

# The Die Hards

## THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



VOL. XIII No. 3

MARCH, 1958

PRICE 1/-

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

(57th and 77th)

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

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

World War I—46 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "La Bassée, 1914," "Messines, 1914," "17, 18," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "17, 18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Bellevue," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme," "Albert, 1916," "18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Fiers-Courcellette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "18," "Bapaume, 1917," "18," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "18," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Langemark, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazeubrouck," "Bailleur," "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," "Murman, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

World War II—7 Battalions—North-West Europe, 1940: "The Dyle," "Defence of the Escaut," "Ypres—Comines Canal," "Dunkirk, 1940," "South-East Asia, 1941: "Hong Kong," "North Africa, 1942-43: "El Alamein," "Advance on Tripoli," "Mareth," "Akarit," "Djebel Roumana," "Sicily, 1943: "Francoforte," "Sferro," "Sferro Hills," "Italy, 1944-45: "Anzio," "Caraceto," "Gothic Line," "Monte Grande," "North-West Europe, 1944-45: "Normandy Landing," "Cambes," "Breville," "The Odon," "Gien," "The Orne," "Hill 112," "Bourguebus Ridge," "Troarn," "Mont Pincon," "Falaise," "The Seine, 1944," "The Nederlin," "Le Havre," "The Lower Maas," "Venraij," "Meijel," "Geilenkirchen," "Venlo Pocket," "The Rhineland," "Goch," "The Reichswald," "The Rhine," "Lingen," "Brinkum," "Bremen."

#### 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. 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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#### Dominion and Colonial Alliance

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. D. C. L. Nolda,

M.B.E.

Officer Commanding Depot: Major I. H. Battye, M.B.E.

Officer Commanding 7th Battalion: Lt.-Col. W. P. M. Allen,

O.B.E., M.C.

Officer Commanding 8th Battalion: Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton

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### NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

The "Die-Hards" is published quarterly and may be obtained by completing the order form opposite.

Contributions are wanted from any member of the Regiment, serving or retired, but the Editor necessarily reserves to himself the right of publication. Such contributions should be addressed to the Editor, "The Die-Hards" Journal, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

For financial reason all articles should be concise and to satisfy the many who read this journal they should contain a measure of GENERAL INTEREST likely to appeal to all. Contributions should, where possible, be typed in triplicate and on one side of the paper only.

Subscriptions should be forwarded to the Editor, as above, Cheques and Postal Orders made payable to Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, and crossed "£ Co." Annual Subscription 5/- (post free).



LATE GEN. SIR IVOR MAXSE, K.C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O.



Chief Editor: Major G. W. Kempster

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

## EDITORIAL

While the Government is fighting inflation successfully, we hope an editorial staff of a Service Magazine surely is right to strive for solvency too. As Major Clark, who manages the business side of this "paper" can inform us feelingly, operating it is a wearying, endless battle against constantly soaring prices, with an unyielding finance committee umpiring the contest with a jaundiced eye. The Chancellor wants to save the pound, and we to conserve Association funds while preserving present standards, even if it entails "making bricks without straw." It can be done by writers concentrating on essential reporting, by avoiding matters of little general interest, and above all by an economical use of words, which all adds up to good writing.

And supposing surplus space resulted, such could be employed to great profit. How exciting could be a series of brief personal accounts illustrating some of the forty-odd Battle Honours, recently awarded to the Regiment. Such possibilities, we are sure, will commend themselves to our writers who could execute them so well, and whom we thank for their interesting contributions to their number which contains a message received from Syngman Rhee, President of the Republic of Korea, on the occasion of the departure of the last British troops.

It is sad to record the passing of two officers tied by strong connections to the Regiment, General Sir Ivor Maxse and Major Denton, whose obituaries appear elsewhere, but distinguished Generals, and fine Regimental Officers, like all of us, must obey the final call—but they are not forgotten.

### COUNTY DINNER

The Colonel of the Regiment was privileged to attend the distinguished annual gathering at the County Dinner, held on January 31.

The Chairman of the Council and also G. A. Pargiter, Esq., M.P. for the Spelthorne Division of Middlesex paid warm tribute to the Middlesex Regiment and to the high standard of its discipline, devotion to duty and military efficiency. They welcomed the close ties which now exist between the County and the Regiment.

### REGIMENTAL COUNCIL

The Colonel of the Regiment has decided that a Regimental Council will be formed to advise and assist him on the many and varied problems arising at the present time. Many of these are of particular importance to the future of the Regiment in the reorganisation of the Army which is to take place.

Its composition will be as follows:—

*Chairman:* The Colonel of the Regiment.

Deputy Colonel of the Regiment.

\*A senior serving member of the 57/77th Regiment.

Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion or his representative.

Commanding Officer, 7th Battalion.

Commanding Officer, 8th Battalion.

*Secretary:* Officer Commanding the Depot.

Such members of the Regiment as the Colonel of the Regiment may nominate.

\*The Colonel of the Regiment has nominated Brigadier Gwyn as the senior serving member.

### REGULAR OFFICERS' DINNER

The Colonel of the Regiment has decided, in agreement with the Regimental Council, that the Regular Officers' Dinner should be redesignated the 57/77th Dinner. He wishes it to be known that this renaming would extend attendance to those who have served in the two Battalions as a commissioned officer, if they wished to do so. In addition, the few officers who have served in the 3rd and 4th Battalions, or Militia, but who have not served in the 57/77th, will be eligible to attend as in the past.

The dinner will be held this year when the 1st Battalion are passing through the U.K. on their way to Germany. When a firm date for the move of the Battalion is known, a date for the dinner will be arranged and published in the June issue of the Journal. Those who wish to attend will be asked to notify the P.M.C., Officers' Mess, The Depot.

### REGIMENTAL TIES

The following three ties are at present in use:

(a) All Ranks in Regimental colours with equal stripes in maroon and old gold.

(b) A new alternative All Ranks tie with  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch stripes of maroon and old gold on a black background.

(c) The Officers' Club tie of a  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch stripe, with

one-third gold and two-thirds maroon on a black background.

In response to popular demand, the new tie in (b) above was produced and has been selling well. The Colonel of the Regiment, on the recommendation of the Regimental Council, has decided that it will be officially recognised as the alternative pattern All Ranks tie to that in (a) above. He also wishes it to be known that the Officers' Club tie will continue to be used as in the past.

The above ties may be obtained from the Secretary, Regimental Association, at a reasonable price.

#### REGIMENTAL HISTORY

Steady progress has been made in sales of the Regimental History of the Second World War. The Colonel of the Regiment congratulates all those whose efforts have produced results and asks that a special effort be made for the sale in 1958 of the limited stocks that remain.

#### GENERAL SIR IVOR MAXSE, K.C.B., D.S.O., C.V.O.

Sir Ivor died on January 27 at the age of 95. "He," write *The Times*, "was a man of marked originality both in his ways and in his military ideals, and was probably the most dynamic trainer of troops for war that the British Army has known in modern times."

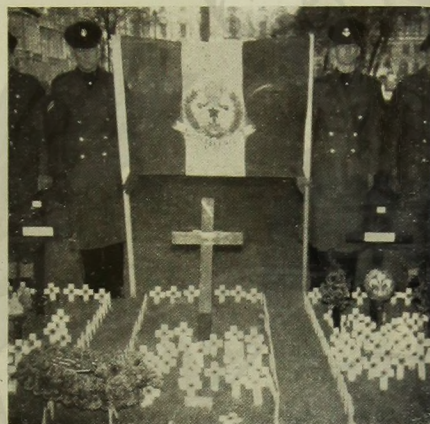
After the spring disasters of 1918 he was appointed inspector-general of training of the British armies in France and, with a band of enthusiastic disciples, he preached the new gospel of infiltration and manoeuvre until it permeated the Army. The effect contributed in no small measure to our economical victories in the autumn.

A man of extreme quickness of thought and action, he did not suffer fools gladly, and his manner often frightened subordinates of weak character, though this may have been designed as a test, for no man was more generous to those who did not flinch, or more free from pettiness. His manner covered the kindest of hearts.

He saw much active service and towards the end of his career in 1919 he became G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command until 1923, when he was promoted full General. He was not employed again and retired in the autumn of 1926 when he went to his Sussex home and devoted himself to horticulture.

He was appointed Colonel of the Middlesex Regiment in 1921 and served as such to 1932, although never having served in the Regiment, for such appointments to Colonels were not uncommon then. Under his Colonelcy, H.R.H. The Prince of Wales graciously consented to become the Regiment's second Royal Colonel-in-Chief. His greatest service to the Regiment, perhaps, was in bringing all its Battalions, Regular, Militia, and Territorial into an entity to which they were all pleased to belong. One example is the Officers' Club which he is credited with starting.

He was an outstanding soldier and a good Colonel to the Regiment, and will long be remembered by those who were privileged to know him.



1957 Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey  
Saturday, November 9, 1957

#### FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

On Saturday, November 9, the annual ceremony of planting crosses was held at our plot at Westminster Abbey. We were honoured this year by the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of the County, Sir Frederick Handley Page, who led the planting of the crosses. The Colonel of the Regiment was represented by Col. M. Browne, and the following also attended: The High Sheriff of Middlesex, Chairman of the Middlesex County Council, Clerk of the County Council, Mayor of Heston and Isleworth and his Lady, Mayor of Finchley, Mayor of Wood Green, Mayor of Harrow; and the Chairmen of the following Urban District Councils: Friern Barnet, Ruislip and Northwood, Hayes and Harlington. Besides the Depot, all our T.A. Battalions were well represented, and many Old Comrades also attended.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1958	
May 2	Spring Golf Meeting—Hendon Golf Club.
June 14	Cricket Week—All matches at Mill Hill:
to	Sat. 14, v. Free Foresters
18	Sun. 15, v. Hampstead Heathens
	Mon. 16, v. Cryptics
	Tues. 17, v. Incogniti
	Wed. 18, v. I Zingari.
June 28/29	Tennis Tournament—Mill Hill
June 28	At Home—Mill Hill
July 18	Officers' Club Dinner—United Service Club.

FOR SALE.—A Regimental Brooch in gold and enamel, inset 45 tiny diamonds, beautifully made. Price 15 guineas. Apply to Mrs. E. Hill, Minnis House, Seaview Road, Birchington, Kent. Not the Editor, please.

## 1st Battalion Notes

As a result of the continuation of the state of truce and an entire lack of serious incidents in the Larnaca area, the Battalion has been able to lead a more normal life during the last quarter. We therefore embarked on an ambitious programme of sport and shooting and the results of these activities are reported in detail in the subsequent notes.

Although there has been little terrorism as such, and Army personnel have ceased for the time being to be targets for Eoka killers, political activity has continued in the shape of leaflet distribution and intimidation of Cypriot citizens who show their dislike of Eoka methods and the misery and inconvenience caused by them. The Security Forces, for their part, have kept up a considerable volume of patrolling to prevent the terrorists from taking advantage of the lull and building up their strength.

The Battalion, of course, has played a full part in this patrolling programme. Most of our patrols are joint efforts with the civil police and on October 14, to further improve our liaison with them, we adjusted our patrolling boundaries to coincide exactly with the police subdivisions. This now ensures that any policeman accompanying one of our patrols is working in his own territory and thus has the intimate local knowledge which is such a help in our work.

On October 28, "OXI" day was again celebrated by Greek Cypriots throughout the island. The weekend prior to this, patrols were stepped up to a saturation level. We pursued the policy of "watch and report," patrols visiting only the outskirts of villages to ensure that no incident could be triggered off on the excuse that Security Forces were acting in a "provocative" manner. "OXI" day itself was the signal for island-wide demonstrations, many of which became very violent and led to serious clashes between the demonstrators and Security Forces. The Commanding Officer disposed the Battalion to deal with expected similar incidents in Larnaca but, after a potentially ugly crowd in Lazarus Square was persuaded to disperse, there were no more incidents and the day passed peacefully.

From October 22 to November 2, 51 Independent Infantry Brigade Group Assault-at-Arms was held. This was a severe test of every part of the Battalion in its operational role. Naturally, the security work which we have been doing these last two years has been of a very specialised nature and has afforded little opportunity for training in the wider sense. As a result, the preparation for this competition entailed much hard work for everyone involved. The details of our achievements are reported elsewhere, but everyone agreed that the whole competition was most enjoyable and well conceived and that the results obtained amply repaid the hard work that had gone into preparing for it.

On November 4, the Commanding Officer granted the Battalion a holiday in recognition of the hard work put in for the farewell visit of His Excellency the Governor and the Brigade Assault-at-Arms. This was thankfully

received and most members of the Battalion took the opportunity of getting out of camp for the day, in many cases for the first time in some weeks.

On November 10, a Remembrance Day service was held on the Garrison playing fields. The Battalion was represented by a party commanded by Major Thompson consisting of the Band and Drums and two officers and 50 other ranks from each of "H.Q.," "B" and "D" Companies. After a well attended Drumhead service, the parade marched past, the salute being taken by the Garrison Commander, Lt.-Col. J. Allford, D.S.O., 7th G.R.

On November 11, a recce party under the 2IC made a tour of Alexander Barracks, which is to be our home for the last six months of our stay in Cyprus. This is an outstanding example of the type of accommodation now being provided for the Army. Men's sleeping quarters are light and airy, each room will contain eight men and the barrack blocks are within 100 yards of the sea and have a fine view over Larnaca Bay. The dining hall is vast and the ovens and steam-driven devices in the kitchen give it the appearance of a ship's engine room.

On November 14, the Commanding Officer began an administrative inspection of the Battalion. After two years of internal security duties at high tempo, everyone realised only too well how necessary such an inspection was. All companies went at it with gusto and the air over Alma camp was permeated with the odour of paint and polish. Due to our normal duties, the inspection was spread over several weeks but by the end of it the soldiers' kit, our stores and Alma camp itself were all in good shape.

On November 22, we welcomed "L" Troop of 39 Heavy Regiment R.A. into Alma camp. They had come to assist in the onerous task of guarding the new buildings under construction in Dhekelia Garrison from the attacks of saboteurs. They put up their tents near the north-west perimeter of the camp and have now completely settled in and share our domestic life.

The same day we were visited by Lady Wenham, the head of the Overseas Department of the W.V.S. She was accompanied by Miss N. Wilson, W.V.S. Administrator M.E.L.F., and after inspecting the amenities provided for the men in Alma camp they were entertained to luncheon in the Officers' Mess, together with Miss Nora O'Connor, our own W.V.S. organiser.

The Commanding Officer now decided that the time had come for officers and senior N.C.O.s to be given some tactical training. Accordingly, he issued orders for a series of study periods to be produced. All the major phases of war were to be covered, each study period to last two mornings. The first morning was to be spent on a lecture and cloth model discussion followed, on the second day, by a T.E.W.T. The programme started on November 26 with a discussion on attack, and this phase was concluded on December 3 by a T.E.W.T. in the Dhekelia area.

On November 28, the Battalion was visited by the Vice-Adjutant-General, Major-General G. P. Jones, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., accompanied by the Brigade Commander and Brigadier H. C. Baker-Baker, D.S.O., M.B.E., the new Brigade Commander designate. The V.A.G. toured the camp and commented favourably on all he saw and complimented the guard of honour mounted by "B" Company on an excellent turn-out.

The next day, Brigadier J. A. R. Robertson, C.B.E., D.S.O., paid a farewell visit to the Battalion. He addressed N.C.O.s and Private soldiers in the NAAFI and the W.O.s and Sergeants in their Mess. He then visited the Officers' Mess where, before luncheon, the Commanding Officer presented him with a memento of his association with the Battalion, in the form of a Regimental badge and an inscription in silver on a wooden plaque. In a personal letter which Brigadier Robertson later sent to the Commanding Officer he said he wished to "thank you and all your officers and men for the delightful plaque which you gave me. I couldn't have been given anything nicer and will treasure it very greatly."

After their success in last year's Middle East catering competition, the messing staff were naturally on their toes to put up an equally good performance this year. After a successful series of eliminating contests, December 5 found us competing in the finals of the Cyprus district competition. The result was in doubt right up to the last mouthful but in the end we were just pipped by our Brigade rivals, the 1st Battalion, The Wiltshire Regiment. The results show how close the struggle was:

1st Wilts.	501 points
1st Middlesex	499 "
3rd Grenadier Guards	488 "
42nd Survey Eng. Regiment	457 "

During the period December 2-6, Mr. D. A. Richards, Editor of the *Weekly Post Newspapers* (The Ruislip Press Ltd.), stayed with the Battalion. He brought with him letters of good wishes and Christmas greetings from the civic heads of Southall, Harrow, Uxbridge, Ruislip, Northwood, Yiewsley and West Drayton and Hayes and Harlington. He was able to interview and photograph members of the Battalion at work and play. We have since received copies of the newspaper in which his visit was reported, and there is no doubt that the parents of our men who live in that part of Middlesex will be much reassured when they read that conditions in Cyprus are not too bad after all. The article was illustrated with some excellent photographs.

On December 11, we entered the second phase of our tactical training with a lecture and cloth model discussion on defence. This was followed a week later by a defence T.E.W.T. Again, at the Commanding Officer's suggestion, it was found possible to do this without going too far afield; in fact, an excellent piece of ground was found only 400 yards from Alma camp. Everyone enjoys these study periods; they make a welcome break from the normal routine and the W.O.s and Sergeants in particular are deriving great benefit from them.

On December 20, General Sir Geoffrey K. Bourne, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., the Commander-in-Chief M.E.L.F.,

paid a farewell visit to the Garrison and inspected a parade of representative detachments from all units in the Garrison. The Battalion contingent was provided by "C" Company. After the inspection, General Bourne addressed the parade and spoke of the various operations that had taken place during the previous year. He referred particularly to the Suez action and operations against rebel tribesmen in Muscat/Oman. He reminded the troops that whilst conditions in Cyprus were not very good for many units, particularly for those in tented camps, they were nevertheless far better than those, for example, in the Oman, where the intense heat had caused the death of a Subaltern officer. He concluded by observing that many of the troops in the Middle East were on active service and that those in Cyprus were playing a vital part in the overall strategy.

The Christmas Holiday was from after duties December 23 to first parade December 27. Apart from "A" Company at Pyla, most of the Battalion were able to enjoy the holiday to the full, uninterrupted by security alarms. The programme started with the Children's Party on December 21, followed by the Battalion draw for some most valuable prizes on December 23. On Christmas Eve there were two free cinema shows in the evening and at 23.30 hours the traditional midnight service and communion.

Christmas Day was celebrated in the usual manner by the W.O.s and Sergeants visiting the Officers' Mess and then, after suitable refreshment, the whole party repaired to the men's dining hall, where the cook staff had excelled themselves in producing a first-class dinner. Each company had decorated its own dining room and "H.Q." Company won the Commanding Officer's award for the best one.

For Boxing Day a very full programme had been prepared. An inter-Company six-a-side football knock-out started at 10.00 hours and continued through the morning, enlivened in the middle by the usual officers and sergeants fiasco. There was, needless to say, on score in the latter game, but a good many old scores were paid off. In the afternoon, the Dhekelia Garrison Saddle Club staged a very successful Donkey Derby. Although the standard of turnout was not up to Ascot standards, some members of the Battalion, it is rumoured, found it just as financially rewarding. The year's end was marked by the Sergeants' Mess Ball. This was purely a family affair, the officers and their ladies being the only guests. The W.O.s and Sergeants are to be congratulated on organising an excellent evening, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone there.

We have heard the news of our move to Germany with delight. After our spell of internal security duties here and the very limited social amenities in Cyprus, we are all looking forward with keen anticipation to life in Germany. That we shall have to work hard there we are well aware, but it will be a full and satisfying existence with splendid facilities for games and off-duty entertainment to suit everyone's taste.

#### Battalion Personalities

Departures during the quarter include Lt. Lloyd, who has gone to the Regimental Depot as Training Officer, and Lt. Hayward, who has also gone to the Depot to take

up the appointment of Adjutant. 2/Lt. Cawthorne has left the Army on release.

We have welcomed a large number of National Service officers: 2/Lts. McCubbin and Phillips joined in November, followed by 2/Lts. Dobson, Waters and M-Millan in December.

Finally, on December 22, Capt. and Mrs. Pollard arrived. After a short spell in the Four Lanterns Hotel, they are now settled in a house in Larnaca.

During November, the Lieutenant to Captain promotion examination was held. We congratulate Lts. Crumley, Hewson and Gilham on their success.

We were pleased to welcome C.S.M. Goodge back to the Battalion and in December O.R.Q.M.S. Redpath paid a short visit on his way to take up his duties in Episkopi.

#### Shooting

Our efforts in the Battalion, Garrison, Brigade and District Rifle Meetings have been reported in earlier issues of the Journal.

Despite our operational commitments we were able to put in some practice for the Brigade Assault-at-Arms Competition.

This was a very interesting and worthwhile competition in which units of the Brigade competed against each other in all weapons. Competitions for drivers, signallers and stretcher-bearers were also included. Our infantry opponents in the competition were the Royal Leicestershire, the Wiltshire and the Royal West Kent Regiments.

In the platoon competition the Battalion, represented by "A" and "C" Companies, took 1st and 3rd place respectively. The final position of the Battalion was in doubt up to the last moment but we were finally beaten by the Royal Leicestershire Regiment. Placings were:—

1st Royal Leicesters	416 points
1st Middlesex	409 "
1st Wilts	373 "
1st Royal West Kents	354 "

A summary of the results of the various competitions is given below, and the high standard achieved reflected the hard work and training put in by those who took part.

Summary of results obtained by the Battalion:

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Platoon Match Rifle	S.M.G. Pistol (9 mm.)	I.M.G. Revolver (.38)	3-in. Mortar Driving and Maintenance
3.5 Rocket Launcher	94 Grenade	2-in. Mortar	Stretcher-bearers
M.M.C. Signal Test	Section Match Assault Pioneers		

After the Assault-at-Arms, the Battalion shooting team, under Capt. G. G. Norton, settled down to training for the Middle East Shooting Trophy. Every possible opportunity to use the open range was taken and the team became adept at the art of "borrowing" range allocation from other units.

The Battalion fired the competition on November 29 and obtained the very satisfactory score of 679.

Although the results of the competition have not yet been officially published, we have been told that our score has been beaten by the Royal Marines and the

R.A.F. At least we have the satisfaction of the highest Army score in the Middle East.

The names of those finally selected for the team, and their scores, were as under:—

Capt. G. G. Norton	"B" Company	85
Lt. J. M. Hewson	"S" Company	84
C.S.M. S. Bartle	"A" Company	84
C.S.M. A. Da Costa	"C" Company	86
S/Sgt. E. Girling	"H.Q." Company	83
Sgt. K. Partridge	"S" Company	89
Cpl. F. Finnis	"A" Company	83
L/Cpl. A. Willets	"S" Company	85
Total Score—679		

Following on the Middle East Shooting Trophy the Battalion shooting team directed its attention to the Middle East Battle Trophy. Briefly, the competition consists of a 5-mile approach march followed by battle shooting practices. In this competition we have high hopes as to date no higher score than that obtained by the team has been recorded. The final position, however, will not be known until the closing date for the competition, which is January 31, 1958. Once again hard work and strenuous training paid its reward, and here, indeed, was a fitting climax to the years shooting.

Scores obtained by the team were as follows:—

Rifle		
Capt. G. G. Norton ..	" B " Company ..	86
C.S.M. A. Da Costa ..	" C " Company ..	90
Cpl. F. Finnis ..	" A " Company ..	101
L/Cpl. A. Willets ..	" S " Company ..	107
Cpl. A. B. Birch ..	" C " Company ..	92
Lt. J. M. Hewson ..	" S " Company ..	96
I.M.G.		
Cpl. J. E. Sullivan ..	" H.Q. " Company ..	201
Cpl. P. J. Manly ..	" S " Company ..	
Rifle		
Capt. J. S. C. Flavell ..	" A " Company ..	102
Sgt. K. Partridge ..	" S " Company ..	99
Pte. G. Cumino ..	" C " Company ..	97
Sgt. J. Patterson ..	" A " Company ..	105
Cpl. E. V. Gunn ..	" C " Company ..	94
Cpl. T. J. Day ..	" C " Company ..	81

Capt. C. L. Lawrence, M.C., was non-firing captain in the Battle Trophy.

#### "H.Q." COMPANY

Though on a number of occasions we prepared for "I.S." operations, this quarter has, in fact, been relatively quiet. How long this period will continue depends, of course, on the outcome of H.E. The Governor's visit to London and his report to the Government.

Members of the Company, however, continue to take part in patrolling, and we congratulate the following who, by their alertness, achieved positive and very satisfactory results: Cpl. Kemp, Pres. Walker and Swan.

The three major events to report are the 51 Brigade assault-at-arms competition, the Battalion administrative inspection and, most important of all, Christmas. In the first, the Signals Platoon are to be warmly congratulated for, after an indifferent start, they gained a most excellent first place. In the M.T. competition, the M.T. Platoon gained fifth place with 72.6 per cent., and Cpls. Sullivan and Stopp shot extremely well to make the highest I.M.G. pairs score in the Battalion.

Unlike the Rifle and Support Companies, "H.Q." Company's preparation for this most detailed of administrative inspections took place very much after parade hours. For the really very good report received, therefore, everyone in the Company can take pride in the fact that the hard work and long hours they put in were, in the end, well justified. Particular mention must be made of the R.A.P.C. unit pay office which received the personal congratulations of the Commanding Officer.

Though it is really rather difficult to feel the spirit of Christmas on a very warm and sunny day, the wonderful meal provided by S/Sgt. Medlock and his staff of A.C.C. and Regimental cooks had everything one expects of a typical English Christmas dinner. Our very sincere thanks to S/Sgt. Medlock and his men for their efforts and also to Cpl. Cheesman for decorating the dining hall so attractively and winning the award from the Commanding Officer for the best decorated Company dining hall.

We welcome both C.S.M. Goodge and Sgt. Dive from the 7th Battalion to the Company and feel sure their tour with the Battalion will be enjoyable. Unfortunately we have lost, and are losing during the next six weeks, a very large number of the Company. Our best wishes to them for their future.

#### Signal Platoon

This quarter has been an eventful one, overshadowed mainly by the Christmas celebrations (Hiel)

At the end of October the Brigade assault-at-arms competition reared its ugly ( ) head and the fortnight previous to it was spent in knocking the cobwebs out of the heads of those who would be representing the Platoon. The final phase of the signals test consisted of a race to pass a message as fast as possible by runner, wireless, D.R. and line without sacrificing accuracy. Our team got off to a good start and was well in the lead when the D.R., Pte. Rae, broke down. However, with commendable presence of mind, he dropped his bike and ran like one possessed, thereby ensuring victory for the Platoon, much to the annoyance of the other competitors who seemed to think that no D.R. should be possessed of such common sense.

On November 30 the Commanding Officer gave the Platoon its administrative inspection and announced that we had earned a good report, much to the relief of all concerned.

Apart from the normal Battalion activities over the Christmas period, the Platoon had its own little "do" on Christmas Eve. A certain officer was heard to tell how he happened to be passing the office during the evening and, hearing the celebrations, looked through the window where he perceived Capt. Lawrence carrying out a "solemn ritual dance with all manner of postures." That officer hurried on, much alarmed. Returning later he was further disturbed by an enthusiastic cry of "Nut 'im, Ginger!" echoing through the still of the night.

On the domestic side we offer our congratulations to Cpl. and Mrs. Pritchard and our sincere apologies for not reporting sooner the birth of their second son. Our congratulations also to Cpl. Pritchard on a "C" grading

on the latest R.S.I's. course and to Cpl. Tassell and L/Cpls. Byllam-Barnes and Wilmot on their promotion. We bid farewell to Messrs. Copeland, Biggs, Goodwin and Leece on their return to civilian life.

The following are true stories!

1. Cpl. Pritchard, considering himself a dab hand at "do it yourself," and finding his wife's washing machine seemingly out of order, commenced stripping the mechanism. After two hours constant wrestling with the machine he gave up, whereupon his wife quietly suggested that the probable fault lay in the fact that the lead, instead of being connected to the washing machine, was connected to the electric kettle!

2. Just after Christmas Pte. Draper was ordered by Capt. Lawrence to go to Brigade H.Q. and collect six telephones, a mission he understood perfectly. He set out, reported to workshops and returned with two rocket launchers for the Q.M. He was most hurt when the R.S.O. didn't thank him!

#### Corps of Drums

The Corps of Drums has gone through a transitory period in the last three months, and has lost most of its accredited drummers. However, with no further departures for over a year, it should be possible to build up an experienced Corps of Drums before we leave Cyprus. We welcome our latest arrivals, Drms. Armstrong, Davis (46), Davis (36), Moynihan, Lucas, Peach, O'Connor, Hurley and Jones, who are learning fast and show plenty of promise.

The main effort is directed towards training the new drummers, and to this end the Corps of Drums has not been called upon for I.S. duties. There have been a number of parades at which the Band and Drums have performed, including the Cyprus District athletics meeting. It is hoped to beat Retreat when we are settled in Alexander Barracks; the first occasion on which we shall have done this in Cyprus.

Cross-country running seems to be our main sporting activity, and we supply three members of the highly successful Battalion team, namely Drms. Moynihan, Lucas and Eyley. We hope this keeps them in good wind for their bugling.

Congratulations are due to Cpl. Meehan on his promotion and Drms. Heath, Sexton and Moynihan, in particular, for the excellent progress they have made. Drms. Jennings and Harris continue to maintain the stores, though the former threatens to retire to London's jazz world shortly.

We intend to make 1958 a year of achievement, and we look forward eagerly and confidently to our move to Germany.

#### M.T. Platoon

As usual we have been a very busy Platoon during this past quarter. Patrols, the administrative inspection and the Brigade assault-at-arms competition have kept us on our toes. Algebra is a way of solving mathematical problems by using letters for quantities instead of numbers. We have yet, however, to find a way of supplying the quantities of vehicles required by company commanders for patrols.

After a good start in the Brigade assault-at-arms we fell away and came fifth, but, all the same, our team did very well and only three points separated us from the winners.

We have lost many drivers this quarter, including Cpl. Blair, L/Cpl. Kerr and Pte. Hanson, but we have been most fortunate with our replacements. Sgt. Simpson is soon to leave us for civilian life. He is at present teaching Sgt. "Wimpy" Dive the tricks of the trade of Technical Stores Sergeant. Cpl. Thorpe and L/Cpl. Fryer were both lucky to spend Christmas on leave in the U.K. Both are now back with the Platoon, much the poorer.

Congratulations to Cpls. Thorpe, Horan and L/Cpls. Burke, Berndes and Gregory on their hard-earned promotion. Drs. Walker and Swan are also to be congratulated on finding ammunition and leaflets whilst out on patrol. Good work, M.T.

The accommodation for vehicles in the new barracks is limited but, once settled in, no doubt we shall be able to fit in adequately.

#### BAND

This year we again sent out our Christmas letter to all ex-members and we thank all who took the trouble to write and send us so many pictures and Christmas cards in reply. It is good to know that so many of them still remember the happier days spent with the "temperamental musicians."

Once again the Christmas period was, to the Band, the busiest of all and we were in great demand at a number of dances, carol services and functions which took place. Despite a full programme, however, all the members of the Band found the time to celebrate the occasion in the traditional manner and a good time was had by all.

With the New Year comes a change of surroundings, for we are shortly to move to the newly-completed Alexander Barracks, situated on the sea front at Dhekelia. The fine, new rehearsal room is a joy to all "acoustically-minded fiends" and we can't wait to settle in and raise the proverbial roof.

At the time of writing, we are once more in the throes of rehearsing for what will be our seventh and eighth broadcasts since our arrival in Cyprus. Many of our ex-members will remember the ordeals of past "airings" and sympathise with the Bandmaster and our more experienced "stop and start merchants." However, we hope the final rendering will justify the hours and patience spent in rehearsing the programmes.

From C/Sgt. Grogan at the Brigade Bandmaster's Establishment, Canterbury, comes a trickle of worthwhile proteges, and recently we welcomed Bds. Louis, who fills the position on the second trombone stand. Back from Kneller Hall last month came Bds. Gutteridge, Andrews and Binns (a newcomer to the Band) who takes over the E-flat bass. In their place we sent L/Cpl. Jackson and Bds. Wallwork and Adkin. ("Buzz" Adkin, since his arrival at Kneller Hall, has been appointed a Local L/Corporal).

Bds. Taylor returned later owing to being "tied-up" in the matrimonial stakes. His arrival, though late, was welcome in that our other percussionist, Bds.



#### THE BAND AT PRACTICE

Left to right: Bds. Louie, Grant and Moore, Sgt. Davies, L/Cpl. Lester and Bds. Glanville

Castle, was recently taken to hospital with a peculiar disease which is affecting his fingers and threatens to end his drumming career. We hope, however, that the "medics" can find a cure and that he will soon return to us fit and well.

About July or August we look forward to our return to the U.K. for a short time before moving to our new station in Germany where, no doubt, all the ex-Australianites will be in more familiar surroundings. During our brief stay at home we look forward to meeting as many of our ex-members as possible, but meanwhile we close by wishing everyone late but sincere wishes for 1958.

#### "A" COMPANY

Soon after the last notes were written the Brigade assault-at-arms competition took place. The competition was designed to test the basic skills of the component parts of the four infantry Battalions in the Brigade.

We, with "C" Company, were responsible for providing a complete rifle company team each to compete against the nine teams entered by 1 Royal West Kent, 1 Royal Leicestershire, and 1 Wiltshire Regiments.

The rifle company competition consisted of a platoon match involving a detailed inspection, an eight-mile cross-country march in two hours, followed by a further inspection and finishing with a "Platoon in the Attack" exercise on a field-firing range. There were also teams to fire 3.5-in. rocket launchers, 94 grenades, 2-in. mortars, self-loading rifles, S.M.G.s. and I.M.G.s. Although the Company was part of the Battalion team we considered, rather naturally, that our true rivals were the 10 other rifle companies taking part.

A platoon at lower establishment was required for the platoon match. This was organised by drawing on N.C.O.s. and men from the three under-strength

platoons in the Company. It was commanded by 2/Lt. P. V. Cheesman and, as a truly representative body of the Company, it showed a clean pair of heels to all other platoons in the Brigade by winning the match by a healthy margin of points.

Our three rocket launcher teams, consisting of Ptes. Yeo and Spriggs, Protain and Overnell, Pocknell and Cockerton, excelled their wildest hopes by also gaining a first place. Pocknell and Cockerton did extremely well, hitting the tank target more times than any one else. The S.M.G. team had some bad luck, but apart from that the Company achieved very satisfactory results throughout the competition.

The final placings of the Company, both in the Brigade and Battalion, were as follows:—

Event	Position in Brigade	Position in Battalion
Platoon Match	1st	1st
S.L. Rifle	3rd	2nd
I.M.G.	6th	4th
S.M.G.	10th	4th
3.5-in. R.L.	1st	1st
2-in. Mortar	3rd	1st
94 Grenade	5th	2nd

Our I.S. patrolling has had fair success during the last few months. On the night of November 9 a strong patrol apprehended three Left Wingists outside Livadhia village, one of whom was armed with an automatic pistol. In January, 3 Platoon, under 2/Lt. R. E. Melville, found a 36 grenade, a stick of dynamite and 100 cartridge cases at the church in Perivolia village, south of Larnaca: 2 Platoon, under Sgt. Callaghan, found a buried pipe bomb in Tremethousha, and as recently as January 19, 1 Platoon, under 2/Lt. P. V. Cheesman, found 16 live cartridges, 73 percussion caps and three important documents of the proscribed Communist Party in a sheep fold near Dhromalaxia.

The Company spent Christmas Day at Pyla detention camp. Owing to a visit of H.E. The Governor, Sir Hugh Foot, reveille was at 0530 hours, tea being served in the traditional style. At lunch the Commanding Officer proposed a toast and we raised our glasses to absent friends. Following lunch we were entertained by Cpl. Speakman and Ptes. Protain, Stammers and Darling who had organised a skiffle group. Then Pte. Stammers, the Company magician, did some sleight of hand tricks.

On Boxing Day the inter-Company six-a-side competition was held. Cpls. Gray, Argent, Ptes. Lenihan, Branch, Daniel, and Weston (19) were in the team. We played "S" Company in the final match and with two minutes to go "S" Company were in the lead by two corners to one when Cpl. Gray broke through and scored a goal. The team collected a crate of beer for this achievement.

The inter-Company novices boxing was also held in December. Twenty-six boxers from the Company entered and we won the competition easily. Pte. Montague receives a special mention for the way he won his bout.

Then began the task of building a Company boxing team for the inter-Company meeting which followed close on the heels of the New Year. The following represented the Company in this competition: Bantam, Pte. Bell; Feather, Pte. Stevens; Light, Pte. Trott; Light-Welter, Pte. Montague; Welter, 1st string, L/Cpl.

Bonhomme, 2nd string, Cpl. Argent; Light-Middle, Sgt. Blackwell; Middle, Pte. Daniel; Light-Heavy, Pte. Cullum; Heavy, Cpl. Speakman.

On the night of the finals we had seven boxers performing in 10 bouts. Pte. Bell was the first to enter the ring that night and he had a hard contest, losing against a more experienced boxer. Pte. Stevens annihilated his opponent in 35.6 secs. Pte. Montague had a very difficult time and was out-pointed by an opponent with a much longer reach. Cpl. Argent boxed very well to defeat his opponent over three rounds. Pte. Daniel came up against the renowned Cpl. O'Rawe of "B" Company; he boxed well but only lasted the first round. Pte. Cullum, boxing a weight above himself, out-pointed Cpl. Sullivan of "H.Q." Company. The last bout of the evening was L/Cpl. Bonhomme versus 2/Lt. Waite of "B" Company. L/Cpl. Bonhomme was beaten by a more experienced boxer but put up a plucky performance. Points at the end showed the Company had won the competition with 46 points, followed by "B" Company with 37 points.

Since the last notes there have been no more promotions but we have L/Cpl. Manser, and Ptes. Brazil, Jackson, Shaffner, Quinn and Cockerton on an N.C.O.s' cadre.

Capt. J. S. B. Pollard, in "A" Company in Hong Kong, has joined us as Company 2IC from the Depot. 2/Lt. Dobson has arrived from Eaton Hall and has taken over 2 Platoon in the absence of 2/Lt. Sidnell, who disappeared into the "smog" of London just after Christmas.

Ptes. Agombar, Barrett, Barnard, Sanders, Owen and Petrie have all joined the Company; and we are about to lose Pte. Ball to E.R.E. and Cpl. Gray and Ptes. Lenihan, Branch, Constant and Nay on release. We wish them all good fortune.

### "B" COMPANY

Since we returned from Pyla, in the early part of November, we have remained in camp. Although life has lost, in consequence, the variety which continual moves brought, the length of our stay in Alma has given its inhabitants the opportunity, so very long denied them, of seeing what we really look like.

Three months ago we welcomed Major S. E. Honess to Cyprus and to the Company as our O.C. Older members of the Company who served in Austria remember him well as Adjutant there. Recent newcomers to the Company are 2/Lt. Phillips, who has taken command of 5 Platoon vice 2/Lt. Pickard, who has become Battalion Intelligence Officer, and 2/Lt. MacMillan, who is learning the tricks of the trade from 2/Lt. Waite. Sgt. Shinn is now attached to "D" Company and Sgt. Lagden has been lost to the 8th Battalion. We are very sorry to lose them both and wish them good fortune. We welcome Sgt. Warner, who has joined us from the Depot, and Sgt. Clements following his enforced sojourn in the Sergeants' Mess as caterer.

Since the last *Die-Hard*, the Company has successfully come through its annual administration inspection and carried out nearly 250 patrols during its tour as duty and patrol Company. During the last two weeks we have been getting down to firing our weapons, finishing up



MEMBERS OF "B" COMPANY AT REST DURING A 48-HOUR PATROL

Left to right: Ptes. Pardon, Hanley, Herbert, Walker and Clack

with some very good platoon exercises on the field firing range at Goshi.

At the beginning of December, 2/Lt. Hawes was given the congenial task of escorting Mr. Richards, Editor of the *Uxbridge Weekly Post*, round the Battalion during his short stay. He was surprised at the number of people in the Company from the Uxbridge area, and two weeks later we were delighted to see photographs of Cpl. Snook and Pte. Pelosi gracing the first of his two articles on the Battalion.

Over the Christmas period the Company took a well-earned rest from the patrolling of the weeks before, but the day after Boxing Day the majority of the Company found itself on a 48-hr. patrol. We found no terrorists but at least had an opportunity to digest the turkey and mince pies.

Latterly our boxing team has been hard at work with gum shields and skipping ropes. Our confidence in their ability has been well repaid by their excellent performance in the inter-Company boxing in which we were runners up. 2/Lt. Waite, Cpl. O'Rawe and Pte. Langley won their bouts in the final most convincingly, while Pte. Bailham was conceded a walkover. Pte. Riley lost a titanic struggle to Pte. O'Shea ("S" Company) in the semi-finals, but acquitted himself so well that he received the award for the best loser.

Our football team has also been active and had fair success. Cpls. Cowell and Snook, and Pte. Larbey have represented the Battalion, but we are sorry to report that the latter broke an ankle during one of the games. Pte. Wise has run for the Battalion cross-country team and always finishes well. 2/Lt. Waite and 2/Lt. Phillips run, too, and invariably finish.

Midway through January we returned to Pyla and at the same time we are preparing for the move to the new barracks where, we understand, it is all mod. con.—a welcome change, indeed, from our present conditions.

### "C" COMPANY

During the last three months the work of the Company has consisted of the usual Battalion duties done in



"C" COMPANY FATIGUE PARTY

Left to right: Ptes. Maxstead, Mazzone, Blogg, Barnett, Hooper and Fountain

rotation, enlivened by the Brigade assault-at-arms competition.

"Feverish activity" and "hard work" are two very appropriate phrases describing our preparations and efforts in this competition which took place at the end of September and which was our most important event. All agree, though, that the hard work was justified by the results which were; third in the platoon route march and close runners-up in the falling-plate knockout competition. In the marching competition, Pte. Grisewood proved that even a chair-borne clerk can keep up with the best of them, having been called in at the last moment. C.S.M. Da Costa was noticed to have aged appreciably after the suspense of the knockout competition.

As patrolling Company we spent a fortnight almost entirely in the village of Aradhippou, attempting to suppress the known Eoka element there. This, we found, was a full-time job, especially when some very active slogan writers covered most of the walls in the main square early one morning, and the patrol reported nearly catching an offender at work.

As reserve Company, we spent two consecutive Sundays standing to at short notice ready to deal with expected riots in Larnaca. One of these was OXI Day when large-scale processions and rioting took place throughout the island. We took up our usual vantage point on the Kiti road where we were well poised to move quickly to any trouble spot. At one time the situation in Lazarus square looked ugly and a riot platoon was sent there to deal with it. Happily, good sense prevailed and the crowd dispersed so that it was not necessary to come to grips with the population.

The Commanding Officer's administrative inspection came and went almost without incident, except that Pte. Harry found some difficulty in explaining why he had certain surplus items of kit.

2/Lts. McCubbin and Waters joined the Company, the former taking over 7 Platoon and the latter, unfortunately, going to hospital very soon after arriving,

with a broken ankle sustained whilst playing soccer for the Company. Cpl. Smith has also joined us after service with various regiments and has settled down as acting platoon sergeant of 9 Platoon.

Pte. Barnett came near to freedom when the lighter carrying release personnel to their ship at Limassol had to turn back owing to rough seas. He spent the extra few days in the Company making very sure not to get into trouble. Pte. Smith managed, amongst others, to get home without disappointments.

Congratulations to Sgt. Kerr on his promotion and marriage, also to all who took part in the Middle East battle and shooting trophies. The Company had a comparatively large number of men in the two teams and we are glad to say they all acquitted themselves well.

In the .22 shooting Pte. Mills has proved that, not only is he a formidably quick shot with the .303 but also a reliable one on the miniature range. Quite a number have shot on this range recently and it is hoped to increase this activity as soon as we move to the new barracks.

The soccer team have somehow failed to gain any outstanding victories and had bad luck in 2/Lt. Waters being off the road with his broken ankle. The usual matches have been played in the Garrison Minor Units League, and Pte. Little continues to surprise the opponents with his ability despite his size. Pte. Hatton still captains the team.

The boxing team did a lot of training before the inter-Company open competition and were unlucky to lose several potential winners just before it began, due to their being graded medically unfit. Despite this setback the remainder put up a good show, especially Ptes. Mills and Dowdell, the latter being forced to withdraw from the finals with a damaged wrist.

#### "D" COMPANY

The training of drafts from the Depot and N.C.O.s cadres has continued without a break since the last journal was published, indeed drafts have arrived before the training of their predecessors was completed. Although we are no longer interrupted by operational commitments, the weather has handicapped out-door training and, at the time of writing, a gale is blowing which is making our already ancient tents look even more precarious.

Christmas was celebrated in traditional style and thoroughly enjoyed by all ranks. The Continuation Training Platoon optimistically hung up their stockings on Christmas Eve but Father Christmas in the form of the C.S.M. was only able to offer hot tea suitably strengthened for the occasion.

In the world of sport the Company still suffers from its shifting population, nevertheless we take part in all games and have been able to produce some useful members of the successful Battalion cross country team, including Ptes. Moynihan, Lucas, Moore and Lee. Mention must be made of Pte. Woodley, who is a regular member of the Battalion football team. In the Garrison .22 shooting league, our results have varied with the talent available from among the platoon under training. There are, however, some keen permanent members of the team, notably the C.S.M. as team captain and L/Cpl.

Redrup, who consistently gets the highest score.

New arrivals in the company have included Sgt. Shinn as an instructor for the N.C.O.s cadre and Cpl. Henshaw, L/Cpls. Marsden and Redrup, who have joined the Continuation Training Platoon. As we welcome them we also say farewell to Cpls. Longman and Brumwell, who have completed their tour as training N.C.O.s.

The move to the new barracks is still ahead of us rather like the proverbial carrot in front of the donkey but, contractors permitting, we hope to write the next notes from Alexander Barracks. The C.S.M. is already eager to test the construction of the barrack square.

#### "S" COMPANY

The most noteworthy Company activities of this quarter have been participation in the Brigade assault-at-arms competition and the administrative inspection of the Company by the Commanding Officer. The former brought about some reorganisation of our normal duties which allowed the three platoons to train. Although time was short a high standard was reached. There was no anti-tank competition and our anti-tank gunners carried out the bulk of our internal security commitments during this period. Unfortunately, the "turn over" in personnel continues and already a number of our recently trained specialists have returned to civilian life.

During the quarter a number of shooting competitions have been held, starting with the Cyprus district rifle meeting in October and ending with the Middle East battle trophy competition in December. The Company contributed a number of shots to the Battalion. Teams including Lt. Hewson, Sgts. Partridge and Lloyd, Cpl. Manly and L/Cpl. Willetts.

C/Sgt. Eastap is congratulated on his promotion and is welcomed to Company H.Q. We are sorry to lose, on their return to civilian life Pte. Friedlos, our trusty arms storeman, and Pte. Barrett, the Company storeman, and captain of the Company soccer team. The latter appointment has been assumed by Lt. Gilham.

#### 3-in. Mortar Platoon

There have been numerous changes in the Platoon since November. We were sorry to lose Cpl. Miles, who was evacuated to England after breaking his leg playing soccer for the Company. We heard that, with the aid of crutches, he was able to get about and had a madly gay time at Christmas. We hope that he will return shortly.

Cpl. Gooch, Ptes. Mayes and Alberici, sailed for the United Kingdom on Christmas Eve. We are grateful for all they did for the Platoon. In particular we thank Alberici for the way he carried out his duties as storeman during the last year. He well deserved the excellent report received during the administrative inspection.

There has been very little time available lately for platoon training. On the majority of occasions, when we might have trained, the Platoon was detailed as butt markers to enable the "blue-eyed boys," (the M.M.G. Platoon), to train for the M.M.G. Cup—bless them! We will be field-firing on Goshi ranges at the end of January. This should prove useful training to the newcomers to the Platoon: Ptes. King, Lavell, Rankmore,



M.M.G. PLATOON

Standing (left to right): L/Cpl. Giles, Ptes. Shaw, Wallace, Kite, McKay and Frith, Sgt. Partridge, Ptes. Repton, Webb, Jolley and Errington, L/Cpl. Willetts, Cpl. Manly, Pte. Morrison  
Kneeling (left to right): Ptes. Sparkes, Smith, Chalmers, Hossack and Rees

Tomlinson, Munday, Bradfield, Johnson and Tolley.

Ptes. Baker and Marsh have managed to save the vast amount of money required to fly home. They are now enjoying six weeks leave. We hope they will return refreshed!

Sgt. Walters has returned as Platoon Sergeant, having completed his tour with the 7th Battalion, and Sgt. Tarry, who recently completed the Netheravon course, joined us in the New Year.

#### M.M.G. Platoon

October was a happy month in which the machine gunners rested on laurels gained in the Brigade assault-at-arms. The four infantry battalions of the Brigade competed in a shoot designed along the lines of the A.R.A. Fire Control Cup, but without any indirect fire. The time limit was two hours from the receipt of orders by the Platoon Commander until the whole Platoon had ceased firing on completion of three battle tasks. Completing the task in 65 minutes the Platoon was placed first and gained 30 points towards the Battalion's overall aggregate.

Positions: 1, 1st Middlesex; 2, 1st Royal Leicesters; 3, 1st Royal West Kents; 4, 1st Wilts.

The Platoon was hardly rested after the administrative inspection in which the storeman, Pte. Wallace, was complimented, when the time came to start training for Christmas. So eager were some to make the most of Christmas Day that they vacated Alma camp at 06.00 hrs. to greet the Governor on his visit to Pyla. It was rumoured that there was insufficient turkey to go round, so this may account for the early rising.

The rest from training was brief, and the laurels have fast given way to preparations for the Machine-gun Cup, which, it is hoped, will be fired in February.

Sgt. Reynolds returned from Netheravon, sneezed,

and now sits down to instruct as a result of a slipped "tin disc." Pte. Willetts has now become Lance-Corporal, and L/Cpl. Giles has been promoted to Corporal, so that with Sgt. Partridge and Cpl. Cluderay, we now have a strong body of instructors. They are looking hopefully for men to instruct and just failed to hold Cpl. Manly, Ptes. Hudson, Kite and Webb, who made good their escape into civilian life, where we hope they may be able to make good use of their "tapping" and "ease-pull-strike" skills.

Recently Ptes. Hams, Hazlewood, Marshall, Parmenter, Peek, Pidgeon and Stamford have joined the Platoon and we wish them an enjoyable stay. We are sure, too, that Pte. Jolley will enjoy his stay in England on leave, and we hope that he will return.

Pte. Hossack received a goodwill message at Christmas which came direct by smoke signal. He was unable to reply himself but is reputed to have asked some of the detainees to do so for him, as we were at Pyla at the time. Pte. Tree returned to the Platoon for one day during the administrative inspection. One day, he found, was enough, and it wasn't until he was firmly inside the cookhouse again that he continued laughing.

#### Anti-Tank Platoon

On November 21 the Platoon went out to Cape Pyla and fired the 17-pounder and had some very good shooting. The Commanding Officer arrived in time to see two detachments fire rapid at three targets—a total of nine hits out of 10 rounds—and fired the final round himself.

The Platoon Commander gave a talk on the anti-tank gun to the officers and N.C.O.s one afternoon; this was followed by a B.A.T. demonstration by a team consisting of Cpl. Seager, L/Cpl. Vitler, Ptes. Steele and Bloom. Their gun drill was very good and the Platoon Com-

mander had difficulty in convincing certain spectators that they had only had two hour's practice on the gun.

Most of the members of the Platoon were on various duties at Christmas. However, a certain Welshman was seen devouring large pieces of turkey in the dining hall. New Year found the Platoon at Athenou police station on a four-day patrol, which turned out to be very wet and muddy.

We have lost Ptes. Saunders, Fellowes and Friedlos, who left for release in December. Woodcock, at long last, is on leave and Titmuss has now become a staid, very much married man. We welcome Pte. George from the M.M.G. Platoon and Ptes. Gear, Bennett, Osborne, Wood and Gregory from "D" Company. They are just in time to start a short cadre on the B.A.T.

#### Assault Pioneer Section

In October the section completed the Brigade assault-at-arms competition with the Assault Pioneers of 1 Royal West Kent, 1 Wiltshire, and 1 Royal Leicestershire Regiments. We were graded second in the competition, being narrowly beaten by the section of 1 Wiltshires. The winners had a veteran section-sergeant and a long-established section, and it is to Sgt. Lloyd's credit that we came second as we were only reformed in August, when we were completely untrained. The former Platoon was disbanded, due to shortage of men, several months previously.

We are shortly to lose Sgt. Lloyd, who is to go on infantry weapons and drill courses in the U.K. and then join a rifle company on his return to the Battalion. Pte. Rideout has left us to become Company storeman.

Having wired the security perimeter of the splendid new military hospital at Dhekelia we are now about to commence wiring the perimeter of Alexander Barracks, our new and palatial home.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS

Although the roundabout of Pyla, reserve and duty is still the lot of the companies, Mess life has been comparatively undisturbed by alarms and exercises. Due to the beach-living habit ceasing for the winter, social life has climbed back into popularity and the log fire has proved a big ante-room attraction.

Quite a few old faces are once again present in the Mess. C.S.M. Goodge, Sgts. Dive, Walters, Warner, Grimes and Tarry have all returned to the fold and become immersed in real work again. Two of the attached Mess members—stalwarts both—have been promoted to staff-sergeant; they are Sgts. Girling (R.E.M.E.) and Medlock (A.C.C.). Our congratulations and good wishes to them both. The Mess is pleased to welcome, also, three new Battalion members; Sgts. Fisher, Gillies and Kerr. Once again, our congratulations.

The Mess darts team has profited by the series of defeats by C.R.E. as reported in the last Journal. The Dhekelia Garrison Darts League is nearing its final games and the Mess now stands at the top! Three games to play and one win needed for "top dog" means that the team are counting on some more silver to display. The lighter side of sport was evident on Boxing Day when a 15-a-side soccer match was played, the

opponents being the officers. With no holds barred, 30 members appeared on the field dressed to kill—sheiks and bathing-beauties included. Smoke, flame and swinging handcuffs showed the game in progress with both sides gunning for one another. Although no score was made our side never feared defeat as the goal was defended by keepers Perry and Gibbs, complete with the Battalion dye sprayer. They weren't choosy who they sprayed—many mess members muttering about old scores being paid off. A novel form of final whistle, in the form of a tear gas grenade, was the sign for beer-time.

The quarter, although fairly quiet socially, has had its highlights. A very good band concert provided an excellent Sunday lunchtime entertainment, whilst a cinema show was provided for the children. Unfortunately, our guest conductor of the last concert, "Professor Basil Le-Maitre," was unable to attend, and his antics of last time were missed on this occasion. Mess dinners have continued, of course, and the attractiveness of the tables has been enhanced by the new fish eaters. A trial run was given with trout as a main dish and was much appreciated. The Christmas Regimental dinner, held on the Saturday of Christmas week, had O.R.Q.M.S. Redpath as its guest; he made a most welcome appearance for the weekend, having just arrived in the island for E.R.E. at Episkopi.

Of course the Christmas and New Year period saw a lot of activity with most members discussing Christmas, 1958—a snow and "ski fahren" one we hope. The £112 collected for the Christmas Draw ensured an attractive array of prizes and very smooth organisation ensured a gay evening. As is usual for Christmas Dinner, the members became harassed waiters for the men and then most of the Mess adjourned to the married families' homes for their own dinner. Of all the reports filtering back of the "she bangs" which occurred that day, the most amusing is the case of the exploding Christmas pudding which took place in C/Sgt. Eastap's kitchen in Larnaca.

The final event, our New Year's Ball, really went with a swing and a very good time was had by all, especially since it was kept as a family affair with only the officers and their ladies invited. The numbers attending meant that the dancing was crowded.

With 1958 welcomed, we contemplate the move to Alexander Barracks in February with mixed feelings, but hope to make the Mess there as pleasant and welcoming as our present one in Alma camp.

#### SPORT

The season for winter games struck us suddenly at the beginning of October. It made a complete contrast to the lazy summer activities of swimming and the occasional game of cricket.

The Battalion has entered in the Dhekelia Garrison sports leagues for soccer, hockey, squash, basketball and badminton. These local activities take up most of our time on the playing fields and keep the Company teams very busy and fit.

Battalion first teams have entered Island-wide knock-out competitions. These take the form of preliminary rounds within 51st Independent Infantry Brigade and, if we survive, we compete against successful units in

other brigades and garrisons in the island.

We are also taking part in Famagusta area league contests for Battalion first teams only, in soccer, hockey and cross-country running.

Our measure of success will be seen from the succeeding notes on each game. It will be seen that sport has at last come into its own for the first time since we have been in Cyprus.

#### Football

After a precarious start the Battalion Association Football XI has now settled into a team and the results have been very promising. Of the 14 matches played so far, three have been lost, three drawn and eight won. The defeats were twice against R.A.F. Ayios Nicolaos (last year's All-Island cup winners) and once against 625 Ordnance Depot at Famagusta. The last defeat was on December 7, and as the New Year turns the Battalion has played eight matches without defeat.

Aimless kicking is gradually giving place to constructive football as the result of constant practice which has been taken in earnest. Being a fairly fast side, the dry grounds on which most of the football in Cyprus is played have been very favourable and, but for the over-eagerness of forwards who are inclined to fall too easily into off-side traps, many more goals might have been scored.

We reached the final of the Dhekelia Garrison Major Units Cup after some very exciting matches. On Christmas Eve, strongly favoured to win against a combination of Dhekelia Garrison H.Q. and Cyprus Sqn., 6 Royal Tanks, we did so by the slender margin of 2—1, after a very even game. A week later, opposing a representative side selected from the whole of Dhekelia Garrison, the Battalion proved itself paramount by winning more convincingly than 3—2 suggests.

The following have represented the Battalion in matches this season (the number of games played is in parentheses):

"H.Q." Company: Cpl. Williamson (8), Cpl. Skipper (6), L/Cpl. Fitts (9), L/Cpl. Simons (14), Ptes. Dorey (14), Leece (2), Merry (6) and Leicester (1).

"A" Company: Cpls. Gray (14) and Argent (10), Ptes. Lenihan (13) and Branch (2).

"B" Company: Cpls. Cowell (5) and Snook (1), Pte. Larbey (8).

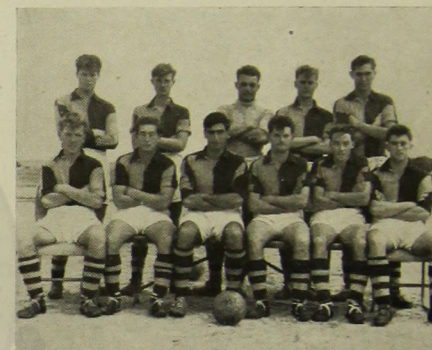
"C" Company: Ptes Little (2) and Woodley (3).

"S" Company: Lt. Gilham (11), Ptes. Warren (11), Barrett (9) and O'Shea (2).

We regret that Pte. Larbey suffered a broken leg and we wish him a speedy and healthy return from B.M.H. Nicosia.

#### Results of Matches Played by 1st Middlesex

Friendlies				
Oct. 19, v. R.A.F. Ayios Nicolaos	..	..	Lost	4—5
Oct. 26, v. R.A.S.C. Dhekelia	..	..	Won	6—2
Nov. 16, v. D.P.O. Cyprus	..	..	Won	4—2
Dec. 28, v. D.P.O. Cyprus	..	..	Draw	3—3
Jan. 4, v. Dhekelia Garrison	..	..	Won	3—2
51st Brigade Major Units League				
Nov. 23, v. 625 Ord. Famagusta	..	..	Lost	0—2
Nov. 30, v. 1st Royal Leicesters	..	..	Won	6—1
Dec. 7, v. R.A.F. Ayios Nicolaos	..	..	Lost	1—4
Dec. 11, v. 625 Ord. Famagusta	..	..	Won	8—1
Dec. 14, v. 20 Field Regiment, R.A.	..	..	Draw	4—4
Jan. 8, v. 2 Wireless Regiment	..	..	Draw	5—5



WINNERS OF DHEKELIA GARRISON MAJOR UNITS CUP

Standing (left to right): Cpl. Snook (B), Cpl. Williamson (H.Q.), Cpl. Cowell (B), Cpl. Argent (A), Cpl. Skipper (H.Q.)

Seated (left to right): Pte. Warren (S), Pte. Lenihan (A), Lt. Gilham (S), Cpl. Gray (A), L/Cpl. Simmons (H.Q.), Pte. Dorey (H.Q.)

#### Dhekelia Major Units Cup

December 10: 2nd round, v. R.A. Dhekelia, won 3—1 (after extra time). December 18: Semi-final, v. R.E.M.E. Dhekelia, won 2—1. December 24: final, v. Garrison H.Q. and Cyprus Sqn. 6 Royal Tanks, won 2—1.

Total matches played, 14; won 8, lost 3, drawn 3. Goals for, 51; goals against, 34.

Goal scorers: L/Cpl. Simmons, 21; Cpl. Gray, 10; Pte. Larbey, 6; Lt. Gilham, 6; Pte. Lenihan, 4; Pte. Merry, 2; Pte. Warren, 1; Cpl. Skipper, 1.

#### Hockey

The commitments of the Battalion being greatly reduced, there has been a natural increase in sport this year. Hockey, as with all other sports, has greatly benefited by this. This season our Battalion team has played regularly and we have also raised two inter-unit sides. One, known as "H.Q. Company," is drawn from members of "H.Q." Company whilst the other, the "Reserve Companies," is made up from any other people in camp. These two teams have both been competing in the Garrison Minor Units League.

All our teams this year are enjoying a successful season. The Battalion team, at the time of writing, is still unbeaten. Our season started late September with a series of friendly games; these, in due course, gave way to the 51 independent Infantry Brigade League. To date we have won four and drawn one and are, at the moment, heading the league.

As in previous years, we have largely relied on a few established players. Bandmaster Jackson continues to hold the forward line together and to make and score some very good goals. Capt. Waldron, after some initial persuasion and convincing concerning such trivial matters as his age, has greatly strengthened the side,

playing at left-half. Capt. Marciandi has filled the centre-half position admirably and has played some very sound games. Sgt. Leat, an ex-Battalion player from Hong Kong days, has played some outstanding games on the wing. Major Honess, Capt. Wollocombe and 2/Lt. Morden are all back playing regularly with the Battalion this year. Mention, too, should be made of Sgt. Hanford attached to the Regiment from the R.A.P.C., who has played some very fine games for us in goal. Regrettably, Lt. Hayward left us after a very short spell, marked by his free goal scoring, and we are having great trouble in filling the centre-forward position he vacated. Bandmaster Jackson, after a very long and distinguished period, has handed over the captaincy of Battalion hockey to 2/Lt. Morden.

In the Minor Units matches the "H.Q." team, run by Bandmaster Jackson, is at present lying second in the Dhekalia Garrison Minor Units League. In third place is the "Reserve Companies" team, run by 2/Lt. Morden. The shortage of hockey players in both these teams gives concern for the future, as, today, all too few members of the Battalion play hockey. Obviously, to continue in our present vein, good players must be produced and it is hoped that these Minor Unit games will further this aim and generally help to raise the standard of Battalion hockey.

#### Rugby

This is the first season in Cyprus that we have been able to field a regular Battalion side, and to date we have had little success.

Rugby is, of course, a game where it is essential to have continuity in a team. The demands of other Battalion sports and internal security commitments have made it impossible for us to field the same team in any two matches. In the New Year we have hopes of better fortune in this respect.

We started practice games in November and many newcomers were put off by the hard, stony pitch. With the coming of the winter rains, we are glad to say their enthusiasm has returned.

2/Lt. Pickard has taken over leadership of the forwards, his cries of "Dorking, Bunch and Take," have spurred the pack on to greater effort! 2/Lt. Phillips' energetic play as wing forward should be given special mention.

We congratulate 2/Lts. Cheesman and Dobson on playing in two Army trials and being selected to play for the Cyprus Army XV.

Fixtures in the future include 29 Field Regiment, R.A., against whom we expect to record a second victory, and 2 Wireless Regiment, to whom we lost 12—9 in December. We are looking forward to meeting, and (we hope) defeating, a Larnaca side, called the Grasshoppers, in the latter part of January.

#### Athletics and Cross-country Running

On November 9 the finals of the Cyprus District athletics championships were held at Kermia Camp, Nicosia. It was a fine day, no clouds and plenty of sunshine. The standards were not very high, as most individuals had not done any athletics for at least two months, and to avoid this situation in 1958 the championships will be held in May.

2/Lt. Cheesman won the putting the weight with a throw of 36 ft. 6½ in. Cpl. Hubbard gained second place in the 880 yd., a good performance, and Cpl. Hennebry came third in the mile.

This meeting finished the athletics season for 1957.

However, all the runners in the Battalion were training hard for the cross-country season. R.A.F. Ayios Nikolaos arranged a cross-country league in the Famagusta-Dhekalia areas and the following units decided to take part:

29 Field Regiment, R.A.; 2 Wireless Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Royal Leicestershire Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.); 625 Ordnance Depot; 2 Field Ambulance; District Pay Office, Dhekalia; R.A.F. Ayios Nikolaos.

The first meeting was held at R.A.F. Ayios Nikolaos and was a non-league match. Pte. Wraight finished second, Cpl. Hennebry third, Pte. Wise eighth and Pte. Lee tenth. This looked very promising and when, on November 2, the first league match was held Pte. Wraight again finished second, Pte. Moynihan in his first race for the Battalion came fourth, Pte. Thomas came ninth and Cpl. Hubbard finished sixth.

On November 20 we went to Famagusta to run over a 4½-mile course. Until then Pte. Wraight had always been pipped by 2/Lt. Usher of the D.P.O. but this day, Wraight's last race for the Battalion before being demobbed, he tied with Usher. Moynihan came fourth, Wise was seventh and, to finish the team placings, Hubbard was tenth.

On December 18 the team went to Karaolos Camp, Famagusta, where the 1st Battalion, The Royal Leicestershire Regiment were to be hosts with a course of 5½ miles. Moynihan, who was by now the Battalion No. 1 string, did well to come third. He was well backed up by Wise, Hubbard and Thomas who came seventh, eighth and ninth respectively.

The last meeting to be held in the league, up to the time of writing, was held at Alma Camp with a course of 6½ miles. Once again we held off the rest of the field to come first. Moynihan did very well to come second, Moore was sixth, Wise eighth and Hubbard came in tenth, giving us a total of 26 points.

There is at least one more match to be held before the league finishes but at present points in the league table are as follows: 1, 1st Middlesex, 96½; 2, D.P.O., 179½; 3, 1st Royal Leicesters, 247; 4, R.A.F., 254; 5, 2nd Wireless Regiment, 271; 6, 29th Field Regiment, R.A., 402.

Our most successful runners have been Pte. Wraight (now demobbed), Cpl. Hennebry (injured at present), Pte. Moynihan, Pte. Moore, Cpl. Hubbard, Pte. Wise and Pte. Thomas, but there are other runners who, from the tactical point of view, have been very useful. Notable among these are 2/Lt. Waite, 2/Lt. Phillips, Pte. Lucas, Pte. Lee, Pte. Gurney and Pte. George.

We are now waiting and training for the Cyprus District cross-country meeting, on February 1. In our next notes we will let you know how we have done.

#### Squash

Last year it was difficult to produce a team of three but this year it has been difficult to decide who to select

for the Battalion team of five from the many candidates. The only competition played in so far is the Dhekalia Garrison League in which, with one match still to play, we are so far unbeaten and in the five matches played, have not conceded a string. Results have been:

Nov. 21, District Pay Office .. .. .	Won	5-0
Dec. 1, Cyprus Squadron, 6 Royal Tanks .. .. .	Won	5-0
Dec. 6, C.R.E. Dhekalia .. .. .	Won	5-0
Dec. 20, C.R.E. Dhekalia .. .. .	Won	5-0
Jan. 6, Cyprus Squadron, 6 Royal Tanks .. .. .	Won	5-0

The most interesting matches were those against Cyprus Squadron 6 Royal Tanks, who have a remarkably good team for a minor unit. In each match the game between Lt. Gilham and 2/Lt. James proved to be a marathon, with Lt. Gilham just getting home 3—2 each time.

The next steps are the Cyprus District Unit and Individual Championships: 2/Lt. Pickard should stand a good chance in the latter. It is hoped to play 1st Royal Leicesters in a friendly match shortly.

The Battalion court in the new barracks is now in use. It is an excellent court but while we are still in Alma camp its use is limited by distance. When we move into Alexander Barracks it will be possible to play much more frequently.

The following have played for the Battalion (not in order of merit): Capts. B. H. Marciandi and P. A. S. Wollocombe, Lt. M. C. D. L. Gilham, 2/Lts. A. Morden, J. M. Pickard and C. F. Dobson, L/Cpl. B. Vitler and Pte. J. Daynes.

#### Boxing

The boxing season opened with the novices competition. One hundred boxers entered and after some hard fought bouts "A" Company emerged comfortable winners.

The Battalion inter-Company competition was held in the new dining hall in Alexander Barracks on January 7, 8 and 10. After many close contests, "A" Company completed the double.

The results of the finals were as follows:

Bantam Weight .. .. .	Pte. Thraves ("H.Q." Coy.) beat Pte. Bell ("A" Coy.).
Feather Weight .. .. .	Pte. Stevens ("A" Coy.) beat Pte. Telfer ("S" Coy.).
Light Weight .. .. .	Pte. Bulham ("B" Coy.), Pte. Dowdell ("C" Coy.) medically unfit.
Light Welter Weight .. .. .	Cpl. Seager ("S" Coy.) beat Pte. Montague ("A" Coy.).
Welter Weight (2nd String) .. .. .	Cpl. Argent ("A" Coy.) beat Pte. Elsbury ("B" Coy.).
Welter Weight (1st String) .. .. .	2/Lt. Waite ("B" Coy.) beat L/Cpl. Bonhomme ("A" Coy.).
Light Middle Weight .. .. .	Pte. Langley ("B" Coy.) beat L/Cpl. Burke ("H.Q." Coy.).
Middle Weight .. .. .	Cpl. O'Rawe ("B" Coy.) beat Pte. Daniel ("A" Coy.).
Light Heavy Weight .. .. .	Pte. Cullum ("A" Coy.) beat Cpl. Sullivan ("H.Q." Coy.).
Heavy Weight .. .. .	L/Cpl. Fitts ("H.Q." Coy.), Pte. O'Shea ("S" Coy.) medically unfit.

We now look forward to the Island inter-unit and individual championships.

#### .22 Shooting

Interest in .22 shooting has been considerably quickened this season by the Battalion now having its own miniature range. Last season we had to share with

some 20 other units the only range in the garrison. Apart from the inevitable minor building errors, which are being put right, we now have a first-class range at our disposal.

The Battalion has again entered the Garrison Minor Units League competition, this time with three teams, "H.Q.," "D" and Rifle Companies, instead of last year's one. It is yet too early to predict the success of any of these teams with only two rounds of the competition so far completed. However, "H.Q." Company team have done some excellent shooting and may well, with a little more practice, develop into an unbeatable team within the Garrison.

#### Basketball

Since the last issue of the Journal, the Battalion has played matches in the Dhekalia Garrison Minor Units League. Each company has found a team but the skill for which the Battalion has been known in the past is unfortunately lacking at the moment. The new barracks, however, has a very good basketball pitch and we expect that this will overcome our lack of practice as Alma camp has almost no facilities for the game.

#### Badminton

As these notes are written the two Battalion teams in the Dhekalia Garrison League have both played four matches.

The Battalion "A" team has won three of its contests but the "B" team has won only one. Mention must be made of the captain of "A" team, Cpl. Holt of "H.Q." Company. He has put in a great deal of work organising his team and a good one he has made. So good in fact, that it is hoped that they will win the Garrison League.

#### EXTRACT FROM THE "LONDON GAZETTE"—

December 17, 1957

The Queen has been graciously pleased to give order, as on August 30, 1957, for the following appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of distinguished service in Malaya, during the period ending on that date.

To be Additional Member of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:

Capt. (Quartermaster) Henry Ivor Burnett (366189), Emp. List (4), The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own).

Major (Quartermaster) Richard Walter John Smith (274022), The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own).

Also British Empire Medal (Military Division), to Sgt. S. W. Hawkins, The Middlesex Regiment.

We congratulate the above on their well deserved awards.

WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS  
REGULAR ARMY

December 24, 1957.

Major L. M. Davies (223106) to be Lieutenant-Colonel, November 8, 1957.

Note.—Lt.-Col. L. M. Davies (nee Passingham) is the daughter of the late Col. A. M. O. A. Passingham, C.B.E., D.L., J.P., of our Regiment, and who served for many years on various committees of the Association.

# Depot Notes

Christmas has passed and with it the traditional festivities. The Christmas Dinner was served on Christmas Eve and then we closed down until the 30th, and most of us were able to spend Christmas at home.

The quarter has produced the usual mysteries, two solutions: What has been happening to the Museum and to the Cambridge Club are given elsewhere in this issue. A third mystery remains: With which preparation are the 1st Battalion going to clean their webbing?

Passing-out Parades have been taken by their Worships the Mayors of Uxbridge and Acton, and we look forward to our next parade on March 21, when the Director of Infantry will be the inspecting officer.

## TRAINING COMPANY

After the spate of inspections and visits by "brass hats" during September and October, the winter season has been much more restful. The only grumble has been provided by "Lou" the ageless Depot barber and his takings. However, after the arrival of two intakes, each 100 strong, in January and February he should be better off.

New arrivals are with us. We welcome Cpl. Gunn from the 1st Battalion as a Training Instructor and, from the Junior Leaders' Battalion, we were pleased to receive Pte. (ex-Boy Sgt.) Shave, who boxed with great success at Plymouth, showing great promise. Probably the most welcome arrival was Martin Burgess, now over four weeks old. We congratulate C.S.M. and Mrs. Burgess. We were also very pleased to see Cpl. Speakman back from the M.D.C. *en route* for Cyprus.

On December 2 we had our half-yearly visit from the Blood Donor Unit, and after they had collected 196 pints in less than 8 hours it was they who cried "Enough, we have no more bottles." This loss of blood did NOT deter the 49th Intake from producing a good passing-out parade on December 6 when the Mayor of Uxbridge, Alderman S. L. Meggeson, J.P., took the salute. He presented medals to:

*Best All-Round Recruit:* Pte. R. Randall.

*Best Rifle Shot:* Pte. D. Hoar.

*Best L.M.G. Shot:* Pte. H. Salt.

*Highest Physical Efficiency:* Pte. L. Pasqual.

This intake were delighted to have Christmas at home before leaving for Cyprus on December 30. Sgts. Warner and Tarry accompanied them. Best wishes to them.

Christmas festivities passed off in traditional style and we were fortunate in not having to provide guard duties on Christmas Day. New Year's Day started with a drill cadre for N.C.O.s and potential N.C.O.s under the R.S.M. As a result of this cadre we welcome to our training staff L/Cpls. Hebbes, Porter, Phillips and Robertson, who will help as assistant instructors to the large 51st Intake recently arrived.

The 50th Intake, which completed their training on January 16, had a normal 10 weeks. They will, however, remember their last night in Purfleet Camp for some time. This proved to be expensive in damages—both

financially and physically—as the result of their "night attack." Pte. Benad will no doubt remember his change of colour with the use of boot polish, but as a civilian we offer him our congratulations for becoming a Freeman of the City of London for silvercraft during the training period. Our luck with the weather held on January 16 for the passing-out parade when the salute was taken by the Mayor of Acton, Alderman J. A. Sparks, M.P., J.P. Medals were presented to:

*Best All-Round Recruit:* Pte. A. Roberts.

*Best Rifle Shot:* Pte. R. Pagram.

*Best L.M.G. Shot:* Pte. R. Owen.

*Highest Physical Efficiency:* Pte. A. Roberts.

The past quarter has produced a fair number of changes in the Permanent Staff. We welcome C.S.M. Burgess and his family to replace C.S.M. Firman, who leaves for Cyprus soon with our best wishes. In the M.T., Ptes. Kinsella and Baker have replaced Ptes. Scrivenor and Owen, now civilians. Pte. Whitt has relieved Pte. Brown (46) on the Regimental Police, and Ptes. Truscott, Hopgood, Tovey, Treanor, Dittert, Arney, Townsend and Bambury have been absorbed in the Depot organisation.

## OFFICERS' MESS

As we write these notes, chaos reigns outside the barrack gates. We have had our first fall of snow. One bus rests gently on the pavement and others refuse to move, so, for once, there are queues of buses instead of human beings for them.

However, peace reigns in the Officers' Mess! Neither the central heating system nor the hot-water boiler is out of action—we have experienced both recently—but now, for the moment, all is well.

We can already see the Editor's pencil at work: Note must be BRIEF, please. (Editor: An excellent observation, sir!)

O.K. Ken Clayden brought General Paley to lunch on October 28; unfortunately we didn't see the former again before he returned to Ghana.

Quite a number of old friends turned up on Remembrance Sunday, when we had the usual service and laying of wreaths at the Regimental War Memorial.

The Regular and Militia Officers' Dinner was held at the United Services Club on November 21; 31 attended. This dinner in 1958 will be held when the Battalion returns from Cyprus, and it is not possible at present, to fix the date.

The Elgee Dinner was held in the Mess on November 25. The following attended: General Bucknall, Col. M. Browne, Air Vice-Marshal Sir Charles Symonds, Capt. S. J. Belshan, F. G. Cavanagh, Esq., Lt.-Col. W. E. Pringle and Capt. T. W. Heather.

On the 27th several members attended the funeral of our old friend Charles Denton. What a splendid example of cheerfulness and integrity he was, but we mustn't write more here, as an obituary notice will appear elsewhere in these pages.

Friday, December 13—yes, Friday the 13th!—the hot-water boiler burst—unprintable asterisks! Fortunately another boiler was installed just before the Mess Christmas Party on December 20. This party was again a great success. Space will not allow us to record the names of all who attended, but we can, at least, thank those who were responsible for organising the affairs of this most enjoyable evening. On the following day the Sergeants' Mess kindly invited us to attend their Christmas Draw, which was only the forerunner of a dance they held after their Christmas dinner two days later. We retaliated, mildly inviting them to our Mess before the troops' Christmas dinners on the 24th, after which most of us dispersed on leave.

The Mess closed over Christmas to give the staff a rest, but unfortunately they were somewhat unlucky in the draw for guard duties during this period. By the way, we offer our best wishes to our waiter, Pte. Brooks, who was married on November 16.

Adjutants have changed, and we bade farewell to Hugh Evans and welcome "Mike" Haywood. Major Peasley is now here and is continuing the good work put in by Lt. P. R. Young on the Reference Library, which is really part of the Museum.

In our last notes we mentioned 2/Lt. Martin Young who, after recovering from appendicitis, flew out to Nigeria. To our surprise, we discovered him in Millbank Hospital, having been flown back by B.O.A.C. for another operation which, we are glad to say, was successful, but he cannot return to Nigeria, much to his regret.

Col. Ormiston has visited us and is now in Oslo.

2/Lts. Dobson, Waters, McMillan and Hancock, reported on November 18. The first three are with 1st Middlesex and Hancock is with the K.A.R.

Guests and visitors would give us a sizable roll, so we must crave forgiveness for not mentioning them all by name this quarter.

Best wishes to all for 1958.

## SERGEANTS' MESS

The winter quarter which started on a quiet note warmed up. Our activities were many and varied, and arrivals and departures were numerous. The Christmas festivities were an unqualified success. We are now regrouping. In late October we joined the vast gathering at the Seymour Hall at the Regimental Reunion. The night was all too short amongst old comrades to fight our battles again! In November the 7th and 8th Battalion Messes came for a games night, an enjoyable evening which ended with dancing. The honours were fairly even on games. The curry and rice and buffet produced by newly arrived C.S.M. Burgess was most popular. In a return match at Hounslow later in the month we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and won all competitions. Even our ladies' team well deserved their win in a close contest.

In November, too, we were invited to our Corporals' Club, where we had a most entertaining evening. We look forward to the next.

C.S.M. Burgess is at last happily installed and we welcome Mrs. Burgess to the Depot. Congratulations to them both on the birth of a son. Congratulations, too,

to Sgt. and Mrs. Moran on the birth of a daughter. We welcome Sgt. Horder to the Mess and hope that he enjoys his tour.

Sgt. Milburn, our Pay Sergeant for many years, has left us for Knightsbridge and we welcome in his place Sgt. Grasby. The former visits us frequently and the latter has already done some very good work on our Messing Committee as well as being our hockey goal-keeper. Sgt. Redmond returned in excellent form from Pirbright in time for Christmas. Since his return dining members are taking tranquillisers.

C/Sgt. Markham, home on leave from Malta, was a constant visitor during the Christmas period, looking fit and prosperous.

On December 21 our Christmas Draw was a feature of the Christmas festivities. With 2,000 tickets and a fine and varied selection of prizes, it was a most successful evening. Sgt. Palmer won the much coveted 26-lb. turkey, as well as many other prizes.

Two evenings later, on December 23, all members were present at the Mess Christmas Dinner. As it was his last official function in the Mess, the Loyal Toast was proposed by C.S.M. Firman. R.S.M. Kenrick made a short speech which was well received. The officers and ladies were our welcome guests at the dance which followed and we were further privileged and honoured to have Col. Willoughby with us. A most enjoyable evening was had by all.

On Christmas Eve morning we were the guests of the officers, and after enjoying their hospitality we joined in serving the troops' Christmas Dinner in the Dining Hall.

We broke up in high spirits on the afternoon of Christmas Eve and returned to work on the 30th. We had hoped to hold a New Year's Eve Ball in the Gymnasium, but were unable to do so. However, on January 3 we joined forces with the Corporals' Club in holding a New Year's Dance in the Gym, and though it was cold our spirits were not. A slow start developed into a very successful joint effort. The officers were once more our guests and attended in Mess kit, and it was a most colourful gathering. C.S.M. Burgess and his combined committee of Sergeants and Corporals were responsible for the arrangements and decoration. Harry Somerville proved an excellent M.C. and prevented any undue loitering in the bar.

Thus ended the festivities, and we say to our members old and new, far and near, "A very happy New Year to you all." Before closing these notes we must add something. Our best wishes to Sgts. Dive, Hook, Tarry and Warner, recently returned to the 1st Battalion. The best of luck, too, to C.S.M. Firman who is due to leave us any day. We shall miss him from the Depot. We were sorry that W.O.2 Redpath couldn't stay longer with us before going to Cyprus.

We were very pleased that Sgt. and Mrs. Ward came to see us, and we hope they enjoyed their holiday in U.K. Sgt. Fry, medically repatriated from Cyprus, is with us and looking extremely fit. It was inevitable that before long we should ask him to do caterer for us while Sgt. Baily had some well-earned leave. So he is back amongst the bottles, not a reluctant hero, we trust.

Sgt. Power is due to join us from Malta at the end of January, and we look forward to seeing him. R.Q.M.S. Griffiths, now at Sandhurst, visited us. He is enjoying his new job. He has promised to come again on the 25th. Last, but not least, a few days ago Capt. and Mrs. Tarrant descended upon us. It was a great pleasure to see them both again and, if possible, looking fitter than ever, too. How jealous we are of their lovely sun-tan gained in Singapore. Their visit was a short one, but we shall see them again at the O.C.A. on January 25, for they have promised to come.

To our friends in Canada who so kindly invited us to their "At Home" we say thank you, and although we cannot come, we wish you "All the best for 1958."

### CORPORALS' CLUB

The closing quarter of 1957 was a very busy one for the Corporals' Club. On November 22 the W.O.s and Sergeants joined us for a social evening, which was greatly enjoyed by all. Snooker and darts were the main activities and we held our own. The evening ended with four "veteran" members playing snooker (total service around the 80-year mark), and an excellent half-hour's singing by "Paddy" Haire, since demobbed. We wish him every success in the future.

An excellent dance was held early in the New Year under the joint management of the Sergeants and Corporals, and the proceeds of a raffle were sent to Mrs. Mead (widow of the late Cpl. Mead). At the moment we are engaged in a snooker tournament being ably organised by L/Cpl. Walker.

Personalities are, as ever, changing, and we welcome from Battalion Cpl. Gunn who, together with the newly appointed L/Cpls. Hebbes, Hooper, Phillips and Porter, join the training staff, at present faced with the unenviable prospect of N.S. Intakes of a hundred plus. The last-named Lance-Corporals were fortunate enough, in company with many well-established training N.C.O.s, to be just in time to join a drill cadre run by the R.S.M. Pass certificates were issued to those who survived. L/Cpl. Robertson is also temporarily attached to the training staff, awaiting the opportunity to have a second try at W.O.S.B. W.O.S.B. has served Cpl. Henshaw and L/Cpl. Lawrence better. In order to take it they were both brought home from Battalion, free. Appointments this quarter have included two members of the A.C.C., always popular amongst the ever-hungry Club members. We also welcome from the outside world L/Cpl. Martindale and from inside L/Cpl. Gardner. The Depot has lost this quarter L/Cpl. Billy Wadham, whom we wish good fortune in the future. Early this year a number of N.C.O.s passed through on release and we caught fleeting glimpses of Cpls. Bennett, Biggs, Burford, Hawkins, Smith, Bennett, Gooch, Manly and Seldon, and L/Cpls. Beggs, Lane and Ullman, all from the 1st Battalion.

The Corporals' Club room has been decorated with trophies from Cyprus, Purfleet and "other places!" and a new lamp-shade for the snooker table

### SPORT

#### Football

Since the last notes the Depot football team has been

busy with matches on most Wednesdays and also on other days during the week. Most of the fixtures are played in the London District Mid-week League in which we hold third position at the time of writing. We have had several notable victories, over 20 Company R.A.S.C. by 11-3 and 13-5, Kneller Hall 13-2 and C.P.O. Eastern Command 14-1.

S.I. Morris's steady influence is still felt by the team, which has been strengthened by the return of Sgt. Redmond to the Depot. Pte. Owen, a recruit in the 50th Intake, has played well in goal, and L/Cpl. Barton has, as usual, played well.

With three matches left we have high hopes of winning the league this season.

#### LEAGUE FIXTURES

18 Company, R.A.M.C.	..	..	Lost	8-7
Provost Company, R.M.P.	..	..	Won	6-4
20 Company, R.A.S.C.	..	..	Won	11-3
Depot Royal Fusiliers	..	..	Lost	7-3
Kneller Hall	..	..	Won	5-1
Kneller Hall	..	..	Won	13-2
Provost Company, R.M.P.	..	..	Won	6-4
Depot Royal Fusiliers	..	..	Lost	5-1
20 Company, R.A.S.C.	..	..	Won	13-5
C.P.O., Eastern Command	..	..	Won	14-1
W.O. Signal Squadron	..	..	Won	8-4

#### FRIENDLY FIXTURES

10 Command Workshops	..	..	Won	9-0
H.P.D., R.E.	..	..	Lost	5-4

#### Hockey

The hockey team has unfortunately played little, owing to the late introduction of a London District Mid-week League. This caused many fixtures to be cancelled and only one match has been played. This was in the first round of the Eastern Counties Minor Units Hockey Cup. We were unfortunate enough to meet H.Q. Eastern Command, who have a very strong team, including Major Clayden who is now at H.Q. Eastern Command. We lost by a heavy score, despite the inclusion in the team of Capt. Carter, who was at the time staying at the Depot, 2/Lt. Deakin, who was visiting, and R.S.M. McMillan from the 8th Battalion.

If hockey activity outside has been limited, activity in the Gym on Monday evenings has made up for it. Here we play indoor hockey with three to seven a side. It is a very fast and exhausting game and can be dangerous, as some players have found. Sgt. Taylor seems to be a consistent casualty and the O.C. Depot was "off the road" for a few days as a result of it. Sgt. Redmond has so far escaped unscathed, being a major cause of the bruising.

### MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

Both the Regimental Museum and Library are undergoing a thorough spring clean and check. The Museum under the guidance of Major Dick Smith and the Library and Records by Major A. E. Peasley, with the assistance of Sgt. Cripps.

This is an appeal to all, particularly past, who have or know of photos, pictures, programmes or other material of any Regimental interest for which they wish to find a safe keeping, to send it to the Officer Commanding the Depot. If too big or expensive to post, collection will be arranged. Whilst there is a lot of material, there are some surprising gaps and any fresh material will be welcomed.

### OLD COMRADES

We at the "Die-Hards" Club, Mill Hill, wish everyone a very happy and prosperous New Year.

The year 1957 has been a very successful one in the affairs of the Club. I would like it to go on record, that this has been largely due to the work of our Chairman, Major Percy Newman, ably assisted on every occasion by Mrs. Newman. The reorganisation of the Regimental Association in 1958, is going to place a still heavier burden on those who voluntarily shoulder the responsibilities of Club affairs. I am sure that all members of the Club and serving members of the Regiment will wish them every success in their efforts, and give them all the assistance they possibly can.

On Friday, "Albuhera Day," May 16, 1958, the Old Comrades are hoping to hold a reunion dinner at the Veterans' Club, London. Details of this function can be obtained from Major P. F. Newman, 9 Cavendish Avenue, Finchley, N.3. We will be particularly pleased to welcome any serving member of the Regiment, especially if he happens to be on leave from overseas.

At the moment a question that concerns everyone is, what does the future hold for us all? Your guess is as good as mine, but one thing that I am sure of, is that whatsoever happens, as long as I have the company of the good old "Die-Hards," things can't be too bad.

16166. 6189209 "BUSTY" HULL

### THE CAMBRIDGE CLUB

It has long been felt that "something should be done" and the New Year started with the resolution that it would be done. The Club was originally started for Middlesex wives and as such was appreciated. Then in the course of time other wives asked if they might join and it became open to anyone, which led to resignation of many Middlesex wives who did not like the mixed meetings. Thus last year saw the Club being run by a few "Die-Hards" (female version), to whom I am more than grateful for their reliable support, largely as a benefit for considerable numbers who had included Thursday evenings on their itinerary of local whist drives and tombola sessions.

On January 2 a plan was put to the Club and was agreed by all. Under this the Padre would start a Church Guild for all wives living in the Barracks to test the response and interest in Garrison communal and church activities. The Cambridge Club is reverting to its original character—for all Middlesex wives, past and present, who can get here. These meetings will not be too frequent, so that everyone should make a real effort to come and the next one (new pattern) will be at 8 p.m., March 6, Crawford Hut.

On the financial side, £12 remained in the funds and this has been split, £6 to the Padre for his new venture and £6 to the re-formed Cambridge Club. We would like to thank Mrs. Firman, who is waiting to go to Cyprus, for the time and trouble she has spent in running the Club's finances during the last six months.

For record purposes the Club has had two most successful outings. One to see the Crazy Gang at the Victoria Palace on November 19, and the other mainly for children to see "Goody Two Shoes" at Golders Green on January 24.

### CHURCH NOTES

The zero date has come for me to produce these notes. Talking of dates—looking back, the Church has had some very encouraging ones. The Armistice Service, held in the gymnasium, saw the gathering together of Old Comrades and present and future members of the Regiment. After the service, in the Old Comrades' Hut, battles of past days were re-fought with great gusto. It was indeed a day of Remembrance.

On December 17 the choir from St. Pauls' Church, North Finchley visited us, and gave us the pleasure of listening to a recital of Christmas carols and music. Afterwards in the Crawford Hut we had a "set to" with soup and rolls, tea and buns.

This Carol Service was the "kick off" for a round of Christmas parties in the usual traditional manner. Despite the fact that the Barracks and Family Quarters appeared "to die" for the Christmas holiday, a goodly number of people remembered the real purpose of Christmas and turned up for the service on Christmas Day, including Col. Maurice Browne who walked from Finchley to be there—a rare example of grit and loyalty these days.

The same welcome is extended to the recruit on joining us and we have the "passing-out services," and still men wonder at the changes which befall them in their first ten weeks in the Depot.

The normal Sunday services show a marked improvement in attendances.

The Middlesex church appointments have been further enhanced by the gift of a beautiful altar cloth from Mrs. Smith (Major Jeffcoat's mother-in-law). It took Mrs. Smith two years to complete this magnificent cloth. Col. Maurice Browne has recently acquired two very suitable brass candlesticks to replace the present wooden ones.

Across the road from the Church is the Royal Engineers Games Room. Major McBeth, R.E., has allowed the Church Youth Club to meet there on Wednesday evenings. This Club is just one month old. On the first evening 40 teenagers turned up, which was double the number we had expected. Our facilities do not extend to any increase in this number on "ordinary" evenings, though it is planned to have "guest evenings," and consequently it is necessary to enforce the original intention that the Club should be a Garrison Church Youth Club for the families living in these Barracks. The activities of the Club include the usual snooker, billiards, table tennis, skittles, darts and rock 'n' roll. All this is concluded with an Epilogue which is an integral part of the Club.

Mr. Parrot from S.I.B. is a very able Youth leader and organiser, and expert at sorting out a mêlée.

### DEPOT POST BOX

Last year the National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen placed in employment 32 men of the Regiment.

Perhaps readers may wonder how this Association fits into the new picture created by the coming reorganisation of the Army. They themselves do not doubt their ability to handle the number of Regulars to be discharged in the next few years, even though

68,000 for the three Services are due for discharge in 1958. They feel a special responsibility towards pensioner placing, and anyone needing their services should write to 62 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

One of our affiliated regiments, the Wellington West Coast and Taranaki Regiment, now affiliated with H.Q. at P.O. Box 424, Manganui, New Zealand, is shortly to have new Colours as well as a Regimental Association to keep the interest of its ex-members. It is of interest in the case of the Colours that permission to use the symbols and badges of the British Regiments to whom the two original Regiments were affiliated was sought and granted, in the case of the Hampshire Rose of the Hampshire Regiment, but the Prince of Wales Plumes which forms the badge of the Middlesex Regiment and was displayed on the old Taranaki Regimental Colours, required Royal approval. This is being sought. We thank them for sending us their news, and wish we could publish it at greater length, but we send them our good wishes for the future.

An interesting item of news in the "Waggoner," the journal of the R.A.S.C., informs us that Sgt. Dennis Rose, B.E.M., became the fourth R.A.S.C. N.C.O. to win the D.F.M. since the end of the war. Sgt. Dennis twice ran away to enlist when he was under age before finally succeeding. Such courage and determination is more easily understood when one learns that he comes from a family of soldiers and that his father served with the Middlesex Regiment in the First World War.

An invitation by the Federation National of the Veterans of King Albert 1st of the Regional Section of Mons, to patronise its own Association has been cordially accepted by the Regimental Association. The Federation, many of whom witnessed the gallant action of the 4th Battalion at Mons, think there is only one Regiment in the British Army—ours!

**COPY OF MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT SYNGMAN RHEE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA ON THE OCCASION OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CONTINGENT**  
To all the Officers and Men of

The British Commonwealth Contingent.

It is with profound appreciation for their exceptionally meritorious service in Korea, that the Korean people bid farewell to the British Commonwealth Contingent.

Seven years ago next month, British troops joined the United Nations Forces in Korea to defend our country against the ruthless forces of Communist aggression, and with courage and integrity contributed significantly to the success of the efforts of the free nations of the world to meet the test of collective security.

During the early months of the bitter war, the British Commonwealth was represented by the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment and the 1st Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. These British Regiments were assisted by the arrival of the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment at the end of September, 1950, and later the Commonwealth Division was established with units from Britain, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. Valiant men of these units participated in the most crucial periods of the conflict against the Communist forces, and after the cessation of hostilities continued to

stand with us as allies in the effort to keep the world free. Their courage and endurance in battle, their heroism in meeting the most difficult situations, and their great spirit of comradeship and devotion to duty have been a source of strength and inspiration to all of us.

To the officers and men of the British Commonwealth Contingent I want to say that we are genuinely sad that you are leaving our country. We know that you leave Korea with certain regrets. And this is understandable. You came to serve with your allies in arms in defence against aggression and to accomplish the unification of this country under freedom. Behind you leave 1,133 comrades, marked by the Cross, where never a Britisher fought before. We know you share with us a deep-felt desire to carry on the good fight of faith in the cause of freedom and will continue to serve the ideals and objectives we jointly cherish.

You will be remembered in Korea with respect and appreciation for the manner in which you have maintained and enhanced the illustrious name of the British Commonwealth Forces. We bid you farewell, our good friends, and wish you all Godspeed.

Seoul, Korea, July 26, 1957.



Presentation of B.E.M. to ex-Cfmm. Crump by Lt.-Gen. Sir Charles F. C. Coleman, K.C.B., C.M., D.S.O., O.B.E., G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command. Mr. Crump is foreman of the Association Working Party, who put in a lot of voluntary work to keep the grounds of the Regimental Homes at Enfield in the good order that they are



**CIVIL DEFENCE WEEKEND**

Mr. D. Upton answering a question during the Cloth Model Demonstration on "the H-Bomb on London"

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

**GENERAL**

The principle activity during the last quarter has been in recruiting and building up the shooting team. There has been success in both fields.

Twenty recruits joined the Battalion between July and December and the encouraging feature is that many more volunteers are bringing in their friends. From experience gained elsewhere in the country it is clear that a recruiting rate of 40 volunteers a year is the forerunner of up to a hundred for the next.

The shooting team under the wing of Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, T.D., and the captaincy of Capt. M. A. H. Lanyon has crowned their most successful shooting season in the history of the Regiment by winning the Territorial Army De-Centralised Shooting competition for 1957. This competition is open to every unit in the Territorial Army in the United Kingdom, so we did well.

The presentation of the Challenge Shield and 12 silver medals to the team will be made by Sir Frederick Handley-Page, C.B.E.

The Battalion is continuing its successes in the small-bore competitions for 1957/58. Stimulated by monthly competitions and generous prizes from the Commanding Officer, nearly everyone is shooting regularly at the T.A. Centres. Sgt. Davies, C.S.M. Webb, Sgt. Wotton and Pte. Van de Pol have all won. Two Battalion teams are competing in separate divisions of the T.A.R.A. League competition. These are found by "A" Company at Highgate and H.Q. and "Sp" Companies at Hornsey. Both teams are doing well. Our chief interest lies in the Middlesex Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association Knock-Out Competition in which we are in the semi-final.

Cpts. M. A. H. Lanyon and P. A. Stocken, W.O.2 Webb, R.Q.M.S. Howes, C/Sgt. Leahy, Sgts. Davies and Wotton, L/Cpl. Manning, Ptes. Johnstone, Weston, Van de Pol and Bryant have represented the Battalion in the competition.

On the weekend December 14-15 a highly successful Civil Defence study and exercise was held at the Drill Hall, Hornsey.

The exercise organised by the Permanent Staff introduced the Civil Defence problem in the London area to some 60 officers and senior N.C.O.s of 47 (London) Infantry Brigade (T.A.) and other units in the London area. There were stimulating lectures and demonstrations which were followed by syndicate problems on the Sunday afternoon.

Among the lectures, mention must be made of those given by Mr. D. Upton, the Senior Regional Officer, London, on Civil Defence Organisation and by Chief

Superintendent Kitch of New Scotland Yard on transport and traffic problems.

Among those who also assisted to make the weekend such a success were Mr. Edwards of the County Civil Defence Staff, and Mr. Powell of the Hornsey Division of the Civil Defence Corps.

A most successful All Ranks dance was held at the Drill Hall, Hornsey, on Friday, December 20. The Honorary Colonel, Col. J. K. Maitland and Mrs. Maitland were among those who attended. R.S.M. Thom was Master of Ceremonies.

The Commanding Officer has to announce with deep regret the death of Major L. E. Dromard, T.D., and Major Charles Denton. Major Dromard joined the Battalion during 1957 and very quickly established himself as a popular and capable Territorial officer. He is missed by everyone. Major Denton was connected with the Regiment nearly all his life. For some time he had been unwell and the loss as a member of the Permanent Staff will be felt for a very long time.

#### "A" COMPANY

The Company Shooting team is flourishing and competitions have been held against teams from "P" Battery 264 Field Regiment, R.A., T.A., and the Metropolitan Police (Hornsey), and we are competing in the T.A.R.A. Decentralised League. Five matches in this league have been completed, all of which we have won. The team members being Major J. D. Gunnell, Capt. S. J. Carter and P. A. Stocken. Sgt. Hughes, Ptes. Bryant, Chapman, Pirie, Sutcliffe and Van de Pol. Both Chapman and Howell, two of our newest recruits, show considerable promise. We are now looking forward to the finer weather and the open range.

In the meantime basic training continues under our P.S.I., Sgt. Elston, who has recently joined us in place of Sgt. Dive. We extend him a warm welcome and hope that he will enjoy working with us, and to Sgt. Dive, we wish him good fortune and thank him for all that he has done for the Company in the past.

L/Cpl. Linden and Pte. Savege have been selected for the Battalion First Aid team entered for the Brigade competition.

On the social side, we have played table tennis against a team from Christ's College which ended in a draw. We look forward to repeating this fixture in the near future, and a decisive result.

#### M.T.

The last quarter has been a period of increased activity and numbers in the platoon. We welcome into our midst Ptes. Brook, Johnstone, Holdstock, Little, Downes and King, who have joined the T.A. from various walks of life, and hope that they are enjoying the friendly atmosphere and training. Tuesday evening training is now in full swing and one weekend per month is spent in driving and motor-cycle training. During November, with some members of "A" Company, who had not ridden before, a day's enjoyable motor-cycling was spent going up and down hills at a gravel pit. The learners did well in terrifying circumstances. Our most experienced motor-cyclist kept putting his hands over his eyes and exclaiming: "It



Sgt. Rogers and Sgt. White at the start of the Talmag Trial, Pirbright

must be ignorance, and I wouldn't dare to do that."

Sgts. Rogers and White, and Cpl. Organ were entered as a team in the Talmag Trial during December at Pirbright, accompanied by spectators. Unfortunately, we did not meet with much success, with only Cpl. Organ completing the course, but experience was gained and teams are to be congratulated on their efforts.

A more ambitious motor-cycle training and driving instruction programme is being devised for our new volunteers. At the present time our M.T. recruiting drive rivals that of "A" Company. Finally, our heartiest congratulations to Sgt. White on his promotion.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS

It is always a pleasure to welcome new members to the Mess and in this case our good wishes go to Sgt. White. We also wish to congratulate C.S.M. Curry on his recent and well-earned promotion.

In November we held quite a successful social, but once again, we should like to see more of the younger members present. Those that were there had a most enjoyable evening and the party lasted until the early hours of the morning.

This year the Mess volunteered to run the Children's Party, ably supported of course by a number of officers and by members of the Elm Club. A happy time was rounded off when Santa Claus (alias genial Sgt. "Bill" Medcalf) distributed his presents. After the Children's Party a small social was held in the Mess at which the Old Comrades were entertained. This year Sgt. Jackson must have bought all the shares in the Mess Draw; anyway he appeared to win all the prizes.

On Saturday, January 25, the Mess held their Annual Dinner in the Officers' Mess. This was followed by dancing in the main hall. The Commanding Officer and Mrs. Allen, Major and Mrs. Gunnell and Capt. and Mrs. Legge were guests. R.Q.M.S. Howes, always a stern critic, was heard to remark that this was the most successful dinner he had attended.

#### OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

##### Hornsey Branch

The social activities of the Club have been going very well. We have been pleased to welcome several old members who have recently rejoined once more. We were delighted to see the increased number of Old Comrades who paraded on Remembrance Sunday at Hornsey and many old friendships were renewed. We thank especially those who came from long distances to be with us on this day.

The Battalion Dance was enjoyed immensely by all who came, and we would like to thank Col. Allen and all ranks for this excellent evening. Three other notable events have been the O.C.A. Christmas Draw, the New Year Party provided by W.O.2 Holdford, B.E.M., and the invitation from the Sergeants' Mess to their social.

Will all ranks 1/7th (1914-1918) please note the Annual Reunion Dinner will be held on March 14, 1958, at the Manor House, Finsbury Park.

We also take this opportunity to welcome all ex-Middlesex men and their wives to join us in the social activities of the Club. These include cribbage, tombola, darts and the use of the TV set.

The Middlesex Regimental Association has issued a new book of rules. This is available, free, on your application for membership.

#### ELMS CLUB

The high light of our activity during the quarter has been the visit of the Club to the circus. A party of 43 members, with their children, visited Tom Arnold's Circus at Harringay on Saturday, January 11. The outing was subsidised from the funds accumulated through the year and a coach was provided by the Commanding Officer. Everyone enjoyed the show and it is hoped that next year a similar outing can be arranged.

On the military side, the Club won its first shooting match during the Sergeants' Mess social held on November 21. Our opponents were a W.R.A.C. team and we are justly proud of this success.

The activities of the Club continue to grow, for besides the organisation of tombola and whist drive evenings, we have provided tea for the officers during the Civil Defence weekend on December 14 and also played an active part in the catering for the Battalion Dance and Children's Party.

Just before Christmas we said good-bye to Mrs. Godge, who left us to join her husband serving with the 1st Battalion in Cyprus. We have since received a postcard from her, showing Kyrenia Harbour bathed in Mediterranean sunshine, which makes us all envy her. Three other former members have also written from Cyprus, all saying that the climate is ideal.

#### 16 MIDDLESEX INDEPENDENT CADET COMPANY

A successful winter training programme has just concluded with half the Company now in possession of Certificate "A", Part I, and the majority of these cadets rounding off their training for Part II.

The Company has taken every advantage of the courses arranged by London District. Drill courses

have been attended by members of the Company at the Guards Depot, Caterham, the Guards Training Battalion, Pirbright, and the Royal Fusiliers at the Tower of London. By the end of March 1958 every member of the Company will have attended one of these weekend Drill courses.

A cadet has attended a Junior Leaders' course at Pirbright, and bids have been made for P.T. and Signals courses in the spring.

No. 8 Travelling Wing assisted by instructing in map-reading for Part II. Practical work was undertaken on map-reading exercises. Cadets marched on compass bearings to a rendezvous at selected points. The 7th Battalion kindly assisted again, Sgt.-Major Etheridge instructing on the L.M.G.

Phase 2 of the year's training is just beginning. The Company is to concentrate on more adventurous type of training. Expeditions are to be arranged, whereby cadets will be organised into sections of three or four and be provided with bivouacs, blankets and cooking sets. The sections will be issued with a route, map and compass, and will be expected to follow the route, camping for one or two nights and cooking their own food.

The Commanding Officer believes that the scheme will produce a cadet who is capable of looking after himself under difficult conditions, and thus proving more adaptable to service training and conditions. Many of the Certificate "A" subjects can be incorporated into the expeditions, and experience will be gained because the cadet has had to use his knowledge in a practical way. Problems will be produced for the N.C.O. leading the section, and these will have to be solved on the spot.

Preliminary marches will take place during the first three months of this year. Cadets will have an opportunity to use their equipment and receive instruction on living under canvas, fire lighting and cooking. It is anticipated that the first weekend expedition without instructors should take place in early May. By annual camp this year it is hoped to equip all cadets attending, thus training can be carried out under service conditions.

Every effort has been made to improve the standard of shooting in the Company. Several cadets entered for the *News of the World* English Junior Championship, .22 bore. Cpl. Morley recorded a score of 264 out of 300, finishing 17th, heading the list of all other Cadet entries. Cadet Payne finished 20th.

### 8th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.), T.A.

Having survived our first year as the reconstituted 8th Battalion we review it with many pleasing memories, some disappointments, but much satisfaction. Our real thoughts, however, are not on the past but on 1958 and the future. We are determined that it will be an even more successful year than 1957 and it has every prospect of so being.

## HONOURS AND AWARDS

Sgt. L. Hawkins, of "H.Q." Company, has been awarded the British Empire Medal (Military Division) in the 1958 New Year's Honours List.

Sgt. Hawkins has served in the capacity of Signals Sergeant for many years in the 8th Battalion and his award is well deserved. We extend to him our congratulations.

## TRAINING

From November to January is not a spectacular part of the training cycle in the Battalion and consists mainly of indoor work of an individual nature and administrative make and mend.

On November 24 and 25, "H.Q." Company held a combined M.T. and Signals training weekend. With them were attachments from "B" and "C" Companies and eight cadets from 72 Company at Hounslow. The exercise took place in the Dorking area and the Q.M. is still muttering under his breath about the amount of petrol that was used. Those who managed to get some sleep during the night of the 25th were rudely awakened by Sgt. Le Maitre—the mystery of his liveliness at such an early hour was due perhaps to his party in the Sergeants' Mess.

On Wednesday evening, December 4, "A" Company joined by a detachment of the Middlesex Yeomanry, carried out a raid on the R.A.E.C. Depot at Beaconsfield. This had been arranged between Major Webber and the training officer at the R.A.E.C. Depot to test their security arrangements. L/Cpl. Williams and Pte. Nuthall each led sections with the task of breaking into the armoury. With the aid of a diversionary attack by the Yeomanry detachment they were successful. Amongst the "A" Company men were Ptes. Thompson, Cowie and Cleaton, who have not yet done their national service; this was their first exercise and they gave a very good account of themselves. Bent on proving the superiority of the pen over the sword, the R.A.E.C. have asked for a repeat performance in 1958.

## RECRUITING

During November, 14 men were attested, much of the credit going to "A" Company, who obtained six of them.

The new "D" Company, at Hendon, have now got their first two recruits awaiting final approval, and are confident of more. Having placed an advertisement in the local press offering a part-time job on two nights a week, the P.S.I. (Sgt. Jolly) receives plenty of 'phone calls, of a varied nature.

## OFFICERS' MESS

At last the Mess is ready for use again, having been completely redecorated at that astonishing speed so closely associated with the British workmen. We now have an attractive pale grey wallpaper, with contrasting deep red at each end of the room, and pale grey paint-

work. It is a big improvement and very much appreciated.

On October 26, an "At Home" was held at "A" Company, Cowley, to mark the re-establishment of "A" Company close to where it always used to be before the war in Uxbridge. The Regimental Band played at this enjoyable gathering. Among the guests, in what was very much a family gathering, were the Mayor of Uxbridge and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Hartley, Brigadier and Mrs. Baker, Brigadier and Mrs. Rackham, Brigadier Wilson, Major Batty and Major Hutchings.

Saturday, December 7, saw us dining and dancing at the Cafe de Paris, Maidenhead, with a total attendance of some 40 officers and their ladies. This was our annual dinner-dance for past and serving members of the Mess and was a great success. Among the guests were our Honorary Colonel, Brigadier Baker (Mrs. Baker was unfortunately ill and unable to attend, much to our regret); Col. and Mrs. Ellis, and Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Corby. It was an incredibly mild evening.

We wish the very best of luck to Capt. Wood on his departure—permanent this time, perhaps—to the West Indies.

We extend a warm welcome to Lt. Lobb, who is about to join us as 2IC of "C" Company at Harrow.

## SERGEANTS' MESS

The Warrant Officers and Sergeants had an enjoyable evening at the Regimental Depot Mess on November 16, in company with the members of the 7th Battalion and a number of Old Comrades. The Mess members and their wives are indebted to R.S.M. Kenwick and the members of the Depot Mess for their hospitality, though no doubt this was the cause of our downfall in the darts match, when we were ignominiously "whitewashed." Drum-Major Wales, however, retrieved our reputation by proving himself the "Dice champion" of the day.

We invited the Depot Mess to our monthly social held in the Sergeants' Mess at Hounslow on November 29, where revenge was planned but not only did we fail again but we also lost the Ladies match. However, everyone enjoyed themselves, which was our real object.

On December 14, we held our Christmas Dance and Draw. The dance was well attended and there was an ugly rush for the few remaining numbers for the draw. We were pleased to have the Commanding Officer and his wife with us, and several of the officers and their wives. Despite the quick change of scenery necessary after "H.Q." Company's Children's Party in the afternoon, all went well and the evening was a great success.

## OTHER EVENTS

All the Companies held their children's parties. "H.Q." Company produced an entertainer with a trained dog show, who delighted the children. "C" and "Sp" Companies held dinners on December 7 and 21, respectively, and "B" and "Sp" Companies both held dances on New Year's Eve, "B" Company's being an Old Tyme Dance. All were well attended and the spirit of the festive season was abundant.

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

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

The Regiment is, at the moment, in the throes of what must rank as one of its most hectic times, both in the social and regimental spheres. For the first time for six years, camp occurs early in the season. Indeed, the old 9th will be one of the first three camping regiments in Weybourne from April 19 to May 2. This has meant a very concentrated training programme being arranged for the current four months.

On November 1 last, Lt.-Col. A. G. B. Drabble, T.D., was "dined out" of the Regiment. In traditional style, he was wine and dined and received his Regimental bowler hat—an occasion to be remembered by everyone. The Regiment owes a great deal to Col. Drabble, who took over the reins of a new and mixed command. It speaks volumes for the success of his efforts that only two and a half years later he leaves a regimental entity, which is efficient and harmonious. With our profound thanks to him go our very best wishes for his future and the sincere hope that he will be a regular visitor to the Regiment.

Armistice Day was remembered in the usual way with a service at the Memorial in the Kingsbury Drill Hall. A good muster of Old Comrades attended and wreaths were laid by the Regiment, the O.C.A. and the Affiliated Cadet Batteries. Afterwards the Old Comrades were entertained in the various Messes. We were pleased and proud to welcome three ex-C.O.s and our ex-Honorary Colonel, namely Cols. Lamont, Dear, McFadden, Gray and Fox.

Early in December, Edgware T.A. Centre was transformed into a "Salon de Balle" by courtesy of R.E.M.E., under Capt. Syd Mason, and the M.G.M. Film Organisation, whose "prop" chandeliers lent a very "ritzy" atmosphere to the affair. The occasion was the Officers' Reunion Ball—the first, one hopes, of many such occasions. A good attendance of officers and their ladies, with the Regimental Band providing music during The Reception, made it a memorable occasion. So much so, that there have been heavy demands for an "early repeat."

Christmas brought its usual spate of festivities, unmarred, this year, by petrol rationing. At the Children's Christmas Party, "Father Christmas" arrived, amid whoops of joy, in his 20th century sleigh—vaguely reminiscent of a Land Rover. There were presents for all, including our ex-Adjutant, Major David McGregor Young. A film show and limitless "tuck," with ice-cream to follow, ensured, to quote a young party-goer, "a smashing time."

The adult members of the Regiment were no less keen to take advantage of this excellent opportunity for fun and frivolity. The Mayors of Hendon and Willesden, along with their ladies, were welcome guests at Kingsbury T.A. Centre, when the W.O.s and Sergeants held their annual Christmas ball. The spirit of the season was very much in evidence.

The Regiment is in the throes of a recruiting campaign. Leaflets are being distributed far and wide and much personal contact is producing some results. We are not yet, by any means, in the happy state of certain northern

regiments, who, we understand, are having to turn away potential recruits, but there are encouraging signs of a revival of interest in the T.A. If any readers are able to help the Regiment, please do so. If in doubt as to what you can do, please contact the Adjutant, who can supply you with literature and helpful advice.

To combine all this with effective training is difficult, but necessary. With camp so near, it is vital that all members of the Regiment get down to the business of making sure that they are on top of their form for work in the field, and on the firing point. An enthusiastic group of officers and N.C.O.s got away to a good start recently, when an Army team came and lectured to them on "Methods of Instruction." This may sound dull, but I have rarely seen a more rap and attentive class. I am sure that this heralds a spate of very high class instruction from which, no doubt, we shall benefit greatly.

The scope of training is wide and is covering, amongst other items, signals and communications, driving, gunnery, radar, aircraft recognition and mobility. In this day and age "the gunner" has to be a very technical individual. Gone are the days when the average gunner did no more than hump or load ammunition. His job now calls for intelligence, initiative and skill. This is worth mentioning because the idea still persists that there is monotony in gunnery.

Finally, it is important to remember that this is the Golden Jubilee Year of the Territorial Army. We hope that all Old Comrades will try to visit the Regiment sometime during the year. It is fitting that the Triennial Dinner of the officers of the 9th should take place this year, so February 21 should see a memorable collection of officers, serving and Old Comrades, in the United Services Club. In the next issue, it is anticipated that there will be tales to tell of this gathering.

In conjunction with other T.A. units in the area we shall be round and about during the summer months letting the world know that we are celebrating—but more of that later. Away from the fleshpots and back to the grind.

## "Q" BATTERY

For several years, the year has fallen into two natural halves, centred on camp and Christmas respectively, with the usual periods of preparation and recuperation before and after. This year, however, sees us rudely deprived of our post-Christmas hiatus and galvanised into activity at the prospect of an "April camp." Thus the Hall at Kingsbury has an unusually busy air for Wednesday evenings in January.

The Battery "recruiting drive" is showing fairly encouraging results—there has been a steady trickle of recruits, including the welcome re-appearance of some well-known faces, among them Bombardier Zimmerman and ex-Sergeant Metheringham. We still need more recruits before camp.

Pre-camp training is given more urgency by the necessity to give recruits enough basic knowledge to play a useful part at Weybourne. The Battery Commander has given us a very fine example, having started, already, to practise bumper cars, in preparation for the fun fair at Great Yarmouth.

Even the most pessimistic agree that Weybourne weather in April can scarcely be worse than repeated experience has shown it to be in August—and so a mood of restrained optimism prevails. Also, of course, camp in April leaves the summer free for more of the successful training expeditions to Brighton, pioneered, you may remember, last year. Of these it should be recorded that the Battery spent most of its time revolving in a five-mile orbit around Capt. Slack, stationed near some handy licensed premises, practising map-reading.

In conclusion, 1958 sees another of the Triennial Reunion Dinners taking place in February. At this we hope to see officers from the old 9th Middlesex, and the various numerical Artillery disguises under which it has masqueraded since 1939.

### "R" BATTERY

Since going to press for the December issue of the Journal, we must record that the Battery Supper was held on November 7 as planned.

A most convivial evening enjoyed by all; it was also the occasion for saying farewell to our Battery Commander, Major D. A. Bond, who has left us to join R.H.Q. as Second-in-Command. The good wishes of the Battery go with him and we look forward to seeing him from time to time, when duties with R.H.Q. permit.

There were the usual social gatherings over the Christmas period, and we have started the New Year with an all-out effort to increase our numerical strength before we go to camp. This high light of the T.A. year falls very early for us—April 19, in fact—and there are some in the Battery who do not relish the prospect of the north Norfolk coast at this time of the year.

Because of our early camp, training is now going apace, and there will be much weekend activity from now, February, until we actually get into camp.

### R.E.M.E.

R.E.M.E. is now well and truly settled at Edgware. Work is almost completed in the workshop area to make it effective for R.E.M.E. use and pre-camp training is under way. Capt. Mason has instituted Friday social nights, on the lines of those run at Kingsbury, and, spiced with W.R.A.C. co-operation, these are proving most successful. These are not purely for R.E.M.E., and any member of the Regiment is most welcome.

Capt. Sessions is welcomed as our new Officer Commanding and, given more recruits, the unit will soon be very virile and competent.

R.E.M.E. have been proud to be responsible for making the Edgware T.A. Centre more attractive—indeed, we believe that we have taught Kingsbury a thing or two. There is much enthusiasm amongst the unit and the present members are enjoying the amenities of more room and a permanent building.

Like the parent Regiment, R.E.M.E. are concerned with recruiting. There is scope for volunteers in almost every sphere of R.E.M.E. activity. An effective camp depends on more recruits coming into the unit, and all ex and potential R.E.M.E. men are cordially invited to visit Edgware to see us on our own ground. There is

interesting work, good comradeship and an excellent club life for you here.

Pre-camp training presents us with a problem for solution in time for some specialised work in the second week at Weybourne. With two hands where there should be six, there are no dull moments. In our next notes we hope to tell something of our successes during this hectic but exciting period.

### 9th BATTALION O.C.A.

Kingsbury T.A. Centre has been the rendezvous of quite a number of functions during the past few months, and we were pleased to see such a good number of the O.C.A. at the Remembrance Day Service.

On the following Friday the Regiment and O.C.A. held a joint social evening which was well attended and proved to be a very successful experiment.

The "Good Luck" shoot, part of the Christmas programme, brought a good number to the T.A. Centre.

We were pleased to have visits from "Tac" Hunt, and also Bob Packer, the latter home after a spell of duty in Hong Kong, told of his experiences and meetings with Middlesex friends out there.

We regret to report the passing of two of our stalwarts by the deaths of Major Charlie Denton who will be greatly missed, and the father of Harry Hedger, both old and esteemed members of the 9th.

Some months ago a paragraph appeared in the *Harrow Observer* from Master Tailor Charles Woodbridge, of 1914-18 days, who is now living in Cape Town, asking for friends who could testify to his war service for the purpose of obtaining a veterans' pension. I am pleased to report our endeavours on his behalf have met with success and have heard from him that he has now been granted one.

The time will soon arrive for us to think about the Annual Dinner, and as this year is the centenary of the T.A. we look forward to a bumper attendance on this occasion.

### THE HONG KONG REGIMENT

Main interest during the last quarter has been annual camp. We go there in two batches which means that we can never all be at camp together. This is a great pity, but if we did amalgamate, some of the major firms in the Colony would have to close their doors for two weeks! This year we went to Sai Kung and renewed our acquaintance with the surrounding hills. However, we were not destined to spend very much time in the camp this year. The Kremlin were determined to give us an exercise by which to remember Col. Clayton. This "outing" was well named "Nonesuch." We were sent out by companies into the peninsula to the north-east to establish bases, and there find and capture a very elusive enemy. This lasted 48 hours when we were recalled to take part in a full-scale Battalion exercise on the other side of the New Territories. We set off with little idea of what was to come. Our destination was the old familiar area of Castle Peak, but on arrival there we were informed of a "change in plan" and told to RV miles away in an unfamiliar area. On arrival we found that we were to occupy a defensive position complete with wire and trenches. We had

hardly occupied this fearsome position when the C.O. had his annual heart attack, leaving the 2IC to run the battle for the next 48 hours. It was certainly some battle, thanks to the chief umpire, Major I. R. Burrows, O.B.E., of our affiliated Regiment. He laid on an assortment of enemy including aircraft and tanks. The infantry opposition proved to us that we were not so safe behind the wire as we had thought, and attacked us in the night and destroyed any hopes of rest. When we returned to Sai Kung on the evening of the fifth day, we were pleased to enjoy the comforts provided by the camp staff. The camp ended as usual with a short address by the C.O. in which he also bade us farewell.

We must also bid him farewell as he will be in U.K. by the time these notes are read. We shall all miss our first Middlesex Commanding Officer. We hope that his stay has been a pleasant one and that he will take back with him a good impression of the Regiment. The lucky ones among us look forward to visiting him at his new office, so conveniently close to the centre of London. We hope that he will keep us informed of his news through the Adjutant, who is still with us to keep up the Middlesex connection.

The whole Regiment sends their best wishes to the "Die-Hards" wherever they may be. We hope they will soon leave Cyprus and go to a station where they can relax. We shall follow with great interest their activities, and assure them that the affiliation is very strong and one in which we take pride.

### NEWS LETTER BY M.B.

On January 28 I heard Col. Samuel was laid up with heart trouble and can do very little.

I was much touched by receiving Christmas and New Year's cards and letters from all over the world, to all of which, over 100, I have replied. It is a comfort to me so to be remembered.

On January 25 Col. Mervyn Crawford sent me a number of articles on Colonel John Ward, M.P., who commanded our 19th Battalion in Russian operations. I commend it to our members, for it is an account which few know of, far less have read. They came through a master at Winchester, where Col. Crawford's sons were educated.

Col. Passingham's daughter, Lucy, now a Lieutenant-Colonel in the W.R.A.C., is stationed in Cyprus, and I have asked our Commanding Officer in 1st Battalion to get in touch in view of her father's long service and devotion to our Regiment. I have also heard Sgt. H. A. Males, who looked after my uniform for me, and myself after this war, is under her command.

We are very glad to know Col. Aymar Clayton is shortly to take over the secretaryship of our T.A. Association and so follow Brigadier Rackham.

It will always please me that in both cases I helped to enter them for this important post. We shall still have Chris Mieville as Adjutant of our allied Hong Kong Regiment for about one year, and have met the succeeding Commanding Officer.

On January 21 I had news from Major Newton, whose two sons are engaged in important duties: one in Kenya, Carruthers, who is a District Officer in Nzoro; and

Brian, a W.T. officer in the Merchant Service, who is now probably at Bremen in his ship.

I have good news from Mrs. E. N. Appelbe which I am not permitted to disclose as she fears any form of publicity. She sent news of Col. Whitcombe, our Brigade Major in Madras in the 2nd Battalion, and our Brigadier when we were at Colchester, Walter Hill. Elder members will recollect his distinguished appearance at boxing meetings, for he was an ideal soldier in appearance, word and deed.

We were sorry to hear of the death of David Pike's father; David may soon be with us again. I hope he serves in our 1st Battalion, and plays cricket here next June.

Col. Stewart Sutherland will once more look after our Old Comrades' Association in Malaya as he has done for many years.

I have a letter, of January 9, from Major N. G. Brett-James, president of Mill Hill and Hendon Historical Society, whose knowledge of our county is renowned.

I have been in touch again with the Rev. Father Laurence Jackson, once our Army Chaplain in Colchester, during part of my time in command. He left to serve in India but is now home, unwell, aged 61.

On New Year's day I had a letter from Col. Stewart. It was his golden wedding on December 28 and a great family party was held. They sailed for Tenerife on January 14 in a Spanish ship. He hopes to attend more Regimental gatherings in 1958; but age holds us back now. We have known each other for 55 years—since Cambridge Barracks days in Portsmouth.

On December 30 a letter came from Tod Sloan, who has been laid up by illness and debarred from writing, having been bitten in the hand by a large dog. He reminds me that in the last Journal I erred about Col. H. A. Cartwright, who, in fact, joined the 4th Battalion at Londonderry in 1906, serving in "F" Company under H. E. Welch. He went to the 3rd Battalion in Singapore in 1908, and to the 4th Battalion at Devonport in 1913 under, I assume, General Hull—my father's Brigade Major at Portsmouth. Tod Sloan had met Brigadier Lerwill (formerly 1st Battalion), who came to us from the Indian Army, and who is now commanding a T.A. Brigade at the Duke of York's Headquarters at Chelsea.

I had grave news from my friend, Sydney Emery, who had been stricken with internal trouble, but I am relieved to say he is now better—in fact, he looks no different, and I dined with him at Simpsons in the Strand. One son is in his pottery firm at Stoke and the other is a chartered accountant. I knew them both as boys, and it is splendid they have done so well.

I also have seen Roger Latham, much employed in Television, and as amusing as ever. He lunched in Mess on January 18 and, as always, was entertaining.

On December 19 I had a lovely post card from Brigadier Joe Weston in Jamaica. He has now a new post in Air Developments, for which he is ideally qualified.

On December 25 I heard from Dorothy Longe, still in Tangier. She pointed out it was very cold with gales

and storms, and that the popular idea that it is always sunny is a myth.

On December 13 I heard from Pip Reed—Col. Ash's younger daughter, who married into the Royal Navy. She mentions that in her mother's diary are many well-known Regimental names, such as the Abels, the Stephensons, and the Molesworths with the Rowleys, all, alas, now gone to the other world.

On December 14 I heard of Col. Rooke who, I am told, is now living in a hotel, and I feel sad, for he loved his home, Monks Horton, in Colchester, with all his treasures, and the lovely garden in which he had seen the tall hedges and trees grow to great heights and beauty.

In mid-December I heard from the Archdeacon, Rev. Ormonde Birch, in S.S. *Eastern* at New Guinea. He was our Chaplain in the 1st Battalion at Dinapore with Col. Bertram Ward, and Brigadier Rowley; both these have answered the last roll call. He wants me to visit him in Melbourne, and bring Col. and Hilda Stewart with me.

Must close now or The Editor will cut this letter down.

M.B.

Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E.,  
252 Nithsdale Road,  
Glasgow, S.1.

January 3, 1958.

Dear Sir,

I would like to add a personal report on how the compilation of the Biographical Record of Regular officers is progressing (the notice in *The Die-Hards* of September, 1957, refers).

To my letter to retired officers, relatives of deceased officers, and to the notices in the *Times* and *Telegraph*, I have had a very good response—far better than I expected. Biographical details are steadily being received, collected and carefully recorded on index cards.

As Major Pearce Gould and myself are still serving officers, our efforts at research are naturally curtailed because of Service exigencies, and our lack of opportunity of access to the Public Record Office, War Office Library, The Royal United Service Institution, etc. In spite of all this our progress is not insignificant. Pearce Gould is concentrating on those officers commissioned from 1755 to 1880, whilst I am concentrating my efforts on those commissioned from 1880 onwards.

To all those who have already helped us in our task we send our thanks, particularly to Major Lawrence who has helped in giving us details of several deceased officers whom he knew personally; Lt.-Col. Hunt, who had three distinguished forebears in the 57th; Sir Paul Pechell; Lt.-Col. Clowes; Lt.-Col. Hervey del Court, and Miss Dorothy Longe, all of whom have been of great help in our research.

May we again ask for more help from any of your readers.

Yours faithfully,

A. E. GREEN.

The Editor,  
*The Die-Hards*,  
Inglis Barracks,  
London, N.W.7.

## BIRTHS

WEST.—On Christmas Day, 1957, in London, to Helen Clare (*nee* Ridley), wife of Capt. P. W. C. West, a son, Rupert Miles Crispin.

## DEATHS

WEIL.—We regret to announce the death on November 10 of Lt.-Col. F. B. P. Weil.

DENNIS.—We regret to announce the death on November 11 of Bandmaster C. Dennis, who served in both our 1st and 2nd Battalions for many years. His cremation was private, but a letter of sympathy was sent to his wife and two daughters.

DENTON.—On November 22 Major C. Denton died very suddenly. Major Denton was well loved by many and served through the ranks to Major Quartermaster with our Regiment. At the time of his death, although retired, he still served, in a civilian capacity, our 7th Battalion. His funeral was attended by many ex-members of the Regiment, and a wreath was sent from the Association. Our deepest sympathy goes to his widow and family.

ELMS.—On Saturday, November 23, ex-Sgt. J. P. Elms, M.M., of the 8th Battalion, died. His funeral was attended by Capt. Ashby and members of the 8th Battalion. A letter of sympathy was sent to his widow, and a wreath, in Regimental colours, from the Association.

DURNELL.—We regret to announce the death, at Chelsea Hospital, of In Pensioner William Durnell on Christmas Eve. An N.C.O. from the Depot attended his funeral, and took a wreath.

WELCH.—We regret to announce the death suddenly on January 10 of ex-Pte. J. Welch, who for some years has worked at the Depot as a civilian groundsman and has been a familiar figure, particularly during our Cricket Week. The Association was represented at the funeral by an N.C.O. from the Depot.

PARKER.—We regret to announce the death on January 27 of ex-Sgt. C. Parker, who served for many years with our Regiment. His cremation at St. Marylebone Cemetery on February 1 was attended by an N.C.O. from the Depot, who also took a wreath on our behalf.

MAXSE.—We regret to announce the death, on January 28 at the age of 95, of General Sir Frederick Ivor Maxse, K.C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O. General Maxse was a past Colonel of our Regiment and an obituary appeared elsewhere in this Journal. The Colonel of the Regiment was represented at his funeral by Brigadier G. Lerwill, O.B.E., M.C.

## OBITUARY

### MAJOR C. F. DENTON, T.D.

The news of the death, in November 1957, of C. F. Denton was received with deep and widespread regret.

His long service in the Regiment and his association with many branches of its activities had made him known to a very wide circle, whilst his personality was such that he was held in high esteem by all who knew him.

Denton enlisted in the Regiment in 1910 and served at various stations at home and abroad. Immediately after the First Great War, upon the reformation of the Terri-

torial Army, he was posted as Permanent Staff Instructor to the 9th Battalion at Hendon. He remained with this Battalion until 1931, serving with two companies and, for the last four years, as R.S.M.

In 1931 he was commissioned as Lieutenant (Q.M.) and posted to the 7th Battalion at Hornsey. He retained this appointment until 1941, being promoted Captain (Q.M.) in 1939.

In 1941 he was posted to 27th Middlesex Battalion Home Guard as Adjutant and Q.M., remaining with this Unit until released after the Armistice in 1945. He was promoted Major in 1943.

After a short period of unemployment he was again appointed Q.M., this time to 44 Home Counties M.G. Battalion, Middlesex, later holding a similar appointment in 25th Middlesex Battalion Home Guard, until he finally relinquished his commission in 1954.

During this long service of 44 years, with two short breaks in the post-war period, Denton earned a well-merited reputation for reliability, conscientiousness and enthusiasm. Whatever task he was given, one knew that it would be done well and cheerfully. Popular with those serving under him, he did not achieve popularity at the cost of discipline, but maintained a strict control tempered with a paternal manner.

Many recruits—and young officers—have had cause to thank him for his quiet “off-duty” talks, when he would “put them in the picture.” Similarly he had a great affection for the “old soldier” and devoted much of his spare time to work for the Old Comrades’ Associations of both the 7th and 9th Battalions.

Each of those Territorial Battalions owes much to Denton for his influence and activity at work, at sport and social events.

During and since the last war he had not enjoyed the best of health, but he never complained and just carried on with his job, although it was obvious that he was at times in considerable pain.

He was, in short, a thoroughly dependable soldier of the best type, liked by all; and one who will long be remembered with respect and spoken of whenever “Die-hards” meet.

He leaves a widow, two sons and two daughters. The funeral took place at Southgate Parish Church and was attended by a large number of relatives and friends.

Among those present were: Brigadier Rackham, Cols. M. Browne, Gray and Walden, Lt.-Cols. Allen and Pringle, Majors Clark, Farrow Smith, Hughes, and Heywood, Messrs. A. Todman and Taylor (9th Middlesex O.C.A.), Dr/Major Holford and Mr. A. E. Sills (7th Middlesex O.C.A.).

## Regimental History

The Secretary of the Regimental Association has still a number of copies available at the special price of 18/6d. (25/- from Bookstalls).

### THE ORDER FORM

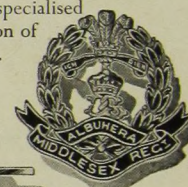
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## ROLL OF SERVING OFFICERS OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

Those officers, still serving but not on the Regimental list, will in future be published at the same time as those on the Regimental list together with any who have recently retired. The latest information is as follows:—

Sub. Temp.	Rank	Name	Location/Appointment
Brigadier	G. P. L. Weston, D.S.O., O.B.E.	..	Commandant, Army Air Corps Centre, Middle Wallop
T/Brigadier	R. A. Gwyn, O.B.E.	..	Commander, 146 (WR) Inf. Bde., T.A., Sheffield
T/Brigadier	G. Lerwill, O.B.E., M.C.	..	Commander, 168 Inf. Bde., T.A., London
Col.	A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E.	..	Army Council Representative, NAAFI Board of Management
Col.	A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E.	..	Commander, 4 Port (Scottish) Task Force, Glasgow
Col.	J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E.	..	AG2(o), War Office, Stanmore, Mx.
Lt.-Col.	A. S. J. de S. Clayton	..	C.O., Hong Kong Regiment
Lt.-Col.	C. M. M. Man, M.C.	..	C.O., Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Plymouth
Lt.-Col.	G. B. Ayre	..	A.Q.M.G., S.H.A.P.E.
Lt.-Col.	J. W. G. Ormiston	..	G.S.O.1, Trg., H.Q., AFNE, Oslo
Lt.-Col.	A. G. Hewitt, M.B.E., M.C.	..	C.O., Ghana Training Regiment, Kumasi

## RETIRED RECENTLY

Rank	Name	Date	Rank	Name	Date
Major	P. D. ff Powell	March 6, 1957	Capt.	R. A. Hodge	August 8, 1957
Major	G. O. Porter	December 23, 1957	Lt.	D. Lobb	August 2, 1957
Major	J. W. Doyle, M.C., T.D.	January 28, 1958			

## SUBSTANTIATIVE ROLL, W.O.s, COLOUR-SERGEANTS AND SERGEANTS

Bde. Pos.	Number	Rank	Name	Date of promotion	Last known Station
WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS I					
8	5837545	W.O.1	M. Wild	December 7, 1954	1 Mx.
13	5619855	W.O.1	T. McMillan	January 29, 1957	8 Mx.
	6211991	W.O.1	A. Kenrick	December 20, 1957	Depot
45	1520025	A/W.O.1	J. Thom	May 26, 1957	7 Mx.
BANDMASTERS					
4	5382114	B.M.	F. Jackson	April 1, 1952	1 Mx.
WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS II					
3	6398348	W.O.2	L. Graham, M.M.	April 1, 1952	Colonial Forces
7	6200940	W.O.2	S. Blacknell	April 1, 1952	E.R.E., U.K.
8	6197047	W.O.2	A. Etheridge	April 1, 1952	7 Mx.
20	6201070	W.O.2	F. Griffiths	October 11, 1952	E.R.E., U.K.
40	4267949	W.O.2	A. Goodge	May 4, 1954	1 Mx.
44	864814	W.O.2	R. Budden	May 4, 1954	8 Mx.
46	6200579	W.O.2	F. Firman	May 4, 1954	Depot
50	6210526	W.O.2	A. Cooper	May 4, 1954	1 Mx.
54	6403001	W.O.2	F. Redpath, B.E.M.	August 8, 1954	E.R.E., Overseas
59	6203433	W.O.2	S. Bartle	December 7, 1954	1 Mx.
77	22221076	W.O.2	J. Rodgers	August 26, 1956	5 Queen's T.A.
78	6968442	W.O.2	R. Dodkins	September 1, 1956	1 Mx.
87	6217070	W.O.2	W. Thorogood	July 17, 1957	E.R.E., U.K.
91	6206327	W.O.2	C. Burgess	July 17, 1957	Depot
COLOUR SERGEANTS					
3	6200792	C/Sgt.	G. Hockley, B.E.M.	January 1, 1953	Depot
4	6200351	C/Sgt.	T. Perry	January 1, 1953	1 Mx.
12	6539821	C/Sgt.	G. Whitehead	January 5, 1954	E.R.E., Overseas
14	6205098	C/Sgt.	L. Shrubbs, M.M.	January 22, 1954	1 Mx.
19	6550325	C/Sgt.	F. Powell	March 25, 1954	Depot
29	5949742	C/Sgt.	H. Davis	December 19, 1955	E.R.E., Overseas
33	6197647	C/Sgt.	F. Markham	May 22, 1956	E.R.E., Overseas
36	6201818	C/Sgt.	J. Morgan	May 22, 1956	1 Mx.
	14066481	C/Sgt.	J. Potter	September 27, 1957	1 Mx.
	14862617	C/Sgt.	W. Wright	October 3, 1957	1 Mx.

Bde. Pos.	Number	Rank	Name	Date of promotion	Last known Station
SERGEANTS					
9	6204927	Sgt.	J. Breame	April 1, 1952	E.R.E., U.K.
32	6203495	Sgt.	R. Cubitt	September 20, 1952	7 Mx.
39	14066639	Sgt.	P. Dive	October 31, 1952	1 Mx.
41	5781748	Sgt.	J. Moyle	November 7, 1952	1 Mx.
47	14476662	Sgt.	D. Weller	December 16, 1952	E.R.E., U.K.
54	3852333	Sgt.	T. McGowan	January 15, 1953	Depot, E. Surreys
62	6200376	Sgt.	G. Palmer	May 1, 1953	Depot
91	21014189	Sgt.	S. Michel	January 8, 1954	1 Mx.
100	19039053	Sgt.	A. DaCosta	January 22, 1954	1 Mx.
107	6923739	Sgt.	E. Steward	January 22, 1954	1 Mx.
116	2718503	Sgt.	R. Simpson	March 25, 1954	1 Mx.
122	21014210	Sgt.	S. Reynolds	March 25, 1954	1 Mx.
126	6202925	Sgt.	R. Hope	March 25, 1954	8 Mx.
127	22220443	Sgt.	M. Eastap	March 25, 1954	1 Mx.
129	22221109	Sgt.	D. Bailey	April 29, 1954	Depot
133	22229344	Sgt.	G. Simmons	April 29, 1954	Depot
135	19133915	Sgt.	G. Cripps	April 29, 1954	Depot
136	22193814	Sgt.	K. Beale	April 29, 1954	1 Mx.
140	21187041	Sgt.	A. Hook	May 17, 1954	1 Mx.
141	6201236	Sgt.	J. Marable	May 17, 1954	E.R.E., Overseas
146	6205018	Sgt.	J. Preston	May 17, 1954	E.R.E., U.K.
152	14470810	Sgt.	D. Walters	May 17, 1954	1 Mx.
157	6339246	Sgt.	G. Bailey	June 17, 1954	E.R.E., Overseas
160	22541432	Sgt.	J. Dickie	July 13, 1954	8 Mx.
171	19039445	Sgt.	A. Nicholson	August 15, 1954	1 Mx.
172	22221098	Sgt.	J. Warner	August 16, 1954	1 Mx.
173	22550985	Sgt.	M. Butler	August 16, 1954	Colonial Forces
176	22541536	Sgt.	G. Young	August 16, 1954	7 Mx.
178	11007783	Sgt.	C. Fry	August 19, 1954	Depot
182	19145508	Sgt.	A. Gibbs	September 14, 1954	1 Mx.
184	19136922	Sgt.	W. Smith	September 16, 1954	E.R.E., U.K.
195	22309544	Sgt.	J. Martin, M.M.	January 12, 1955	1 Mx.
220	5437863	Sgt.	E. Brooks	February 12, 1955	1 E. Surreys
221	22259650	Sgt.	F. Potts	December 13, 1955	1 R.W.K.
225	22541352	Sgt.	R. Buckley	December 15, 1955	E.R.E., U.K.
231	22549082	Sgt.	P. Amor	February 3, 1956	S.A.S. Regt.
242	22276303	Sgt.	R. Clements	May 22, 1956	1 Mx.
256	14465101	Sgt.	R. Power	September 22, 1956	E.R.E., Overseas
259	22375925	Sgt.	K. Lloyd	December 3, 1956	1 Mx.
262	22221320	Sgt.	K. Partridge	December 3, 1956	1 Mx.
265	22588606	Sgt.	D. Lagden	December 3, 1956	1 Mx.
266	22562397	Sgt.	E. Langford	December 3, 1956	E.R.E., U.K.
268	19038760	Sgt.	D. Grimes	December 3, 1956	1 Mx.
275	22787149	Sgt.	C. Orme	March 7, 1957	1 Mx.
280	22774695	Sgt.	M. Elston	March 7, 1957	7 Mx.
	6202942	Sgt.	B. LeMaitre	October 10, 1957	8 Mx.
	22812279	Sgt.	R. Ford	November 7, 1957	1 Mx.
	22823238	Sgt.	C. Shinn	November 7, 1957	1 Mx.
	23526228	Sgt.	H. Horder	September 10, 1957	Depot
ORDERLY ROOM SERGEANTS					
	6202735	W.O.2	E. Colebeck	January 1, 1957	1 Mx.
	14476433	W.O.2	P. Soper, B.E.M.	January 27, 1958	Colonial Forces
	6205077	C/Sgt.	A. Taylor	March 24, 1956	Depot
DRUM MAJORS					
	2741385	C/Sgt.	J. Lewis	August 10, 1957	1 Mx.
COLOUR SERGEANTS					
	6200547	C/Sgt.	W. Grogan	December 23, 1955	H.C. Bde. Depot
BAND SERGEANTS					
	6217128	Sgt.	J. Davies	December 22, 1956	1 Mx.

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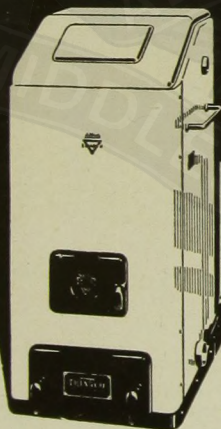
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