoyed their stay in Austria. However, the news that we were not being relieved by the Black Watch and that we must remain on until after ratification of the Peace Treaty was a body blow. It has complicated and disorganised not only Battalion and Regimental plans but also that of every family and man. Still, as always, everyone has accepted it with a smile and has got down to the job in hand.

first with a jaundiced eye by the majority, but now is the accepted thing and, strange to relate, is thoroughly enjoyed.

ADMINISTRATION INSPECTION

The annual administration inspection by Major-Gen. R. E. Urquhart, C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C. B.T.A., took place on April 19 and was an unqualified success in every way. The Battalion was formed on the square in four Companies and, after the normal compliments and inspection, marched past the G.O.C.-in-C. in slow time followed by quick time. Gen. Urquhart and his inspection team then toured the barracks and inspected every building and everything within sight. The "fire" started by the D.A.Q.M.G. was put out practically as soon as it was lit—due no doubt to a certain sleuth who knew his job for the day and dogged the D.A.Q.M.G.'s footsteps from the moment of his arrival.

ALBUHERA DAY

Albuhera Day was celebrated in style and everything ran like clockwork. The traditional visits and toasts were carried out and the finals of the Albuhera Athletics were completed with "C" Company emerging as worthy winners and the new holders of the Albuhera Shield.

Most successful dances were held by both Messes.

ANGLO-AMERICAN GUARD CHANGE (June 1, 1955)

On June 1 "B" Company, reinforced by other Companies, provided the British Guard for the Anglo-American Guard Change. The Guard was commanded by Major A. S. J. de S. Clayton, with Capt. K. J. Carter commanding the Left Division. 2/Lts. P. A. Highton and J. Baker carried the Queen's and Regimental Colours, and C.S.M. Kenrick of "S" Company acted as the right marker and C.S.M. According to all reports the Guard was well up to standard and the slow march past went down extremely well with all the spectators.

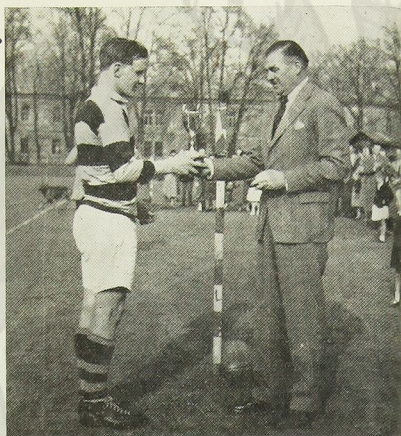
The Battalion is already preparing for what is thought to be probably the last British Guard Change on July 1. It is hoped to be the *creme de la creme* and the members, drawn from the complete Battalion resources, are already to be seen on the square under the eagle eye of the R.S.M.; the Guard will be commanded by Major T. W. Chattey.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

The Queen's Birthday Parade took place on June 9. The parade was impressive and well carried out, but it was sad to perforce the Queen's Colour and Band and Drums were away in Vienna. The 21-gun salute was fired by two 17-pounder detachments of the Anti-Tank Platoon.

SPORT

The Battalion won the B.T.A. Rugby Competition final with an easy victory over R.A.O.C./R.E.M.E. and walked off with the Seven-a-Side Competition, having both first and second VIIIs in the final. The general



Capt. H. J. Evans collects the B.T.A. Inter-Unit Knock-out Cup from the G.O.C.

standard of Rugby has improved considerably in the Battalion, but there is still plenty of room for further improvement, particularly in the forwards.

Our performance in the B.T.A. Soccer League was disappointing as we are the only major unit in the Command and yet could only finish second to the Royal Signals. We have plenty of talent available and, perhaps, with greater competition in Cyprus, the team will really fulfil our expectations and hopes.

We won an excellent boxing match against R.A.O.C. and then produced eight weight winners and three runners-up out of nine weights in the B.T.A. Individual Championships.

"D" and "A" Companies finished first and second respectively in the B.T.A. cross-country and the Battalion provided the first six individual places. L/Cpl. Robinson ("D" Company) is to be congratulated on being the winner.

"C" Company won the Albuhera Athletic Meeting proving themselves to be an extremely well-balanced team. "C" Company has done considerably well in all forms of sport in 1954-55 and well deserved to win the Albuhera Shield. In addition to their sporting successes it should be remembered that they also won the Inter-Company Drill Competition and carried off many shooting prizes last year. Perhaps people may accuse the writer of bias, but it certainly is refreshing to see a Rifle Company head the list once again.

The hockey XI scored some notable successes, but it was unfortunate that it proved impossible through transport difficulties to enter for the B.T.A. Six-a-Side Competition, of which we were the holders. It is probable that of all sport in the Battalion we are strongest overall at hockey.

To round things off, C/Sgt. Potter won the B.T.A. Golf Championships, defeating the G.O.C.-in-C. in

the final two up. We knew C/Sgt. was a good golfer; we now know that he is also a man of such courage.

ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES AND VISITS

During the last four months Major P. D. H. Marshall, Capt. K. J. Carter, Capt. P. G. V. Bellers and family and 2/Lts. Baker and V. Brown have come to join the Battalion. We hope they enjoy the last few months in Austria and are as glad to be with us as we are to be with them.

Major V. A. Thomas, M.C., having been dined out in the Officers' Mess on June 13, was given a very sad farewell when he left the Battalion on retirement on the following day. Our best wishes go with him and to his family. Betting on the winner of next year's old soldiers' race has begun already now that the favourite and winner in the last two years has retired from the fray.

Cpts. D. Pike and W. M. M. Deacock have also left for the Malay Regiment and Parachute Regiment respectively. They will be greatly missed on the cricket and rugger fields.

The Rev. E. Fortune and family have also just left. The cleric has a new post at Borden and it is hoped that we shall all meet again soon. The Padre was a very popular figure in the Battalion. We are particularly indebted to him for his untiring good work and selflessness when he remained behind with the injured in hospital after the tragic disaster at Mattighofen.

We were all very pleased to see R.S.M. P. Donovan from the Depot on his very brief visit when conducting a draft. It was very nice to see him again and we look forward to seeing him the next time on his old stamping ground.

APOLOGIA

These are being prepared in the snows of Schmelz, the odd day at Zeltweg and in the downpours of Warmbad. However it is guaranteed that they will be despatched in the correct order of march. In the last issue the hockey farewell to Mr. Tarrant appeared in the M.M.G. Platoon notes, which was a pity despite the fact that Mr. Tarrant in his day was a notable "gunner."

Passing the baby is a favourite sport but the baby in this case is passed with a clear conscience and an "over and out."

"H.Q." COMPANY

The Company did surprisingly well in the Albuhera competition for 1954-55, "H.Q." 1 finishing second to "C" Company, one point ahead of "S" Company, and "H.Q." 2 finishing last but by no means least as they proved in their excellent performance in the Albuhera Day athletics.

We were well represented in the Battalion team that won the B.T.A. Ski Championships to close the season. S.S.I. Blight being first in both the Downhill and Slalom events.

The first sport to get under way with the thawing of the snow in early April was Rugby, and once again we supplied half the Battalion side that enjoyed an unbeaten season. We combined to enter two teams for the inter-Company "sevens" and won a close final with "B" Company by 14-6 to avenge previous de-

feats. There is no doubt that the Company has enjoyed its Rugby season and it is hoped that it will continue to do so in seasons to come.

Our two soccer teams proved disappointing, though with the Band and Drums away so often both were severely handicapped. "H.Q." 1 relied mainly on the Signal Platoon and Regimental Police whilst "H.Q." 2 was never really able to field a side that could back up its stars, Ptes. Wright and Homer. Cpls. Mead and Young played well throughout the season for both the Company and the Battalion, but on the occasions when one or other was injured "H.Q." 1 seemed to lack cohesion. There is a certain apathy in the Company at present towards training for sport which will have to be overcome if we are to regain the Albuhera Shield.

"H.Q." 1 won the Albuhera hockey thanks mainly to the efforts of B.M. Jackson and the Band. "H.Q." 2 also did better than expected—Major Chattey, C.S.M. Bartle, C/Sgt. Dive, S.S.I. Blight and Pte. Maloney all playing exceptionally well. The cross-country proved a great disappointment, the Company teams filling the last two places, but again the Band and Drums were away making the selection of teams most difficult.

Both teams shone in the athletics, everyone doing far better than the results of the Company sports meetings had foreshadowed. "H.Q." 2 had an unbeatable relay team over short distances, winning both the 4 x 100 metre and 4 x 200 metre relays. "H.Q." 1 did well in field events, winning the hammer and pole vault and finished second to "C" Company overall. A combined Company under Sgt. Hazlewood's guidance won the tug-of-war.

We finished third in the final of the B.T.A. Miniature Range Competition and supplied quite a number of the Battalion .303 team that won a match against the Leoben Gendarmerie. We are now busily zeroing for Warmbad. The main body of the Company is due to classify with the casualties from June 10 to 18, but we have, of course, been sending small parties with all Companies. Major G. C. Dawson is practicing madly for Bisley—we wish him the best of luck.

Having lost the Band, Officers' Mess staff and the M.I. Room staff to "D" Company, the Company is once more to enter the Albuhera competition as a whole, so we hope for better results in the future. The cricket and basketball competitions are to be played in Austria before we leave, and we welcome Major P. L. Pearce-Gould as a most useful reinforcement to the cricket team—he is a very useful batsman and wicket keeper—but our basketball team will have to be largely built up from the Signals and Drums as in the past we have relied on the Band for this sport.

Signal Platoon

Perhaps it would be more appropriate to call these the Signal Company notes as in the last three months our strength has increased to 66 all ranks; the cadre now in its last week keeps our 21 new arrivals and four previously unclassified signallers busy and the remainder are employed on I.S. or exchange duties in Vienna, Schmelz, Warmbad and Zeltweg. Slowly the older signallers are leaving to sample the delights of civilian life. We have had to bid reluctant farewells to Ptes,

Moore, Beckwith, Alderman and Pritchard, all of whom have served the Platoon well, Pritchard from Korea days. Next to leave us is Cpl. McCorry, our wireless wizard, who has played a large part in keeping our aged wireless sets working throughout our stay in Austria. He will also be missed on the hockey field. However we welcome the new intake to the Platoon as they will be the hard core of the future Platoon in Cyprus.

We all join in offering our congratulations to Lt. W. G. A. Crumley on passing top of the officers' division at Hythe with 80.5 per cent., to Sgt. Cheesman on his pre-Albuhera promotion, to Cpls. Fulton and Hunt on obtaining excellent reports and "C" gradings on their Hythe course, to Cpl. Young and L/Cpls. Wootton and Poole on their promotions and to Pte. and Mrs. Baggle on the birth of a second son.

Most of us have just returned from 10 days' field firing at Schmelz—a welcome break in the cadre that has been running ever since our last visit there for skiing. The range was fairly well covered by snow but in spite of the elements we enjoyed ourselves and produced good results. Manpack exercises 62 and 31 proved strenuous but successful, and our marches to the weather station and over the Schlossekogel seemed a very enjoyable way of getting fit. Some of us marched to camp via Obdach, completing the 15 or so miles in some five hours. However, such was the enthusiasm for life in the mountains that the R.S.O. was able to take eight volunteers mountaineering with him over Whitsun.

The new drafts have provided us with some excellent games players and the Platoon soccer team has once more been able to stand up to Company teams, securing victories over "S" and "D" Companies. We also provided nine of the "H.Q." 1 soccer XI. There is plenty of rugby talent also, although this was not apparent when we lost a seven-a-side match to the Glasgow Academy Cadets on Easter Sunday. The chances of getting together a Platoon XV were lessened by the shortness of the season but we live in high hopes for the future.

We are now busily sitting classification exams, reeling in cable at Schmelz and looking forward to Warmbad. We hope to get together a useful cricket XI and fit in some more mountaineering courses on our return to Zeltweg. Our time in Austria is fast running out and we must make the most of all the country has to offer before we leave. We wish the R.S.O. the best of good fortune at the Depot and look forward to the arrival of Lt. Crumley from Hythe positively bursting with "sound waves," "electrons" and "formulae."

BAND

Before plunging into details of the Band's "Happy Wanderings" during the past quarter, I would first make mention of Bdsm. David Wark, who for many past editions has been the writer of these Band notes.

In April he left us for civilian life to apply for the post of an assistant play producer with the B.B.C. If by chance he should obtain the position, and one of his plays does go on the air, I would advise listeners to have an up-to-date dictionary handy.

Seriously though, all of us in the Band who have read and enjoyed his humour, wish him the best of good

fortune, together with our sympathies for the B.B.C.

On February 22 we gave a concert in the local "Werks Hotel," to a very large and appreciative audience. After the concert those fortunate enough not to be in the Dance Band retired to the cellars to sample a succulent Vienna Schnitzel and the local brew, whilst the "Bop Group" forced the audience to their feet, after which they also feasted, so a good time was had by all.

On March 1 we travelled to Vienna for the International Guard Change, which was to be filmed by B.B.C. Television teams.

The Battalion's annual administrative inspection by the G.O.C.-in-C. took place on April 19 at Zeltweg, and on April 24 the Band left for Klagenfurt to take part in the two more admin. parades, namely, for Klagenfurt Admin. Unit on the 26th and 117 Company, R.A.S.C., on the 20th.

Whilst at Klagenfurt the Band gave a concert in the NAAFI Crusader Club to an audience of officers and men from the local garrison. The Band were then given ten days' local leave. Some members spent it in Salzburg at the invitation of the American Band, whilst others returned to Vienna.

It seems that after seeing the life of luxury and ease led by the American Band, at least one of our members is applying for his transfer to same.

On May 9 we returned to Zeltweg feeling surprisingly unfit after leave, and straightway began training on the athletics and sports fields, in preparation for the Albuhera celebrations.

Also surprising was the way in which our sportsmen responded, to bring further laurels to the Band's list of achievements. On the actual day no fewer than five of our members were in the winning tug-of-war team, whilst Cpl. Davies and Boy Hazell, for the second year running, won the pole vault. Mention must also be made of the effort shown by Boy Gutteridge, who was called in at the last moment to run in the 100 yards, and proved himself a real "dark horse" by running extremely well. Sgt. Grogan has undertaken to train him up for next year.

In other sports we are not doing so well as in the past, having lost so many of our originals, but when we met the visiting Glasgow Academy Cadets at football we managed to draw 1—1 in the first match, and beat them by 2 goals to nil in the return game.

In Vienna we were challenged by "B" Company to a game of hockey, which we lost by 3 goals to 2.

A few weeks ago the B.T.A. cross-country championships were run off at Klagenfurt, and the Band was again represented by Bdsm. John Patrick, who came in second.

We have just received news that an ex-member, now Bandmaster Bentley, has taken over the Band of the Manchester Regiment in Berlin. Bdsm. Burleigh went home on demob. last week; he will be missed for the hard work he did as Band librarian, and we wish him the best of good fortune in the future.

Newcomers this quarter are Bdsm. Fudge, Jones and Boy Adkin, who took part in their first International Guard in Vienna on June 1.

CORPS OF DRUMS

Since our last notes many notable changes have taken place. Firstly, we have bidden farewell to Dmrs. Murray and Thomas who have departed for civilian life. Our best wishes go with them. We welcome to the fold Dmrs. Evans, Chidlow, Gannon, Ray, Berwick and Montgomery, and would also like to wish Dmr. Pullen a speedy recovery to good health; he is at the moment in hospital in England.

The month of April found us once again spending some time in Klagenfurt at Jaeger Barracks for the Klagenfurt Admin. Unit and R.A.S.C. Admin. Inspection parades. During May we spent a couple of days field firing in Schmelz, from there on to Vienna for International Guard Change with "B" Company and the Americans.

In the field of sport on Albuhera Day we had a number of Drummers taking part in the track events, but our only winners' medals were won by Dmr. Stannard, who helped to win the 4 x 200 and the 4 x 100 relays.

Finally we congratulate Cpl. Bennett and L/Cpl. Davison on their promotion.

M.T. PLATOON

Since the last Journal notes the outstanding event for the Platoon was the American Exercise. The bad road conditions and cold weather were excellent training for the young drivers who form the majority of the Platoon.

A great deal of the credit for keeping the vehicles running must go to the R.E.M.E. personnel who worked long hours recovering and repairing trucks. Despite the discomforts of the exercise useful experience was gained which will be valuable when we get to Cyprus.

Once more there has been a lot of changes in the

Platoon and most of the old stagers have departed on posting or release. Those who have been posted for employment in the Middle East we shall doubtless see again when we join them.

The Platoon was sorry to see the R.A.S.C. leave Zeltweg. They had worked with us closely both in camp and out on exercises. We shall miss many friends amongst them and also the willing co-operation which they always gave us.

Our congratulations go to L/Cpl. Hisgrove on his promotion to Corporal and appointment as Commanding Officer's driver, and also to Ptes. Carter, Copper and Ward on their appointments to be Lance-Corporal.

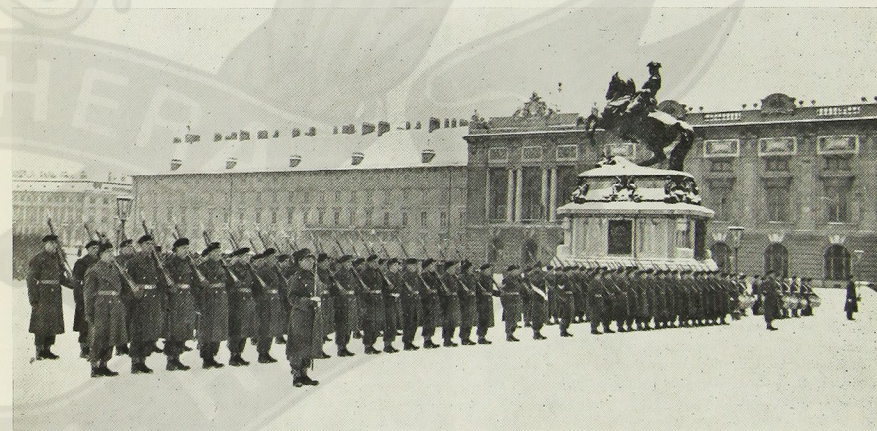
"A" COMPANY

After a very exciting and beneficial spell of ski-ing at Schmelz, the Company moved to Vienna under the command of Capt. Mieville, Major Allott being on leave at the time. A strong platoon of "S" Company was attached to the Company to increase our numbers and Capt. Pike became 2 IC of the Company.

Soon after our arrival in Vienna the Company handed over the Inter-Allied Guard to the French. Unfortunately the weather was very cold and the parade was in snow. In spite of this, however, the parade went very well and a small part (a very small part) of the parade was shown on television in an "Around Europe" series. The French guard was appropriately dressed in white and looked very smart.

C/Sgt. Dodkins joined us in Vienna and soon settled into the routine of C.Q.M.S. in the Company, both in the office and on the square.

C.S.M. Goode created quite a stir by producing a drum on the morning muster parade. This did not gain any popularity with the late sleepers of the garrison.



INTERNATIONAL GUARD CHANGE, MARCH 1, 1955
Hand-over by "A" Company 1st, Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment, to the French

From Vienna we said good-bye to many old friends when we lost Cpls. Littlejohn, Mills and Speck, L/Cpl. Bockhart and Pte. Goodbourne. In addition C.S.M. Goodge was claimed by the 7th Battalion (T.A.) at Hornsey. We wish them all the very best of luck in their new line.

In spite of continual snowfalls the Company managed to have its fair share of sport. We played a football match against a French Forces' team on the garrison ground, which was covered with snow, the lines being marked out with cinders. The Company won 3-2 after a very hard battle which proved to be a test of endurance rather than skill. In the Garrison Soccer League the Company were beaten only by the R.M.P. who played very good football indeed. The other three units were easy victims for our team.

After the excitement of the guard change the Company began thinking of the Albuhera sports, but commitments within the garrison often made our training a difficult practice. At this time we were very pleased to welcome C.S.M. Thom from "B" Company as our S.M. His presence was realised both in the office and on the square in a very short time. Capt. Deacock joined us as 2 IC when Capt. Pike departed on leave, and quickly became unofficial "Entertainments Officer." He organised a free visit to the V.M.P. theatre to see an all-American floor show. This was immensely enjoyed by those who attended.

It was not long before we saw a great deal of the Americans when they borrowed the garrison square to practice for their guard change. It was quite a change of scenery and, indeed unusual, to hear the strains of "Dixie" filling the whole of the garrison.

Other events of note were the christening of Major Allott's son, Jonathon Knowles Brian. Perhaps a member of "A" Company in the future? Also the marriage of Sgt. Lagden, who later returned to England with his wife. We congratulate them both.

As a finale to our stay in Vienna two-thirds of the Company tucked themselves away in the Education Centre to study for their Third-Class Certificates. Then after a tour of nearly three months we returned to Zeltweg to prepare for our move to Schmeltz.

The weather did strange things for our potted course of firing at Schmeltz. The first day out was tropically hot and there were many suntanned faces in the Company that evening. However, the next morning was dull and cold, the morning after that was a November day with snow and a biting wind. After successfully completing our schedule in the mountains we descended to Zeltweg.

As well as field-firing at Schmeltz we have had two Company exercises, one hard march over the mountains to Gaal and back next day, and later a two-day defensive exercise at Taxwirth. As seems usual with "A" Company, it poured with rain on both occasions.

We have just completed our annual range course at Warmbad and for a change we had exceptionally good weather, losing only half a day through rain. On the way back from Warmbad we detrained at St. Veit and marched back to Zeltweg over the mountains, a distance of some 55 miles, which we completed in four days. The Company's luck did not hold and once again the

weather was unkind, the first two days being in rain or snow. Each night the Company slept in barns which were conveniently near Gasthauses, where there were good facilities for cooking and drying out wet clothing as well as a chance of a well-earned beer.

In the Albuhera Sports Competition the Company did very well to win the cross-country team race in spite of lack of training in Vienna. This success was due to real determination and good packing. Pte. Gale is to be particularly congratulated. Those taking part in the were 2/Lts. Turner, Mather and Lloyd, Cpl. Steadman, Ptes. Gale, Poland, Savery, Vine, Philpott, Thomas, Munds and Mitchell and Cpl. Friggens. All showed great keenness and determination and had a hard fight to reach third place.

The soccer and basketball teams did well to gain second place in their respective leagues. The competition was not without its hazards as both C.S.M. Thom and Cpl. Wheat suffered broken ankles, both fortunately have nearly recovered.

In the field of sport once again the Company cross-country team entered for the B.T.A. Cross-Country Cup, having won it last year. This time, however, we came second to "D" Company in a very close finish. It may be added that "D" Company had an exceptionally strong team. The Company team is to be congratulated on its excellent performance.

"B" COMPANY

During the last few months "B" Company has led a somewhat nomadic life.

We took part in the American Exercise "Round Up" in March and were assigned to an independent role. Unfortunately Major Clayton was prevented from commanding by illness and Major Hutchings returned to the Company for the duration of the exercise. We carried out some interesting manoeuvres as an Enemy Task Force in the area of Salzburg and Linz. The weather was bitterly cold, but in spite of this spirits were high—possibly because we managed to draw and consume 4 gallons of rum. We learnt afterwards that the rest of the Battalion had none. We made some interesting contacts during the exercise with our American Allies and also renewed our experience of eating American rations.

To strike a rather sombre note we must record here our deep regret and sorrow at the death of 2/Lt. R. M. M. Heming in the Mattighoffen fire. He had been attached to "C" Company for the duration of the exercise. He was a very popular member of the Company and his presence has been very greatly missed.

Immediately upon our return from the exercise C.S.M. "Tiger" Thom left us to go to "A" Company. We were sorry to see him go for he has been a staunch member of the Company for a long time, and has always given of his best. He still has an interest in "B" Company we know and are glad that his name has been perpetuated in the Company by his presentation to us of the "Thom Shooting Trophy." This cup is for the best individual shot in the Company.

We were glad to know that our Colour-Sergeant, C.Q.M.S. Morgan, was to be promoted in his stead and wish him every success in his new appointment as our



INTERNATIONAL GUARD CHANGE, MARCH 1, 1955
British and French Guard Commanders shaking hands (part of the ceremony)



INTERNATIONAL GUARD CHANGE, MARCH 1, 1955
"A" Company, the 1st Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment, marching past the British and French Commandants

C.S.M. We were also pleased to welcome an old "B" Company man back when C/Sgt. "Local Air Commadore" J. Moyse returned to us on promotion from "S" Company.

Preparations for the annual administrative inspection began on our return from Exercise "Round Up." At the time we were involved in a frenzy of sporting activity in order to play off our games in the Albuhera League. The administrative inspection seemed to go uneventfully as far as the Company was concerned. In fact Pte. Tuffnell pleasantly surprised the General by instantly starting up his carrier (unused since last year) at a press of a button and driving off in fine style round the square.

At the end of April we moved to Vienna and took over from "A" Company. Rehearsals for the International Guard Change began almost immediately. In the absence of C.S.M. Morgan, on a drill course at Pirbright, C.S.M. A. Kenrick came to us from "S" Company and acted as C.S.M. during our stay in Vienna. After a certain amount of language difficulty he soon had the drill going in "B" Company style.

We were disappointed that we could not be with the Battalion on Albuhera Day, but celebrated in traditional manner. In the morning the Sergeants took round early tea and later the officer and N.C.O.s played the Privates at "all-in" football. One unusual event occurred during the morning when an unknown individual (from an upper storey window overlooking the Garrison Square) took it on himself to halt the right division of Vienna Garrison who were rehearsing for their annual administrative inspection parade. However, as the order was given on the correct foot (an equally unusual occurrence in this part of the command) investigations were suspended. Lunch was served at 1 o'clock and was still going very steadily at 5 o'clock in the evening.

We took part in the Garrison sporting leagues and were particularly successful at football. In several games (on behalf of Duty Company, Vienna) we were unbeaten and thereby ensured that we did our bit towards winning the Vienna Garrison Soccer League. When challenged by R.A.S.C. Vienna to a further game of soccer we beat them by 20 goals to nil and Major Clayton was able to offer O.C. R.A.S.C., Vienna R.A.S.C. (a renowned snooker player), two blacks start for the next encounter.

The International Guard Change took place on June 1. The Company were in fine fettle and full of confidence, thanks to the hard work of C.S.M. Kenrick. By all accounts the ceremony went well and the Company celebrated Whit-Thursdays in good spirits.

The Company returned to Zeltweg on June 4 and almost immediately went up to Schmelz to fire our Company weapons. However, before we left on June 9 we took part in the Queen's Birthday Parade.

The weather at Schmelz was very unkind to us, and although we took our summer dress we experienced snow and sleet every day. Visibility was very poor owing to the snow and mist, but we completed 2-in. mortar and rocket launcher firing and every man threw grenades.

At the time of writing the Company are preparing to

move to Warmbad to fire our annual range course.

In the sporting world we have not had an overwhelming run of success, but have managed to discover and train up some good sportsmen for the future. In particular we should mention Cpls. Newland, Dixon, Tarry and King who have played regularly for the Battalion rugby team, and Ptes. Wisson, Briggs and Orwin who ran extremely well in the Battalion and B.T.A. cross-country competitions. Cpl. Conway and Pte. Briggs have also been prominent in organising Company sporting activities.

C.S.M. Morgan has recently returned from his drill course in astonishing voice. We must congratulate him on his excellent result.

Recent arrivals in the Company have been Capt. K. J. Carter (from 7th Middlesex), 2/Lts. Baker and Brown (from Eaton Hall), Sgt. Hook, and a draft of new recruits from the Depot. We hope that they have settled in well.

Sgt. Steward was married in Vienna on June 2, 1955, in spite of almost insurmountable difficulties. We all congratulate him and wish him every happiness in the future. Sgt. Callaghan was best man and it is only recently that he has started to recover from the "reception."

"C" COMPANY

The last few months have seen many changes in the Company, and have included some notable events.

Our training after the uncompromising winter has been varied and sometimes very energetic. The American Exercise, "Round Up," was followed by seven days light-hearted skiing. Then we spent several weeks of garrison duties at Zeltweg, during which period we did some endurance and minor tactical training. Finally we went to fire on the attractive range at Warmbad for a week before taking over as Duty Company in Vienna on June 4.

In spite of the hard weather conditions, Exercise "Round Up" was interesting and successful, until the unfortunate accident at Mattighoeen as the exercise was ending. The violence of the disaster fell on No. 7 Platoon, and it was a very sad day for us all, when 2/Lt. Heming gallantly lost his life with Ptes. Tippetts, Simpson and Severn in an attempt to save men trapped in the blazing barn. The funeral at Annabichl was indeed a solemn occasion and the sincere sympathy of all ranks was felt for the families of those who had died in such tragic circumstances. The injured, who included Cpl. Penfold and Ptes. Barber, Leete, Beveridge, Rayner, Grove and Williams, suffered the most unpleasant burns, and all have required long and patient treatment. Happily we have good reports about them all and they are safely on the road to recovery. Our good wishes are with them and we look forward to the day when we shall see them again.

The two periods devoted to skiing at Schmelz were highly successful. Most of us became considerably more proficient than we had hoped or expected. During the second period the weather and snow conditions were both perfect and we enjoyed the exhilaration of skiing in the mornings and sun bathing during the afternoons. Our ski-ing stars were Cpl. Lowater, L/Cpls. (now



"C" COMPANY—CHAMPION COMPANY, 1955
Winners of Inter-Company Drill Competition, 1954-55

Corporal) Harrison, Holmes, Gibson and Brand, and both Lowater and Harrison distinguished themselves in the Army ski-ing championships.

In the world of sport we have had a good year which culminated in the Company winning both the "Albuhera" Shield and the Athletics Shield. Our most notable athletes included Capt. Turner, C/Sgt. Wright, Cpl. Redmond, L/Cpl. New and Pte. Hughes, supported by L/Cpls. Robinson and Sanders who were attached to us from "D" Company. They all ran extremely well. Ptes. Bentley and Green, with L/Cpl. Sanders and Pte. Whiting attached from "D" Company, distinguished themselves in the field events. In addition Cpl. Hardcastle is heavyweight champion of the B.T.A. and L/Cpl. Watson light heavyweight champion. In the Battalion cross-country our team came second to "A" Company, L/Cpl. Robinson winning in his own faultless style and L/Cpls. (now Cpl.) Harper, New and Eales and Pte. Hughes all being in the first ten.

Our hockey team was beaten only by "H.Q." 1 and finished second in the league. Capt. Leonard, C.S.M. McMillan and Pte. Bentley were the stalwarts of the team which played consistently well. The soccer team came third in the league and although the ravages of leave hindered our efforts the team was well captained and boldly led by Pte. Bentley, who was always well supported by Cpl. Redmond, Pte. Holmes and the other enthusiasts.

The period under review has seen the inevitable changes and many familiar faces have left us. 2/Lt. McManus has joined the Support Company while Cpls. Roache, Lowater and Hart, L/Cpl. Melton, Ptes. West, Cairns, Craven, Fullman and others have returned to civilian life. Their places have been taken by new arrivals from the Depot. In addition we welcome, among others, Capt. Turner, Sgts. DaCosta and Ellis and Cpls. Hardcastle and Whithread. This change of scene has naturally involved promotions and the

Corporals in the Company now include Cpls. Redmond, Harper and Harrison.

"D" COMPANY

It will have been noticed by outsiders that the strength has considerably increased during the last three months. We have had the pleasure of welcoming the Band together with the Officers' Mess, Sergeants' Mess and M.R.S. staffs. The Battalion cadre has also come under the Company's administration, the instructors being Sgts. Clements, Hook and DaCosta, who have recently come from the Depot. C.S.M. Perry has left us for a short while and is at present Sheriff of the Warmbad Ranges. His place in the office has been filled by Sgt. Elston from "A" Company.

We said good-bye to Cpl. Whithread, who vacated the clerk's chair in the office for the less hazardous duties of a Section Commander in "C" Company; Sgt. Fry, Garrison Engineer staff, has left us in order to attend a course at Chatham and Ptes. Buck, Snutch, Burns and Carless have taken their one-way ticket to the rigours of Civvy Street and we wish them the best of luck.

In March the Battalion set off for the American Zone to do battle with the U.S. Forces in exercise "Round-Up." The Company went into action as a full-strength rifle company, the majority of our gallant fighters coming from the cadre. Despite the deep and heavy snow the Company gave a good account of itself, but at the conclusion of the scheme most of us were glad to return to the warmth and glamour of Zeltweg.

In the realm of sports the Company has good reason to be proud of its achievements. We gained first place in the B.T.A. Cross-Country Championships, the team consisting of L/Cpl. Robinson, who broke the tape, Bds. Patrick, second, Ptes. Wisson and Hughes in third and fourth place. News has just come in that C.Q.M.S. Potter has won the B.T.A. Golf Championships. Congratulations. As we are now entering into

the "Albuhera" Shield once more we are confident that we will make our presence known, starting with a successful cricket season. After a little net practice we have already scored a victory against the Adjutant's XI.

"S" COMPANY

Many changes have taken place in the Company since the last notes were written. We have welcomed a new draft of 50 and lost a corresponding number of old members.

For the American winter exercise platoons detached sections to rifle companies and for many of our members the exercise proved their first opportunity to learn co-operation with other arms.

In early March the Company suffered a great loss when Major V. Thomas, M.C., left us. He was one of the founder members of the Company and has been responsible for our present happy state. Capt. C. H. Mieville, M.C., also a founder member, took over command from him.

March was largely occupied by preparations for the annual administration inspection and, of course, the inspection itself. The event proved easier than the Company prophets foretold and although we had to change our actual programme a few days beforehand we appear to have acquitted ourselves satisfactorily.

In April we started preparing for our summer training. Two long marches with a tactical background were carried out. In the second march the M.M.G. Platoon did a long carry of 8½ miles over the hills. This training stood us in good stead when after a week at Warmbad doing our annual classification we marched to Schmeltz from St. Veit. This was a distance of between 63 and 67 miles dependant on the route chosen. Platoons marched independently and carried their arms, equipment and food. The tactical setting was that each platoon had to cross enemy country to rescue an American General stranded in the mountains.

We all arrived in Schmeltz after 3½ days, and carried out field firing with our platoon weapons. All the Company equipment and vehicles being up in the hills, including two 17-pdr. anti-tank guns.

Unfortunately C.S.M. Kenrick had to leave us temporarily to help out "B" Company in Vienna and he missed Warmbad, the march and Schmeltz. However we were ably assisted by C.S.M. Thorogood, who came at short notice to take his place.

MORTAR PLATOON

The Platoon went to war with the Americans in February.

Everything was painted dark green this year for the administration inspection, including Ptes. Eynon and Cox who went to town with spray guns on their tedious "night shifts." Having painted and saturated everything in and around "S" Company hanger, the 12 highly polished potential mortarmen started some section training with surprising enthusiasm in preparation for field firing at Schmeltz.

Before this event, however, it was necessary to adapt ourselves to the rifle again in order to classify at

Warmbad. Luckily everyone remembered which end to insert the ammunition.

But the feat of strength for the month of May was the great trek from St. Veit to Schmeltz, during which time the new Platoon really proved its capabilities. Determined to be "one up" in some way it threw caution to the winds on the third day and climbed the Zirbitzkogel from Reichenfels in deep snow and a raging blizzard, thus reaching its objective in a blaze of glory and wet pants. The "new boys" are now new no longer and will certainly be able to return to Zeltweg again feeling that they can master anything that comes their way in the unpredictable future.

Capt. Deacock has stopped climbing mountains in Austria and we wish him every success in the Parachute Regiment. 2/Lt. Humber has taken his place as the remaining "new boy" of the Platoon and Sgt. Gibbs has succeeded Sgt. Walters as Platoon Sergeant. To Sgt. Walters go our best wishes in his new job with the T.A.

M.M.G. PLATOON

Early in February the Platoon spent a successful ten days ski training at Schmeltz. Pte. Spurge was selected to represent the Battalion. The mountain weather was good training for the postponed American exercise which eventually took place in March.

It snowed hard before we left for Liezen on the first stage of the journey to the American Zone and we half expected the exercise to be cancelled. We arrived at Macauly Camp at dusk on the second day. There we experienced many American luxuries and got our first look at their winter kit. Throughout the exercise the weather remained cold, particularly at night. We only once saw the enemy and we spent most of our time driving. Zeltweg seems a very pleasant place as we drew near on the return journey.

Towards the end of March we began to prepare for the administrative inspection. Our planned cadre had to be cancelled. Everyone worked for long hours, particularly the drivers.

During May we went to Warmbad with the remainder of the Company for rifle and Bren classification. Pte. Lawrence obtained a marksman on both weapons. The civilisation of Villach was appreciated by all. We went by train from Warmbad to St. Veit and then marched for three days to Schmeltz, a journey of 67 miles, including a 2,000-metre ridge. We arrived at Schmeltz on Whit-Sunday, in time for lunch, where we met the drivers who had to return to Zeltweg direct from Warmbad to collect their vehicles. At present we are field firing with the other three Platoons.

We have had a large turnover of machine gunners in the last four months. We bid the old hands adieu and good luck and the newcomers a hearty welcome.

ANTI-TANK PLATOON

Since our last notes we have had to say goodbye to many of our old Platoon. Capt. Pike has left for Malaya after being with the Platoon for a long spell, and C/Sgt. Moyse has been posted to "B" Company to take up his new position as C.Q.M.S. L/Cpl. Joyce

and Ptes. Lipscombe, Dunkley, Wright (47) and Wright (61) have now returned to civilian life. We wish all these ex-members of the Platoon the best of luck in their new jobs.

Among our new arrivals we are glad to welcome back Sgt. Higgins to the Platoon after his long absence. All members of the Platoon wish him the best of luck in his new role of Platoon Sergeant and hope that he will be staying with us for a very long time.

In the sporting world we have again shown our worth to the Company by having members of the Platoon selected for the Company basketball, boxing and football teams.

In February the Platoon was sent to Vienna to help "A" Company and all members of the Platoon really enjoyed themselves in spite of the cold weather, and are looking forward to another term of duty in that wonderful city.

Congratulations are due to Cpl. Turner and L/Cpls. Wadmore and Sullivan on their promotions.

At the time of writing we are at Schmeltz where energetic training is taking place and our gun crews are improving visibly every day.

ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

Despite a large turnover in the last few months the Platoon still maintains its traditional place in the Battalion—the lead. We bid farewell to many old hands and assure them that their successors are turning out worthy of them.

In February the Platoon went to Schmeltz for its share of thrills and spills on the ski slopes. It is difficult to say who enjoyed the ski-ing most—the experts or the novices.

For Exercise "Round Up" the Platoon came under the able and versatile command of Sgt. Moyse, who has since joined C/Sgt. Dive in the ranks of Colour-Sergeants—congratulations.

In mid-March 2/Lt. McManus arrived back from a course in England to take over the Platoon. Dreams of an imminent cadre were soon shattered by the nearness of the administrative inspection and the Platoon was soon immersed in the problem of baffling brains in the time-worn manner, learning in the process that it does not always pay to scrub floors too well. Came the day and everything went with a swing, though few will forget the weather we had for the parade.

The inspection over, we still had the U.M.I. to surmount and due to a great deal of hard work by everyone we came through with a pretty clean bill of health.

After the Albuhera celebrations we retired to Warmbad to recuperate and for our rifle and L.M.G. courses. The extent of our recuperation was demonstrated by the good scores we obtained.

Any idea that our new arrivals may have had about "S" Company not marching soon disappeared on the march up to Schmeltz from St. Veit. As we are quite certain that the other Support Platoons will make a fuss over it we will go no farther than to put on record that we marched the whole way and still found plenty of time to admire the scenery.

Our arrival at Schmeltz was met with a light drizzle, but there were enough bright intervals to make our period of bigger and better bangs both instructive and enjoyable.

We now look forward to that elusive cadre some time before the summer months, and in the meanwhile hope to snatch a little training in between guards and R.S.M.'s fatigue.

W.O.S. AND SERGEANTS' MESS

The opening of any year heralds a period of steady routine in the Sergeants' Mess, having shaken off the festive spirit. Although depleted in numbers by commitments in Vienna and winter training in Schmeltz, a most pleasant social evening on New Year's Eve developed into a gay and lively farewell to 1954 and welcome to 1955.

The first quarter of the year was necessarily devoid of large-scale Mess activities as there were more members out of the station than in. The latter end of the quarter was punctuated in early March by exercise "Round-Up." Having returned to Zeltweg and nursed our frost-bitten limbs back to health our minds turned gladly to thoughts of Albuhera Day and the associated functions.

We were very glad indeed to welcome R.S.M. Donovan, who honoured us with a short visit in March. Unfortunately he was only able to stay four short days and was unable to enjoy a visit to our members in Vienna. He did, however, fully acquaint himself with Zeltweg and district and the Mess was privileged to have R.S.M. Donovan as the guest of honour at a Mess dinner. His visit brings all our minds to thoughts of the grand get-together of the Depot and Battalion W.O.s and Sergeants prior to leaving the U.K. for Cyprus.

Saturday May 14, and Monday, May 16, saw some very keen competition for the Albuhera athletic honours and the Mess was quite well represented in several events. C/Sgt. Wright came out of retirement (he does so each year) and puffed his way around the track. Those pair of dependables, B.M. Jackson and Sgt. Grogan, distinguished themselves in the hurdles and sprints, and S.S.I. Blight was outstanding as a hurdler and official starter. We are still a little puzzled as to how he started the heat which he won. Sgts. Hazlewood and Orme marched proudly into the area with the "H.Q." tug-of-war team and it was obvious that "H.Q." had a distinct weight advantage.

The Albuhera social was held on the evening of Saturday, May 14, and we were honoured with the presence of Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Willoughby and the officers and their ladies.

It was a delightful evening and the additional bar, constructed in the interest of all "doghouses," was a great success. Sgt. Medlock excelled himself, as always, with a sumptuous buffet and is to be congratulated. The W.O.s and Sergeants paid the traditional visit to the Officers' Mess at lunch-time on Albuhera Day and both Messes assembled in the Sergeants' Mess to drink the Albuhera toast that evening. The W.O.s and Sergeants then sat down to the Albuhera Mess dinner and we were joined by several old friends who are now serving elsewhere in B.T.A.: W.O.1 Brotherhood

and S/Sgt. Howarth from R.A.O.C., Ammunition Section, Austria, W.O.2 Brown, Middlesex, Mr. (ex-Sergeant) Wandsworth and W.O.2 (ex-Sergeant, Middlesex) Jones, now Intelligence Corps.

We bid a sad farewell and the best of luck to those members who have recently left the fold: C.S.M. Goodge and Sgt. Walters to the 7th Middlesex, Sgts. Lagden and Muirhead to the Depot, Sgts. "Butcher" Bailey, Marable and Simpson to K.A.U. and Sgts. Edey, Clarke and Ford to Civvy Street. We welcome most warmly our new members: C/Sgt. Dodkins, Sgts. Clements, DaCosta, Eastap and Hook, and congratulate the following on their promotion, C.S.M. Morgan, C/Sgt. Moyse, Sgts. Cheesman, Higgins and Langford. We also congratulate most heartily Sgts. Smith and Steward on their marriages.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Training for the inter-Company competition was left until the last minute this year by most Companies owing to the close proximity to the administrative inspection. However there was some sturdy running over the six-mile course on April 26. The Competition was won by "C" Company with "A" Company second. First three individual places were taken by L/Cpl. Robinson, "C" Company, 2/Lt. Humber, "S" Company and Pte. Wisson, "B" Company.

A good deal more energy was expended before the B.T.A. competition on May 21. The Battalion was represented by teams from "D" and "A" Companies, who finished in that order besides taking the first six individual places. L/Cpl. Robinson, Pte. Wisson and Bds. Patrick are to be congratulated on their fine performances.

ATHLETICS

The only event so far this year has been the inter-Company Albuhera meeting on May 14 and 16, 1955, in good weather conditions. Companies held potted sports beforehand in order to find talent, but as in former years, the standard of field events was well below that of track events. Relay races are the bright spot of the normal dullness of any athletic meeting and there were certainly some exciting performances both in the heats and the finals. "C" Company's 200 metre team gave a fine performance. The tug-of-war, though not counting towards the competition, proved to be a big attraction. "H.Q." Company, who beat "S" Company in the final, were subsequently challenged by 117 Company, R.A.S.C., and beaten in two most exciting pulls. Major Thomas won his second successive tankard when the old soldiers' race finally started after a great amount of jostling for handicap positions. "C" Company won the competition with "H.Q." 1 in second place.

Training has now started for the B.T.A. Individual Championships and we are also entering a small number of individuals for the Army Athletic Championships to be held at Aldershot early in July.

RUGBY

The second half of the season proved disappointing in length but most encouraging in results. The Battalion finishing the season unbeaten and winners of the B.T.A.

inter-unit knock-out and seven-a-side competitions. Our first fixture in Klagenfurt was against R. Signals (Austria), whom we narrowly beat in the first half of the season. We led 15-0 at half time but then seemed to go completely to pieces, scraping home by 18-12 after a very poor second half. The following week our "A" team entertained Graz Garrison and beat them comfortably 16-6, the threequarters playing well. The pitch was in use throughout Easter and on Good Friday "H.Q." Company put up a good fight against the Rest of the Garrison and lost by only six points. On Easter Saturday the Battalion played a good game against a weakened Rest of B.T.A. to win 18-3, and on Easter Sunday the visiting Glasgow Academy Cadet Force VII beat the Signal Platoon 9-3.

The inter-Company seven-a-side proved a great success, ten teams competing—two each from "H.Q.", "B" and "S" Companies and one from "A", "C", "D" and "F" Platoon 117 Company. "H.Q." Company beat "B" Company in the final after a keen struggle by 14 points to 6, everyone in both teams playing well, although the speed of L/Cpl. Newland and Pte. Homer in the "H.Q." threes proved the deciding factor. Lt. Crumley, Cpl. Dixon and L/Cpl. Tarry were the outstanding "B" Company players. Mrs. Willoughby presented the cup and medals, and Major Pearce-Gould refereed every match—a praiseworthy achievement.

The final of the B.T.A. Knockout was played in Klagenfurt on Saturday, April 23, the Battalion defeating the combined R.A.M.C./R.A.O.C. XV by 21 points to 5 in a match that was not as one-sided as the score suggests. We had definitely the better of the forward game, but the opposition backs always looked dangerous. Outside the pack 2/Lt. Norsworthy and L/Cpl. Newland played well, and in the forwards there were some good rushes in which Capt. Evans and Deacock were prominent. L/Cpl. Saunders proved very effective in the line-out.

The B.T.A. sevens played in Klagenfurt on Saturday, April 30, and resulted in an all-Middlesex final, the 1st VII defeating the 2nd by 21 points to nil. As is often the case, the 1st VII had an easy semi-final win over the 3rd VII, whereas the 2nd VII needed extra time to defeat Royal Signals 1st team in the other semi-final, so the final score is perhaps a little misleading. However, it was a very creditable performance to get three of our VIIs into the semi-final. The fourth VII did well to defeat Royal Signals 2nd team before being beaten in the second round.

Being the one remaining major unit in Austria, it is easy to attribute the season's successes to sheer weight of numbers, but in fact it is safe to say that the standard of Battalion Rugby is improving with each season and that far more interest is being taken in the game by those who normally play only soccer. L/Cpl. Newland of "B" Company is an example—a keen soccer player and sprinter, he was taught to play rugby by "B" Company in Vienna last October for the Albuhera fifteen-a-side competition and has in one season played in the Battalion XV, the Battalion VII and was finally selected for B.T.A.—certainly the season's outstanding accomplishment.

FOOTBALL

After a delay due to Arctic weather conditions, the soccer season swung into action with both Battalion and inter-Company matches.

In the Albuhera League "S" Company took the honours with "A" Company second, level on points but with a lower goal average. If "A" Company had not lost to "B" Company in Vienna they might well have won the competition; however, the Moulin Rouge and the soccer field don't really combine, and it wasn't until the return to Zeltweg that "A" Company really hit form. They improved with every game and defeated "S" Company by 2-1 in the final match of the competition.

One of the highlights of the season was to see C.S.M. McMillan turn out for "C" Company and show the youngsters how it should be done. "B" Company improved after a poor start and the two "H.Q." teams assure us that cricket is really their line of country.

Final placings in the Albuhera League were as follows:—

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
"S"	5	3	1	1	18	8	7
"A"	5	3	1	1	12	7	7
"C"	5	2	2	1	16	9	6
"B"	5	3	0	2	13	9	6
"H.Q." 1	5	1	1	3	11	18	3
"H.Q." 2	5	0	1	4	7	22	1

In the B.T.A. League the Battalion team were not quite successful in the second half of the season as they were in the first, and they suffered their second defeat of the season at the hands of the Royal Signals. Consequently, they had to be content with second place in the league.

Even though there was constant re-shuffling of the team due to leave and demob, inevitable in modern Army soccer, the Battalion always fielded a strong team and managed to finish the season with a fine goal average.

Pte. Wright proved to be the chief goal scorer for the second half of the season and he was supported by a fast and smooth-working forward line.

Pte. Bentley, as centre-half and captain, settled in for the remainder of the season as a veritable bulwark of defence and was often the backbone of a victorious side. In a friendly match against a local Austrian team from Knittelfeld the Battalion won by 5 goals to 1.

Results of the second half of the season games were as follows:—

v. Royal Signals	..	..	..	Lost	4-5
v. R.A.O.C.	..	..	..	Won	3-2
v. K.A.U.	..	..	..	Won	8-2
v. F.S./R.M.P.	..	..	..	Won	5-2
v. R.A.P.C./R.E.	..	..	..	Won	5-2
v. B.M.H.	..	..	..	Won	11-0

HOCKEY

We begin with an apology to our readers for the error in the last issue of the Journal when half the hockey notes were published with the Machine Gun Platoon's news. We regret this error, especially as the missing part of the notes contained a well-deserved tribute to Mr. Tarrant and other ex-members of the Battalion hockey team.

The season started with a series of trial matches, and

it was soon apparent that we had a wealth of talent from which to choose. Our first Battalion fixture was a friendly match against the Academic Hockey Club of Vienna, our guests during the Easter weekend, and we beat them decisively by 4 goals to 1.

However, in our next game (a B.T.A. trial match) we lost by that margin to a strong Klagenfurt Garrison team.

Six members of the Battalion have played in B.T.A. representative matches. Sgt. Grogan, Bds. Ingram, Bds. Torrie and Pte. Lakin helped in a B.T.A. victory over Post Verein in Vereim, Vienna, and Lt. Waldron, B.M. Jackson and Sgt. Crogan were members of the B.T.A. team to visit Zagreb in Yugoslavia on May Day, when the match with Rade Koncar was drawn 1-1.

The Albuhera Inter-Company League matches provided some keen and vigorous hockey (if not very scientific), with "H.Q." 1 winners and "C" Company in second place. "A" Company held the wooden spoon.

We had entered three teams in the B.T.A. six-a-side knockout competition, and hoped to retain the title we won last year. However, at the last minute we were beset with transport difficulties and had to withdraw, leaving our old adversaries, K.A.U., a clear field.

However, we hope to meet them in the B.T.A. Cup Competition and avenge the defeat they inflicted on us last year in the final. We got off to a good start by beating a combined Royal Engineers/Royal Signals team at Klagenfurt by 9 goals to 2, and are due to meet the B.M.H. in the next round.

Outstanding among our newcomers are Pte. Lakin ("S" Company) and Pte. Maloney ("H.Q." Company), and we expect many goals from them in future matches. Another player to come into prominence this season is Cpl. Conway of "B" Company, a very steady and reliable half-back.

Our only loss so far has been Cpl. McCorry and we will miss his powerful drives from the right-hand edge of the circle (though many a luckless goal-keeper will sigh with relief). We wish him luck wherever he may be, and trust that he and other former members of our hockey teams are still able to pursue their game.

BOXING

Owing to the small number of units in Austria it has not been possible to take part to any degree in competitive boxing. This unfortunately had an effect of lowering the standard, but nevertheless the Battalion team acquitted itself very well on the two occasions it fought outside competition.

On April 30, R.A.O.C. (Austria) brought up a team to Zeltweg to take part in an evening's boxing. It was a dress rehearsal for the B.T.A. Individual Boxing Championships a week later. Seven weights were contested with two strings in each of the light welterweight and light middleweight. The Battalion won eight out of the nine bouts, the odd one being lost on points.

The following week the team went down to Klagenfurt to take part in the B.T.A. Individual Championships which were held on May 6 and 7. Thirteen boxers entered and on the following day 12 had got through to

the finals. The opposition was again mainly the R.A.O.C., and after some good boxing, especially the heavy, which was won by Cpl. Hardcastle, "C" Company, the welter between Pte. Rawlings, "D" Company, and Pte. Pearlman, "H.Q." Company, which went to the former, and the light welter which Sgt. Ford, "B" Company, won on points, the Battalion had won nine out of ten weights.

Sgt. Moran, "H.Q." Company, must be congratulated on getting together, in a very short time, a most workmanlike team.

The detailed results were as follows:

1ST MIDDLESEX v. R.A.O.C. (AUSTRIA)
Heavyweight ... L/Cpl. Watson ("C")... Won by K.O.

Middleweight	Pte. O'Rawe ("H.Q.")	Won by K.O.
Light Middleweight	L/Cpl. Rogers ("A")	Won by K.O.
Light Middleweight	Pte. Cockerill ("B")	Won by K.O.
Welterweight	Pte. Rawlings ("D")	Won on points
Light Welterweight	Sgt. Ford ("B")	Won on points
Light Welterweight	Pte. Wadmore ("S")	Won on points
Lightweight	Pte. Goode ("S")	Won on points
Bantamweight	Pte. Butterfield ("B")	Lost on points

B.T.A. INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Heavyweight	Winner	Cpl. Harcastle ("C")
Light Heavyweight	Winner	L/Cpl. Watson ("C")
Middleweight	Winner	Pte. O'Rawe ("H.Q.")
Light Middleweight	Winner	Pte. Cockerill ("B")
Welterweight	Runner-up	Pte. Fennelly ("S")
	Winner	Pte. Rawlings ("D")
Light Welterweight	Runner-up	Pte. Pearlman ("H.Q.")
Lightweight	Winner	Sgt. Ford ("B")
Featherweight	Winner	Pte. Goode ("S")
	Runner-up	Pte. Dollard ("S")
		Pte. Butterfield ("B")

Depot Notes

There is a story told of a former Adjutant of the Depot which the activities of the last few months have brought sharply before us. As the officer in question is still a well-known Regimental personality, his identity must be hidden, though many will not find it hard to penetrate this anonymity. At a time when the Depot was not a training establishment and the Permanent Staff was very small, he found himself ever more deeply involved in Regimental functions—the spring golf meeting was hardly over when Albuhera Day was upon him—on the heels of that came the annual cricket week; Remembrance Day and the Regimental Reunion, El Bodon Day, the At Home, the Officers' Club and Regular Officers' Dinners—all followed one another in a bewildering succession. On top of these came the annual administrative inspection and the R.E.M.E. inspection of arms, equipment and vehicles, and the great mass of ordinary daily routine. As each of these events followed one another he was heard to complain bitterly about the amount of work that fell onto his shoulders. On each occasion his commanding officer consoled him by saying, "Never mind... after all it only happens once a year!" Finally the day came when one of these hardy annuals was proving particularly exasperating. The C.O. came out with his usual bromide. "Yes, I know it only happens once a year," replied the Adjutant. "The trouble with this place is that there are 365 'onces'!"

While we hasten to make it clear that we do not in any way object to carrying out the Depot's duties in respect of Regimental functions, the story is apposite, because during the last four months we do seem to have had an unusually heavy crop of "onces." As these notes are being written the hard-pressed Permanent Staff are drawing a few deep breaths after a succession of such events, and looking forward to a rather quieter time during the next few months.

REGIMENTAL AND DOMESTIC EVENTS

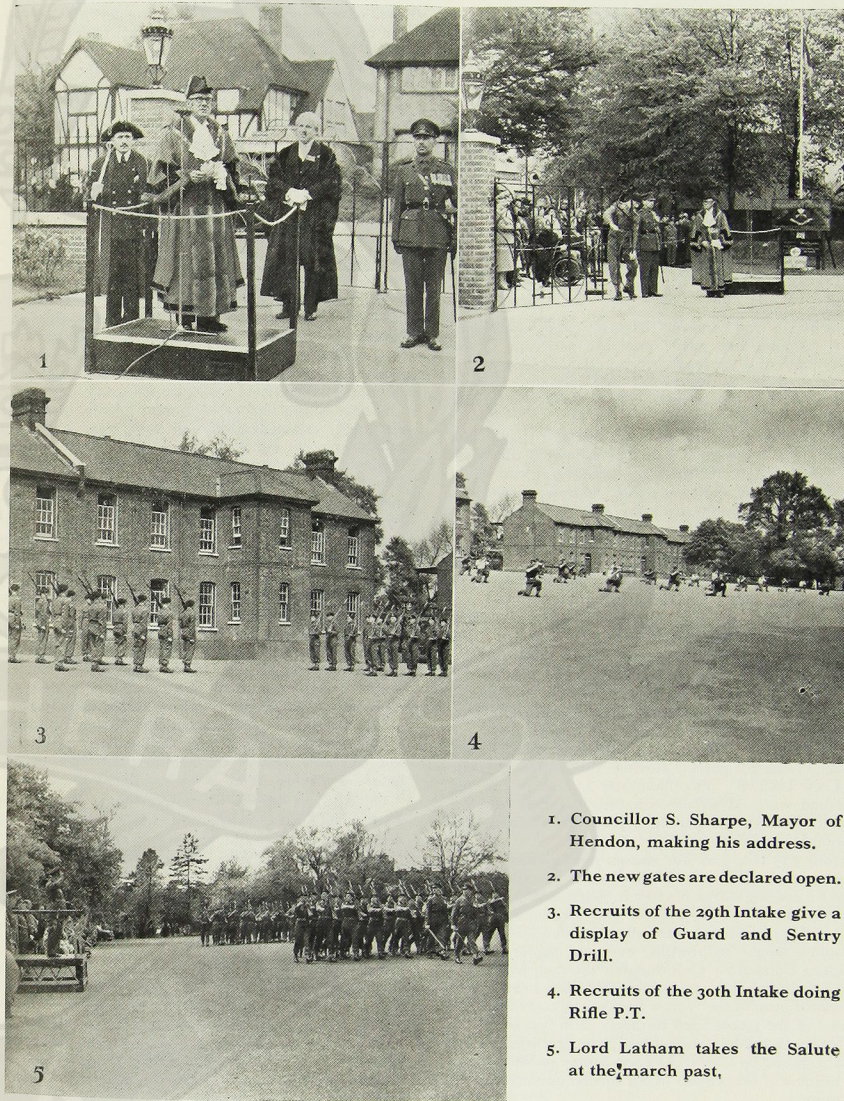
The principal date on our calendar has been, as ever, Albuhera Day. This year the occasion was given added significance, in that it was decided to combine

with it the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Depot's move to Mill Hill. The two occasions kept their separate identity, as the 50th anniversary events were held on Saturday, May 21; the only overlapping function was the traditional All-Ranks' Dance, which also took place on the Saturday.

On May 16 Reveille and breakfast were at "civilised" hours, and the day's festivities began with seven-a-side football and basketball knockout competitions. The officers, W.O.s and Sergeants, and the Permanent Staff found one team each and the recruits three teams for each competition. The football was closely fought and, apart from the officers' team, skilful. During one of two of the games the goalposts showed an alarming tendency to alter their position according to the state of the game, and to the affiliations of the spectators standing nearest to them; and at one time during the game in which the W.O.s and Sergeants were playing a recruit team an astute observer counted no less than ten members of their team of seven; at another stage of the tournament the introduction of a fire hose caused some distraction. Nevertheless, it was all most enjoyable. The Permanent Staff beat the recruits in an exciting game to win the football cup, and they also beat the officers in the basketball final. A special lunch was served in the cookhouse, and the remainder of the day was a holiday. The various functions in the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes are described elsewhere.

On May 21 the first ceremony was the opening of the new gates by His Worship the Mayor of Hendon. After the many vicissitudes of their construction the gates confounded the prophets of doom by being ready in time and also by looking very handsome. Councillor Sharpe arrived at 12.30 p.m. and inspected a guard of honour before officially opening the gates. He made a short address during which he said, "Many famous soldiers have entered these portals. I am sure many more will go out of here and do honour in the world. He also revealed that Hendon Council had plans to honour the Regiment by conferring on it in the autumn the freedom of entry into the borough. Under ancient custom this unique honour will allow the Regiment to

50th Anniversary Celebrations, May 21, 1955



1. Councillor S. Sharpe, Mayor of Hendon, making his address.
2. The new gates are declared open.
3. Recruits of the 29th Intake give a display of Guard and Sentry Drill.
4. Recruits of the 30th Intake doing Rifle P.T.
5. Lord Latham takes the Salute at the march past.

march through Hendon's streets with Colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed.

This brief ceremony over the official guests moved to the Officers' Mess for lunch. Mrs. Sharpe accompanied the Mayor of Hendon. Other guests included Lord Latham of Hendon, the Lord Lieutenant of the County, Mr. C. William Skinner, the High Sheriff, and Mrs. Skinner, County Alderman S. G. Rowlandson, Chairman of the County Council, Mr. Eric Neve, Chairman of Middlesex Sessions, Mr. A. G. Graves, Clerk of the Peace, and Mrs. Graves, Councillor A. Victor Sully, Deputy Mayor of Hendon, and Mrs. Sully, Mr. R. H. Williams, Town Clerk of Hendon, and Mrs. Williams, Alderman and Mrs. R. J. Knowles, Alderman and Mrs. S. R. C. Sumpter, Brigadier and Mrs. B. B. Rackham, Brigadier O. H. Tidbury and Miss Tidbury, Brigadier and Mrs. E. E. F. Baker, Col. M. Browne, Col. J. H. Lamont, Col. and Mrs. J. K. Maitland, Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. W. D. Ellis and many others.

The W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess also gave a luncheon party. Among their guests were Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Baldry, both of whom, as recorded in the last issue of the Journal, took part in the move of the Depot 50 years ago, and five of our Chelsea Pensioners, who lent a fine splash of colour to the day's events.

The afternoon programme began at 2.30 p.m. No accurate count was taken but it is estimated that well over 500 attended. Chairs were arranged on the south side of the square and after a short address of welcome and explanation by the C.O. the spectators watched a display of guard and sentry drill by recruits of the 29th Intake who had just finished their training. Their precision, smartness and bearing were a great credit to themselves and to their instructors and earned them warm applause. They were followed by recruits of the 30th Intake in their fifth week of training, who gave a demonstration of rifle P.T. This is most difficult to do really well since its effectiveness depends almost entirely on perfect timing by every individual and graceful (if that is the right word) rhythm rather than mechanical precision. S.I. Morris, his staff and the recruits deserve great praise for putting on a first-rate display.

This phase of the day's events ended with a march past by the Training Company at which the salute was taken by Lord Latham. The Band and Drums of the 7th Battalion were on parade and their excellent playing helped to make the parade a particularly smart and memorable one.

From 3.15 to 4 p.m. our visitors were invited to tour all parts of the Depot. The cookhouse, barrack rooms, NAAFI, reading and games rooms, Regimental Museum, Chapel, Crawford Hut, Officers' and Sergeants' Messes and the gymnasium were all open for inspection. Weapons taught to recruits were on display in the Training Company. Unfortunately the rain, which had held off during the parades, began to fall heavily and prevented most of the visitors from seeing more than one or two of the places open to them. Tea was served in marquees on the top football field; the excellence of the food supplied by the NAAFI was amply testified to by the number of times many of our smaller guests returned for more.

At 5 p.m. the Band and Corps of Drums of the 7th Battalion beat Retreat on the square. The rain had stopped and the setting was perfect for this most dearly loved of ceremonies. It was a moving performance with fine music and impressive smartness. Our thanks are due to Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., the C.O. of the 7th Battalion, who gave permission for the Band and Drums to take part, and to B.M. Gillyat, D.M. Holdford and the bandmen and drummers who worked so hard and so successfully for our enjoyment and provided so fitting an end to the afternoon's activities.

From 8 p.m. to midnight an all ranks' dance was held in the gymnasium. This was a great success although at one time the number present was so large that the dance floor resembled a London tube train during the rush hour. The agility and energy of the Chelsea Pensioners made it quite clear that men of the Regiment really do "die hard."

During April a Property Board under the Presidency of Capt. Carter spent a week busily sorting through a mass of relics scattered throughout the barracks. All sorts of interesting items as well as a good deal of junk appeared from holes and corners and the Board made recommendations as to their disposal. As a result many superfluous, or irreparably damaged items, have been discarded and many things of value have been more suitably placed, either in the Museum or in the new Regimental Library. This is situated in the Orderly Room block and contains the Regimental archives and many photographs and books of great interest. Mr. Smith, the Curator of the Museum, is in charge of it and the key to the Library may be obtained in the Orderly Room.

In May Capt. Moore performed a similar function with regard to the Regimental silver. His Board examined all the silver not with the 1st Battalion in Australia. Much of this had not seen the light of day for many years and many interesting pieces were discovered. Of course there can be no question of any large-scale disposal of property that came to the officers of the Regiment as gifts, but the Board did recommend that some pieces of no Regimental or personal interest should be sold to help defray the heavy cost of maintaining and insuring the remainder. However it will probably be some time before any firm decision is reached in this matter.

On April 28 Mr. A. E. Bowker, M.C., Clerk to the Lord Chief Justice of Appeal and a former Adjutant of the 7th Battalion during the first World War, lectured to the Depot on "The Law Courts." It was really less of a lecture than a series of reminiscences based on a lifetime of experience in the Law. With his great ability to tell a good story and his delightful sense of humour, Mr. Bowker gave us an unusual and highly entertaining evening.

Sgt. Stubbings and his cooks, apart from keeping up their high standard of cooking during the period, have also managed to do very well in various competitions. In the London District Cookery Competition at the end of February they came 13th out of 83 cookhouses judged. In April a team consisting of Sgt. Stubbings and Ptes. Glandfield and Usher won the London District Field Kitchen Competition, and in May they came

second in the Eastern Command's Field Kitchen Competition.

In April our annual inspection of arms, equipment and vehicles by R.E.M.E. took place. Satisfactory reports were obtained in all cases, and we were congratulated by the G.O.C. London District on being graded "Excellent" on our arms report; much of the credit for this must go to our Armourer Sergeant, Sgt. Beeslee, R.E.M.E.

In our last notes mention was made of experiments to be made on volunteer recruits by the Medical Research Council, in order to relate the number of calories absorbed by the recruit to the amount of energy expended by him during training. The Research Team made three visits, during February and April. On each occasion a mobile laboratory was set up, and the selected recruits were under both physical and electronic observation for every minute of their working day; every ounce of food and drink they took was weighed, and its calorific value determined; their breathing masks recorded the quantity of oxygen respiration. Rather to our surprise this interfered very little, if at all, with training, and a most pleasant liaison was maintained with the team. It will be some time before the results of the tests are forthcoming, but the experts have already been able to state that the experiments were successful and that they obtained the figures they required for their calculations. We are very glad to have been able to help in this work, which may be of considerable national importance. On April 21 the Deputy Director of Infantry, Brigadier J. H. Good, D.S.O., and Brigadier A. E. Campbell, M.D., Q.H.P., the Director of Army Health, accompanied by a party of specialists and health experts, visited the Depot and observed the research team at work.

Strikes and threats of strikes came into the picture for us, as for so many others, over the Easter and Whitsun holiday periods, but eventually only involved eight drivers.

On May 24 the half-yearly Depot Commanders' Conference was held at the Depot. The Commanding Officers of all the Depots in the Home Counties Brigade or their deputies met under the chairmanship of Col. J. Sykes-Wright, D.S.O., O.B.E., the retiring Brigade Colonel, who introduced his successor, Lt.-Col. G. R. Stevens, O.B.E., R.F.; Col. W. J. S. Brooke, O.B.E., the officer in charge of records, also attended. Afterwards those attending were entertained to lunch in the Officers' Mess.

The Commanding Officer has paid short visits to the R.M.A., Sandhurst, the O.C.s, Eaton Hall, and the Brigade Training Company at Canterbury, and is shortly to "sit in" at a War Office Selection Board. Points made by instructors, cadets and potential officers and N.C.O.s during these visits have been most useful in indicating the responsibilities of the Depot with regard to potential officer and N.C.O. training, and various amendments to training policy have been made as a result of them.

PERSONALITIES

Apart from those mentioned in Training Company notes, there have been several arrivals, departures,

promotions, etc., on the Permanent Staff. The M.T. Section lost Cpl. Crittenden and Pte. Goodall on release, and those two very familiar figures, Drummers Medland and Ilbury, have also finished their service. We thank them for their work at the Depot and wish them all good fortune in the future. Replacements have been Pte. Walker as a driver, Pte. Makepeace as a Regimental policeman, and Pte. Harris as Officers' Mess waiter: all these took up their new jobs on completion of recruit training and we wish them a happy tour of duty.

We congratulate L/Cpls. Eales and Hanshaw on their promotion to Corporal, and Pte. Ohlson on his appointment as Lance-Corporal in charge of the M.T. Section.

We also congratulate Capt. and Mrs. J. S. C. Flavell on the birth of a second son, Jeremy Paul Robson, on February 17, and Lt. and Mrs. S. C. W. Weller on the birth of a son, Andrew Martin, on April 3.

We have sent two drafts out to the 1st Battalion; the first was 56 strong and left on April 6, the second of 70 left on May 24. We expect to send one more draft to Austria, before the Battalion returns home, which will leave on July 23.

TRAINING COMPANY

The passing-out parade of the 28th Intake of recruits took place on Friday, March 18. The Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards were on parade.

The officer taking the parade was Lt.-Col. G. B. Ayre. He presented medals to the following recruits:-

Best All-Round Recruit	Pte. D. Read
Best Rifle Shot	Pte. D. Read
Best L.M.G. Shot	Pte. T. Tobin
Highest Physical Efficiency	Pte. R. Seabridge

A total of 160 parents and friends of the recruits attended to watch the parade.

The London District Rifle Meeting was held at Pirbright between April 19 and 22. Last year, if you remember, the Depot Rifle Team won a very handsome cup: the Household Cavalry and Special Reserve Challenge Cup. This year's team was determined to keep it, which all will agree is harder to do than to win it initially.

Plenty of practice was carried out on the open ranges prior to the meeting, and the general all-round standard of the shooting was higher than the previous year. Despite this improvement the team was not able to win, as can be seen in the detailed results.

The Household Cavalry and Special Reserve Challenge Cup: 1, Royal Horse Guards; 2, No. 10 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E.; 3, Depot, Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.). A total of nine teams fired.

Company Fire and Movement Competition: 1, "H.Q." Company, 1st Coldstream Guards; 2, No. 10 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E.; 3, No. 2 Company, 3rd Grenadier Guards; 4, "A" Team, Depot, Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.). A total of 16 teams fired.

L.M.G. Challenge Cup (N.C.O. Pairs): 3, Depot, Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) (Sgts. Mason and Beeslee). A total of 27 pairs fired.

District Units Challenge Cup: 1, No. 10 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E. (1 min. 19 sec.); 2, Depot, Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) (1 min. 21 sec.). A total of nine teams fired.



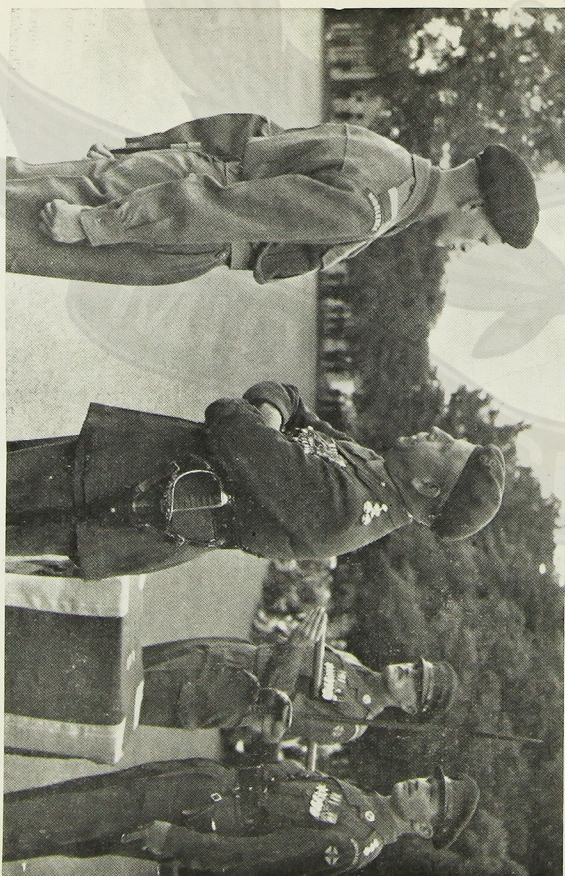
DEPOT PHOTOGRAPH, 1955

Back row (left to right): Sgts. J. Stubbings (A.C.C.), R. Buckley, W. Milburn (R.A.P.C.), A. Beeslee (R.E.M.E.)
 Third row (left to right): Sgts. D. Lagden, A. Nicholson, C. Pullen, J. White (R.W.K.), W. Turner, C. Shinn, R. Hope
 Second row (left to right): Sgt. M. Muirhead, C/Sgt. J. Breame and A. Taylor, C.S.M. R. Budden, R.Q.M.S. A. Etheridge, C/Sgt. F. Markham, Sgts. J. Dickie and C. Partridge
 Front row (left to right): Lts. (Q.M.) S. C. W. Weller, M.M. and B. H. Marciandi, Capt. B. K. Clayden, Major A. R. Waller, M.C. (Commanding Officer), R.S.M. P. Donovan, Capt. J. S. C. Flavell, Lt. R. D. Fisher

PASSING OUT PARADE, 30th INTAKE OF RECRUITS, JUNE 23, 1955



Brigadier G. P. L. Weston, D.S.O., O.B.E., the inspecting officer, arrives on the square by helicopter, accompanied by the Bishop of Wiltshire



Brigadier Weston talking to Pte. P. Hanson, who won the medal for the best all-round recruit

Sgt. Beeslee, the Armourer Sergeant, qualified to fire a special competition for the best 48 rifle shots of the meeting and was placed 28th.

On Saturday, April 30, 1955, Lt.-Col. R. A. Corby, T.D., Officer Commanding 11th Battalion The Parachute Regiment (8th Middlesex) (T.A.), took the salute at the passing-out parade of the 29th Intake of recruits. The Corps of Drums of the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards were on parade.

Col. Corby presented medals to the following recruits:—

Best All-Round Recruit ..	Pte. F. Brown
Best Rifle Shot ..	Pte. F. Brown
Best L.M.G. Shot ..	Pte. R. Skinner
Highest Physical Efficiency ..	Pte. P. McOubrie

Twice during the last quarter Q.S.M.I. Sinclair of the Small Arms School Corps, attached to H.Q. Home Counties Brigade, spent a few days with the Company. His advice and practical assistance, especially in regard to methods of instruction, were quite invaluable. The fruits of his labours have already made a marked improvement in the standard of instruction given to the recruits by the more junior of the N.C.O. instructors.

The Home Counties Brigade Rifle Meeting, which was held last year for the first time, is now to be an annual event in the Brigade Calendar. This year all seven Regimental Depots, plus Brigade H.Q. and Holding Company and the Potential Leader Company from Canterbury, assembled at Hythe on June 14, 1955, to meet and shoot under very friendly, but healthy, competitive conditions.

There were two main competitions, the Inter-Depot Recruits and Inter-Depot Open Matches. This year a cup, presented by our Regimental Depot, was to be awarded to the winning recruit team.

Results of the two matches were as follows:—

INTER-DEPOT OPEN MATCH		INTER-DEPOT RECRUITS MATCH	
1st Depot R.W.K. ..	380	P.L. Company ..	220
2nd Depot Middlesex ..	374	Depot R.W.K. ..	207
3rd Depot R.F. ..	372	Depot Surreys ..	198
4th Depot Surreys ..	369	Depot Middlesex ..	197
5th Depot Buffs ..	361	Depot Buffs ..	181
6th Depot Queen's ..	353	Depot Queen's ..	178
7th Depot Royal Sussex ..	353	Depot R.F. ..	169
8th Holding Company ..	320	Depot Royal Sussex ..	158
9th Brigade H.Q. ..	308		
10th P.L. Company ..	302		

Pte. Worton, a soldier in the Regiment and son of Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton, shot extremely well and gained 38 points out of a possible 40. He was adjudged the best individual recruit shot of the meeting and is at present undergoing training as a potential leader. He was a member of the Potential Leader Company that won the cup.

This last quarter has again seen considerable changes in the Permanent Staff. Newcomers are Sgt. Lagden and Cpl. Byers from the 1st Battalion, S.I. Morris, A.P.T.C., from Shorncliffe and Sgt. Chesters, R.A.E.C. from Beaconsfield. L/Cpl. Argent (ex-Boy Sergeant) from the Infantry Boys' Battalion, L/Cpl. Speakman (ex-recruit) now an A.I.P.T., Pte. Sharp (ex-recruit) now the Company clerk and Pte. Chisholm the Company storeman.

Farewells were said to Sgt. Hook, posted to the 1st Battalion on completion of his tour here, and also to

Sgt. Dickie, who is now a "holdee" and awaiting posting. Those who have returned to civilian life are Sgt. Mason, Cpl. Peck and L/Cpl. Smith the Company clerk.

Sgt. Mason purchased his discharge and we were most sorry to see this very experienced N.C.O. leave the Regular Army.

We wish the newcomers a happy and successful tour and to those departed the very best of good fortune.

We congratulate:

Sgts. Shinn and Buckley, L/Cpls. Argent and Speakman on their well-deserved promotions.

Sgt. Buckley and Cpl. Butler on gaining "B" gradings on their Platoon Course and A.B.C. Weapons respectively.

Sgt. and Mrs. Partridge on the birth of their son.

Cpl. Ebbage, who recently got married.

The passing-out parade of the 30th Intake of recruits took place on Thursday, June 23, 1955. The parade was most impressive for we also had the good fortune of having the Band of the 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment in attendance. The 30th Intake was the largest to undergo training for at least the last two years; a total of nearly 100 recruits and their instructors were on parade.

The method of arrival by the Inspecting Officer, Brigadier G. P. L. Weston, D.S.O., O.B.E., Assistant Commandant, School of Land/Air Warfare, and the Lord Bishop of Willesden, who gave the address at the service in the Regimental Chapel after the parade, was most novel. Shortly before 3 p.m. a "Sycamore" helicopter landed in the middle of the square carrying the Brigadier and the Lord Bishop. To prove this unique event in the history of Inglis Barracks a photograph is contained in this issue of the Journal.

The Inspecting Officer presented medals to the following recruits:

Best All-Round Recruit ..	Pte. P. Hanson
Best Rifle Shot ..	Pte. N. Saunders
Best L.M.G. Shot ..	Pte. C. Biggs
Highest Physical Efficiency ..	Pte. A. Silk

A total of 148 parents and friends of the recruits attended the parade.

OFFICERS' MESS

There is probably little to record in these notes that will not be mentioned elsewhere.

On February 25 the officers spent a most enjoyable evening in the Sergeants' Mess. All sorts of competitions had been arranged and the officers found themselves in the lead with one event to go, but this last team race somehow or another carried a bonus because when the event was won by the W.O.s and Sergeants they promptly declared themselves the winners of the whole series! We were not doing so badly in this last race until, after being fortified by a pint of beer and a large piece of dry bread, the O.C. Depot, our last leg, failed to produce a sound of any sort from a bugle! His opposite number was R.S.M. Donovan who, with his trumpet, nearly shattered the walls as at Jericho and won the day.

As most people will be aware, a Regimental dinner night is normally held at the Depot on the first Thursday

in every month. These are proving a success and we are very glad to find both serving and retired officers turning up on these occasions. All we ask is that as much warning as possible should be given if officers intend to dine in.

On May 5 we were extremely pleased to welcome Lt. W. D. Hobden of the 102 Wentworth Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery. He brought with him a very nice tankard which he presented on behalf of the officers of his Battery. The tankard is inscribed and bears the badge of the Royal Artillery. It will be noticed that they, like other units of ours, have succeeded in retaining part of their old title. Lt. Hobden had hoped to visit us again before he returned home but business unfortunately prevented this. We hope he will come again and we wish indeed we could see more of other officers from our allied regiments.

Other visitors include Capt. Phillips, Lt.-Col. Worton, Brigadier Weston, Major Nolda, Major Hodding, Capt. Bellers, Major McL. Martin, Col. Fox, Major Hardcastle and Capt. Evans besides those mentioned elsewhere in these notes.

Albuhara Day was celebrated in the customary fashion with sporting events and the officers and Sergeants visiting each others Messes. In the evening 24 officers sat down to dinner. Visitors on this occasion were: Lt.-Col. Allen, Lt.-Col. Brinley Ayre, Major Burrows, Capt. C. N. Clayden, Capt. Deacock, Major Galvin, Capt. Jordan, Capt. Lawrence, Lt. Norsworthy, Capt. Norton, Lt.-Col. Ormiston, Capt. Pielow, Capt. Rutherford and Lt. Wollocombe. Col. Browne was also present but he cannot be counted as a visitor because he is with us on most days. Apart from the actual Depot Staff, Capt. Moore and 2/Lts. Murray Leslie and Hunt were also at the Depot at the time and attended.

A few days later, on May 21, the Depot celebrated its 50 years of existence in Inglis Barracks. A buffet luncheon was served in the Mess for about 70 persons and the Mess itself was open to visitors throughout the day.

We have had many visitors and quite a number of arrivals and departures. Major Marshall and Cpts. Carter and Moore have all joined the 1st Battalion. Major Trestant has taken over as Q.M. of the 7th Battalion and lives at the Depot. Capt. Pike spent a month here playing cricket—weather permitting. Those going through here during the quarter include: 2/Lts. Hornsby, Hewson, Lohan, Boddington, Baker, Brown, Hunt, Prettyman, Hayward, Birch, Syers, Tubbs, Brettle, Lawson and Williams. 2/Lt. Murray Leslie has left us for civilian life and we wish him well. He has been looking after the Mess garden, amongst other things, and we hope his vegetables will flourish.

No. 5 Room in the Mess has been converted into a television and ladies' room. It is open daily from mid-day onwards and from 10 a.m. on Sundays.

There is one more item that should be recorded here and that is the recent presentation to the Mess of a portrait of Major-Gen. N. W. Barnadiston, C.B., M.V.O., together with his decorations and medals most beautifully mounted: these include eight foreign awards.

Major-Gen. Barnadiston was born in 1858 and died

in 1919. At the outbreak of World War I he was G.O.C. North China Command and took part in the capture of Tsing Tau in 1914. There is a pictorial record of this operation in an album of his, which, with other Regimental records, was given by his daughter, Mrs. Joan Cooper, at the same time as she so kindly presented his portrait and decorations to the Regiment. The portrait and medal case now hang in the ante-room, and the other records have been added to the Regimental Library. We are extremely grateful to Mrs. Cooper for her splendid gifts to our Regiment in which her distinguished father served.

SERGEANTS' MESS

The quarter's proceedings on the entertainment side were opened in the most pleasant way possible. We were honoured by a visit from the new Commanding Officer, Major A. R. Waller, M.C., and the officers in full strength. A games tournament was arranged, and even though the eventual winners were never declared the competition was tremendously keen. The C.O. proved his worth at snooker and the Adjutant, after a little pre-match training by the R.S.M., was unbeatable at crib. Lt.-Col. Ormiston was present and completed the officers' team for the grand finale. The sight of two non-drinking officers performing in this event made one wonder whether or not the term "non-drinking" could be rightly applied.

Monthly snooker competitions are still going apace. Proud owners of suitably inscribed tankards so far are Sgt. Nicholson, C.S.M. Budden, C.S.M. Graham, the R.S.M. and C/Sgt. Markham. It is rumoured that Sgt. Stubbings has applied to serve for a further three years in order to stand a chance of being in the final final. His opponent in this epic test match is more than likely to be Sgt. Chesters, whose interpretation of "angles" has to be seen to be believed.

We have lost a flock of stalwarts since the last notes, including Sgts. Da Costa, Hook and Mason, C.S.M.s Cooper and Graham, and C.S.M.I. Carruthers. Sgt. Mason's discharge by purchase was rather sudden and was prompted, we understand, by the young lady who is now his wife. To him and the others, who have left to serve in other places, we wish every success.

During this period the R.S.M. visited the Battalion in Austria and had a good night's sleep on the journey there and back, but for the remainder of the time he is still not quite sure whether he slept or just rested-up in between many attempts to conquer the way of life within the Battalion. He brought back many good wishes from R.S.M. Wild and the members, which are readily reciprocated.

Albuhara celebrations started early on the morning of May 16 with seven-a-side football and basketball games. The part a very energetic fire hose played in these games was not quite appreciated. At lunch-time we visited the Officers' Mess and re-met many officers who had come for the day. In the evening the Mess was the scene of a social, the highlight of which was breakfast at 3 a.m. and the broadcast of the Cockell-Marciano fight. The members had previously sent a cable to Don Cockell wishing him all the luck in the world. While waiting for the fight the Mess had something of

a battle of its own. The weapons were small beer mats pitched across no-man's land at great speed. Long and arduous was the struggle and many casualties were inflicted on both sides. One W.O. was unable to salute for three days afterwards due to stiffness in the right arm accustomed only to pushing a pen and billiard cue. Breakfast was cooked and served by our worthy Cook Sergeant who, despite repeated exhortations to "come on, 'Iggins," was forced to lay the tables as well. One or two gallant people present finally gave way to peaceful sleep before coffee was reached, but assured us many hours later that they heard every word of Cockell's performance.

On May 21, during the ceremony of officially opening the main gates by the Mayor of Hendon, lunch was served in the Mess to many ex-members, including some Chelsea Pensioners. Mention must be made of the stirring work put in by our caterer, Sgt. Page, and his staff, and by Sgt. Stubbings and the cooks. Music was provided by a well-known dance band by the efforts of our P.T. expert, Sgt. Morris. The afternoon was taken up by displays and demonstrations of P.T. and drill.

The all-ranks' dance in the evening was well attended and encouraged some of our younger members to take the floor hoping to be inconspicuous. In fact, nobody saw Sgt. Shinn dancing at all!

May is gardening time and many an aching back and a gasping thirst is eased after long sessions of this arduous exercise.

And so, as summer approaches, starts the battle for positions for annual leave. C/Sgt. Taylor has already fixed his meagre ration. Sgts. Partridge and Lagden are in the process of doing so and, no doubt, all members will eventually be satisfied.

It is reported, however, that one member has already had a jolly good bite at this particular cake.

A warm welcome goes to those who have joined us recently and we hope that their stay will be a long one. R.S.M. Brittain is prominent among them, as is Sgts. Page, Muirhead, Lagden, Chesters (R.A.E.C.) and Morris (A.P.T.C.). Sgt. Nicholson has rejoined after a long spell over some medical ailment that has resulted in his now being referred to as "Ernie."

We close our notes by wishing Sgt. Buckley, our newest member, a happy stay and congratulations on his promotion.

CORPORALS' CLUB

At the moment the topic of conversation amongst Lance-Corporals is who will be next to get "Sub." L/Cpl. Jefford is walking around with his head in the clouds because, so he says, he is top of the Brigade Substantive Roll.

First congratulations go to Sgt. "Ron" Buckley who has left the Corporals' Club and is residing in the luxurious building known to us as the Sergeants' Mess.

We would like to thank Cpl. George Paine (A.C.C.) for the way in which he has lived up to the Club since his arrival here; his subtle wit has been the cause of much mirth.

Cpl. "Gregory" Peck is now a "civvie" although

he is still in uniform as a constable in the Metropolitan Police Force, it is rather feared that the proverbial "arm of the law" will descend on us at any moment.

Our newest addition is L/Cpl. "Bill" Argent. After successfully completing an N.C.O.s' cadre at Canterbury, he joined the "square-bashing" staff of Training Company. The only hobby "Bill" seems to indulge in is reporting sick on leave. This he has managed to do three times, much to the envy of others, but between having "black-outs" and gastric trouble he manages to put in occasional appearance here and keep everyone happy.

Amongst many other N.C.O.s who have returned to the Depot for various reasons within the past few months was L/Cpl. Da Costa, whose appearance confirmed the fact that he was the only one in the Regiment with luminous eyebrows. We would like to wish these N.C.O.s success in their future employment, whether they returned here for discharge or a "cushy" E.R.E. posting.

Since starting these notes it has been learnt that Cpl. "Ron" Ebbage has taken the plunge into the life of married bliss together with a vivacious Irish leprechaun. We wish him and his wife all the best for the future.

An item of interest to readers might be that the Corporals' Club is moving again, this time back to its former position, i.e. the hut which used to be the 57th P.T.C. Corporals' Club. This hut has been redecorated, the billiard table has been re-covered, and with the generous co-operation of the NAAFI staff we hope to turn the Corporals' Club into a budding *petit salon*.

SPORT

Cricket

Only four members of the team remained from last year, and after a number of practice games it was thought that the team would not be particularly strong. However, the standard of batting and bowling has been adequate and the fielding has improved considerably from that of last year.

Pte. Rowson, in particular, has batted very well indeed; Capt. Flavell and S.I. Morris have held some splendid catches in the slips; and Pte. Sharp has kept wicket soundly.

Pte. Burton bowled exceptionally well on the first match against the London Assembly Centre, and Capt. J. I. D. Pike swept aside a strong Queen's team at Guildford by a very fine piece of sustained fast bowling.

It is hoped that as the season progresses more recruits will represent the Depot. So far the standard of their play has been indifferent.

Results:

1. Depot v. London Assembly Centre—won by 8 wickets.
L.A.C. 26
Depot 27 for 2
2. Depot v. No. 18 Company R.A.M.C.—draw.
Depot 146 for 4 declared
No. 18 Company R.A.M.C. .. 74 for 7
3. Depot v. Depot Queen's Royal Regiment—won by 9 wickets.
Depot Queen's 47
Depot 52 for 1
4. Depot v. London Assembly Centre—won by 165 runs.
Depot 241 for 3 declared
L.A.C. 76

	BATTING		Highest Score	Total	Average
	Innings	Not Out			
Pte. Rowson ..	4	3	62 nt	121	121
Capt. B. K. Clayden ..	3	2	53 nt	103	103
L/Cpl. Williams ..	3	—	50	69	23
Pte. Sharp ..	3	—	60	69	23
Pte. Raffael ..	1	1	45 nt	45	

	BOWLING		Runs	Wickets	Aver.
	Overs	Maidens			
S.I. Morris ..	5	1	9	3	3
Capt. B. K. Clayden ..	21.2	6	45	10	4.5
L/Cpl. Williams ..	13	4	27	5	5.4
Capt. J. I. D. Pike ..	21.1	7	48	6	6
Pte. Burton ..	24	6	66	8	8.2

Hockey

The report on the first part of the season which appeared in our last issue recorded a rather indifferent success. Fortunately the remaining matches redressed the balance. Bad weather caused no more cancellations, but only four of the scheduled games were actually played. No. 10 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E., were unable to raise a team; No. 12 Vehicle Depot Workshops, R.E.M.E., produced a team, but as they went to the wrong ground we were unable to test their mettle; and the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall had, it appeared, agreed to play us at a time when all their students were on leave.

Playing the R.A.F., Uxbridge, at home on March 16 we secured a fairly close win, 3—2, our goal scorers being Pte. Rowson (2) and 2/Lt. Lohan (1). On March 23 we met the Depot Queen's at home. This proved to be our most overwhelming victory of the year; under good fast conditions the team played together well and was inspired by a display of stickwork and hard hitting by Lt. Wollocombe. The final score was 12—0: Lt. Wollocombe scored 5, Pte. Rowson 3, Lt. Williams 2, and Capt. Flavell and Clayden 1 goal each. The following week, against H.Q. A.A. Command, away, although without Lt. Wollocombe, we managed to produce the same form against a more experienced team. This time we won 11—0, the scores being Pte. Rowson 6, Capt. Carter 3, and Lt. Williams 2.

After these tremendous victories we went to Uxbridge on April 27 to play our return match against the R.A.F. On there full of confidence. And as usually happens in such cases, we were fairly and squarely beaten, though the score 3—2 indicates that the game was fiercely contested, which it was. Capt. Clayden and Lt. Williams scored our goals.

The final results for the season were as follows: Matches played, 12; won, 6; lost, 5; drawn, 1. Goals for, 50; against, 34. Altogether a fairly satisfactory state of affairs.

The following played during the season: Majors Marshall and Cummins, Capt. Flavell, Carter and Clayden, Lts. Marciandi (captain), Wollocombe, Weller, Williams (R.A.M.C.) and Thomas, 2/Lts. Crumley, Lumsden and Lohan, R.S.M. Donovan, C.S.M.I. Carruthers, C/Sgt. Taylor, S.I.s Baker and Morris, Sgts. Dickie and Weller, Cpl. Townend, L/Cpls. Butler, Hubbard and Speakman, and Ptes. Rowson, Lakin and Baxter.

Our thanks are particularly due to R.Q.M.S. Etheridge, who has umpired with great skill and fairness throughout the season; and also to W.O.2 Graham, who umpired on several occasions.

Tennis

Poor weather prevented much play in the early part of the season on the grass courts, although members of the Sergeants' Mess have been seen vigorously chasing the ball about on the hard court.

It was decided this year to revive the pre-war Annual Regimental Tennis Tournament of the Officers' Club, if sufficient entries were made. The response, though not large, was encouraging, and a tournament was arranged and took place at the end of Cricket Week, on Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26.

There were three events: the open singles, the inter-Unit doubles (with entries from the 1st Battalion, the late 2nd Battalion, the Depot and the 7th Battalion), and the Mill Hill Plate open to competitors knocked out of the first and second rounds of the singles. There were silver cups for the first two events, with miniature replicas for the individual winners to retain, and a handsome silver ashtray for the winner of the Plate.

Both days of the tournament were exceptionally fine and warm; after weeks of hard work the two courts were in very good condition, and the high umpires' chairs, borrowed from local clubs, together with the rows of deck chairs, all helped to create the right atmosphere. Tea was served on the lawn.

On Saturday afternoon the first round and the semi-final of the singles provided some very entertaining tennis. The most exciting game was that between Major MacLeod Martin and Major Waller, which went to three sets and lasted for an hour and a quarter; Major Waller had the advantage in the services, with greater speed and spin, but he tended to over-hit in the rallies; Major Martin's volleying improved steadily throughout the match, and he well deserved his narrow victory. In the semi-finals Major Burrows showed impressive form in beating Capt. Pielow 6—1, 6—4; and Major Martin, tired after his previous efforts, was unable to take a game off Capt. Guest, who played with great accuracy, placing himself and the ball with beautiful precision.

On Sunday morning, in the Mill Hill Plate, Major Waller and Major Martin again met, in the final. On this occasion Major Martin broke through early and, playing with great confidence, held the lead throughout; Major Waller again lost many points through over-hitting. In the doubles after lunch the first round produced an excellent match between the Depot and the 2nd Battalion, which the latter narrowly won, only to succumb fairly quickly to a 1st Battalion team. The other 1st Battalion team made short work of the 7th Battalion, and in the final the two 1st Battalion pairs, Lt.-Col. Ormiston and Capt. Guest on one side and Major Martin and Lt. Wollocombe on the other, met in what promised to be a very close game. The match produced the greatest excitement and incontestably the finest tennis of the tournament, with good serving, long rallies, and fast volleying at the net. Lt. Wollocombe produced a very fast and accurate service, but Major Martin dominated his side in the rallies, moving about the court very quickly and making some remarkable "saves." Capt. Guest played consistently well, but the opposition found a weak spot in Lt.-Col. Ormiston's backhand and played on it to their advantage. In the end, having lost the first set 3—6, Major Martin

and Lt. Wollocombe came through 7-5, 6-3.

The last event was the final of the singles. In this Major Burrows could not find his form of the previous day and did not greatly trouble Capt. Guest. Mrs. Waller presented the trophies. It had been a most pleasant occasion and it is hoped that in future years a larger entry will help to restore this event as one of the red-letter days in the Regimental Calendar.

The draw was as follows:—

OPEN SINGLES							
ROUND 1		ROUND 2		FINAL			
Capt. Flavell	}	Capt. Pielow	}	Major Burrows	}		
Capt. Pielow		6-1, 6-4				6-2, 6-0	
Bye		Major Burrows					
Major Waller	}	Major Martin	}	Capt. Guest		}	
Major Martin		3-6, 6-2, 6-4					6-0, 6-0
Bye		Capt. Guest					
					Capt. Guest		
					6-1, 6-1		

MILL HILL PLATE			
ROUND 1		FINAL	
Capt. Flavell Major Waller	}	Major Waller 6-2, 6-3	} Major Martin 6-4, 6-2
Capt. Pielow Major Martin	}	Major Martin 6-0, 6-0	

INTER-UNIT DOUBLES	
ROUND 1	ROUND 2
Major Waller and Capt. Clayden (Depot)	} Brigadier Green and Major Burrows 4-6, 6-2, 8-6
Brigadier Green and Major Burrows (2nd Battalion)	
Bye	Major Martin and Lt. Wollo- combe (1st Battalion)
Bye	{ Capt. Pielow and Mr. M. Wollocombe (7th Battalion)
FINAL	
Major Martin and Lt. Wollo- combe 6-4, 6-4	} Major Martin and Lt. Wollo- combe 3-6, 7-5, 6-3
Lt.-Col. Ormiston and Capt. Guest 6-0, 6-1	

MUSEUM

Col. W. H. Parmeter has very kindly presented his dress tunic and two pairs of overalls to the Museum.

Mrs. Claudia Reed, daughter of the late Lt.-Col. W. C. C. Ash, has presented her father's dress tunic and mess jacket, and Mrs. Mary Jones, also a daughter of the late Col. Ash, has presented some old breast plates of the 57th Regiment to the Museum. We are most grateful for these kind gifts.

Mrs. M. Glaco, who is now 85, visited the Depot in May and presented a framed photograph of the 4th Battalion taken whilst they were stationed in Devonport in 1913. Her husband, the late Pte Glaco, served in the 4th Battalion for some number of years and it was his wish that this photograph should be sent to the Depot on his death.

Mr. F. Barrett, an old member of the Band of the 11th Battalion, visited the Depot on Albuhera Day and kindly offered to present his leopard skin apron to the Depot. It is in very good condition and it was suggested that Mr. Barrett should officially present his apron to the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion on their return to the U.K.

A number of interesting photographs taken of the Battalion disembarking at Hong Kong after service in Korea were presented by Pte. Rawlinson on his re-enlistment at the Depot.

REGIMENTAL CHAPEL

A font known to be nearly 200 years old was bought from Mr. V. Henham, an antique expert, in the early spring of this year.

The font stands about 4 feet high and has been shaped from the trunk of an oak tree. The base has been added in recent years as has the copper ring surrounding the marble basin.

It was originally purchased from Lady Randal-Wells by Mr. Henham, who presented it to the Chapel of the Wright-Kingsford Home for Children. However, owing to the death of Miss Kingsford and the old age of Miss Wright the home was given up, and eventually demolished, and Mr. Henham once more obtained possession of the font.

Col. Browne saw the font in this antique shop, and after repeated efforts managed to persuade the antique dealer to sell it to the Depot.

Col. A. M. Man's mother has presented a most beautiful brass alms dish to the Chapel. It is believed that there are few alms dishes like it in the parish churches of today and we are most grateful to Mrs. Man for her splendid gift.

OLD COMRADES

May 21, 1955, found the Depot open to the public on the occasion of the Regiment's 50th year at Mill Hill, and despite the usual rain a fairly representative gathering of Old Comrades and friends were entertained to a very enjoyable afternoon and evening. On behalf of all Old Comrades I wish to thank all concerned for our entertainment, and am sorry for Major Clark who made excellent arrangements for tea only to have everything disrupted by the weather. Bad luck, Sir! Many of you will be pleased to know that Col. Stewart (who commanded the 1st Battalion in China, 1927), together with Mrs. Stewart, were present, and spent most of the time trying to find people he knew in the past. Anyway, he found me. I am not going to record what he said, but he has a very good memory and a very good sense of humour. During the afternoon the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Middlesex inspected the barracks and honoured the Club with a visit. He conversed with several Old Comrades and was extremely interested. May I, before passing, recommend you to visit the Depot Church or Chapel, whichever you prefer, I was greatly impressed by this lovely little place of worship, it is beautifully finished.

Many of you may sometimes wonder who you may meet if you visit the Club; well usually the following: "Busty" Hull, Jack Christie, "Towney" Hart, George Comber, Fred Dyson, George Cox, Fred Taylor, Tim Harrison, Walter Smith, George Pocock, Pat Daley, Johnnie Kruck, Johnnie Quick (who travels from Brighton) and Alf Mason (who comes from Saffron Walden). If you are round that way call at "The White Hart," Wimbish—Alf sells a fair pint straight from the barrel. You may also meet "Buzz" Burt and George Blake if their corns are not worrying them, and sometimes "Bill" Bratby, "Bunny" Steadman—yes, and "Bill" Sperry—and furthermore, if the whole company aforementioned will attend the Club on

Saturday, with no absentees, that is on September 24, 1955, I, the writer, will treat each to a good drink. The roll will be called—no cheating.

In addition to the attendance of Old Comrades, members of the Officers' Mess and Sergeants' Mess often look in to see us and have a yarn. Give us a look up and swell the good company. As "Shotholes" Robbins, who also attends, says: "If the wife won't let you come then bring her with you." Good advice! Ladies are always welcome. Goodbye for now, until next time, "God bless you all."

OLD COMRADE.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following letter from ex-Sgt. S. Reynolds, now a Chelsea Pensioner, was received after the 50th anniversary celebration on May 21:

No. 154, "A" Ward,
Royal Hospital,
Highlands Road,
Leatherhead, Surrey.
May 24, 1955.

To the R.S.M.,
Depot, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).

Dear Sir,

I have been requested by the rest of the Human Derelicts whom you so lavishly entertained to express our thanks to all who contributed towards making the 50th anniversary a very memorable and enjoyable occasion for us. We were very impressed by the attention we received from every direction.

We were thrilled to hear again the Regimental March, and to witness the March Past and P.T. displays, which were very smartly performed. We certainly thought that the lunch, modestly advertised as a "buffet lunch," was, in substance, really a "banquet."

There appeared to be much concern and anxiety by our hosts and others, wherever we went, that under no circumstances should we be permitted to get thirsty; and so, our equilibrium, individually, was at times in great peril.

We trembled, however, when invited to the dance hall, wondering how our deportment upon a dance floor would be tolerated, or in fact endured. However, fully primed, we made the assault. We need not have feared adverse criticism, as the old axiom stood good—"safety in numbers"—so we were almost obscured by the crowd. Consequently for us dancing became *ad lib* as regard accuracy.

It was at the end of the festivities that we sustained our first casualty; a member of the Crazy Gang endeavoured, I think, to sit down on a phantom chair, and having failed to do so found himself in a very undignified heap and had to be assisted to his little bed. I believe that personal damage is of a very temporary nature, so no bulletins will be issued.

Surely the delightful time we had and the hospitality bestowed upon us will create a memory which will indeed die hard!

I have not heard how our injured member is as I left the others at Charing Cross and came on alone to Leatherhead.

Remember me to all and again thanking you for a most glorious time.

Yours sincerely,
S. REYNOLDS (late Sergeant).

CAMBRIDGE CLUB

We are sorry to lose Mrs. Beadle who has been a very good member for a number of years. She has moved to Essex, and we wish her every happiness in her new home.

We have had some very successful social Thursday evenings. Every second Thursday in the month a mixed whist drive is held, and old friends will always be welcome.

RE-INTRODUCTION OF MESS DRESS

In our last issue we published extracts from a letter to all Regular officers regarding Mess dress. Below are extracts from a second letter which is being circularised shortly.

1. The Colonel of the Regiment has approved in principle the adoption of a modified pattern of Mess dress.

2. Details of the new pattern Mess dress will be sent to all officers as soon as War Office approval has been obtained, and Regimental tailors are provided with the sealed pattern.

3. The Colonel of the Regiment expects all Regular officers who are not in possession of the pre-war pattern to provide themselves with the new type when approved.

4. A limited number of pre-war Mess jackets and waistcoats of retired officers are available at the Depot. Enquiries should be made to the P.M.C. The Colonel of the Regiment does not want officers to obtain the pre-war pattern from tailors.

5. Pre-war pattern must be in good condition and worn with a plain stiff white shirt, wing collar and Regimental pattern waistcoat with four silver-mounted buttons.

No. 1 dress trousers and George boots may be worn.

FRAGMENT

As most people know, we share Inglis Barracks, at the moment, with a detachment of the Home Postal Depot, Royal Engineers. We have always enjoyed the most cordial relations with them and it was very nice to discover a link with them from the past.

Major Fancort, who commands the detachment of the H.P.D., R.E., was one of the guests lunching in the Officers' Mess after the ceremony of the opening of the new gates. To his surprise he recognised two of the other guests, Brigadier Baker and Lt.-Col. Roberts, as having been respectively his Commanding Officer and Adjutant in 1933, when he was serving with the 7th City of London Regiment (Post Office Rifles), T.A. This Regiment absorbed the former 8th City of London Regiment which was so named in 1906, but had formerly been the 24th Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment, which was the original postal unit of the Army and parts of which took part in the Egyptian campaign of 1882. So that the modern H.P.D., R.E., is really a collateral relation of ours and as such we salute it here,

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



EDITORIAL

The annual camp is only a few days off and advance parties in all the drill halls are preparing stores prior to loading them for it. On Sunday, July 3, the main bodies of Companies arrive, and by the following Monday the Battalion will be functioning (it is hoped) as if it had been embodied for at least a year. Camp this year is expected to be rather more strenuous than usual as it includes a Brigade exercise in the first week and most of the second week is directed to a Divisional exercise. Incidentally, the first one done in the T.A. which has included atomic "noises off" and the consequent effects on tactics. A post-mortem on camp will appear in the next issue.

A notable event in recent months was the retirement, after 38 years' service in the Regiment, of Major (Q.M.) P. F. Newman, M.B.E. We feel very pleased that we had the honour of being the last Battalion of the Regiment in which Percy Newman served. At a farewell gathering in the Officers' Mess on May 10, 1955, the Commanding Officer presented Major Newman with a clock, mantlepiece, civilian pattern, and the Battalion sent flowers to Mrs. Newman. It was a very sad occasion for him after a lifetime in the Army, but we hope we will continue to see a lot of him.

Major C. A. Trestain, M.B.E., has taken over from him as Q.M. Other changes on the Permanent Staff are C.S.M. Goodge and Sgt. Walters, who have both arrived from 1st Middlesex. We hope all these newcomers will enjoy their tour of duty with us. C.S.M. Bignell is about to leave "C" Company for civilian life.

Other events in the past few weeks included an Officers' Mess Guest Night on March 17, 1955, and the All-Ranks' Albuhera Dance on May 14. Guests for the Officers' Mess Dinner were the Mayor of Hornsey (Alderman M. W. Burns, J.P.), Lt.-Col. A. H. T. Hogge, who is G.S.O.1 of 44th Division, and Lt.-Col. W. P. M. Allen, M.C. The Dinner itself was served in the Sergeants' Mess—very generously put at the disposal of the officers for the evening, and the Regimental Band played during and after dinner.

The Albuhera Dance was held at Hornsey and was well attended by Old Comrades.

Following is a list of the latest T.A. promotions: To Corporal: L/Cpl. A. Sambridge and Ptes. R. Cass, C. Robbins and R. Fowler. To Lance-Corporal: Bdsman. J. Clegg and Ptes. J. Bennett, C. Southon, D. Willson, W. Howard, G. Bowhill, D. Lawler, E. Akers and D. Jakeman.

Having become rather tired of the Aldershot training areas, two suitable areas were discovered by the Training Major in the Southend-on-Sea district. One was a

disused A.A. gun site at Hadleigh. Accommodation was in empty huts, and although the floor was rather hard to sleep on at least we had a roof over our heads. "A" and "B" Companies joined forces for this weekend and on the Saturday evening hired buses took the troops into Southend. There was ample evidence that a good evening had been spent by the majority.

The M.M.G. and Anti-Tank Platoons also spent a weekend at Hadleigh on June 4-5, whilst "C" and "D" Companies enjoyed themselves in the comparative luxury of the Weekend Training Centre at Vange. On this occasion also, hired buses were used for an evening invasion of Southend. Lest the reader should be doubtful of the purpose of these seaside excursions let it be said that a certain amount of training also took place in the rather limited training areas available.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Since our last notes were written it has been a comparatively quiet period for the Mess, but as usual the inevitable changes have occurred. We bade reluctant farewells to C.S.M. Hutchings, who has had to give priority to the demands of his "civvy" job, and to Sgt. LaRoche, who has transferred to the H.A.C. We are sorry to lose them and they take the good wishes of us all with them.

It is not all one-way traffic, however, and we are pleased to welcome C.S.M. Goodge and Sgts. Stone, Walters, Rogers, Aldrich and Medcalfe, the latter from 609 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. We hope that they will enjoy their time with us.

Whilst on the subject of personalities, we have to report that Sgt. Longman is the latest member of the Mess to succumb to the wiles of the fairer sex. We congratulate him on his recent marriage and wish him and his wife the very best of good fortune for the years ahead.

At the Albuhera Ball this year the Mess was well represented, although for various reasons not all members were there. However, it was good to see some of our ex-members again, amongst them ex-C.S.M. Harris and ex-Sgt. Register. We would remind all ex-members of the Mess that they are always more than welcome whenever they care to look in. We hope they will. On any Tuesday or Thursday evening they are sure to find a number of Mess stalwarts playing "cricket" (on the dart board) or dominoes (R.S.M. Pike's way) and, of course, all this is thirsty work!

At our annual camp we hope to be able to really get together, as a Mess, for some of the time. However, more about that later.

Until then, best wishes to all "Die-Hard" Sergeant's Messes, wherever they may be.

BATTALION RIFLE CLUB

The .22 rifle shooting season finished on a very successful note as the Battalion team, by beating 3604 Fighter Control Unit Royal Auxiliary Air Force, won the Middlesex Challenge Shield. It proved to be a clear-cut victory, the Battalion winning by 554 points to 533.



BATTALION'S SHIELD WINNERS

Left to right (back row): Sgt. R. Weller, Sgt. F. LaRoche, Sgt. R. Wotton, and Cpl. C. Wimbleton. Centre: C.S.M. J. Webb, R.S.M. E. Pike (non-shooting captain), Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., R.Q.M.S. N. Howes and C/Sgt. M. Leary. Front row: Cpl. D. Eastlake, Cpl. I. McGlashon, L/Cpl. R. Beecham and Pte. J. Bavester.

The shield was presented by Wing Commander Sir N. J. Hulbert, a Vice-Chairman of the Territorial and Auxiliary Forces' Association of Middlesex, and M.P. for Stockport North, who also presented silver medals to the team.

BAND

The Band has been strengthened by the arrival of Bdsman. Wiles and Heywood and Boy Poulter. The latter is the son of D.M. Poulter of this Battalion. Since the last issue of this Journal Bdsman. Williams and Raybould have left us.

Band engagements to date include the Depot "At Home" on May 21 and again on Saturday, July 8, during cricket week. Successful concerts were given also for Twickenham Borough Council, Willesden Corporation and Lilley and Skinners Sports Club.

Although the Battalion will be spending seven days of camp out on formation exercises there is a full Band programme for the days we spend in camp. Retreat will

be beaten with the Corps of Drums and the Band will play at both Messes and for the officers' cocktail party.

BOXING

Our training in preparation for the 44 (H.C.) Division Championships stood us in good stead. The Battalion team put up a plucky performance and won the Division trophy for the first time, but we feel sure not the last. L/Cpl. Sills and Pte. Painter won their respective weights and Pte. Mathews, despite being unfit, gave what was easily the best three rounds boxing of the evening.

We had five boxers in the Division team which competed in the T.A. Championships on May 6 and 7. L/Cpl. Sills, Ptes. J. Howard, A. Howard, Mathews and Painter. Ptes. Harrison and Sadler were reserves. Although both our men who actually fought, Sills and Painter, were beaten, they did extremely well. Sills, incidentally, is 41 years old this year.

Two of the Battalion boxers have done very well in the A.B.A. this year. Pte. A. Howard lost in the final

of the north-west area championships because of a cut eye, while his brother, Pte. J. Howard, went right through until losing on a very close decision in the semi-finals at the Albert Hall. Both these boxers went with the London team which competed in Paris.

"B" COMPANY

Training Activity

Apart from the usual Tuesday evenings the big event has been the final pre-camp training week-end at Hadleigh—held in conjunction with "A" Company. An effort was made to make the week-end as congenial as possible for the men, and on the whole it was enjoyed by all ranks. Camp itself seems bound to be a good deal harder and more worrying than our tactical week-ends.

Battalion Activities

The results in shooting so far this season have been satisfactory both collectively and individually. In February we beat "S" Company, 538—367, in April we beat "H.Q." Company, 549—537, and in June we lost to "S" Company, 499—506. The following have fired for the Battalion: C.S.M. Webb, C/Sgt. Leahy, Sgt. Charge, Cpls. Wimbleton and McGlashon.

MORTAR PLATOON

From the onset of the new year the Platoon has been organising itself for annual camp. National Servicemen have been called up and although the time they are available is very little, as much training was carried out as possible. To give some idea of what was accomplished it is best to set it out monthly as follows:

February. The N.C.O.s of the Platoon were instructed in the intricacies of Fire Control and Target Engagement, and on the last Sunday in the month this was put into practice at Enfield where improvised targets were engaged. Unfortunately, whenever an outdoor exercise is held the weather is always bad, therefore the majority of the work had to be carried out from the back of the one-ton vehicle.

March. The highlight of this month's training was at Potters Bar area. "A wireless scheme" the Platoon Commander had said—it was reduced in the end to the Training Major picking up odd Mobile Fire Control spread over Enfield Chase and placing them at one end of the field where the orders were then shouted to the Control Post operator. On returning to the Centre we were informed that of course the sets would not work as there was some contrivance of the G.P.O. which cuts out all small sets. Needless to say the Platoon has avoided this area ever since.

April. "S" Company went to Lydd for their annual classification with the rifle and their support weapons. The weather remained fine throughout, which was extremely unusual for that area especially as the Platoon was there in force. To try and inspire a little enthusiasm for rifle shooting the Platoon Commander gave a spirited address to the men on trying hard, as this practice might one day save their lives. At least it was heard in polite silence. He then went on to mention that haystacks, bushes and other horrors that some of the youth of this country call haircuts would not be tolerated at annual camp. The effect was electrical—

the men sat up and took notice, looking most worried. It was another case of "take my life but do not touch my haircut!"

The mortar firing on the Sunday was very good, and the year's allocation of ammunition was expended in about four hours, but good training and results were accomplished. Needless to say, the Range Warden walked on to the baseplate position just as the bombs landed outside the range area—no harm was done, however.

May. This month was exceedingly hectic from the training point of view, particularly the preparation for the compulsory training of the Platoon on Sunday, the 22nd. This had to be arranged very carefully as the N.C.O.s were carrying out most of the instruction. Every man in the Platoon received considerable individual instruction in his duties.

Details of the June tactical weekend and annual camp in July will be dealt with in the next issue.

MACHINE GUN PLATOON

Since the last Journal appeared there have been many changes amongst the more senior members of the Platoon, all too many unfortunately.

The Platoon Sergeant, Sgt. LaRoche, after five years with the Platoon, during which time his climb to the top has been swift, is leaving us. It is with regret that the Platoon, and the Battalion too, say goodbye for he has had many noteworthy successes in the Battalion shooting team and I am sure everyone will wish him good luck for the future.

Sgt. Wotton, the Platoon's staunch member, has most regrettably been unable to carry out full duties with us, owing to illness, but we shall continue to see him regularly in the evenings. We hope he gets well soon.

The other senior member of the Platoon who has had to leave us is Cpl. Carter. We hope he will return to the Platoon soon.

Training has been progressing during the winter evenings, chiefly in the drill hall. There has been, during the winter period, an N.C.O. cadre, and regular training periods for National Service men. Shortly, the Platoon will be together as a whole for annual camp, when its ability will be tested on the Divisional exercise.

ANTI-TANK PLATOON

Training Activities

The Platoon is now in the midst of the busiest training time of the year. In April we went to Lydd to classify with the rifle and fire the 17-pdr. The shooting was of quite a good standard. We hope that this was the last time that we shall fire this weapon as next year we hope to have the 120-mm. B.A.T.

In May a Sunday training day was held at Hornsey which was also quite successful. The first weekend in June was spent at a disused camp near Southend. Bus trips in the evening were organised to this illustrious town.

Time before camp is now very short, so we hope the Sappers on the exercise are by now proficient in the bridge building and will not let our guns sink into the River Avon. Cpl. Heigho and L/Cpl. Akers are to be congratulated on their promotion, and Sgt. Frazer on getting married.

11th Bn. THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT

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

The Battalion is now well into the training season, with its usual mixture of sport, shooting, soldiering and parachuting. We have had a most encouraging beginning to the year, winning the 44th Parachute Brigade Boxing Championship, the 16th Airborne Division .22 Rifle Competition, "A" Division, and even managed to take two cups from the 14th Battalion at the Brigade Rifle Meeting!

PARACHUTING

Our parachuting weather has been remarkable up to now, in complete contrast to last year. We started the season with a week of ballooning at Wormwood Scrubs, using 600 'chutes during the period of April 18 to 22, with perfect jumping weather every night. This week was followed on May 21 by continuation training from Hastings aircraft, emplaning at Blackbushe, with our usual D.Z. at Frensham Ponds. Cpl. Stock, of the Pioneer Platoon, who frequently mans the safety boat, decided with some of his stick to try landing in the lake instead of in the more usual heather, to the delight of the observers on dry land.

On Whit Monday about 30 members of the Battalion spent a very pleasant day ballooning at White Waltham airfield during the air display held by the Women's Junior Air Corps.

BOXING

Under the personal supervision of Lt.-Col. R. A. Corby the boxing standard in the Battalion has greatly improved during the season, with the result that we won the Brigade Boxing Championships at the Duke of York's H.Q. on March 24. In the finals:

Bantamweight: Pte. Kemp (11 Para. Regt.) beat Pte. Devereaux (10 Para. Regt.).

Light Welterweight: L/Cpl. Ashton (10 Para. Regt.) beat Pte. Stocking (11 Para. Regt.).

Light Middleweight: Pte. McMillan (10 Para. Regt.) beat L/Cpl. Cox (11 Para. Regt.).

Middleweight: Pte. Davis (10 Para. Regt.) beat L/Cpl. Johnstone (11 Para. Regt.).

Featherweight: Pte. Thomas (11 Para. Regt.) beat Spr. Moynihan (302 Fd. Pk. Sq.).

Lightweight: Pte. Marable (10 Para. Regt.) beat L/Cpl. Gordon (11 Para. Regt.).

Light Heavyweight: Sgt. Cowell (11 Para. Regt.) beat Pte. Grace (10 Para. Regt.).

Heavyweight: Cpl. Springford (302 Fd. Pk.) beat Pte. Williams (10 Para. Regt.).

Welterweight: Pte. O'Callaghan (10 Para. Regt.) beat Pte. McNamee (11 Para. Regt.).

On April 16 three of our boxers took part in the 16th Airborne Division boxing finals. Pte. Kemp (bantamweight), Pte. Thomas (featherweight) and Pte. Chivers (middleweight) all fought well, Pte. Thomas beating Cpl. Coope, of 18th Para., in what was probably the best bout of the evening. Pte. Chivers beat Sgt. Robertshaw, of 12th Para., in the second round with a knock-out.

On May 6 and 7 the T.A. finals took place, with the 16th Airborne Division as runners-up to the winners,

Northern Ireland District. Pte. Thomas and Sgt. Cowell were both in the Divisional team. Thomas, who, in the opinion of many should one day be a T.A. champion, reached the finals, losing on points to Neill, of Northern Ireland, after a magnificent fight. Sgt. Cowell won his first fight with some very hard and very effective punching, but he was defeated in the semi-finals.

SHOOTING

The various miniature ranges in the Battalion's area were well used during the early part of the year. The Battalion team won the 16th Airborne Division .22 Rifle Competition, "A" Division, with a score of 678 out of 720, whilst in "B" Division "C" Company came third with a score of 335 out of 360.

On the open ranges we have made satisfactory progress, benefiting greatly from the experiences of the band of shooting enthusiasts who regularly go down to Bisley for a shoot on Sundays. The Battalion Meeting took place at Ash on April 23 and 24 and went extremely smoothly, due particularly to the good services of the butt party provided from the Regular Brigade. "B" Company very nearly swept the board both in the Weapon Training Cup competitions and for the Shooting Cup. Lt. Lawrence and Sgt. Falla were the best officer and other ranks shots respectively.

"A" COMPANY

The Company now have C.S.M. "Taffy" Roberts as their P.S.I. and are now all set for expansion! They hope to be on a two-platoon basis by camp.

"B" COMPANY

The Company have had a particularly good shooting season, winning both the Weapon Training and the Shooting Cups at the Battalion Meeting. Cpls. Furness and Hopley won the Volongdis Pairs Cup at the Brigade Meeting and the Company will, no doubt, be well represented at the Divisional Meeting in June.

Cpls. Furness and Hopley endured a snowy N.C.O. refresher course at Hythe, returning great converts to the F.N. rifle. Major Lee attended the two-week T.A. course at the Senior Officers' School at Earlestone Park.

"C" COMPANY

Once again the Company has had a change of command: Capt. "Pat" Latham has been forced to go on a long leave. They welcome their 2IC, Lt. David Price, to the O.C.'s chair in his absence. The platoons are losing one or two of the old familiar faces. Sgt. Russell, who was recently awarded the Territorial Efficiency Medal, is leaving No. 8 Platoon, and there are rumours that Sgt. Underdown is undecided in the signing-on question.

That permanent fixture in the Battalion corner, Cpl. Haines, has done wonders with the Company boxing team, who won the Inter-Company Cup, and found many members of the Battalion team.

The Company cross-country team, ably led by Pte. Martin, upheld the name of the Battalion in no uncertain

manner in the Eastern Command Championships and in the T.A. Championships a short time later Martin was third in both events.

The basketball team again won the Battalion Basketball Cup, particularly due to the efforts of Lt. Palmer and L/Cpls. Llewelyn and Young.

Cpl. Dean, L/Cpls. Wingate and Young and Ptes. Baulch and Mead, and, of course, Sgt. Kent, did well in the Company's shooting team.

"S" COMPANY

The Company are now the proud possessors of a B.A.T. and an enthusiastic platoon under the command of Lt. "Mike" Sillett. They, with Sgt. Brown, late of our Provost, as Platoon Sergeant, have already started training with it and will fire it at our annual camp at Plasterdown in August. The Company has lost Lt. "Tom" Buck, who has joined the Rhodesian Army. He will be much missed, not only in the Battalion, but in many villages and hamlets throughout the country.

"H.Q." COMPANY

The Band and the Drums gave a very impressive display of beating the Retreat in Hounslow after the anniversary of adoption parade on May 14.

A gathering of the Middlesex members of the Battalion, including Michael Ashby, Lt. (Q.M.) Harry Jennings, Majors Ian Brotherton and "Ali" Barber took ale together on Albuhera night and drank to absent friends. They were joined by Mr. Alfred Daws, who joined the 2nd Volunteer Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment in 1894. This 2nd V.B. became the 8th Middlesex Regiment in 1908.

Lt. Colin Cullimore is welcomed to the Company as the M.T.O.

Finally, as a stop press we must congratulate Capt. Jordan on the arrival of his daughter, Anne.

571 L.A.A. REGIMENT, R.A.

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

Our future has been decided—595 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A. (9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment—D.C.O.), T.A., now becomes 571 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment—D.C.O.), T.A. The new Regiment is formed by the amalgamation of (i) The old 571 (M.) L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.); (ii) the old 595 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A. (9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment—D.C.O.), T.A.; (iii) the old 604 (M.) L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A. (R.F.), T.A.

The fact that the 9th Battalion The Middlesex D.C.O. is still to the fore is partly due to the untiring efforts of Col. J. N. Lamont, M.C., T.D., our Hon. Colonel, and other prominent members of the Middlesex Regiment.

Regimental Headquarters has taken up residence at the T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware.

The Batteries are located as follows: (i) "P" Battery, T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware; (ii) "Q" Battery, T.A. Centre, Honeypot Lane,

Kingsbury, N.W. 9; (iii) "R" Battery, T.A. Centre, 607-625 Harrow Road, Wembley.

The Regiment is commanded by Lt.-Col. A. G. B. Drabble, T.D., R.A. (T.A.), a gunner officer from 461 H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.). He has been introduced to the "Die-Hards" traditions and his approval to it all is to keep the "Die-Hard" spirit aflame more than ever before.

The Regiment has lost its searchlights and this means that the searchlight personnel have to change over to the gunner role.

News of the Old 595 Personnel and the Regiment since the last Article

This has been a period of sad farewells as individually many stalwart Territorials could not be found appointments in the new set up. Notably amongst these has been our past C.O., Lt.-Col. B. A. G. MacFadden, T.D., R.A. (T.A.), to whom a great sense of gratitude is felt by us all for the superb and successful fight he put up that we maintained our proud privilege of the words "9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment—D.C.O." to be included in our title. He will be a great loss to the T.A., but an even greater loss to those who have had the privilege and pleasure of serving under his able command.

We dined Col. MacFadden out of the Mess on Friday, May 6, 1955, and our Hon. Colonel, Col. J. N. Lamont, M.C., T.D., presented to him, on behalf of all officers, a suitably inscribed Westminster chiming clock. A further presentation was made to the C.O. by Capt. B. F. Brooks—a bowler hat in scarlet and gold, "with heartfelt appreciation." To conclude the evening the Colonel rode out of the Mess, which incidentally is situated on the first floor, not as many of the past have done, on horse back, but on a motor cycle. We were then treated, after the machine was returned to ground level, to a hazardous but enlightening and spirited display of balance. With Major Shaw at the controls, Col. MacFadden stood smartly to attention on the pillion and, wearing "the bowler," rode round the drill hall taking the last salute.

Also to go is Capt. Cyril Barber, our Adj., who has held this most unenviable post since the formation of the post-war Territorial Army, May 1, 1947—eight years of unrelenting kicks, mostly from junior officers which, presumably, must be considered an occupational hazard. We all say most sincerely, Cyril, a genuine "Thank you" and may your next appointment to the experimental side of the Army be less exacting than that of a T.A. Adjutant.

The list of officers to go is as follows:

T.A.R.O.: Lt.-Col. B. A. G. MacFadden, T.D., R.A. (T.A.), Major L. F. Shaw, R.A. (T.A.), Capt. G. Stanhope-Gant, R.A. (T.A.), Lt. A. W. Davies, R.A. (T.A.).

Port and Travel Control Group (T.A.): Capt. E. L. F. Nichols, R.A. (T.A.).

A.E.R. (M.D.C.): Capt. S. Robertson, R.A., (T.A.). Unattached List: Major G. W. Hill, R.A. (T.A.), Capt. R. L. Brooke, R.A. (T.A.), Capt. P. H. Harris, R.A. (T.A.).

"P" BATTERY

We, unlike "Q" and "R" Batteries, still hold the title of 571 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), but of course have the honour of adding 9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment—D.C.O.

R.H.Q. have moved into our headquarters and we become R.H.Q. Battery.

Training has started and we are all looking forward to welding together the remainder of the old 571 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.) and the new blood from the outside units.

In our next article in *The Die-Hards* we will have more to write about.

"Q" BATTERY

The happenings of the past few months is included in the news from 595.

The fact that the Regiment still holds the sub-title of 9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment—D.C.O. gives us the easy job of imparting to the other two new Batteries the glory of the "Die-Hard" spirit.

Training is in full swing, and with the knowledge of camp ahead, with the many inter-Battery competitions, everybody is putting added zest into this training.

"R" BATTERY

The recent reorganisation has transformed 604 (M.) L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A. (R.F.) (T.A.), into a Battery of the Middlesex Regiment, and you will not blame us for having mixed feelings about the change.

This initial report is rather difficult as our activities as Fusiliers are hardly relevant to your Journal, but we hope to be forgiven for mentioning that previously as a Regiment we had a record of which we are very proud, and we shall mourn our lost heritage for some time to come.

The senior officers who built the old Regiment so well are not with the Battery, and we shall have a pretty big job to maintain the standard they have set.

We are very sorry to have to break off old and valued associations but, realising that such things must be, we come to you in good heart and feel reasonably assured of a welcome.

The new set up presents many problems and at Battery level our real worry will be the training of tradesmen and specialists, who are vital to our operational efficiency. This is going to be a tall order in the time we are allowed, but we have no fears that it will not be solved.

The Officers' Mess has, of course, only a shadow of its former strength, and it is here that we feel our losses most—and find it less easy to raise our former gaiety, though this mood will soon pass. Among the fortunate survivors we have Major Donald Bond (Battery Commander), Capt. Harray Hansen (Battery Captain), Troop Commanders Capt. Keith McDiarmid, Capt. "Jerry" Wynne, and Lt. John Slack, all of whom have enjoyed the brighter side of soldiering in a mobile role, and welcome our return to it.

The Sergeants' Mess, while suffering a few important losses, has not been so hard hit, and B.S.M. Vaisey,

B.S.M. (P.S.I.) Ware and B.Q.M.S. Mockett have a number of the old stalwarts still with them to carry on their traditionally virile activities.

We hope to subscribe a longer news article in the next issue of *The Die-Hards*.

DINNER AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 9th BATTALION O.C.A.

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner of the 9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment O.C.A. took place on May 14 at the T.A. Centre, Honeypot Lane, Kingsbury, when 140 attended. A telegram from Her Majesty was read by Col. G. Beach, the President, in reply to our message of loyal greetings.

The toast of the Regiment was proposed by the President during which he read a letter from Capt. Vyvyan Holt from San Salvador recalling May 16, 1811, at Albuhera when the name of "Die-Hard" was to become the honoured name of all who serve in the Regiment.

Lt.-Col. B. A. G. MacFadden, T.D., in reply, reviewed the activities of the 595 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A., and said it would be his last function before handing over the reconstituted Regiment to be known as 571 L.A.A. Regiment, 9th Battalion Middlesex Regiment, to his successor, Lt.-Col. A. G. Drabble, T.D.

It was his wish to remain an old Comrade and he considered it a great honour to have been elected a Vice-President of the O.C.A.

Col. J. N. Lamont, our Honorary Colonel, proposed "Absent Comrades," and a wreath was laid at the war memorial in the hall by the Joint Hon. Secretaries, Messrs. H. Fisher and J. Taylor.

Mr. Taylor thanked Col. MacFadden for his great interest in the Association and assured his successor of continued support in any function the O.C.A. could usefully serve the Unit. Capt. C. H. T. Barber also received a hearty vote of thanks for his work for the Old Comrades and for his splendid arrangements for the dinner.

Musical selections were provided by the Regimental Band conducted by Bandmaster W. R. Turner.

ARMY ART SOCIETY

The Society, which exists to encourage art in the Army and sister Services, is holding its 24th Annual Exhibition in London during October, 1955.

All ranks of the Army, the Royal Navy, and the Royal Air Force, past and present, permanent or temporary, may submit works for consideration.

The Society is an entirely unofficial organisation, and for several years very successful exhibitions have been held in London each autumn. These afford an opportunity for Service artists to find out if their work is up to the required standard, and to compare their work with others.

Intending exhibitors are invited to apply after May 10 for particulars. Applications should be addressed to: Hon. Secretary, Army Art Society, Mrs. Cuthbert Orde, 1 Durham Place, Chelsea, London, S.W.3.



CEREMONY OF LAYING A WREATH IN MEMORY OF "DIE-HARDS" OF THE 57th REGIMENT WHO FELL AT ALBUHERA ON MAY 16, 1811

The wreath was laid by The Hon. Colonel of The Hong Kong Regiment allied to The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.). Lt.-Col. Carter, Commanding the Regiment, and many other members were present, including Major A. E. Peasley, secretary of the O.C.A. Branch in Hong Kong and now on the staff of the Regiment. Our old friend Col. Dowbiggin attended. A wreath was also laid at Saiwan Memorial in memory of "Albuhera."

HONG KONG REGIMENT

Alliance

The alliance between the Middlesex Regiment and the Hong Kong Regiment continues to grow and we are proud of the great interest shown in all our doings by our parent Regiment.

During the past four months the Regiment has been occupied with ceremonial parades, besides the usual training. On March 13 the annual review by H.E. The Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Alexander Grantham, took place in the Hong Kong Football Club Stadium. Capt. H. J. A. Moore, representing the Colonel of the Regiment, handed the magnificent Steeple Cup to the Governor, who in turn handed it to our Honorary Colonel (Col. Hon. Cedric Blaker, M.C., T.D.). This cup will be greatly treasured by the Regiment.

On April 21 H.M. The Queen's Birthday Parade was celebrated by a march-past by all Forces in the Colony. The Regiment had some 250 officers and men on parade, including the Band. The salute was taken by H.E. The Governor.

On May 30 the Regiment provided for 24 hours the guard on Government House. This was the 101st anniversary of the founding of the Volunteers in Hong Kong.

On July 1, at Sai Wan Cemetery, the occasion of

Canada Day, the Regiment will find the guard of honour at the ceremony to commemorate Canadians who died in the defence of Hong Kong, many of whom were closely connected with the Middlesex Regiment.

Most of the weekend training has been taken up with range classification and Platoon training. We have also been involved in two large-scale exercises with the Regular Army. In the Royal Hong Kong Defence Force Rifle Meeting Pte. Rosario won the individual rifle championship.

Now we are busily engaged in weapon training. Section and Platoon training, working up to the annual camp in November and December.

During the period May-August we are running Regimental courses for W.O.s, Sergeants, and promising junior ranks. The object is to fit N.C.O.s for promotions to senior N.C.O. rank and to select certain men for promotion to commissioned rank. The courses cover weapon training, map reading, cloth model tactics and T.E.W.T.s. Brigadier R. H. Bellamy, D.S.O., Deputy Commander British Forces, Hong Kong, gave the opening address on May 13.

Band and Corps of Drums

The Band has improved greatly and now plays at

various public functions. They have played three times at the Jockey Club during race meetings and once at the Botanical Garden during this year.

Sport

On the Review Day the Regiment played the R.A.F. at hockey and won 3-1, and the 1st Battalion King's Own Royal Regiment at soccer and rugby. Unfortunately we lost the two latter games, 1-2 and 6-14. An inter-Company mini-soccer (seven-a-side) league is being run during the summer months. The Regiment also is playing in the Army Water Polo League.

Albuhera Day

We were pleased to receive cables from the 1st Battalion and from the Depot. On Sunday, May 15, the Middlesex Old Comrades, headed by Major Peasley, with representatives of the Hong Kong Regiment, including Col. Hon. Cedric Blaker, Col. Dowbiggin, Lt.-Col. Carter, Lt.-Col. Owen Hughes, Major Field and Mr. Howell (ex-1st Middlesex) attended the morning service. After the service Col. Blaker laid a wreath on the cenotaph and buglers of the Regiment sounded Last Post and Reveille.

Close-ups of Three Graves of Regimental Interest at Yokohama and Saiwan Cemeteries



Personalities

Gen. Sir Charles Loewen, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., C.-in-C. Far East, visited the Regiment in March during his tour of Units in the Colony.

Col. Blaker is now on leave in U.K. and we hope that he will call in to see you at the Depot. Col. Dowbiggin, as always, is present at most Regimental functions and is always interested in all Middlesex affairs. Capt. H. J. A. Moore is missed as he did so much to foster the spirit of alliance.

During leave in U.K. Major H. A. de Barros Botelho visited the Depot and met Col. Browne and Capt. Carter. Major Botelho presented some enlargements of photographs taken at the final parade of 1st Middlesex in Hong Kong.

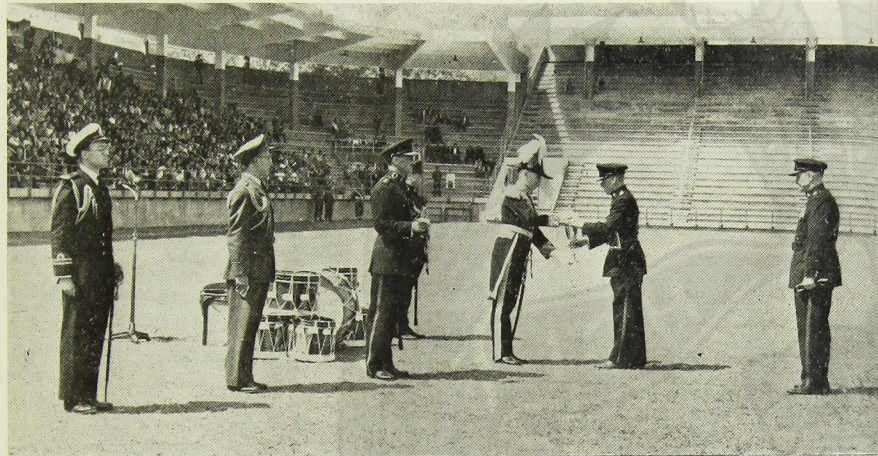
Lt. (Q.M.) W. J. T. Lane, M.B.E., is at present on leave in U.K. and is sure to make his presence felt at Mill Hill.

R.S.M. Swann, D.C.M. (Rifle Brigade) leaves us in July—we shall miss him greatly and we hope he will call to see you at the Depot.

"Hong Kong Signal"

All ranks The Hong Kong Regiment hope you enjoy your new station, and we look forward to hearing about your important celebration this year and wish you every success.—"Yam Sing," from "The Hong Kong Dragons."





Captain H. J. A. Moore handing the Steeple Cup to His Excellency The Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Alexandra Grantham

An extract from the "South China Mail" of Friday, March 11, 1955.

DEFENCE FORCE REVIEW MIDDLESEX CUP TO BE PRESENTED TO H.K. REGIMENT

Governor to Take Salute

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, will attend the annual review of the Royal Hongkong Defence Force at the Hongkong Football Club Stadium, Happy Valley, on Sunday morning and present decorations and medals and the Middlesex Regimental Cup to the Hongkong Regiment.

The review, which will begin at 11 a.m., will take the form of a parade and march past by representative contingents, a fly past by Hongkong Auxiliary Air Force aircraft and an inspection and presentation of medals by His Excellency, who is also Honorary Commandant-General of the Royal Hongkong Defence Force.

The parade will be under the command of the Commandant, Lt.-Col. O. F. Newton Dunn, the Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's). The Band of the Hongkong Regiment will be in attendance.

Presentation of Medals

On arrival Sir Alexander will be received with a Royal Salute. This will be followed by a fly past of three Spitfires, three Harvards and three Austers of the Hongkong Auxiliary Air Force. Afterwards His Excellency, accompanied by Lt.-Col. Newton Dunn, will inspect the contingents on parade.

Following the inspection, His Excellency will return to the saluting dais for the presentation of decorations, medals and the Middlesex Regimental Cup. This will be followed by the address of the Honorary Commandant-General. A short drumhead service will

precede the march past, followed by advance in review order and the review will conclude with a Royal Salute.

The Middlesex Cup

The Steeple Cup, which His Excellency will present on Sunday to the Hongkong Regiment on behalf of the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) symbolises the close and enduring association between the two Regiments.

The cup stands 2 ft. high, is finely chased and bears the inscription: "Presented by The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) to The Hongkong Regiment to Commemorate their Alliance on August 14, 1950."

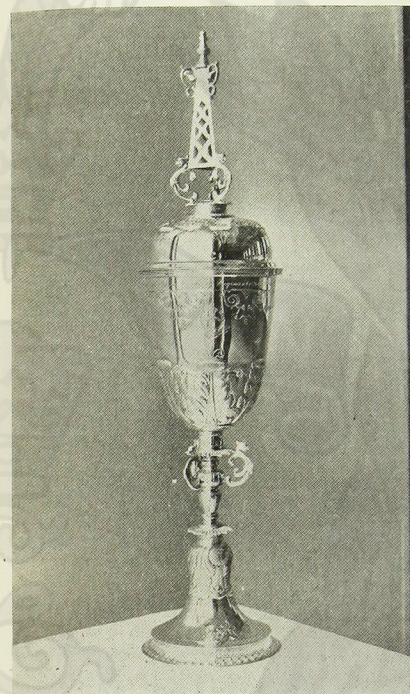
A letter from the Colonel of the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, to the Commanding Officer of the Hongkong Regiment reads: "We hope The Hongkong Regiment will accept this Silver Cup as a token of our close and enduring Alliance with you and as a symbol of our continuing friendship in years to come."

The cup will be handed to His Excellency by Capt. H. J. A. Moore, Adjutant of the Hongkong Regiment, on behalf of the Colonel of the Middlesex Regiment. His Excellency will in turn hand the cup to Col. the Hon. Cedric Blaker, Honorary Colonel of the Hongkong Regiment. After the presentation the cup will take its place amongst the silver of the Hongkong Regiment.

The 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) is at present in Austria, but is due to return to the United Kingdom in July of this year and go to Cyprus in November.

Close Association

The Battalion was posted to Hongkong in 1939 and during the peaceful period up to the outbreak of hostilities



The Steeple Cup

ties in December, 1941, a very close association was formed with the Hongkong Volunteer Defence Corps. These ties of friendship became closer as the result of fighting in the defence of the Colony and also during the trying period as prisoners of war. The number of those of the Battalion killed in the fighting and in the subsequent sinking of the *Lisbon Maru* totalled 14 officers and 273 other ranks.

In June, 1949, the 1st Battalion was again posted to Hongkong and the former association was renewed and developed. In August, 1950, the Battalion was sent to Korea as part of 27th Infantry Brigade, the first British contingent to do so. Returning to the Colony in May, 1951, the Battalion remained here until December, 1952.

On August 14, 1950, to mark the long and close ties formed in both peace and war, His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to approve an alliance between the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) and the Hongkong Regiment.

12th MIDDLESEX HOME GUARD BATTALION

This Home Guard Battalion has vacancies in the Regimental Band for ex-Army bandmen (up to 65

years of age) and would be pleased to hear from any ex-Middlesex Regiment bandmen who are resident in, or close to the Borough of Willesden.

Enrolment in the Home Guard is for an initial period of two years with re-engagement thereafter year by year. Resignation may be effected at any time on giving one month's notice.

The Regimental Band can accept paid engagements for which expenses and payment of Bandmen is made.

Ample facilities exist for rifle (.303 and .22), L.M.G. and Sten range practice, as well as for social events.

Application should be made to the Adjutant, T.A. Centre, Pound Lane, Willesden, N.W.10.

31st FIELD REGIMENT ROYAL CANADIAN ARTILLERY, 1st CANADIAN INFANTRY DIVISION Affiliated with The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own)

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS,
SARNIA, ONTARIO.

We are now the Field Regiment part of the 18th Militia Group instead of the 1st Divisional Artillery (R.F.). This took place on October 1, 1954, as a result of the reorganisation of the Canadian Army.

The Regiment has enjoyed a relatively successful year in training; and our relations with the City of Sarnia have been quite good. Our local training was designed, both individually and collectively, to bring all ranks to an adequate stage of efficiency in order to take full advantage of the annual camp at Petawawa in July. This training was made more realistic by a series of cloth model exercises, and also by the participation in several "dry" shoots. This was found to integrate and co-ordinate the many details involved. Finally, when fielding one Battery plus R.H.Q. control at camp, the showing proved to be worthwhile. Our strength of nearly 100 members all gained valuable experience. The Area Commander and the C.R.A. rather sustained our view in their subsequent remarks to us on parade.

As an aid towards greater *esprit de corps*, several indoor rifle shoots were conducted, and also more time was devoted to organised sports periods. These activities were welcomed as keen competition between Batteries.

The Regiment buried with full military honours one of its Sergeants who died here in February. This N.C.O. won the Military Medal for bravery at Dieppe, August, 1942.

The history of the militia-type soldiering dates from our country's birth, and on considering the dates 1760-63, 1812-14, and in the last two world wars, we feel that possibly some contribution has been made. We also believe that the citizens of both of our countries share this sentiment. The Regiment was signally honoured in being requested to provide a party to fire the Royal Salute for Emperor Haile Selassie at Windsor, Ontario, last June. This was on the departure of the Emperor from Canada, following an extended visit. Actually, it provided a chance to show the Militia to the public, and enhance its value. It is our constant desire to have this increased in the future.

Canada's fighting sons have been privileged to have been on the same team as the Mother Country in the past, and should mobilisation ever come again, Canada's Army and Militia would be: "Ubique, quo fas et gloria ducunt."*

* Everywhere where duty and glory leads.

THE SPRING GOLF MEETING

On April 29 the Spring Meeting took place, as usual, at Hendon Golf Club, and, as ever, the Hendon weather for the occasion was admirable.

The arrangements made by the secretary and staff of the Golf Club were once more splendid and Major Clark's hard work bore ample fruit in making an enjoyable smooth-running day. For some reason the green-keeper took a precaution, never before taken for us, of putting every tee as far back as for a covey of Cottons and, although the greens were in excellent order, this, plus the wet, tenacious rough, devastated most players and there was a universal sigh of relief when the afternoon round was completed. Under the circumstances no comment is needed on the golf, the scores speaking for themselves, but Col. Maitland's morning score of 84-14=70 was a very fine effort. One expects surprising scores from young players with uncertain and long handicaps, but Col. Maitland plays little and if not yet in the sere and yellow has appeared from time to time at Regimental golf meetings for so many years that he cannot any longer be placed in the up and coming class, and so all the more credit to him.

It was a pleasure to have an all too rare visit from "Steve," who celebrated the occasion by winning the Scratch Cup and being runner-up to Maitland for the Handicap Cup. Out in 44, he showed in the second half that, having got accustomed to the conditions, he is playing well and he only took 38 for the homeward half, marred by a five at the short 15th.

The foursomes were too bad to be true, but the prize was taken unblushingly by Wollocombe-Worton, six down.

The "Die-Hards" Divot went appropriately to a new contestant, Major A. R. Waller, and, as usual, many would have been pleased to go away with the divot which was presented by Col. Wollocombe and was once more imaginative and attractive.

From conversations overheard between the Committee of Hendon Golf Club and Rex Waller, it will not be their fault if he is in the divot class next year.

During the tea interval Mrs. Ellis kindly presented the prizes and, in the absence of the captain, Brigadier Procter expressed the thanks of all there to Mrs. Ellis and to the staffs, who had made the day so enjoyable.

In the bar "Steve" was lamenting the fall in numbers since the war and maintained that the attendances had been much greater. We argued that, strangely enough, the fall was not as great as one imagined, as I had checked up roughly from the Regimental journals.

On my return I looked at my Vol. 1931-34 and found an occasion with 28 players, but I still think that this was an unusually high figure over the course of years. "Nobby's" little book probably holds all the answers. But what about having 28 at Fleet in September! Make it a date now and warn in early because it may mean

altering the club house if we have over 50 for the dinner. And, ladies, do not forget the mixed foursomes on the afternoon of Sunday, September 25. Book your partners early or you will find all the David Nivens pledged and you have only the over 60s to choose from.

Golf—Postscript to Spring Meeting

Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton won the main event at North Hants Golf Club on May 15 with 73 and 68 for the 36 holes. He was reduced to 13. On the same course on May 22 in the Old Haileyburian Meeting he won the scratch prize with 80 and the handicap prize with 80-13=67. His handicap is now 11, and is he grouching? At last he will have to work, like others, to play to his handicap, instead of freewheeling as hitherto.

RESULTS

	Gross	H'cap	Nett
Lt.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson	82	6	76*
Col. J. K. Maitland	84	14	70†
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton	91	15	76
Capt. R. D. Latham	91	10	81
Brigadier N. P. Procter	92	9	83
Major J. Bywaters	92	8	84
Capt. R. E. Guest	94	15	79
Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe	101	18	83
Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis	106	17	89
Major S. C. Jay	106	15	91
2/Lt. T. M. Wollocombe	107	20	87
Major P. D. H. Marshall	110	24	86
Major A. R. Waller	117	24	93‡
Capt. N. B. McIvor	117	lost after 15 holes.	

*Wins Scratch Cup. †Wins Handicap Cup. ‡Wins divot.

BOGEY FOURSOMES

Lt.-Cols. Wollocombe and Worton	6 down
Lt.-Col. Stephenson and Capt. Guest	7
Brigadier Procter and Lt.-Col. Ellis	8
Majors Jay and Bywaters	8
Lts. Wollocombe and Phillips	12
Major Waller and Capt. McIvor	13
Col. Maitland and Major Marshall	14

THE ANNUAL OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER

The above function was held at the Dorchester on June 17. Some 78 members attended. Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, Colonel of the Regiment, read a telegram from Her Majesty in reply to their message of loyal greetings, and another from the officers of the 1st Battalion in reply to one sent to them.

It was an extremely pleasant evening, well planned and executed, and one that everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Many who attended (there were some absentees) must have thought that there was more than a little to be said for holding this function in "chandelier-London" despite the appropriate charges. The following were present:—

Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall; Brigadiers A. E. Green, B. B. Rackham and O. H. Tidbury; Col. G. Beach, M. Browne, M. Crawford, S. F. Hedgecoe, W. D. Kenyon, J. K. Maitland, A. M. Man, M. Moller, R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker and W. A. Stewart; Lt.-Cols. W. P. M. Allen, G. B. Ayre, J. H. Clowes, H. Cook, W. D. Ellis, T. A. Hall, A. S. Hewson, J. James-Crook, C. M. Man, T. L. Marks, J. W. G. Ormiston, W. E. Pringle, T. H. Reddy, J. D. Robbins, W. L. Roberts, E. W. F. de Salis, J. W. A. Stephenson and J. R. B. Worton; Majors S. A. Barnes, G. A. H. Bower, I. R. Burrows, A. W. Clark, T. P. Coubro, R. J. P. Cumming, C. F. Denton, P. R. H. Elliott, H. Farrow, R. E. Gould, H. K. Hardcastle, E. L. Heywood S. C.



The Officers' Club Dinner

Jay, G. W. Kempster, H. N. McLeod Martin, R. E. Orr, C. E. Romes, H. Sherwood, J. Shipster, S. H. Short, E. F. Thompson, A. R. Waller and J. A. A. Williams; Capt. S. R. Bonnamy, A. G. Buckhurst, Clanfield, B. K. Clayden, H. A. B. Claypole, W. M. M. Deacock, L. C. D. Doidge, J. S. C. Flavell, R. E. Guest, B. A. M. Pielow, H. A. Pike, J. I. D. Pike, K. Scott-Simpson and W. Ward; Lts. M. J. Beaumont, R. T. Douthet, R. D. Fisher, E. C. Graham, B. H. Marciandi, C. E. R. Ousey and S. Weller; and W. H. E. Grayburn, Esq., and B. H. Kerr, Esq.

Officers' Club At Home

The At Home was held at the Dorchester Hotel on the afternoon of June 17. Some 80 members, wives and friends attended. The At Home gave an opportunity for many old friends to meet and chat over tea.

CRICKET WEEK, 1955

The Cricket Week results were two wins, two defeats and one match was washed out by rain. As several of our best players were unable to turn out in more than one or two matches, this can be considered quite satisfactory.

We fielded our strongest side of the Week against the Free Forersters in the first match which we won by six wickets, thanks to some steady bowling by Cullen and Unwin, and a useful opening 37 by Nigel Legge.

Not a ball was bowled in the second game against Hampstead Heathens. This appeared to have a bad effect on our batting the next day as the Cryptics bowled us out for 58.

Against the Incogs we were again put out for the meagre total of 79. We only lost, however, by one wicket in a most exciting match, Cullen and Unwin again bowling well, supported by some really excellent wicket-keeping by Graham Blacktop of the 7th Battalion, a newcomer to the Week.

We finished with a good win against I. Zingari in the last match by six wickets. Some very good catching was chiefly responsible for getting them out for 164. St. George, Patrick Wollocombe, Unwin and "Sandy" Kay then knocked off the runs.

"Jimmie" Unwin, as usual, was the mainstay of the batting and bowling, his chief supporters being Patrick Wollocombe with the bat and Cullen and Pike with the ball.

CRICKET RESULTS

AT MILL HILL, JUNE 18-22, 1955

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT v. FREE FORRESTERS

FREE FORRESTERS

A. T. Whitehead c Rowson b Pike	3
M. Loup c Unwin b Stephenson	10
G. M. Shuttleworth lbw Stephenson	22
G. W. Tufnell b Pike	4
H. F. D. Gillett b Pike	4
M. D. Corke b Cullen	15
A. B. Allen b Unwin	13
D. P. Henry b Unwin	18
B. J. K. Pryer b Unwin	4
B. Darewski not out	9
E. Morland c Unwin b Cullen	1
Extras	11

Total 120

Bowling: Unwin 3 for 29; Pike 3 for 32; Stephenson 2 for 20; Cullen 2 for 21.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENT		
Lt.-Col. J. W. G. Ormiston lbw Morland	..	13
Capt. N. F. Legge st b Pryer	..	37
D. Rowson b Morland	..	9
Lt. J. M. Phillips lbw Morland	..	5
Lt. P. A. S. Wollockcombe not out	..	67
Lt.-Col. E. J. Unwin not out	..	36
Lt.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson	..	..
Capt. J. I. D. Pike	..	..
Major S. E. Honess	..	..
Lt. G. Blacktop	..	..
J. Cullen	..	..
Extras	..	5
Total (for 4 wickets)	..	163

Bowling: Morland 3 for 46; Pryer 1 for 35.
Result: Middlesex Regiment won by 6 wickets.

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT v. THE CRYPTICS

THE CRYPTICS		
R. F. B. O'Callaghan c Martin b Cullen	..	13
S. W. Houghton b Pike	..	49
P. J. C. Dymoke-Marr b Martin	..	17
A. Foot c Wollockcombe b Unwin	..	20
B. Bowman b Unwin	..	13
G. S. Oakley b Cullen	..	25
S. Tucker not out	..	50
P. Crawford not out	..	3
D. A. Gilkes	..	..
D. Carroll	..	..
G. C. Melliush	..	..
Extras	..	15
Total (for 6 wickets)	..	223

Bowling: Pike 1 for 52; Unwin 2 for 35; Cullen 2 for 43; Martin 1 for 6.

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT		
Capt. N. F. Legge b Dymoke Marr	..	0
Capt. J. I. D. Pike b Bowman	..	0
Lt. J. M. Phillips lbw Dymoke Marr	..	3
Lt. P. A. S. Wollockcombe c b Bowman	..	5
Lt.-Col. E. J. Unwin c b Dymoke Marr	..	20
Capt. W. A. W. St. George c b Dymoke Marr	..	3
Capt. B. K. Clayden c b Melliush	..	4
Lt. G. L. Blacktop b Dymoke Marr	..	2
Major H. N. McLeod Martin c b Melliush	..	0
2/Lt. A. G. Williams not out	..	0
J. Cullen c b Dymoke Marr	..	2
Extras	..	10
Total	..	58

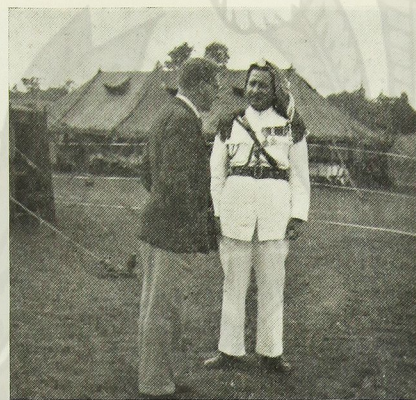
Bowling: Bowman 2 for 22; Dymoke Marr 6 for 14; Melliush 2 for 12.
Result: The Cryptics won by 165 runs.

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT v. INCOGNITI C.C.

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT		
1st Innings		
Capt. W. A. W. St. George st b Blacktop	..	2
Capt. C. N. Clayden lbw Blacktop	..	12
Capt. K. W. Attrill b Lane	..	35
Lt. P. A. S. Wollockcombe c Percy b Lane	..	10
Lt.-Col. E. J. Unwin b Lane	..	3
C. Weatherhead c b Lane	..	3
Capt. J. I. D. Pike b Blacktop	..	1
Capt. B. K. Clayden c Gubbins b Blacktop	..	0
Lt. G. L. Blacktop c b Blacktop	..	2
Major H. N. McLeod Martin c Gubbins b Lane	..	3
J. Cullen not out	..	10
Total	..	78

Bowling: Blacktop 5 for 30; Lane 5 for 33.

INCOGNITI C.C.		
1st Innings		
B. Gubbins st b Unwin	..	13
R. E. B. O'Callaghan c N. Clayden b Unwin	..	8
D. Lomax c Blacktop b Unwin	..	29
D. Wynn-Williams st Blacktop b Cullen	..	1
Lt.-Col. R. Prentice lbw Unwin	..	1
K. Vane Percy b Unwin	..	11
Major G. Burch c St. George b Unwin	..	0
D. Rowson b Cullen	..	1
J. L. Lane c Weatherhead b Unwin	..	6
M. Metcalfe not out	..	4
O. G. Blacktop not out	..	0
Extras	..	0
Total (for 9 wickets dec.)	..	80



Major Waller and Bandmaster of The Arab Legion
Band which played on last day of Cricket Week

MIDDLESEX REGIMENT		
2nd Innings		
Capt. K. W. Attrill b Lane	..	2
Capt. N. Clayden b Lane	..	23
Lt. P. A. S. Wollockcombe c Rowson b Lane	..	13
Capt. W. A. W. St. George not out	..	45
C. Weatherhead b Burch	..	1
J. Cullen c b Burch	..	1
Capt. B. K. Clayden b Lane	..	0
Lt.-Col. E. J. Unwin not out	..	3
Lt. G. L. Blacktop	..	..
Major H. N. McLeod Martin	..	..
Capt. J. I. D. Pike	..	..
Extras	..	6
Total (for 6 wickets dec.)	..	93

Bowling: Lane 4 for 34; Burch 2 for 25.

INCOGNITI C.C.		
2nd Innings		
B. Gubbins st Blacktop b Wollockcombe	..	7
R. E. B. O'Callaghan c B. K. Clayden b Cullen	..	6
D. Lomax st Blacktop b Wollockcombe	..	35
D. Wynn-Williams c Cullen b Wollockcombe	..	1
Lt.-Col. R. Prentice b C. N. Clayden	..	1
K. Vane Percy c b C. N. Clayden	..	12
Major G. Burch not out	..	4
D. Rowson b Wollockcombe	..	4
M. Metcalfe run out	..	1
J. L. Lane not out	..	1
O. G. Blacktop—did not bat	..	..
Total (for 8 wickets)	..	72

Bowling: Cullen 1 for 6; Wollockcombe 4 for 34; C. N. Clayden 2 for 22.

Result: Lost by 1 wicket.

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT v. I. ZINGARI

I. ZINGARI		
E. N. Bramal c Blacktop b C. N. Clayden	..	52
D. A. M. Roame c St. George b Cullen	..	2
Capt. F. G. H. Jackson c Unwin b Pike	..	1
Capt. G. R. W. Carter lbw Cullen	..	9
Ft. Lt. C. C. Blount c Pike b Cullen	..	54
Sir William Beecher b Cullen	..	5
A. L. Robinson c Blacktop b Cullen	..	19
Lt.-Col. A. J. Wilson b Pike	..	0
Lt.-Col. A. J. Rose c C. N. Clayden b Pike	..	0
Comdr. C. C. Dunlop b Pike	..	3
L. L. F. Toynebee not out	..	12
Extras	..	0
Total	..	164

Bowling: Pike 4 for 33; Cullen 5 for 20; C. N. Clayden 1 for 8.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENT		
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton c Carter b Toynebee	..	5
Lt.-Col. J. H. Clowes b Robinson	..	8
Capt. W. A. W. St. George b Carter	..	16
Lt. P. A. S. Wollockcombe c b Carter	..	55
Lt.-Col. E. J. Unwin not out	..	52
Capt. P. C. Kay not out	..	23
Capt. C. N. Clayden	..	..
Brigadier G. P. L. Weston	..	..
Capt. J. I. D. Pike	..	..
Lt. G. L. Blacktop	..	..
J. Cullen	..	..
Extras	..	9
Total (for 4 wickets)	..	168

Bowling: Toynebee 1 for 52; Robinson 1 for 47; Carter 2 for 30.
Result: Middlesex Regiment won by 6 wickets.

NEWS LETTER BY M.B.

The issue of three Journals annually in the place of four has caused some congestion in my files. However, we are all delighted to learn that Lt. Waldron is to be our third Regular Q.M., and now all three Regimental posts are thus occupied by officers who should hold them.

In a letter dated June 10, Lt.-Col. Caulfield Kerney told me he expects to arrive from Dar-es-Salaam in August and return to Tanganyika at the worst possible season. He eagerly looks forward to visiting the Depot and seeing old friends. He will be welcome.

On June 3 Major Peasley wrote from Lyemun Barracks, Hong Kong, to tell of Albuhera celebrations held there. He sent cuttings from the Press and photographs. The O.C.A. Branch is strong there, as it is in Malaya. Many messages of goodwill were sent to John Moore, now with the 1st Middlesex (or will be when this copy of the Journal is in print), who was most popular with the Hong Kong Regiment, to be commanded next November by Aymar Clayton—a great joy to me for no one could so well fill that post. Peasley had met Mr. G. E. Marden who served in the 2nd Battalion in 1914 and is a leading light in the financial world in Hong Kong.

Peasley now has his family with him in Victoria Barracks, but was only just recovering from gastritis when he wrote. Major Jeffcoat, in Singapore, had looked after the family en route. He returns to the 1st Middlesex after their arrival in Cyprus.

Jeffcoat sends a message of greeting from Brigadier H. F. Mackenzie, Director of Ordnance Services in Malaya, who was formerly a "Die-Hard" in the 1st Middlesex and left early in his service to join his present Corps at about the time I commanded the 2nd Battalion. He has kept in touch with the Regiment and was shocked to hear of Mrs. Tidbury's sudden death.

Dorothy Longe wrote to say she intended to take a voyage round Africa from Tangier in the *Warwick Castle*, starting on July 4. Her father, Col. Longe, my first C.O. in the 1st Battalion, went to St. Helena in the early part of the war in South Africa to guard Boer prisoners of war. Dorothy will be in London in September and then moves to Ireland, returning to Tangier on October 20. We shall look forward to a visit at the Depot.

I have heard from Lt.-Col. Stewart-Sutherland at Sungei Limau Estate, Trong, Perak, Malaya, to tell

me of the Old Comrades' Branch meeting at Kuala Lumpur on May 16. Ex-D.M. Drew and Major Smith from Port Dickson were there. Telegrams were sent here and to the 1st Battalion. Stewart-Sutherland now holds the important post of Vice-President of the Federation of E.S.A.M. He hopes to leave Penang about August 22 and be at his flat, 52 Rossmore Court, Park Road, N.W.1 (tele. AMB 1145) soon afterwards and, of course, he will visit the Depot.

I have heard from Lt.-Col. S. L. A. Carter, The Sherwood Foresters, commanding the Hong Kong Regiment, sending more news and photographs of the ceremonies on Albuhera Day. He is a staunch friend to our Regiment. Col. Dowbiggin, another old Hong Kong friend, has written.

I have heard from Lt.-Col. Davy. He is one of the oldest officers of the Regiment now, only being surpassed in years by Harold Glass, who kindly sends me many relics of the Regiment which are in our new Record Room in the Depot office. He has seen George Brown—now much better.

I attended the 2/10th Middlesex Reunion Dinner at Boltons Hotel on May 14. This is organised by my old friend, Bernard Cattell. I had the honour of replying to the Regimental Toast. Amongst the guests were the Rev. Lewis Lloyd, Rural Dean of Hammer-smith, and my old friend N. B. McIver. It is always a pleasure to see him.

On April 28 I heard from Lt.-Col. Scott Lowe, now a high-ranking military police official in the Far East. He sent me some excellent photographs (appearing in this issue) of the gravestones of Col. L. A. Newham, "Monkey" Stewart and C.Q.M.S. Tibble. The latter was once my clerk in "B" Company on the Rhine and at Aldershot. He says that the British military cemetery at Yokohama is very lovely.

I was deeply distressed to learn of the terrible illness of Brigadier Maurice Toye, suffering from cancer to the brain, a tragedy borne with his usual courage. We have written to convey our sympathy to Mrs. Toye. He was working with Brigadier Pennycook at the Home Office in Civil Defence.

I am glad to say Col. Passingham's health has much improved, but he still continues to do too much. Even I, myself, after a friendship lasting for 52 years, cannot control him, particularly during race meetings. On April 23 I was present at a splendid reception at his Ascot home on the occasion of the wedding of his daughter, Lucy, to Major David Davies. The champagne flowed. En route home I found myself with a lovely red carnation in my buttonhole, one I had no recollection of placing there. It must have been the champagne!

I am grieved to say that Mrs. W. C. C. Ash died on April 1, and I have paid tribute to her elsewhere in this issue of the Journal.

On June 23 an historic passing-out parade was held at our Depot. The Inspecting Commander was Brigadier Weston, a notable commander of our 2nd Battalion during the later period of the 1939-45 War. Also present was the Bishop of Willesden, who until recently as Bishop of Fulham was responsible for our

churches in Europe, including those behind the Iron Curtain, and Mr. Noel Baines, late Chairman of the Middlesex County Council, to whom we are indebted for many kindnesses. Weston and the Bishop, after lunch, flew from Hendon Airfield in a helicopter, and so landed on the barracks square. This was unique as being the first time it has been done, and it was only the second occasion that a bishop has visited Inglis Barracks. The other was when the Bishop of London, since deceased, came to dedicate a Welfare Van designed for the use of our troops overseas. The Lord Bishop was a very vast man, and I was amused to see the very small trench dug for him should the place have been bombed, always a likely contingency, for he could never have got into it had this happened.

The Bishop of Willesden knew our 1st Battalion in Austria, and during his address in the Chapel he reminded the young soldiers that in Austria they would be the ambassadors of Christ and of our country, and way of life. The British soldier has ever been so for an untold number of years, and has never failed to fulfil that task.

MAJOR-GEN. N. W. BARNARDISTON, C.B., M.V.O.

Members of the Regiment will have seen a magnificent collection of medals and other decorations, the latter eight in number won by Major-Gen. Barnardiston. A very fine oil painting of him is also in our Depot Mess showing him as a Major-General in Service dress. He also commanded the 39th Division in the war (1914-18). He fought in the South African War, and was commander in North China at the capture of the German fortress of Tsing Tau in North China, some 145 miles south-west of Wei-Hai-Wei.

From a book in the R.U.S.I. Library lent to me by the librarian, I am able to give a brief account of the capture of that important and only German outpost in the Far East, which the Emperor of Germany ordered to be held to the last man, an order not in fact carried out.

Tsing-Tau guarded the entrance to Kiaochow Bay, a natural harbour strongly defended and on its land side dominated on its eastern front by four heavily defended hills varying in height from about 250 to 500 feet. The bay, some 20 miles deep and 12 in width, protected the fortress of Tsing-Tau from sea attack. Large number of German guns, machine guns and the armament of German warships in the bay, protected the actual fortress and oil tanks.

The British force contributed only slightly to the combined force under command of the Japanese General Kamio. Included in the British force were the S.W.B.s, a Regiment in which I spent some 15 or more years of my early life, as my father served in the 24th. This Regiment bears amongst its battle honours the name Tsing-Tau, and so far as I can see is the only one to do so.

The entrance to the harbour is only 2 to 3 miles wide, and broadens out to the size mentioned. Germany had taken over the area after the Russo-Japanese War—a result which had always caused Japan great irritation, and thus Japan sided with the Western Allies

in the outbreak of war in 1914 and called on the German forces to surrender, and with zeal, after refusal, stormed and took the fortress, thus destroying the only German base in the Far East, and that was an invaluable asset to the Allies.

The port was organised admirably, as Germany always ensured. Schools were founded, broad streets laid out, and splendid buildings were erected. The harbour included building ships and oil tanks. A railway was made, and the trade of the Chinese province, Kiao-Chau, was so shepherded to this port. Von Bulow, the German Chancellor, said it provided a centre whence Germany could wield "a decisive influence on the Far East."

In August, 1914, there lay in that harbour a formidable German naval squadron, and the territory provided an excellent base for operations against our sea communications. The German land force contained 5,000 to 6,000 men, including many M.G. sections, garrison and marine artillery. They possessed many sea mines and used them in great numbers.

The Japanese force comprised nearly 23,000 troops under General Kamio, and a specially planned siege army with many guns up to 11-inch calibre. Our force was one Battalion of S.W.B. and a half Battalion of 36 Sikhs under General Barnardiston, British Commander in North China. The plan was to draw an attack line across the peninsula to the north, and then reduce it methodically and finally to take over the whole German area and the railway running north-west from the port. On August 27, 1914, islands about the mouth were seized for use as a base, and mine-sweeping operations commenced.

Troops were landed at Lung-Kow in Chinese territory, their protest being countered by a rejoinder that in allowing the province of Kiao-Chau to become a centre for military operations they had already violated their neutrality. In some ten days Kiao-Chau, the capital on the railway, and some three miles from the bay's western shore, was taken. Torrential rains set in and floods impeded active operations.

The main Japanese Force and the British contingent was landed in Laoshan Bay, 40 miles to the north from Tsing-Tao. Desultory bombardment and air attacks by Japan followed. German attempts to bomb the Japanese Squadron and British ships under Admiral Kato failed, as our forces had mysteriously changed their moorings in darkness.

On September 25 the Japanese forces moved inland and occupied the village of Tsimo, five miles from the bay.

The right flank was bombarded by German ships left in the bay but the main squadron under Admiral Von Spee had left before the ultimatum date arrived. In three days the force was within five miles of Tsing-Tau.

On October 1 the fortress was encircled and the first stage completed. Gen. Kamio, by October 8, had begun to seize the German hill forts, commencing with Prince Heinrich Mount, 1,146 ft. high. The main German positions were on three hills, Molke, Bismarck and Ilits north-east of the port and, as outposts to them, had strong redoubts also, the area being sown with

obstacles and dense masses of barbed wire. The ground between was a gentle slope with no cover.

On November 1 H.M.S. *Triumph* put out of action on Bismarck Hill all the gun positions after seven shells. The dockyards were on fire and so were the oil tanks. Later these forts were found to be in debris.

About November 6 the fortress capitulated. Germany had won no laurels in the Far East and in three months the German flag had been swept from the Pacific. The dream empire had tottered at the first puff of wind.

This account is almost entirely taken from H. C. O'Neill's account of the War in Africa, 1914-17 and in the Far East, 1914, and was written in March 1918. I have merely reduced it in length.

M.B.

Extracts from "London Gazette"

REGULAR ARMY NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

March 4, 1955

23012532 Cadet Peter Norman Ashton (439104) to be 2/Lieutenant, January 8, 1955.

TERRITORIAL ARMY NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

March 8, 1955

The undermentioned 2/Lieutenants are granted the acting rank of Lieutenant, February 27, 1955:

M. J. Beaumont (429523).
D. E. C. Vince (429942).
J. C. J. Grobel (429956).

REGULAR ARMY

March 29, 1955

The undermentioned Officer Cadets from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, to be 2/Lieutenants, February 4, 1955, with seniority as stated:

John Morris Hewson (440025), seniority October 27, 1953.

Hubert Matthew Du Vallon Lohan (440080), seniority February 4, 1955.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

April 1, 1955

Col. R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker, T.D., D.L. (34132), late infantry, retires having attained the age limit of liability of recall, April 1, 1955.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

2/Lt. (now Acting Lt.) J. C. J. Grobel (429956), from T.A. National Service List, to be 2/Lieutenant, January 27, 1955, with seniority July 25, 1953, and Acting Lieutenant, February 27, 1955.

REGULAR ARMY NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

April 8, 1955

23036958 Cadet Charles Edward Hornsby (439875), to be 2/Lieutenant, February 5, 1955.

REGULAR ARMY

April 12, 1955

The undermentioned Lt.-Colonels on completion of tenure of employment as Lt.-Colonel remain on full pay (superny.) on the dates shown:

R. A. Gwyn (49853), Empl. List (1) (late Mx.), January 15, 1955.

F. B. Whiting (53761), Empl. List (1) (late Mx.), April 1, 1955.

REGULAR ARMY

April 15, 1955

Capt. S. E. Honess (255799), to be Major, April 14, 1955.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Lt. A. R. K. Hardcastle (412195), is granted the acting rank of Captain, March 21, 1955.

2/Lt. (now Acting Lt.) M. J. Beaumont (429523), from T.A. National Service List, to be 2/Lieutenant February 7, 1955, with seniority July 25, 1953, and Acting Lieutenant, February 27, 1955.

TERRITORIAL RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Lt.-Col. and Bt.-Col. J. N. Lamont, M.C., T.D. (7740) (Hon. Colonel, R.A., T.A.), having exceeded the age limit of liability to recall ceases to belong to the T.A. Reserve of Officers, April 16, 1955, retaining the rank of Lt.-Colonel and Bt.-Colonel.

Lt. (Acting Capt.) J. W. Scott (400354), from Active List, to be Lieutenant, February 8, 1955, retaining his present seniority.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

April 19, 1955

Lt. (Acting Capt.) P. J. A. Pielow (385083) to be Captain, April 18, 1955, with seniority, September 1, 1952.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Major T. W. Creighton (164436), from Active List, to be Major, February 28, 1955, retaining his present seniority.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

April 22, 1955

Brigadier A. M. Toye, V.C., M.C. (1658), late infantry, having attained the age limit of liability to recall ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers, April 7, 1955.

REGULAR ARMY

1954.

Capt. G. Kent (85451) to be Major, December 7, 1954.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

May 2, 1955

2/Lt. (Acting Lt.) O. G. Richards (415731) to be Lieutenant, April 30, 1955, with seniority, December 1, 1952.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

May 10, 1955

2/Lt. (Acting Lt.) S. le M. Enthoven (429511), from T.A. National Service List, to be 2/Lieutenant (Acting Lieutenant), March 23, 1955, retaining his present seniority.

REGULAR ARMY NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

May 13, 1955

23051452 Cadet Clive Frederick Malcolm Boddington (440620) to be 2/Lieutenant, March 5, 1955.

May 24, 1955

Gen. Sir George Watkin Eben James Erskine, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O. (15806) is appointed Aide-de-Camp (Gen.) to the Queen, June 26, 1955.

TERRITORIAL ARMY
NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

2/Lt. (Acting Lt.) G. R. Chadwick (418791) to be Lieutenant, May 24, 1954, with seniority May 11, 1953.

The following officer is awarded the Efficiency Medal (Territorial):

Lt. S. Wakeford (345220).

TERRITORIAL ARMY

May 31, 1955

Major (Q.M.) P. F. Newman, M.B.E. (114308), resigns his commission, June 1, 1955, retaining the rank of Major (Q.M.).

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Capt. (Q.M.) W. C. Fletcher (90987), having attained the age limit of liability to recall ceases to belong to the T.A. Reserve of Officers, May 31, 1955.

REGULAR ARMY
NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

May 31, 1955

23062918 Cadet John Patrick Baker (440960), to be 2/Lieutenant March 19, 1955.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

June 7, 1955

Capt. (Q.M.) (Hon. Major) W. A. Raindle (195166), having attained the age limit of liability to recall ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers, June 8, 1955.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS
CLASS III

June 10, 1955

Lt. R. Brown (412296), from T.A. Reserve of Officers, National Service List, to be Lieutenant June 8th, 1955, retaining his present seniority.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

June 21, 1955

2/Lt. (Acting Lt.) R. M. Fox (418125) to be Lieutenant June 14, 1955, with seniority April 20, 1953.
2/Lt. (Acting Lt.) A. H. Catchpole (418799) to be Lieutenant, June 16, 1955, with seniority May 11, 1953.

REGULAR ARMY
SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

July 1, 1955

23063917 Cadet Vernon George Brown (440974) to be 2/Lieutenant, March 19, 1955.

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

23059085 Cadet Robert John Hunt (441335) to be 2/Lieutenant, April 23, 1955.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Capt. L. H. Long (155085), from Active List, to be Captain, July 2, 1955, retaining his present seniority and is granted the hon. rank of Lt.-Colonel.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE UNVEILING CEREMONY OF THE BAYEUX MEMORIAL, JUNE 5, 1955

Eleven years after it had witnessed the biggest amphibious operation in the history of British arms, Bayeux came into the limelight again on June 5, 1955, when the Memorial to officers and men of the Commonwealth and Allied nations, erected alongside the Commonwealth cemetery, was unveiled in the afternoon by His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester.

By midday all the roads leading into Bayeux bore signposts pointing to the Memorial, and were under the efficient care of the French police. The scene was brightened by the presence of the S.H.A.P.E. British Provost Company in No. 1 dress with scarlet caps.

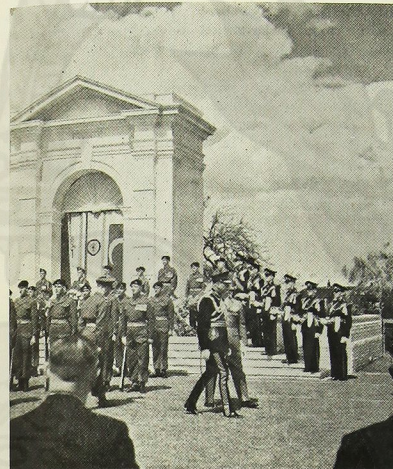
By 1.30 p.m. a large crowd of official representatives and of French civilians were gathered at the Memorial. There would have been many more had the British railway and docks strikes not prevented relatives from coming to Bayeux to pay homage to their dead. At the entrance to the Memorial were representatives of the British Legion whose task it was to hand wreaths to official representatives and relatives who had ordered them, for placing at the foot of the Memorial.

In brilliant sunshine, at 2.30 p.m. precisely, His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester, accompanied by the representative of the President of France, by Field-Marshal The Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, and by church dignitaries, arrived at the Memorial. A French guard of honour lined part of the route, an interservice British guard of honour being provided between the entrance to the Memorial and the Memorial itself.

In the meantime, high-ranking representatives, among whom were Air Chief Marshal Sir Basil and Lady Embry and Monsieur René Massigli (late Ambassador of France to England), had occupied the front row of seats reserved for the unveiling ceremony. Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks, who, as everyone knows, commanded a corps in the bridgehead in 1944, was also there. He was attending the ceremony in an official capacity, representing either the B.B.C. or the Press.

After his arrival, His Royal Highness inspected the guard of honour provided by the 1st Battalion The Royal Welch Fusiliers, a detachment of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, and a French detachment. Behind the guard of honour, along the steps leading to the Memorial, were, on the right, pipers of the 1st Battalion The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), and on the left, buglers of The Royal Welch Fusiliers.

After a moving speech recalling the invasion and its object, the Duke unveiled the Memorial. The Last Post was sounded by the buglers and, after a pause, Reveille was piped by the Cameronians. This ceremony was followed by the laying of wreaths by the Duke and his entourage and later by the representatives of Regiments and by relatives. The placing of the wreaths was very impressive indeed. Later the Memorial was opened to all who wished to read the names of those who had given their lives in Normandy during the fighting. These names are inscribed on the Memorial, and among them is that of Capt. Warren of "The Die-Hards."



His Royal Highness, The Duke of Gloucester, inspecting the Guard of Honour at the unveiling ceremony of the Bayeux Memorial

On the departure of H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester the cemetery was declared open. Many people searched for the graves of their loved ones, and having found them, stood silently, heads bowed, praying.

It can be said that the Imperial War Graves Commission has provided for those commemorated at Bayeux a simple, yet most fitting resting place, in the soil of Normandy, from which so many of our great fighting families have originated.

The Neck of "The Bag"

A Cautionary Tale

By April 23, 1945, the German Army was disintegrating. The Rhine lay far behind and the Battalion had reached the Elbe, 30 miles south-east of Hamburg, after days of almost unchecked advance. Far to our right were similar American thrusts; out of touch to our left were British forces pressing towards Hamburg, probably equally oblivious of the substantial German forces we were by-passing.

On my way to a Staff appointment in Brussels I was to take a prisoner, escort and witnesses to 2nd Army H.Q. for court-martial. The H.Q. was 130 miles away and in preference to returning along the main divisional route (a long detour to the south which we had cleared) I unhesitatingly chose the most direct route through Soltau, quite forgetting to enquire whether it had been cleared of enemy and mines. Mistake No. 1.

We left at first light. My small captured German civilian car had a "flat" battery and had to be pushed to start it. The court-martial party followed in a German fire engine, and as we passed 8 Corps H.Q. at Luneburg

no road sign or policeman on the road to Soltau indicated danger ahead. We had travelled 25 uneventful miles and were among the seemingly endless pine woods when we came upon the road block, a single large pine tree across the road. With weapons ready we peered into the pine woods while the fire engine tugged the tree away. The silent forest was eerie; at every moment we expected a German ambush to open fire. At last, however, the road was clear. I dismissed the fallen pine as possibly a woodman's obstructionism and we continued our journey. Mistake No. 2.

Sten fire from the fire engine broke the silence. Trigger-happy Sgt. Sharpe, I thought, probably saw that woodman. Even when, moments later, I saw an armed German soldier my reaction was only that clearly not all prisoners here had been collected and disarmed. Mistakes Nos. 3 and 4.

At a fork I took the right-hand turning and in about two miles was brought to an unwelcome halt by a blown bridge. I walked forward but could find no detour crossing. Looking back I realised that the fire engine had not appeared and that two steel helmets behind a hedge about 30 yards away belonged to armed German soldiers watching me intently. They were not aiming at me—I learned later that they took me for a Rumanian—and perhaps if I could avoid arousing their suspicions I might escape. Sauntering to the car I realised that if the short journey had not charged the battery no German would push me. The sound of that engine starting was sweet music. I turned the car and, passing the armed German by the roadside again, reached the point where I had heard the Sten gun; there was no sign of the fire engine. Clearly it must have turned left at the fork. I could not abandon its occupants and, turning again, drove south-west once more. This time the German signalled me with his Schmeisser sub-machine gun to stop. Pushing the accelerator to the floorboard I drove straight at him. He must have fired as he jumped clear; I still have one of the bullets from the heel of my boot, it has not my number on it!

The left-hand turning led through a village full of German troops and soon with a shock I pulled up at the same blown bridge. My left-hand turning had been a loop road. This time an air of unconcern was unlikely to help; I turned quickly, but the Germans were soon beside the car, aiming their rifles at me.

"Take me to your officer," I said in halting German, "I have orders from my General." And that was but the beginning of Mistake No. 5.

The cottage was crowded with German troops at breakfast. A tired, dusty-looking officer stood up. "Your force is surrounded," I said. "I have come from my General to demand your surrender." He telephoned and soon escorted me to Battalion H.Q. where, after questions and more telephoning, I was placed under armed guard and driven down forest paths until eventually we came to a large country house and I was handed over to a paunchy, close-cropped Major who spoke some English.

He put innumerable questions which I parried as best I could with the aid of my pocket dictionary. Bremen, Hamburg and Luneberg were in British hands,

I said. The Führer was surrounded in Berlin. Hamburg was about to fall and the Elbe was to be crossed all along its length. This small German force was completely surrounded; there would be no more ammunition, supplies or communications and no possibility of breakout or relief. Why waste life further? Let them surrender now and live. The whole remaining German Army must inevitably soon surrender.

He pondered for a moment and we heard distant gunfire. He would leave under guard, he said, and go to see the Commander.

When he reappeared he was followed by a short, heavily-built Colonel who limped to a chair opposite me with the aid of a stick. He was a wounded veteran of many battles in Russia who had become commandant of the Armoured Troops School on Luneburg Heath; in Germany's death struggle he was commanding an improvised "brigade" of three Army schools. His weather-beaten face was lined with fatigue and disfigured by two long scars, but his eyes had a steel-hard intensity that seemed to probe the recesses of one's mind.

"What do you want?"

I repeated my demand for surrender. He looked at me in silence and at last said slowly, "You are no Corps Commander's representative, no 'parlementaire.' You are only a Captain. You speak hardly any German but bring no interpreter. You have no white flag, no trumpeter, no written authorisation. You have treacherously abused the Geneva Convention. You will be shot as a spy."

Reactions are strange. Mine was—unaccountably—mainly irritation at dying stupidly. I had spent years teaching that prisoners must give only "Number, rank and name." I had come almost through a campaign completely unscathed. Now I had thrown my life away, to no one's advantage, by disregarding the simple rule and trying to be too clever.

My captors, however, were themselves in desperate straits. I must make them prefer a live hostage to a dead Captain.

"My General sent me in haste," I said. "The H.Q. was on the move; there was no time for interpreters, white flags, trumpeters and written orders. My General knows I am here. If I do not return you will answer for it with your lives."

I doubt if he believed me. I later learned that the fire engine party had already been captured, and in addition the German who fired at my car had presumably reported the incident. Nevertheless, perhaps the Commander felt that, when he surrendered, someone somewhere could hold him responsible for my death. I was not shot. Instead I was closely guarded, was soon joined by an angry R.A.S.C. Lieut-Colonel from 8 Corps H.Q. and was shown the body of one of Field-Marshal Montgomery's liaison officers, killed in circumstances similar to my own capture.

The rumbling noise of gunfire came nearer as 53 Division attacked the "pocket." This and a sharp air attack caused the Germans to move their H.Q. The Lieut.-Colonel and I were moved in a comfortable staff car and our meals and treatment were excellent.

Only those who have been prisoners, however, know how the locked and guarded door stifles one in mind and body. Those who endured it for five years will always have my respect.

That night the Commander decided that, with ammunition and supplies exhausted, resistance must end. His troops dispersed through the woods, many in civilian clothes. He and his staff surrendered to the R.A.S.C. Lieut.-Colonel at dawn, and, guarded by my court-martial party, we moved in staff cars under white flags towards 53 Division. The noise through the trees, however, brought down British artillery fire. When the enemy fires, one feels they may miss; when attacked by the Royal Artillery or R.A.F., one is uncomfortably sure they will hit. We moved forward steadily, however, and miraculously without casualties, until at last 53 Division saw the white flags. Our prisoners were handed over, and in two days I had reached Brussels.

Much, much later I studied those Hague/Geneva "Laws and Usages of War," ignorance of which had so nearly cost me my life. They are in the "Manual of Military Law" and I commend them to any officer who feels that in a future war he may conceivably fall into enemy hands. Apart from my flagrant omissions pointed out by the Commander, I had broken nearly every other rule applicable to "parlementaires." I had failed to "approach the enemy lines at a slow pace, with final advance on foot." By implication I had made "improper use of a flag of truce." I had volunteered false statements as a prisoner-of-war. I had attempted to "gain advantage of the enemy by deliberate lying" in connection with parlementaire negotiations. I had illegally claimed inviolability as a parlementaire. I was a spy because "the principal characteristic of espionage is dissimulation of the object pursued." Above all, I had broken the basic rule that "in all non-hostile relations the most scrupulous good faith should be observed, and no advantage should be taken which is not intended to be given by the adversary."

Anyone who thinks, however, that in a future war a white flag, trumpet and signed authorisation to demand surrenders might be useful items of permanent equipment, should perhaps remember that the future enemy has a saying: "I cannot read. I write with my gun." ANON.

MILITARY ESSAY COMPETITIONS, 1955-56

To those concerned attention has been drawn by the Director of Military Training to the Bertrand Stewart, George Knight Clowes Memorial, and the Gold Medal and Trench Gascoigne Prize Essay Competitions, the details of which are as follows:—

1. Bertrand Stewart Prize Essay Competition, 1955.

Subject: There has of recent years been increasing difficulty in finding men of the right quality who are prepared to take up a career in the Regular forces including candidates for commissions. It is, moreover, doubtful whether improved emoluments and conditions of service will of themselves overcome this difficulty.

Discuss the reasons for this state of affairs and suggest

what could be done to solve the problem both inside and outside the Services.

General conditions for the essay are contained in A.C.I. 661/54.

2. *George Knight Clowes Memorial Prize Essay, 1956.*
Prizes: First prize, £35; second prize, £15.
Closing date: January 8, 1956.

Subject: What are your views on the form of the land campaign of the future and how should the British Army be organised to meet the conditions of future war—bearing in mind its possible varying commitments.

General conditions will be the same as for the 1955 competition and are contained in A.C.I. 479/54.

3. *Gold Medal and Trench Gascoigne Prize Essay Competition, 1955.* Prize: Thirty guineas and Gold Medal. Closing date: November 15, 1955.

Subject: (i) Air power is indivisible (Field-Marshal Montgomery, October, 1954). Discuss this statement. (ii) The use of atomic and thermo-nuclear weapons in war suggests that a future war will be one of survival. Bearing in mind the vulnerability of the British Isles to air attack, what practical measures do you consider should and could be taken now to bring about the greatest possible chance of national survival?

General conditions for the essays are contained in A.C.I. 142/55.

Births

ORR.—On April 12, 1955, at the University College Hospital, London, to Barbara (née Tottenham), wife of Major R. E. Orr, M.C.—a daughter.

BEAGLEY.—On May 17, at the Louise Margaret Hospital, Aldershot, to Kay (née Stafford), wife of Michael Beagley, The Middlesex Regiment, attached Parachute Regiment—a son (Jonathan William Spencer).

JORDAN.—On May 31, 1955, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, W.6, to Sheila (née Nicol), wife of Capt. Napier Jordan, Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.)—a daughter.

LEGGE.—On June 14, 1955, at the Methlic Nursing Home, Brentwood, to Elizabeth Fay (née Dearberg), wife of Capt. Nigel F. Legge, The Middlesex Regiment—a son.

NASH.—On June 14, 1955, at B.M.H., Berlin, to Mary, wife of Major G. H. Nash, O.B.E., The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.)—a daughter.

CLAYDEN.—At Edgware General Hospital on August 3, to Joan (née Sharp) wife of Capt. B. K. Clayden—a son.

Deaths

SIMMONDS.—On February 20, after only a week's illness, George Simmonds, who served in the Regiment and has been a regular reader of the Journal for a long time. A letter of condolence was written to the widow, but as the funeral was over before we were notified we were unable to send a wreath or be represented.

PARSONS.—Major C. C. V. Parsons died on February 28, but as we were not informed until a fortnight later

we were sorry not to be able to send a wreath or have the Regiment represented.

GRACO.—Mr. H. A. Graco died on March 24 and was buried on April 1. A letter of condolence was sent to his wife.

BROOKS.—Dmr. J. H. Brooks of the 9th Battalion died on March 31. He was 71 years of age and had served 16½ years with the Colours.

WILLMER.—Sgt. Hubert ("Juicy") Willmer, aged 73, died on April 1. He served 21 years with the 1st Battalion.

BIDGOOD.—We regret to announce the death of C.Q.M.S. George Bidgood on Saturday, April 23. A wreath was sent on behalf of the Association and the Regiment was represented at his funeral.

PORTER.—Lt. A. R. Porter, late of the 9th Battalion, died on April 30, and his funeral was attended by Major H. K. Hardcastle and a representative from the Depot who also took a wreath on behalf of the Association.

ENDERSBY.—Suddenly, whilst boarding a bus on May 2, ex-Sgt. G. C. Endersby collapsed and died. He had served 29 years in the Regiment and a Sergeant from the Depot attended his funeral with a wreath.

HEFFER.—We regret to announce the death on June 7 of Capt. Herbert E. Heffer, aged 75 years, at his home in Chiswick. The Regiment was represented at his funeral.

MASON.—Suddenly, whilst walking home, Mr. A. Mason, M.M., on June 25. He was an officer at the Borstal Institution at Feltham, and the service in the Chapel there and the cremation at Hanworth was attended by a representative of the Regiment.

CUNLIFFE.—On June 13, 1955, at 250 Old Brompton Road, S.W.5, Brig-General Frederick Hugh Gordon Cunliffe, C.B., C.M.G., late Seaforth Highlanders, aged 93. Gen. Cunliffe joined our 4th Battalion on receiving his majority.

TEMPANY.—On June 30, suddenly, at Nairobi, Kenya, Harold Maurice Tempany, who served with our 7th Battalion.

CORRECTION.—In the last issue we announced the death of the late George Sutton and quoted his name as George Ward Sutton and number as 7832, we regret that this was incorrect and should have read George Ewart Sutton, No. 7835.

MAJOR C. C. V. PARSONS An Appreciation by Col. Maurice Browne

The sad news of the death on February 28, 1955, of Major C. C. V. Parsons at the early age of 58 reached the Depot in a letter to myself on March 13 from his widow. I felt very sorry that so well known a member of the Regiment should not have had a representative at his funeral service at Burnley Cemetery, and no wreath was provided, but it was not till two weeks later that we knew about his end, which was sudden, although he had been ill for three months. Many older members like myself may remember him best as a notable Machine Gun Sergeant serving in the 1st Battalion at Aldershot in the Guards Brigade there.

He joined the Regiment in the ranks on August 13, 1914, and was first posted to the 11th Battalion, being

transferred to the then Machine Gun Corps on February 1, 1916, holding ranks up to Temporary Sergeant-Major. On July 1, 1921, he was transferred back to the 3rd Battalion of his original Regiment, and on their disbandment joined the 1st Battalion on July 15, 1922, being discharged at his own request on August 15, 1925.

He received in the First World War two awards for gallant service: the Military Medal granted in September, 1916, and a bar to it in May, 1919, having served in France and Germany for some three years of war. He also held the 1915 Star with British War and Victory Medals. He received a First Class Certificate of Education on April 10, 1924.

In the Second World War, 1939-45, he was, prior to the war, attested as a Private and at once promoted to Sergeant on June 13, 1939, in the Regiment (in the T.A.).

On September 22 in that year he was appointed W.O.2 in the 2nd Battalion, becoming substantive on December 22, and receiving a parchment Warrant, dated April 1, 1940, signifying that it was granted by authority of the King's Most Excellent Majesty (King George VI), being signed by Gen. Sir Robert Gordon-Finlayson, Adjutant-General.

On February 21, 1941, he was granted an Emergency Commission as a Lieutenant in the Regiment, and eventually became acting and then temporary Major three months later on October 30, 1942.

He was released from service on May 24, 1954, receiving a letter of thanks from the Army Council for valuable services rendered to his country at a time of grave national emergency, which included service in Egypt from August, 1946, to February, 1947.

His C.O. in Egypt, Lt.-Col. N. Macleod, O.B.E., of the K.O.S.B., writing of his service there, gave him the highest character and said he was indefatigable, and was his personal friend and companion, possessed with a great sense of humour and a most cheerful disposition, tactful both with superiors and subordinates and completely loyal and trustworthy.

He was granted permission to use the rank of Hon. Major.

In civil life he was well known as a commercial traveller, where he became chairman for 1954 of the Burnley Commercial Travellers' Association.

A splendid record for one who was also a brave and competent soldier in war. Thus we say farewell to a true "Die-Hard" in every sense of that name, and know he rests in peace as promised to all good and faithful soldiers.

MISS MARGARET NORA HOLWELL

We regret to announce the death of Cadet Margaret Nora Holwell of the Durham University Contingent O.T.C., who was killed with five of her comrades in an accident at Otterburn Camp, Northumberland.

She was the granddaughter of Mr. John William Holwell, a well-known and greatly respected member

of the Regiment who died in 1932. In their sad loss we offer our condolences to her grandmother, Mrs. Holwell, and to her father, Mr. P. E. Holwell, of Montserrat, 17 Bellevue Park, Sunderland, Co. Durham.

A MEMORY OF THE LATE MRS. W. C. C. ASH

By Col. M. Browne

With deep personal sorrow I have to inform readers of the death on April 1 of this year of Mrs. W. C. C. Ash, the widow of Lt.-Col. Ash, who in 1916 died of wounds received in the Great War on the French front whilst commanding the 23rd Battalion of the Regiment. She was born in 1865 and married on March 1, 1894. She was formerly a Miss Edith Learoyn Barnett.

When I joined the Depot in December, 1912, from our 1st Battalion in Aden Col. Ash was in command. He left there to join the 2nd Battalion at Malta. He joined the 1st Battalion in France to relieve the late Brigadier-General Frank Rowley, then commanding, when he was seriously wounded. I was then Adjutant and remained so until Brigadier Rowley's return some months later. Col. Ash, as 2IC, was slightly wounded at the Battle of Loos in September, 1915. I remember him wearing a large white bandage wrapped round his forehead. He then returned home and took over the Battalion, in which he was desperately wounded, losing a leg. Mrs. Ash joined him in France, but he died a week or so later. It was a dire blow bravely borne.

I first met Mrs. Ash and her two daughters, Molly and "Pip," at the Depot. I often visited their home in Finchley, where it was usual to play games calling for literary knowledge, in which I was lamentably deficient, but from which I was saved from disaster by the two girls, who always helped me to put up some show of understanding. They both married: Molly a lieutenant-colonel in the Royal Marines and "Pip" a naval officer. The latter, I believe, now has grown-up children.

I have, of course, kept in touch with the late Mrs. Ash for 40 years or more and we met at all Regimental functions when I was at home. She was a true "Die-Hard" and followed the Colours and her husband wherever duty called him. I have never met anyone in a greater measure than they, who possessed so clearly the traditions of their Regiment. Neither knew fear, and neither gave in, however great might be the difficulty to be overcome.

Beneath an austere manner Mrs. Ash possessed a warm heart, full of kindness and a desire to help, and over all the years I knew them I was thankful that I had such faithful friends and was ever grateful for their help and understanding.

Mrs. Ash now is, I know, in spirit with him, and her body rests in a lovely peaceful cemetery at the water's edge in Hampshire. Her funeral was a private one, and that is what both would have wished, for the Colonel never sought notoriety or popularity any more than did his wife.

M.B.

THE LATE ERNEST F. HAYDEN



Capt. Harcourt Bengough recently supplied the above photograph with the sad news of Mr. Hayden's death of recent date at North Vancouver, Canada. Mr. Hayden led a very active and interesting life. He joined the Imperial Army in 1894 and at the early age of sixteen saw action at Rondebosch, Cape Province, against Lobengula.

(Lobengula, it is interesting to recall, was the one-time King of Matabeleland, who married a daughter of a British mining magnate after he had gone to London as part of a "savage South Africa show." Lobengula was driven from his kingdom in 1893 by the settlers of Rhodesia.)

Later he joined the Middlesex Regiment, taking his discharge in 1910 after considerable service in India, and went to Canada, where he married Alice Smith in 1913.

He served in the Great War with the 172nd Rocky Mountain Rangers, was wounded and attained the rank of C.S.M. Following the war he settled in the suburbs of Vancouver and was a poultry farmer for many years. A man with a razor-sharp mind, he found an outlet for his intellectual activity in chess and joined a correspondence chess club at the advanced age of seventy-four.

Capt. Harcourt Bengough, who supplied these particulars, and who was one of his opponents at chess, mourns his late friend with "I especially feel the loss of another old 'Die-Hard'"; so do we, and our condolences go to his widow, his daughter Grace and his grandchildren, all of Vancouver and district.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 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.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L., Major A. R. Waller, M.C., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major E. L. Heywood, Major D. C. L. Nolda, Capt. F. G. Ashby, M.B., R.S.M. P. Donovan, C.S.M. R. Budden, Mr. J. R. Bell, M.B.E., Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary). Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Brigadier E. 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., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. W. P. M. Allen, M.C., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., R.S.M. E. Pike, C/Sgt. J. Bream, D.M.C. Holford, B.E.M., Mr. G. H. E. Duffield.

Prior to commencement of the meeting the Chairman welcomed Major E. L. Heywood and Capt. F. G. Ashby to the Committee as new members.

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, circulated with the Agenda, was adopted by the Committee.

3. **Secretary's Report.** During the quarter ending March 31, 1955, 70 cases were assisted with grants totalling £492 19s. 8d., of which sum £68 14s. 2d. was paid to the British Red Cross Society to enable the next of kin of those who died in the fire in Austria to be present at the funerals.

Regimental Reunion. Notification has been received from the St. Marylebone Borough Council that the Association has been allocated the Seymour Hall for a reunion on Friday, October 28, 1955.

4. **Correspondence.** Approximately 5,000 letters of appeal were sent to members of the Regimental Association inviting subscriptions to the Charitable Fund and informing them of the 50th anniversary of occupation of the Inglis Barracks, May 21, 1955, in commemoration.

5. **Covenants.** This year an additional 11 covenants were entered into and the sum reclaimed from the Inland Revenue Department is £50 10s. 6d. against £45 14s. 8d. last year. Two members who made covenants have died and the first payment only was received.

6. **Finance Committee's Report.** Lt.-Col. Fox informed the meeting that notification had been received from the Army Benevolent Fund, in reply to our application for a grant for the current year, that our balance sheet did not show that we were in need of urgent assistance at the moment, but should the financial situation deteriorate at a later date, they would consider our application for assistance. Lt.-Col. Fox informed the meeting that should this situation arise he would visit the Army Benevolent Fund's offices with the Secretary in order to endeavour to obtain a grant. During 1954 a grant of £500 was received.

The Finance Committee had approved of the following changes in investments:

Remy Fund. Sell £2,500 Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Ltd. 5 per cent. Debenture Stock 1959/89.

Re-invest in 3 per cent. Savings Bonds 1960/70.

Grant. The Finance Committee recommended for approval of the Executive Committee that a grant not exceeding £100 be made to enable the O.C. Depot to entertain past and present members of the Regiment and their relatives at the 50th anniversary celebrations held at the Depot on Saturday, May 21, 1955.

Lt.-Col. Roberts explained to the meeting that financial assistance had been given to the next of kin of the victims of the deplorable fire which had occurred in buildings occupied by the 1st Battalion in Austria, in order to enable them to attend the funeral. He read a letter of appreciation of this help from Lt.-Col. Willoughby, commanding 1st Battalion. The Committee received this letter with gratification.

The Committee considered an application for assistance from the father of one of the men seriously burnt in respect of his expenses and fares to visit his son.

It was explained to the Committee that the War Office had issued a free travel permit for the mother but not the father.

After a discussion the Secretary was instructed to ask a representative of S.S.A.F.A. to investigate the financial situation of the family, and after receipt of the report the case would be further considered by the Chairman, the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the O.C. Depot.

Lt.-Col. Fox moved the adoption of the report. Carried unanimously.

7. **Journal Committee's Report.** Major Nolda informed the Committee that he had received notice from the publishers of the Journal that an increase of 10 per cent. would be made commencing with the August issue mainly due to the cost of labour. After a brief discussion Major Nolda said he would approach the publishers to ascertain whether they would consider a reduction on the proposed increased charges.

He also informed the Committee that the cost of production of 1,200 copies of the April issue was £192 1s. 10d.

Free copies of the Journal were sent to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, for the six other ranks severely burnt in Austria.

Major Nolda moved that his report be adopted. Carried unanimously.

Lt.-Col. Roberts informed the meeting that he had approached Major Kempster to ascertain whether he would consider accepting the duties of Chief Editor, and he was happy to say that Major Kempster had accepted.

He also expressed a wish that a vote of thanks be accorded to Major Nolda for his excellent work in the production of the Journal during the past two years.

Carried unanimously.

5. *War Memorial Report.* Col. Beach informed the meeting that the exterior painting of the Memorial Cottages had commenced and it was hoped, with weather conditions permitting, they would be completed by the end of June.

A complete survey of the cottages had been carried out and it was reported that the cottages were in good order except for a few minor cracks in walls and ceilings and that a certain amount of repainting was necessary around the stoves.

Interior re-decoration. Eight cottages were in excellent condition. Six cottages were in good condition. Four not so good (action was being taken with the occupants). Two cottages, one occupied by a tenant with no legs and one by an elderly tenant both of whom were unable to do their own decoration.

The Committee approved that the cost of redecoration of these two cottages would be met from Association funds.

A sum of approximately £200 is required to complete the interior redecoration and minor repairs.

There is a marked improvement in the appearance of the Estate though work is hampered by lack of labour from Enfield Urban District Council. This situation may improve in the autumn.

The Committee approved that gratuities in the form of Christmas boxes should be made to Mr. Crump and Mr. Blackmore for their excellent assistance in connection with the Estate. Both are employees of Middlesex T. & A.F. Association who volunteered to assist.

Col. Beach moved that the Memorial Committee's report be adopted. Carried unanimously.

6. *Regimental History Committee's Report.* Major Waller reported progress. Galley proofs of chapters have commenced arriving from Gale & Polden and are being sent to co-ordinators for factual accuracy. A galley proof of each chapter is being sent to the author.

The Roll of Honour and awards have been checked by Records and will be sent to the publishers before the end of this month.

The cover has been selected and the cloth ordered by the publishers. The dust cover is in the hands of an artist and three proofs are awaited.

A copy of a draft agreement has been received from Gale & Polden, checked and amended by Major Hardcastle, and submitted for approval by the Committee.

The Committee approved that 1,000 copies of the History be ordered for sale at 18s. 6d. per copy. A small number of "de luxe" copies would be available at £5 5s. 0d.

It was proposed by Major Waller, seconded by Capt. Ashby and approved by the Committee that Lt.-Col. Ellis be authorised to sign the agreement with Gale & Polden with regard to the History, and it was agreed that he should be indemnified against any liability under the agreement.

Major Waller moved that the History Committee's report be adopted. Carried unanimously.

7. *Regimental Reunion, Seymour Hall.* It was agreed that Major Waller should arrange for an up-to-date popular dance band with vocalists to be engaged at a cost not exceeding £100. This was to be instead of a cabaret.

8. *Depot Anniversary.* On behalf of the Committee the Chairman thanked Major Waller and the Depot Staff for their excellent arrangements in connection with the 50th anniversary of the Depot celebrations held on May 21 at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.50 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 28, 1955, at 2.30 p.m.

A. W. CLARK, Major,

Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association.

Inglis Barracks,
Mill Hill, N.W. 7.
June 2, 1955.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE
MIDDLESEX REGIMENT OFFICERS' CLUB HELD AT THE
MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 1955, AT 3.30 p.m.

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

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Brigadier N. P. Proctor, C.B.E., M.C., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. W. P. M. Allen, M.C., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D.

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

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

Report. Subscriptions and entrance fees for the four months ending April 30, 1955, was £413 3s. 6d.

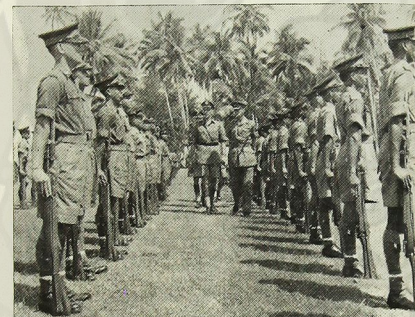
3. *Officers' Club Dinner and "At Home."* The Secretary produced for selection two suggested menus supplied by the Dorchester Hotel, and it was agreed that Menu No. 2 be accepted subject to the sweet course being changed.

A discussion on future club dinners took place and action was initiated.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.30 p.m.

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

Inglis Barracks,
Mill Hill, N.W. 7.
June 2, 1955.



Parade at Butterworth on the occasion of farewell visit by Major-General W. H. Lambert, C.B., C.B.E., G.O.C. 1st Federal Division

The Federation Regiment

By GEN. SIR GERALD TEMPLER, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O.

I have recently had the honour of being appointed Colonel of the Federation Regiment. As many readers will know, this Regiment is largely officered in the higher ranks by British officers, W.O.s and senior N.C.O.s. I think, therefore, that it will be of interest to readers to know a little bit about them.

Until quite recently it was impossible for any inhabitant of Malaya to join any branch of the armed forces of that country unless he was a Malay by birth. Since only approximately 45 per cent. of the inhabitants of the Federation of Malaya are Malays (the remainder being Chinese, Indians, Pakistanis, Ceylonese and Eurasians) this obviously presented a good many political problems in view of the fact that this little country is on its way to self-government, within—so we all hope—the British Commonwealth of Nations. It was obviously unfair that more than 50 per cent. of the inhabitants of the country were unable to take part in any way in its defence, when at the same time we were telling them

that it was their duty to owe 100 per cent. allegiance to that country.

The plan took a good deal of making since the idea was, of course, a strange one in Malaya. However, the difficulties were got over and the first recruits for this new Regiment started to form up on September 15, 1952, in Taiping, a delightful town in the State of Perak. The 1st Battalion of the Regiment is now fully operational, which reflects a great deal of credit on all concerned. It may seem that it has taken a long time to get even one battalion going, but when the Regiment started to form there was obviously not a single officer, W.O. or N.C.O. available from any community other than the Malays. From the beginning it was decided that we must stick as rigorously as possible to the racial split, which it was decided should be 40 per cent. Malay, 40 per cent. Chinese and 20 per cent. others. On the present total establishment of 729 all ranks this should produce 292 Malays, 292 Chinese and 145 others. In point of fact the strength today is 294 Malays, 286 Chinese and 148 others, and I reckon this is very good. The Regiment today should have 18 Malay, 18 Chinese and 10 other Sergeants and above. Actually it has got 21 Malays, six Chinese and nine others in these categories. But considering that we had to start with recruits on the square that is not bad either.

It obviously takes a longish time to produce officers from nothing. Today the Regiment has 13 seconded British officers, three W.O.s and three Sergeants with it. There are also 21 Asian officers of whom three are Malay, ten Chinese and eight other races, and at Sandhurst there are now 22 cadets of the Federation Regiment, the vast majority of whom come from races other than Malays. There are a further four cadets at the Officer Cadet School at Eaton Hall, Chester. I have seen a good deal of the boys at Sandhurst and they are doing admirably. One, a young Ceylonese, is a Junior Under Officer and is also one of the star turns in the Sandhurst rugby side. I hope it will be possible for the cadets of the Federation Regiment to do a short attachment to a Depot of a British unit before they return to Malaya at the end of their training in this country. In the course of time officer training will be carried out at the Federation Military College in Malaya. A good start has already been made with this but it will be some few years before it is functioning properly and in a position to accept the full responsibility for training the young officer entry both of the Malay Regiment and of the Federation Regiment. And so for the next few years the young officers for these two Regiments will continue to be trained in the United Kingdom.

Today the Federation Regiment handles the recruiting and training of the other small multi-racial units which were started at the same time, i.e. The Federation Armoured Car Regiment, Federation Signals, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and so on.

Financial considerations permitting, it is the intention to raise a second battalion and a third battalion of the Federation Regiment in the next few years. The experiment is a very exciting one and it has got off to a very good start. Those who know the difficulties in a country containing a multi-racial society will appreciate

how fine a thing it is for a country of that sort to have a unit or units of young men, of different religions and different communities, all living together in the same barrack rooms, eating the same food and getting on with each other like a house on fire.

I am very proud of having played a part in the raising of this Regiment. And also very proud of being its Colonel. But for some years to come its success will depend to a great extent on the British officers, W.O.s and Sergeants seconded to it under the liberal terms of A.C.I. 484/54.

There are likely to be vacancies in all ranks in the near future and anyone who is interested can find out details on writing to Lt.-Col. T. H. Trevor, O.B.E., 1st Battalion, The Federation Regiment, Butterworth, P.W., Malaya.



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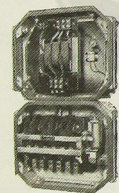
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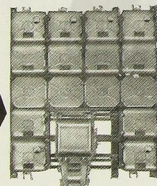
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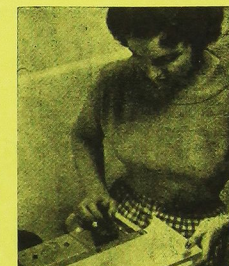
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