

The Die Hards

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



VOL. XIII No. 6

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THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN)

(57th and 77th)

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

"Mysore," "Serlingapatam," "Albuhara," "Ciladad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vitoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsula," "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," "Arras, 1917," "Amiens, 1918," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "Gravenstade," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Bellevue," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme," "Albert, 1916," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Fiers-Courcette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "Bapaume, 1917," "Arras, 1917," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "Arleux," "Ploeghem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "St. Quentin," "Rœdère," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebronne," "Bailleur," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doina, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suvla," "Landing at Suvla," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jordan," "Tell 'Asur," "Palestine 1917-18," "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murmur, 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," "Sierro Hills," "Italy, 1944-45: "Anzio," "Caraceto," "Gothic Line," "Monte Grande," "North-West Europe, 1944-45: "Normandy Landing," "Cambes," "Breville," "The Odon," "Caen," "The Orne," "Hill 112," "Bourguibus Ridge," "Troarn," "Mont Pincon," "Falaise," "The Seine, 1944," "The Nederling," "Le Havre," "The Lower Maas," "Venrai," "Meijel," "Gellenkirchen," "Venlo Pocket," "The Rhineland," "Goch," "The Reichswald," "The Rhine," "Lingen," "Brinkum," "Bremen," "Korea 1950-51," "Naktong Bridgehead," "Chonju," "Pakchon," "Chongchon II," "Chuan-Ni," "Kapyong-chon," "Kapyong."

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.

Regtl. Agents—Lloyds Bank Limited, Cox's and King's Branch, 6 Pall Mall, S.W.1.

Dominion and Colonial Alliances

CANADA

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,
Tokui, 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. Allen,
O.B.E., M.C.

Officer Commanding 8th Battalion: Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton
Officer Commanding 571 L.A.A. Regt. R.A.: Lt.-Col. J. R. Doyle, T.D.

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NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

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

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 reasons 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).



Chief Editor: Colonel A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E.

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

The Colonel of the Regiment wishes all Ranks a Very Happy
Christmas and all Good Luck in the New Year

Editor's Comments

THE PRESENT FORM OF "THE DIE-HARDS"

The Die-Hards is thirty-six years old this year. The first number was published in August, 1922, being previously published under the name of *Regimental News*, which ceased as such in 1914.

In these thirty-six years remarkably few changes, except for the cover, have taken place. *The Die-Hards* has, by choice, failed to keep pace with progress and has preserved a traditional air. In many ways this has been an excellent thing, but no publication should be allowed to stagnate, which we feel *The Die-Hards* has been inclined to do. It has been very nearly the same for so long that its indifferent points have been accepted and its form regarded as unchangeable. Furthermore, any Regimental magazine should be, first and foremost, a serious review of the Regiment's activities—tempered, albeit, with a little humour.

However, we do feel that the traditional tone of *The Die-Hards* should not be radically changed. In recent years there have been few personal contributions. We would therefore appeal for more. We also consider that *The Die-Hards* should be changing all the time. A really satisfactory form cannot suddenly be invented, but only gradually evolved. If this opinion is generally accepted, will readers please send suggestions or constructive criticism to the Editor?

RETURN OF THE 1st BATTALION

By the time this issue is published the 1st Battalion, under Lieut.-Col. Clinton Nolda, will have returned from Cyprus after three very trying and difficult years, which have been entirely spent on internal security duties in the Larnaca area, with a Company detached for over a year in Jordan.

We welcome back Lieut.-Col. Nolda, his officers,

N.C.O.s and men. They return with an excellent reputation and we are proud to know how splendidly they have carried out their thankless and frustrating task. During its three years on the island the Battalion served under two Governors—Lord Harding and later Sir Hugh Foot—both of whom personally visited the Battalion and held it in high regard.

As in Korea and now Cyprus, the "Die-Hard" tradition has been upheld. We must not forget the part played by Col. John Willoughby, who brought the Battalion from Austria and commanded for its first year in Cyprus. He was initially responsible for training the Battalion in its security role and great credit is due to him.

After a period of well-deserved leave the Battalion is to be stationed at Hamelin on the Weser, which we feel it will enjoy, being situated in such a pleasant part of Germany.

The following outstanding tribute from Sir Hugh Foot to Lieut.-Col. Clinton Nolda is printed below:

"To Lieut.-Col. D. C. L. Nolda, M.B.E.

I send to you and your Battalion a message of gratitude and admiration for the outstanding work done by the Battalion over the past three years in Cyprus, with my congratulations on a most difficult job very well done.

The Battalion has responded magnificently to every call made upon it and has set a particularly fine example in close control of an extensive area. The successes of the Battalion in captures of terrorists and arms have shown how well its work has been done.

To you personally and to your officers and men I send my special gratitude for the splendid co-operation maintained with the Administration throughout your stay on the Island and I wish all of you best of luck for the future.

HUGH FOOT, Governor."

T.A. GOLDEN JUBILEE

The Golden Jubilee of the Territorial Association was celebrated this year. H.M. The Queen reviewed detachments from all Territorial units in England and Wales in Hyde Park on Sunday, June 22, 1958. A colour party and detachments of all ranks from both our Territorial battalions took part in the review and Brigadier Gwyn was on parade in command of the detachments from Northern Command.

Both our Territorial battalions have had most encouraging success in their recruiting campaign in this Jubilee Year, and we wish them continuing success in this matter.

CURATOR OF THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

Readers will be glad to know that the Regiment has been most fortunate in gaining the services of Major Dick Smith as the Curator of its Museum. It is a most suitable appointment, as Dick Smith, known to us for 30 years, is an enthusiastic and knowledgeable Regimental historian. He cherishes our Regimental trophies and relics, and glories in the past achievements of the Regiment.

He has kindly agreed to write a series of short articles entitled "Men of the Regiment." These articles, the first of which will appear in this issue, will be about past members of the Regiment—not necessarily distinguished ones, but those who have played a notable part in the annals of the 57th and 77th Foot and later the Middlesex Regiment.

REGIMENTAL CRICKET WEEK

With the contraction of the Regular Army and the eventual disappearance of National Service, readers will be sad to know that Infantry Regimental Depots will cease to exist as such, though no firm date can yet be given to the demise of our well-loved Depot.

The repercussions of such drastic changes will be manifold, but among them will be the inevitable disappearance of that annual and enjoyable event—the Regimental Cricket Week! It has, throughout its 38 years of existence, achieved for the Regiment a very great reputation for hospitality and friendship amongst Service and civilian cricketers. Many friendships have been made on that charming and pleasant ground at Mill Hill—memories of which will linger for many of us for years to come.

However, sad as it is, it would appear that 1959 will see the end of the Cricket Week. All the usual fixtures for 1959 are confirmed, except the I Zingari, who are unable to raise a mid-week eleven and must therefore give up this fixture. We have received a very kind letter from Sir William Becher, their secretary, expressing their appreciation of our past hospitality, and stressing that memories of this match will linger also with their members for many years. Non-cricketers will please forgive this nostalgia!

REGIMENTAL HISTORY

An Order Form will be found at the front of the Journal.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

We congratulate Cpl. D. Swindells on the award of the Military Medal. He is seconded to 22 Special Air Service Regiment in Malaya. The citation says Cpl. Swindells displayed great courage and devotion to duty during a series of engagements with jungle terrorists, against whom he proved himself to be an outstanding Patrol Commander.

We also congratulate Capt. Flavell, Capt. Marciandi (lately Adjutant 1st Battalion) and C.S.M. Bartle, all of whom have recently been mentioned in despatches in recognition of gallant and distinguished service in Cyprus (*London Gazette*, September 30, 1958).

As we go to press, news has just been received that Lt. John Hewson has been awarded the Military Cross for bravery on operations in Cyprus. The detailed citation has not yet appeared in the *London Gazette*. Well done, and our sincere congratulations! John Hewson is the son of Lt.-Col. Hewson—a former officer of the Regiment.

LORD MAYOR ELECT OF LONDON

We feel sure that readers will be interested and proud to know that Sir Harold Gillett is to be the next Lord Mayor of London. He was a former Territorial Officer of the Regiment, having served with the 7th Battalion in the First World War, with whom he gained the Military Cross and was twice mentioned in despatches. Since then he has always taken an active interest in the 7th Battalion, whose Band and Drums will take part this year in the Lord Mayor's Show, the general theme of which, instigated by Sir Harold, will be "The Territorial Army." Our good wishes to him in his great office.

Perhaps it is apt, when mentioning the City of London and the 7th Battalion, to remind readers that the present Bishop of London, Dr. Montgomery Campbell, was formerly Chaplain to the 7th Battalion, with whom he also gained the Military Cross. The 7th Battalion are justly proud of two such distinguished contemporaries.

NIJMEGEN MARCHES

We commend to our readers' notice the excellent notes published in this issue by the 8th Battalion in which is given a vivid and most interesting account of their participation in the Nijmegen Marches—an international event which takes place annually in Holland. From reading this account, great credit is obviously due to the C.O., Lt.-Col. Brotherton, who inspired and personally led the 8th Battalion team. Our best wishes to them for next year, and to the 7th Battalion who also intend to take part.

HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE NEWS LETTER

Elsewhere will be seen a News Letter from Col. Grace, the Brigade Colonel. This is a welcome contribution, as it will help serving readers to keep abreast with affairs in the Home Counties Brigade. Moreover, it throws light on the future of our Regimental Depot, which will be mentioned in the Depot Notes. Apart from this, it is not for us to comment on the decisions

reached by the Council of Colonels. Readers, however, may wonder whether this News Letter is the first step towards a Home Counties Brigade publication.

STEADY THE DRUMS AND FIFES

The Regimental Council have decided that the picture "Steady the Drums and Fifes" depicting the 57th Foot drawn up under fire on the ridge of Albuhera, is well worth producing by a first-class colour process so that it may be placed on sale to all members of the Regiment. The painting is by Lady Butler and is the property of the 1st Battalion, and is in the Depot Officers' Mess.

The size of the actual picture printed on the reproduction will be 15 in. by 20 in. on white paper approximately 19 in. by 24 in.

The cost of the picture supplied in suitable tube for posting, surface mail paid, will be £1 each. Picture will only be despatched on receipt of cash, cheque, money or postal order made out to Middlesex Regimental Association, and addressed Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Golf

May 7, 1959: Spring Golf Meeting, Hendon.

Cricket

Sat., June 13, v. Free Foresters, Mill Hill.
Sun. " 14, v. Hampstead Heathens, Mill Hill.
Mon. " 15, v. Cryptics, Mill Hill.
Tues. " 16, v. Incogniti, Mill Hill.
Wed. " 17, v. Sandhurst Wanderers.

REGIMENTAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Regimental Council draws the attention of all officers to the fact that one Bankers' Order will suffice for subscriptions to:

	£	s.	d.	
Association	..	1	1	0 (minimum)
Officers' Club	..	1	1	0
Journal	..	5	0	
	£2	7	0	

HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE LETTER

No. 1

The Council of Colonels (about whom more elsewhere) have, in their wisdom, decreed that all regimental journals should, once every quarter (or at any other moment which may be suitable to each Editor) include a Home Counties Brigade Letter, containing news of general interest about the Brigade. They have also suggested to the Brigade Colonel that he should write the letter, thereby letting drop one of the biggest hints on record. What follows in this, and subsequent letters, must therefore be regarded as a direct result of that decree and as a follow-up of that suggestion; your correspondent craves the indulgence of his readers (should there conceivably happen to be any) for the

inclusion of items in which they themselves are not the slightest bit interested.

There is, in fact, much to tell; so much, indeed, that it is hard to know exactly where to start this first letter. Perhaps one of the safest places is at the Council of Colonels already referred to. This is an august body of six distinguished retired officers which, under the chairmanship of one of their number, known as the Representative Colonel—an appointment which changes annually—and with the assistance and connivance of the Brigade Colonel, meets at regular intervals in order to make decisions and to initiate action on the many matters concerning the Brigade and its future. The chairmanship of the Council changed at the beginning of September, General Sir Lashmer G. Whistler, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., D.L., Colonel, The Royal Sussex Regiment, succeeding Brigadier G. R. P. Roupell, V.C., C.B., D.L., Colonel, The East Surrey Regiment, as Representative Colonel.

The other four members of the Council are: Maj.-Gen. J. Y. Whitfield, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., Colonel, The Queen's Royal Regiment; Maj.-Gen. V. Boucher, C.B., C.B.E., Colonel, The Buffs; Lt.-Gen. Sir William P. Oliver, K.C.B., O.B.E., D.L., Colonel, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment; Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C., D.L., Colonel, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).

Their many achievements, not only in the military sphere but in the wider one of public service, are already well known and greatly respected. The Brigade is more than fortunate in having such a Council to rule its destiny.

One of the major decisions made at the most recent meeting of the Council concerned the Brigade title. This was a difficult matter, to which much thought had been given in the past, and the suggestions as to the correct answer to the problem had been as numerous as they had been varied. "Cinque Ports," "Downland," "Churchill's," "Elizabethan," "The Queen's Brigade"—these, and many others, had all had their advocates. All also, in the opinion of the Council, had their disadvantages and all were, after due consideration, rejected. To nobody, unfortunately, came that sudden blinding flash of inspiration from which would have emerged the perfect title. In consequence the decision was made to retain, at all events for the time being, the one title—The Home Counties Brigade—on which all were agreed though with varying degrees of enthusiasm. In announcing this decision, however, the Council made it clear to the War Office that their recommendation was without prejudice to an alteration at a later date, should a more suitable title be forthcoming. Although there is no fifty guinea prize for thinking up such a title, the individual who eventually does so is obviously destined to go far.

That decision having been made, for better or worse, it was but a short step for the Council to agree on the Brigade cap badge. This also was a matter on which considerable research, many consultations, innumerable drawings, paintings and photographs, and a great deal of time had previously been spent, but the final result—the Saxon crown, the upward-pointing sword and the inscribed scroll underneath, the whole in silver plate

(for officers) and in silver anodised aluminium (for other ranks)—has been welcomed and approved on all sides. No matter whether it is worn in peaked cap or beret, there is no doubt that the badge looks good; it is a well-designed, workmanlike and distinctive emblem. In conjunction with the Brigade button, which bears the crown and the sword but not the inscribed scroll, the insignia of the Brigade cannot fail to make those who will be privileged to do so extremely proud to wear it.

It must, by now, be common knowledge that the Headquarters of the Home Counties Brigade is already established in Wemyss Barracks at Canterbury, albeit in somewhat embryonic form at the moment. What the future holds can be summarised briefly by saying that in the period between now and approximately the end of 1961 the Regimental Depots of the six Regiments which at present comprise the Home Counties Brigade will close down; and that the Brigade Depot will be set up, with its full complement of officers and other ranks, in the spring of 1960.

The first of the two amalgamations of Regiments which are to take place within the Brigade is due towards the end of 1959, when the Queen's Royal Regiment and the East Surrey Regiment amalgamate to form the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. The date of the other amalgamation, that of The Buffs and the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, is not at present definitely known, but the chances are that it will take place during 1961. A decision as to the name which the County Regiment of Kent will take is still and eagerly awaited.

The home of the Brigade Depot will, for a time, be in both Wemyss and Howe Barracks at Canterbury. When, however, the latter has had various alterations and additions made to it the whole Depot will have its permanent home there. Plans are already being made and Siting Boards being held to determine just exactly what is required to house the full establishment. Is it wishful thinking to say that the permanent home will be set up by the end of 1962? Maybe it is. But there is little doubt that, when the last workman has come back for his tools for the last time and has left the site, the Home Counties Brigade Depot will be housed in one of the finest barracks in the country, a thoroughly fitting place for such an establishment, at which both officers and men alike, no matter from which of the four County Regiments they may come, will be proud to serve.

To bring this first letter to a close it may, perhaps, be not without interest to give a short list, by Regiments and in tabular form, of those officers and warrant officers who, because they are persons of note within their own Regiments, are *ipso facto* Home Counties Brigade personalities. Here it is:

1ST BATTALION	
QUEENS	
C.O.	.. Lt.-Col. D. L. Lloyd-Owen, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C.
2IC	.. Major C. J. D. Haswell
Adj.	.. Capt. M. F. Reynolds
Q.M.	.. Capt. J. W. Kemp
R.S.M.	.. G. Mileham
B/M.	.. W. C. Lynes

BUFFS	
C.O.	.. Lt.-Col. E. L. C. Edlmann, M.C.
2IC	.. Major F. de R. Morgan, M.C.
Adj.	.. Capt. C. T. F. West
Q.M.	.. Capt. A. H. Catt
R.S.M.	.. J. Rose
B/M.	.. T. Le M. Sharpe

SURREYS	
C.O.	.. Lt.-Col. C. O'N. Wallis, M.C.
2IC	.. Major P. E. C. Andrews
Adj.	.. Capt. G. G. Strong
Q.M.	.. Capt. G. C. Forman
R.S.M.	.. F. B. Oram
B/M.	.. W. Snowden

ROYAL SUSSEX	
C.O.	.. Lt.-Col. J. B. A. Glennie, D.S.O., O.B.E.
2IC	.. Major J. R. G. Stanton, M.B.E.
Adj.	.. Capt. N. B. Knockner
Q.M.	.. Lt. E. A. McCarthy
R.S.M.	.. D. Houghton
B/M.	.. A. E. Kelly

ROYAL WEST KENT	
C.O.	.. Lt.-Col. A. J. M. Flint, M.B.E.
2IC	.. Major M. G. M. Archer, M.C.
Adj.	.. Capt. K. Dodson
Q.M.	.. Major A. G. Blake, M.C.
R.S.M.	.. A. G. Parker
B/M.	.. R. G. Watkins

MIDDLESEX	
C.O.	.. Lt.-Col. D. C. L. Nolda, M.B.E.
2IC	.. Major I. R. Burrows, O.B.E.
Adj.	.. Capt. B. A. M. Pielow
Q.M.	.. Capt. A. E. F. Waldron, M.B.E.
R.S.M.	.. J. McMillan
B/M.	.. F. A. Jackson

QUEENS	
C.O.	.. Major R. S. N. Mans, M.B.E.
Trg. Major	.. Capt. R. B. Johnson
Adj.	.. Capt. P. C. Collyer
Q.M.	.. Capt. J. E. Griffin
R.S.M.	.. H. Atkins

BUFFS	
C.O.	.. Major E. G. Cox, M.C.
Trg. Major	.. Major A. D. Peckham
Adj.	.. Capt. J. M. Lunn
Q.M.	.. Major E. H. Watts, M.B.E.
R.S.M.	.. R. L. Sharman

SURREYS	
C.O.	.. Major R. C. Taylor
Trg. Major	.. Major F. S. H. D. Branker
Adj.	.. Capt. G. Mason
Q.M.	.. Major J. C. Cox, M.B.E.
R.S.M.	.. P. Collman

ROYAL SUSSEX	
C.O.	.. Major P. S. Newton, M.B.E.
Trg. Major	.. Major P. M. Lawson
Adj.	.. Capt. J. A. W. Hyde
Q.M.	.. Major F. A. Day, M.B.E.
R.S.M.	.. F. Hill, M.B.E.

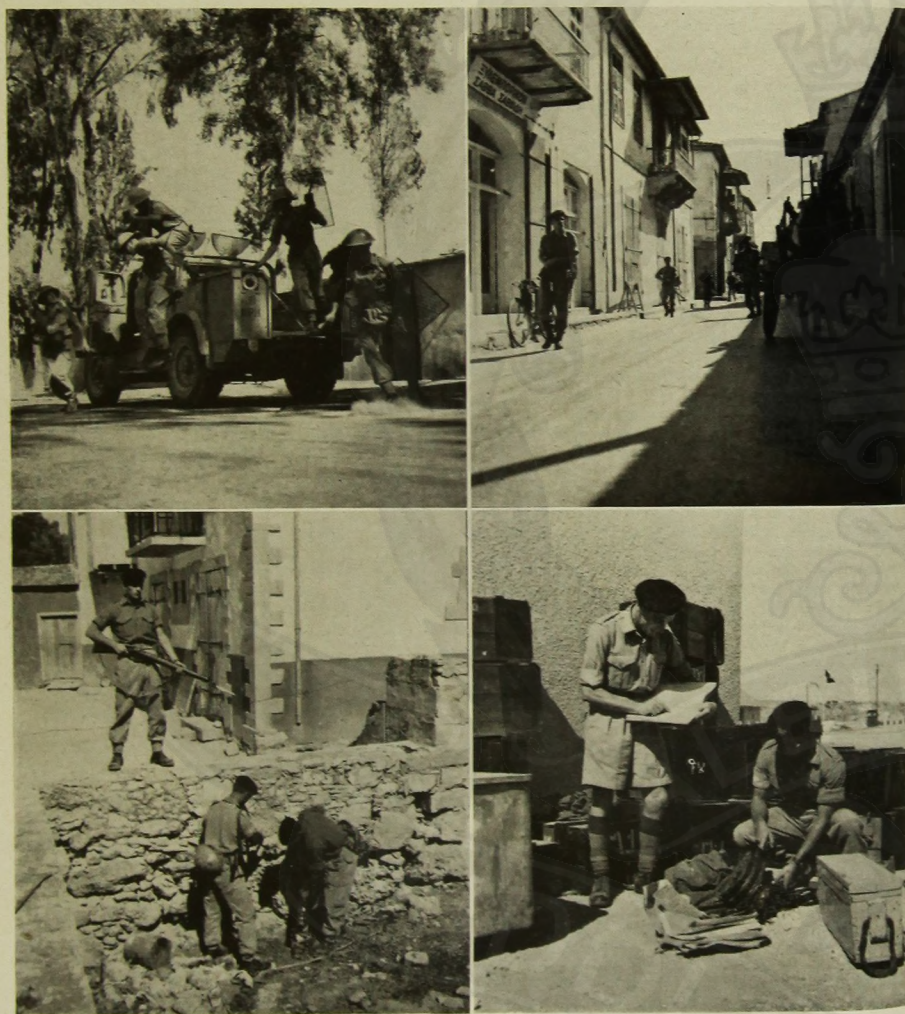
ROYAL WEST KENT	
C.O.	.. Major G. U. Weymouth, M.B.E.
Trg. Major	.. Major V. C. Abplanalp
Adj.	.. Capt. P. R. Stock, M.B.E.
Q.M.	.. Capt. S. V. Stephens
R.S.M.	.. G. V. K. Watts

MIDDLESEX	
C.O.	.. Major I. H. Battye, M.B.E.
Trg. Major	.. Capt. P. A. S. Wollocombe
Adj.	.. Capt. M. V. Hayward
Q.M.	.. Capt. S. C. W. Weller, M.M.
R.S.M.	.. A. Kenrick

BIRTH

FISHER.—On October 5, at Kumasi Central Hospital, Kumasi, Ghana, to Joan (nee Armstrong), wife of Capt. Ronald Fisher, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), a daughter (Elizabeth Susan), a sister for Stephen.

A Photographic "Final Round-up" for Cyprus



Top left: Riot section debussing.

Bottom left: Searching for terrorist arms.

Top right: Foot patrol in Larnaca.

Bottom right: Packing up for Germany.

1st Battalion Notes

Although the Company and other notes which follow were written before leaving Cyprus, this editorial is being written on the troopship *Dunera* as the Battalion moves slowly towards England through a very calm and blue Mediterranean. The calm is in complete contrast to the latter stages of its tour in Cyprus. Many of those who read this will have experienced a "change of station" and know all the hard work and difficulties involved in moving some 600 soldiers and 40 families from one point to another. But this particular move was complicated by the fact that the Battalion remained operationally involved in Internal Security duties in Cyprus up to the last moment, and carried out a major operation even after its G 1098 equipment had been handed in to Ordnance. It seemed hardly possible after three years in Cyprus that our stay there was really over, and it was not until we were securely on the boat and suddenly felt a relaxation in the tension that has been part of our lives for so long, that our departure became a reality to us.

Now that we have left, some sort of epitaph on our three years in Cyprus should be written. But it is too soon to make the attempt. Even in a few months from now the alchemy of time will have gilded over our memories, highlighted the pleasanter moments, and sweetened some of the bitterness that has clouded our last few months. For bitterness there has been; our hopes have been raised so many times by this or that "plan," by truces, by successes, by the firm belief that such folly could not possibly continue indefinitely; that sooner or later someone would say "This situation is absurd beyond belief; why don't we all settle down peacefully and enjoy life?"; and every time we have been plunged back into deeper and murkier abysses of strife.

On the surface the situation in Cyprus has never looked blacker. EOKA appears to be stronger than ever; the Greek population is so completely dominated by it that they have no independent judgment and fear is paramount. Goodwill between the Security Forces and the population has almost disappeared.

But there is a brighter side to the picture. The rule of law is still supreme and the Security Forces are very much in control of the Island. The power of EOKA to do harm is strictly limited, and is mainly against their own people; the propaganda value of their atrocities is out of all proportion to their historical significance. The Prime Minister's Plan which is now being put into effect is a good and just one, and if it is applied with determination there is every hope that it will succeed. The Cyprus problem is no longer our direct concern. We pray that a solution will be found, and quickly, and we wish those whom we leave behind all good fortune in their endeavours.

For our own part the Battalion can look back with pride on the role it has played in Cyprus. For three years it has been responsible for the Larnaca district, and during that time there has never been any doubt

as to which side was in control of the situation there. We have carried out innumerable operations, many of them at short notice and at night, and at the same time have kept up ceaselessly the heavy burden of routine patrolling, guards, and the training that has been so essential in keeping us fit to carry out our operational duties. The list of successes in arrests and discoveries of arms and ammunition is too long to enumerate. We remember certain of them with particular pride; the capture of Rossides and his gang in March, 1957; our spectacular success in Operation "Matchbox" in July; and the patrol described in the last issue in which Lt. Hewson and his men killed one of the terrorists who ambushed them.

Our very last day in Cyprus was made even more memorable by the announcement that for his gallant action Lt. Hewson had been awarded the Military Cross.

Another point that must be made, particularly in view of recent publicity on the subject, is that never in our tour have there been any suggestions of brutality or atrocities made against the Battalion. The Cypriots of Larnaca have always received fair treatment, and they knew that any genuine complaint about damage to crops or buildings done during searches, often unavoidably, would be adequately compensated.

Modesty prevents us saying more about ourselves, but we may without embarrassment quote from the farewell messages sent to us on our departure. The Governor, Sir Hugh Foot, spoke to the Commanding Officer in very flattering terms, and the Deputy Governor, Mr. Sinclair, wrote to him:

"This is to wish you and your Regiment a good voyage and the best of good fortune in Germany. . . . We shall all miss you very sadly, especially those of us who have had the pleasure of working with you and your Regiment during the last three years. For your own part you can look back with great pride on what you have achieved in Larnaca: you have dominated the terrorists to such an extent that Larnaca is now by far the quietest district and you have maintained good relations with all communities in the district even while you have been engaged in this heavy task of restoring respect for law and order. For our part we shall miss greatly the strong support which your Regiment has been in the whole I.S. campaign during the last three years. . . ."

The Commander-in-Chief, Middle East Land Forces, signalled:

"Now that you are leaving my command I should like to congratulate and thank you and all ranks on the excellent work you have done during three years in Cyprus. You have had a difficult job to do and you have carried it out efficient and cheerfully. . . ."

Major-Gen. Kendrew had visited the Battalion for a personal farewell just before his departure, when he addressed a parade and expressed his appreciation of the Battalion's work. His successor, Major-Gen. Darling, who had only just arrived in Cyprus, visited

the boat just before it sailed and spoke to all ranks over the ship's tannoy.

We have been particularly fortunate in respect of casualties. No member of the Battalion has died as a result of terrorist action, and only a few minor injuries have been suffered. The day before we sailed wreaths were laid on the graves of Cpl. Debley and Pte. Thompson, both of whom died in traffic accidents, and on that of Capt. M. T. Beagley who was killed in a forest fire while serving with the 3rd Parachute Battalion.

In addition to Lt. Hewson's Military Cross, the following are also congratulated on awards announced in September:—

Mention in Despatches:

Capt. J. S. C. Flavell.
Capt. B. H. Marciandi.
W.O.2 S. Bartle.

Commander-in-Chief's Certificate:

W.O.1 M. Wild.

In a tour of duty almost entirely lacking in ceremonial we were determined to end up with something spectacular. That we were able to do so is greatly to the credit of the Band and Drums, and in particular to Bandmaster Jackson and Drum Major Lewis, who Beat Retreat on October 17 on the Battalion Square. They put on a magnificent performance, which the experts say was never bettered in Austrian days. Unfortunately the situation on the Island prevented anyone outside the local area from attending, but large numbers of Dhekelia Garrison greatly appreciated the display, and Mr. Sinclair, the Deputy Governor, was able to attend and receive the fanfare that was originally intended for the Governor.

TRAINING

As ever in Cyprus it has been a great struggle to find time for training in the press of urgent duties. But time has been found, and the emphasis has been on shooting and I.S. drills, with particular emphasis on shooting at night.

The specialists have been sadly curtailed, but the Anti-Tank Platoon was able at last to fire its MOBATS and did so with great efficiency.

In September, when the last draft from England had completed its continuation training, "D" Company was disbanded. The last N.C.O.'s cadre to be held in Cyprus was run by "H.Q." Company.

SPORT

Details of sports played during the quarter, again all too few, are given later. But we must here congratulate the Battalion Cricket Team on its splendid victory in the District Championship, and the Swimming Team on being the runners-up to 37 Field Engineer Regiment.

It is notable that in our last year in Cyprus we have, despite all our other commitments, won the cricket, hockey and squash championships, been runners-up in the swimming and panethlon, and reached the finals of the athletics. We have not been able to delve back very far in our records, but certainly this is the finest



THE CRICKET TEAM THAT WON THE CYPRUS DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP

Standing (left to right): 2/Lt. Pickard, Pte. Young, Pte. Hudson, 2/Lt. Waters (captain), Sgt. Raffael, 2/Lt. Dobson, Cpl. Torrie.

Kneeling (left to right): Pte. Pasqual, Lt. Gaston, 2/Lt. Macmillan, L/Cpl. Bird.

year for sport that we have had since the 1st and 2nd Battalions were amalgamated in 1948. We hope this augurs well for Germany, where the competition will be keener than in Cyprus, but where we shall correspondingly be able to train properly for each event.

PERSONALITIES

On October 6 Major E. F. Thompson, M.C., T.D., handed over the duties of 2IC and Band President which he had filled with conspicuous success, and left to take up a staff appointment in Northern Ireland. Major I. R. Burrows, O.B.E., was appointed to succeed him, and has now joined our Advance Party to Germany. But hardly had he done so when we received the news that he is to go to Moscow in March, 1959, as Military Attaché with the temporary rank of Colonel and the local rank of Brigadier. While we are most sorry to lose him so soon, we congratulate him on this well-deserved appointment and promotion.

Capt. A. D. C. Eales has left on secondment to the East Aden Protectorate Levies; no doubt he shall soon begin to hear tales of "Eales of Arabia." Capt. R. M. Cain has left to take up the appointment of Adjutant to the Hong Kong Regiment. Lt. P. McRae has stayed in Cyprus to finish his short service engagement with the Security Control Detachment.

National Service officers to leave have been 2/Lts. Hawes, Sidnell, Melville and Pickard. Without in any way belittling the performance of the others, all of whom have given us fine service, we must pay special tribute to the outstanding work done by 2/Lt. Pickard. For the past ten months he has had the difficult, responsible and very tiring task of running the Opera-

tions Room in Larnaca as Battalion and Area Intelligence Officer. He has carried out his work with the greatest distinction and our successes in and domination over Larnaca area have been in no small measure due to his efforts. His work, his prowess on the sports field, his unflinching good humour and his enormous presence have set a standard which it will be hard for any young officer, Regular or National Service, to surpass.

After two and a half years as Adjutant—he claims this is a post-war record and no-one has bothered to deny it—Capt. B. H. Marciandi has given place to Capt. B. A. M. Pielow. For the last ten days in Cyprus he remained at Battalion Headquarters as "Battle Adjutant" in order to deal with purely I.S. matters, allowing Capt. Pielow to deal unhampered with the problems of embarking the Battalion.

W.O.1 Wild has been R.S.M. of the Battalion since 1954, and it is with great regret that we now wish him farewell and all good fortune in his appointment as R.S.M. of the 8th Battalion. These moves are inevitable and we hope that we shall in due course see him with the Battalion again. At the same time we look forward to the arrival of R.S.M. Macmillan in Germany with every confidence that he will maintain the high standards achieved at all times by Mr. Wild.

"H.Q." COMPANY

This quarter seems to have passed slowly, but in a matter of days we shall thankfully see the last of this embittered island. The Company has worked extremely hard and in addition has done its share of snapchecking and patrolling, Inlying Platoons and guards.

Now the Band and Drums are energetically preparing for the Beating Retreat ceremony on October 17, our last parade in Cyprus. The M.T. Platoon and the Signallers expect to remain operational until the last, but they are finding time and manpower to pack their boxes. The cooks, the waiters, the Q.M.'s staff are all working overtime, especially now that the advance party of the Welch Regiment has arrived in our midst. It is a time of feverish activity and excitement.

There have been a lot of changes during the quarter, too numerous to mention here, but all have helped to maintain the splendid standard of cheerfulness and efficiency in either operational matters or static administration. Now we look forward to England and then to Germany.

Corps of Drums

Despite a valiant effort to delay writing these notes until after Beating Retreat, the Editor has demanded their submission before we have the opportunity of blowing our trumpet on paper. It can only be said that a lot of hard work has been put into the rehearsals and that much progress has been made since we last Beat Retreat. On the recent dress rehearsal it looked as though the weeks of practice would produce a first-class show.

"Send for the tracker dog and Drums" was the cry which followed both the Voroklini and Troulli ambushes, and these two invaluable support groups duly turned out. The reason for linking us with the tracker dog

must spring from the sight of the Drum-Major faithfully following his pet hound round the barracks.

A new Drum-Major's sash has just been bought, and a very fine one it is. This replaces the 2nd Battalion sash, which has been in use in the 1st Battalion since the amalgamation of the two Battalions. The new sash will be on parade for the first time when we Beat Retreat this month.

Cpl. Meehan retired for a short while to have his appendix removed, but is now back and fit for duty, and L/Cpl. Rigden has been, after many years, promoted. L/Cpl. and Mrs. Rigden are also to be congratulated on the birth of a son, and we congratulate Cpl. Heath on his well-deserved promotion.

We welcome Dmrs. Delaney, Blake, Marquiss and Kenny, and congratulate Kenny on transferring to a Regular engagement despite being struck down by a pill bottle in the M.I. Room.

We are all now looking forward to some leave, and to Germany beyond that. With all except Dmrs. Eyley and Shelton going to Germany we shall still have all our N.C.O.s and the experience of the Davis Duo (Drums and Liquorice Stick). We all look forward to setting up in friendly competition with the Pied Piper in the streets of Hamelin and to the time when a "night on the town" does not mean helping "S" Company in the streets of Larnaca.

M.T. Platoon

The last quarter has been a notably busy one for the Battalion. Patrols, roadblocks, etc., made heavy demands upon the M.T. Platoon, and practically everyone had his finger in the pie in some form or another. Our days in Cyprus are numbered and preparations for the move to the U.K. and for leave are in full swing. We expect to be operational to the bitter end.

Sgt. "Fanny" Gibbs has left us and no more will the cry "But I can't do it, Sir" be heard from the M.T. Office. Our loss will be the Battalion Headquarters gain for he is joining the Orderly Room Staff. As usual there have been many changes in the Platoon during the past quarter. 2/Lt. Morden and Ptes. Dowdell, Daborn, Fryatt and Seymour have all left for civilian life; and various Companies have gained Cpl. Berndes and Ptes. King, Reber, Sach, Short, Smith (62), Simper, Willis and White. We wish them all good luck. However, we have received many replacements whom we welcome to the Platoon.

Finally we would like to say thank you to our Sergeant Fitter, Sgt. Ward, who is staying in Cyprus, for all his hard work. We hope that he and Mrs. Ward will call on us whenever it is possible.

Q.M.'s Department

During the last few weeks occasions have been many when the stores have looked like the London chain shops after their clearance sales, for as much kit as possible has been returned either to its source or sent on to its ultimate destination. Chaos, however, has not reigned. To the casual observer it might appear that there is a continuous line of trucks from the barracks to Famagusta rolling through the night, and

carrying with it sunken-eyed gentlemen with write-off vouchers and 1033s. The pioneer shop has been kept very busy making boxes, crates and butter-pans in preparation for the Unit move; our signwriter is reported to be seeing "Hamelin, 1 MX, BFPO 33" in nightmares.

The fact that the Companies have been receiving their fair share of food and drink, and not Aerosol bombs, BDs, blankets or binding wire, has been largely due to the faultless efficiency of the staff, and in particular the Ration Storeman, whose job has been made very much more difficult by the Internal Security situation.

The departure of the Advance Party affected us at least as much as any other department, and more than most, for with it we lost the valuable services of the R.Q.M.S. and Ptes. Thomas, Bennett, Ross and Rose. The absence of Cpl. Mortimore was keenly felt in the G 1098 store, where his expert knowledge would have been invaluable; no doubt, however, Pte. Ross will strive to emulate his fine example.

Owing to the I.S. situation the staff have had little opportunity to show their skill on the sports field. Perhaps things will change when we arrive in Germany.

For administration, accommodation and general assistance we welcome respectively Sgts. Orme and Henshaw and L/Cpl. Boosey to the staff; these are temporary appointments, unless the first takes root and the others sign on—readers may judge the possibility of either.

The distant rumble, that with ears akimbo might just be heard, is not, as you might think, the approach of the rainy season but the rapidly nearing feet of men wanting M.F.O. forms.

Signals Platoon

As with the rest of the Battalion, members of the Platoon found themselves caught up in the general turmoil that ensued with the renewal of hostilities. The fraternity were soon flung far and wide away from the "all mod. con." of Alexander Barracks to various remote outstations, and were allowed to grow long in tooth and hair undisturbed by a zealous provost. From reports we gather that the majority enjoyed living in the primitive conditions—in fact the more primitive the better they thrived. A somewhat obvious moral suggests itself, but perhaps it is more expedient not to mention it.

As a reward for their services a large proportion of the Platoon have been spending their fortunes on riotous living, making use of their leave at the fashionable resorts of Kyrenia and Famagusta.

The move to Germany in the near future is occupying a great proportion of our working hours, and for many a long day and night the stores have been the centre of frenzied activity. We have already bade farewell to Sgt. Pritchard and the Advance Party.

C/Sgt. Michel has finally left the Platoon, much to our regret, having returned to H.Q. Stores prior to a drill course. His knowledge and experience of matters signal are unbounded and nothing was ever too difficult or too much trouble for him. It was due largely to his efforts that we got such an excellent report on the

recent annual R.E.M.E. inspection. We wish him the very best of luck for the future.

We are fortunate to be able to report that when a Signal one-ton vehicle somersaulted down the side of a mountain road recently there were no serious injuries. Batteries, 19 sets, a charging engine and Signallers contributed to the general chaos, and in the resulting melee "Flash" Guilding sustained a broken wrist and Sgt. Pritchard spent a week in hospital badly bruised. "Flash" was subsequently evacuated back to Blighty, so we do not feel he has done so badly after all.

Finally we are pleased to note the return of a prodigal, Cpl. Howlett from "D" Company. We would like to congratulate him on his promotion, as also Cpls. Day, Gurney and Wilmot on their well-deserved second stripes. The calibre of L/Cpls. Turton and Owen is in no doubt, after they returned to us from an N.C.O.s' cadre, first and second with "B" gradings. We regretfully say goodbye to Cpl. Tassell, L/Cpl. Byllam-Barnes, and P.es. Bingley, Parfett, Rule, Rickus and Addison, whose two years "time" are just about up.

Finally we must mention Pte. Herbert who protested loudly last quarter to the effect that he would be more inclined to buy a Journal if his name was mentioned in it. As Herbert's name has now been mentioned twice, we will expect him to buy two copies of this issue.

THE BAND

During our nearly completed stay in Cyprus the members of the Band have been perhaps the most widely travelled group in the whole Battalion, and there must be few towns, camps, even private homes who have not at some time or other listened to us.

Our numerous concerts, dances and broadcasts have, we hope, helped to foster the good relationships that the Battalion has achieved during our stay here.

We in the Band have met and made many new friends, and it will be with some feeling of regret that we shall bid them farewell at the end of October.

When H.M.T. *Dunera* leaves Famagusta Harbour we will look back on what has been the most unusual "musical" tour the Band has ever undertaken.

Few though they now be, all ex-Austrianites will welcome the thought of moving to our new station in Germany. Once discarded language dictionaries have now come to light, with the result that frantic brushing up of the more useful German phrases has been going on.

Upon our arrival in the U.K. and before the move to B.A.O.R. we will lose four of our Old Faithfuls, namely, Sgt. Davies and L/Cpl. Lester, who make up our complete French horn section, and also Bdsms. Woolley and Glanville, all of whom return to civilian life.

The Band's one gain this quarter has been Bdsms. Coleman, who came from a Duty Company and is now on the second cornet stand.

In the sporting line the Band has once again been well to the fore. We have had a representative in the Battalion Cricket XI (Cpl. Torrie) and Bdsms. Mears, Cox, Eldred and Halley in the Swimming Team.

To Kneller Hall this year we sent Bdsms. Routledge and Hazell, and we trust they will uphold the very fine record set by past members.

This August saw us once again up in the Troodos Mountains at the "Pine Trees" Family Leave Centre, where we entertained the residents to a series of morning concerts and evening dances during our stay—a week which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

On October 1 we bade farewell to our Band President, Major E. F. Thompson, M.C., T.D., who leaves us to take up a new appointment at Northern Ireland District. We wish him the very best of good fortune in his new post.

Major I. R. Burrows, O.B.E., as the Battalion's new 2IC, takes over as Band President.

To conclude on a humorous note, it is well to mention the incident which befell our erstwhile third horn player, Bdsms. Fairbrass. Recently, whilst acting as a vehicle escort, he was a little too keen and had his rifle protruding too far from the side of the truck. An oncoming lorry struck the rifle barrel, wrapped it round the canopy bars and smashed into "Noddy's" arm, shattering his muscles and putting him in hospital for a spell.

As it will be about the time of the year when you will be reading these notes, may we in closing wish all ex-members a very merry Christmas and a prosperous and musical New Year.

"A" COMPANY

The first week in July saw the Company at Browne Camp in Larnaca, from which extensive patrolling both in vehicles and on foot was carried out. As special attention was paid to the Greek-Turkish boundary line, those members of the Company who had not already done so accumulated a wealth of knowledge about the two communities usually associated with London taxi drivers; that is, not only a near perfect knowledge of the streets, alleys and rooftops of the town, but also some of the more personal habits of the inhabitants!

After a week in Alexander Barracks as Duty Company we returned once again to Browne Camp, a tour which was cut short after four days. As trouble was once more brewing up all over the Island, it was found necessary to send Platoons out on detachment to trouble areas. Intensive patrolling was carried out from these areas which proved to be of great value. Several subsequent weeks were spent quite pleasantly at Athienou Police Station, schools at Kellia and Goshi, Kiti Police Station and Kalokhorio.

During the latter half of July No. 2 Platoon were established at Athienou where they had the misfortune to be entangled in a police ambush and the murder of a Greek shepherd. A great experience, however, and the standard of alertness improved considerably. The rest of the Company then joined No. 2 Platoon at Athienou to carry out part of two large-scale island-wide operations, in which we were supported by 6R.T. and 625 Ord. took part. The first, Operation "Matchbox," for which the Company was based at Athienou, was a round-up of all known supporters of EOKA. During this, the Company worked in Athienou, Tremethousha and Arsos. The hard work of the Company and the Battalion as a whole is certainly worthy of praise, and was justified by the numbers of EOKA supporters taken in the Larnaca area.

Following close on the heels of "Matchbox" came Operation "Spray Sparkle." Once again, with the aid of lists of identity card numbers belonging to wanted men, the degree of success attained was high in the area.

On July 30 we were due to move back to barracks for a spell as Reserve Company, but for those who had been looking forward to a comparatively quiet week hopes were suddenly dashed when on the night of July 31 an "S" Company patrol was ambushed at Troulli, and the Company was once again rushed out to the scene. A cordon was thrown around Troulli and here we spent the night until joined by "B" Company the following day; together the two Companies carried out a complete cordon and search. As a result of this a quantity of gunpowder and fuse was found, and No. 2 Platoon found themselves in the *Illustrated London News*.

On August 4 we returned to what was now rapidly becoming our second home, Browne Camp. The next day, despite the cease-fire orders of Grivas, two auxiliary P.C.s were shot in Larnaca. Also on this day, though no connection could be definitely proved, Lt. Deakin rejoined the Company from U.K., this time without Cpl. Finnis, who, having done so well in the Army Pentathlon Championships at Aldershot, had been retained for further training and the Combined Services Event in September. Congratulations are certainly due to Cpl. Finnis for achieving such splendid results as a novice in only four months; we wish him the best of luck in his future competitions.

From August 12 to 18 we managed a whole week in barracks as Duty Company before once more taking on the role of Rural Patrol Company at Athienou, Kiti, Goshi and Kalokhorio (Kellia having been closed down by this time). At this stage the reins of command were handed over to Capt. Kitchener, the 2IC Company, while Capt. Flavell took a spell of well-earned leave.

On August 25 the situation throughout the Island began to brighten up and this time we managed a whole three days in camp before being whistled out to Vavla in the Western Sector, where the EOKA Area Commander, Parides, had been shot by a patrol from the Gunners. Vavla will probably be better remembered by members of "A" Company past and present, who were not with us on this occasion, as one of the seemingly endless chain of villages through which we had slogged on the night march from Lefkara to Zyyi, the previous March. Here the Company cordoned, patrolled and some members discovered the joys of cold water shaving after a 60-hour lying-up patrol, where both shaving and washing were impracticable due to the shortage of water. It is worth mentioning that at this stage "A" Company were nearly faced with a military funeral. The returning three-day patrols found that the Company had moved on to another location, and that they were in the middle of an even bigger operation (helicopter-borne). This in itself was all right, but then one patrol came face to face with the imposing figure of the M.T.O. at 4 a.m., who, not expecting to see any such movement, did not recognise the three bearded figures in bush hats, soft shoes and rucksacks and who, while muttering about the impudence of EOKA, was steadily drawing his

pistol. This slight misunderstanding was finally put right, however, and the patrol was allowed to pass unmolested.

After this excitement at Vavla we returned to barracks and the Company Commander and C.S.M. Beale returned from leave. At this point Capt. Kitchener, after his spell of command, disappeared into a state of semi-retirement in order to prepare himself for the departure of the Advance Party to Germany. A fortnight was then spent in the town, this time at Inkerman Camp with 152 Battery, R.A., during which period the Advance Party flew home and Capt. Kitchener breathed a big sigh of relief (some claim to have heard this farewell to Cyprus as far away as Larnaca, as the plane took off).

A fortnight's patrolling in the Eastern Sector brought us to October 6, where we passed into that blissful state known as Duty Company. So far, we have only been dragged out of bed once, but did not actually leave camp. With the greatest optimism in the world it is hoped that this will be the only occasion, until we leave.

During the period covered by these notes some members of the Company have found time to represent the Battalion in both swimming and cricket. C/Sgt. Morgan and Ptes. Weston (18) and (19) were part of the swimming team which came second in Nicosia in September. We applaud their efforts and results, which were attained in spite of their lack of training. In the cricket field 2/Lt. Dobson added another honour to his list when selected to play for the Army *v.* R.A.F. at Episkopi. He also represented the Company, together with Privates Hudson and Rahmatullah (49) in the Battalion team which won the Island Units Cup. Pte. Hudson was responsible for dismissing the four best batsmen in the Royal Welch Fusiliers team in the final.

During this period we said goodbye to Ptes. Crummy, Daniels and Sarjantson, who have all now completed their service. In their place we welcome Cpl. Redrup, L/Cpls. Benad and Melhuish and the return of Cpl. Argent from "D" Company. Also, the following have joined: Ptes. Woodman, Stroud, Marchant, McKenzie, Richardson, Booker, Kelly, Powell, Fox, White, King, O'Connor and Long. We also bade a temporary farewell to the following members posted to the Depot: Sgt. Blackwell, Cpl. Finnis and Pte. Overnell, who we also congratulate on his selection for the Army Swimming Team in the U.K.

Congratulations are due also to the following promotions and appointments: L/Cpls. Cockerton and Carter to Corporal, and Ptes. Lewis, Short, Melhuish, Page and Woodman to Lance-Corporal.

Finally, deserving as it does a special place of honour, we congratulate Cpl. and Mrs. Manser on the birth of their son.

At the time of writing these notes we say farewell to 2/Lt. Melville, who has commanded No. 3 Platoon for over a year and who stood in as commander of No. 1 Platoon during the absence of Lt. M. F. Deakin.

"B" COMPANY

During the past three months we have improved our knowledge of Larnaca and its rural surroundings to a



THE PARIDES HIDE

Pte. R. Willshire, "S" Platoon, "B" Company, outside the empty hide which he found during Operation "Long Tom"

very great degree. We shall probably find it more difficult next month to find our way from Camden Town to White Hart Lane to watch Spurs on Saturday afternoons than we do now to go from St. Lazarus Church to Xylophagou via the intervening trouble spots by country tracks, in the middle of a dark motionless night in search of hidden terrorists. We have patrolled unceasingly by day and by night. We have removed slogans from the walls of Xylotymbou and hunted "Leafleteers" in Troulli. We have searched buses, cars, old men on donkeys and even the camel train which makes its way weekly across the parched countryside into Larnaca town. We have lain up in ambushes around every village in the area, and we have descended under cover of darkness on their coffee shops in search of arms and wanted men.

Our effort has been enormous, our visible successes negligible. However, we are not discouraged. Even if we cannot record a long list of kills, our work has been rewarded inasmuch as no part of the area has experienced a single EOKA incident while "B" Company has been responsible for patrolling it. We can only think that when "B" Company is around the terrorists go to ground, and only reappear when less assiduous Com-

panies take over from us, and opportunity for mayhem is that much easier. This is, of course, our opinion. Needless to say it is not shared with our jealous rivals.

Even if we have had no resounding successes, we can record a long list of minor captures. Cpl. Long was responsible for the arrest of the first EOKA man to be caught in the act of nailing up one of his anti-British posters in Larnaca town. 2/Lt. Evans and a patrol of No. 6 Platoon caught a Turk in the village of Kellia engaged on grenade practice with home-made pipe-bomb grenades, while snapcheck patrols have arrested persons with leaflets and breaking curfews on many occasions. Pte. Willsher of No. 5 Platoon found the empty Parides hide during Operation "Long Tom." However, these are paltry consolation prizes and every man in the Company would give a lot for the pleasure of having a masked man in his sights for just one fleeting second. Their mood is such that even our fourth-class shots are certain that, given the opportunity, they could bring down a running terrorist on a starlight night at anything up to 150 yards.

With all these operational commitments we have still managed to find time for some training. In one fortnight, while in Battalion reserve, we fired several thousand rounds on the range, by day and by night, in simulated battle practices. We hope that this will pay dividends in due course when we return to a command where soldiers must classify annually to retain their star gradings but, even more, that should we have to fire in anger our shots will tell.

In addition, our Company football team has taken the opportunity of a few practice games, ready for the day we start the Albuhera Shield Competition again. In Germany we hope that we shall have greater opportunities for Company sport.

We have been sorry to say goodbye to many old friends during this period. This list is headed by C.S.M. Shrubbs, who is changing over appointments with C.S.M. Bartle. C.S.M. Shrubbs has been with us for nearly three years and we shall all be sorry to see him go. We welcome C.S.M. Bartle in his place. The following have left us to return to civilian life, where we wish them every success: Cpl. Paul and Ptes. Clack and Pelosi. Our new arrivals, whom we welcome to the Company, are Cpl. Boyce and Ptes. Coleman, Carey, Chapman, Snow, Floyd, Haynes, Baverstock, Thomas and Dakin.

These are the last notes to be compiled in Cyprus (on this tour of duty, at any rate). Now we are looking forward to a well-earned leave in England, and a return to more normal peacetime conditions in Germany.

"C" COMPANY

During the period covered by these notes the Company has been under the command of Major I. R. Burrows, O.B.E., Major D. Sax having returned to U.K. It has been a lively period, and it can certainly be said that Major Burrows saw all there was to see of Larnaca area during his short period of command before becoming Battalion Second-in-Command.

A great deal of our time was spent in Browne Camp, and at the beginning of July the Company, less No. 9 Platoon, was moved hurriedly from there to Athenioun

where we spent a week patrolling with a view to preventing inter-communal trouble. During this time we had one unpleasant murder of a small boy, and some quick action by 2/Lt. Bulloch produced a number of arrests for this.

After this we returned again to Browne Camp and had no sooner arrived than we were ordered to Ormidhia to carry out a cordon and search. There we spent two days based on the school building, which had a fine view overlooking the village and sea. Despite much hard work and long hours nothing came of this search. Shortly after we were again moved to Xylophagou where a further cordon and search was carried out, but without startling results. Thus the long days of long hours and hard work, without much result, which characterise I.S. operations, went by. Xylophagou was followed by cordon and search of Livadhia and Voroklini, search for arsonists in Okullar Street, and a cordon and search of Lazarus Square following a murder. Every now and then one gets one's reward, and during one of these searches a cache of bombs was found by a detachment of No. 8 Platoon under Cpl. McNicholas in a house in the Turkish quarter. He was assisted in this by L/Cpl. Shave and Ptes. Dawson, Sims, Buckley, Gibbons and Thornton. The latter found in addition some ammunition behind a picture on the wall. So much for Larnaca and environs. Our next operation followed quickly in the area of Vavla in the Western Sector.

This operation was an attempt to capture an EOKA mountain group which appeared to be in a hide on the outskirts of Vavla. For this a number of parties were to be organised and dropped in different places from helicopters, and these parties were drawn from "C" Company. 2/Lt. Bulloch commanded the first group which was flown from Nicosia in four helicopters and dropped just as the sun was rising. A second group under 2/Lt. Montgomery was picked up from the hillside near Vavla and dropped in the area of the suspected hide a few minutes later. This operation was highly interesting and was tackled with great enthusiasm by all ranks. Later in the morning the hide was found, but unfortunately it was empty. The Company then remained in the area for two days searching, and finally returned to barracks.

Our next operation was at Kornos, also in the Western Sector. Here contact had been made with an EOKA gang by the Kophinou Battery, and two of the gang shot. "C" Company moved out to support the follow-up at a moment's notice, and during this operation Cpl. Berndes and men of No. 9 Platoon found another hide containing a quantity of documents and bombs. Sgt. Nicholson provided some dramatic action with a phosphorus grenade to add to the excitement, and finally the hide was blown up.

Next came the ambush at Pyla, presumably intended for elements of No. 7 Platoon which were on patrol in the area under 2/Lt. McCubbin. Fortunately the ambush misfired on a Turkish civilian car. During the follow-up a large unexploded bomb was discovered and destroyed in situ.

The Company finished the period by patrolling the Eastern Sector and preparing for the great return home.

During the period we said goodbye to Major Burrows, command of the Company being assumed by Capt. A. R. Cowan. We welcomed 2/Lt. Montgomery and also Ptes. Dickens, Brown, Dowers, Hiscock, Hart, Laver, Savage, Sear, Skews, Gray, Young, Wellbelove, and Cross. Old hands who departed were Cpl. Pace, L/Cpl. Kiff, and Ptes. Dawson, Dempster, Harry, Mazzone, Maxted, Montague, and Wightwick. Some of these remember Aqaba days. The following were promoted: L/Cpls. Williams, Healey, Laver, Waters, Hinsby, Hoar and Evans, and Cpls. Dennis, Pell and Shave.

"S" COMPANY

The most notable event during the last quarter was the Troulli ambush in which a Mortar Platoon patrol, commanded by Lt. Hewson, distinguished itself and killed one of the ambushers, recovering his weapon. This action was reported by the Battalion in the last edition of the notes long after the Companies had submitted their contributions. Lt. Hewson is completely recovered from his head wound and appears to have suffered no lasting damage to brain or beauty.

Having had our thunder stolen with regard to the Troulli ambush, we are at a loss to know what to report.

Details of minor I.S. duties in obscure places are undoubtedly boring, self-praise is so unoriginal, and details of "comings and goings" are the prerogative of the Platoon correspondents.

However, we have been working flat out on I.S.; we have done well and we have done quite a lot of support weapon training in odd places at odd times, with the result that we should all have quite a fair standard of individual training when we start in Germany.

When we arrive in Germany the Machine Gun Platoon will cease to exist. It is sad that a sub-unit such as this with its fine spirit should have to be disbanded. The majority of the members of the Platoon will either be released or be absorbed into the other Support Weapons Platoons.

When we leave Cyprus, Lt. McRae will remain behind with Port and Travel Control, a security organisation commanded by Major R. K. B. Allott. We shall miss Lt. McRae's enthusiasm as an Anti-Tank Gunner. For months he has regaled us with details of the performance of the MOBATS. To our surprise we were suddenly equipped with this wonder gun, managed to train on it, fired it, and now we are handing the guns over to the Welch Regiment. We were impressed with the gun's performance.

It is now but a matter of days before we embark and all are looking forward, some to release, others to leave and Support Company in Germany, and some to jobs elsewhere in the Battalion and Regiment.

3-in. Mortar Platoon

Since the last journal we have been able to carry out quite a lot of training at the out-stations (Browne Camp and Kellia). Two short cadres have been run and we congratulate the following on passing their specialist tests: L/Cpl. Lavell and Ptes. Ryder, King, Tolley and Johnson. Unfortunately, we have been

unable to carry out any field firing, but we are looking forward to an early shoot in Germany.

We welcome Ptes. Fairhead, Sach, Milburn and Finn to the Platoon. Without exception, they are looking forward to their first long carry!

L/Cpl. Bradfield is congratulated on his very good N.C.O.s' cadre result.

At Kalokhorio the Platoon spent a very pleasant fortnight, and became very proficient in the art of erecting and striking camp.

Pte. Crockell has organised a Skiffle Group, which performs with more enthusiasm than skill, much to the enjoyment of the "cool cats" in the Platoon.

Ptes. Johnson and Wright (28) are understudying Pte. Mercer as Platoon cooks. The first example we had of Johnson's culinary ability was tea made with sterilised water, which was received with cries of "Add chlorine to taste." He has learnt much since then.

Sgt. Walters is at Hythe on a signals course. We wish him the best of luck.

Medium Machine Gun Platoon

Were it not for the fact that England looms on the horizon, our faces would be long indeed, for all the machine-gunners now find themselves on the verge of becoming jobless. In Germany there will be no Machine Gun Platoon, although it is believed that on overseas duty it will be resurrected.

Some have taken it badly; Sgt. Reynolds and his family have deserted us already for service with one of the T.A. Battalions, Ptes. Rees and Parmenter have crept into the Company Stores, and Ptes. McKay and Sparkes are fishing off the end of the pier at Larnaca, together with other members of the Operations Room staff. As the "ship" continues to sink, those who will be serving with the Battalion in Germany have found a place either in the Anti-Tank or Mortar Platoons, and the Platoon Commander has run headlong into marriage.

Of those left, Sgt. Partridge, deprived of his guns, has now turned attention to the new car which he is planning for Germany, and is busily working out a list of I.A. and stoppage drills. Cpl. Jolley and L/Cpl. West, to recover from the shock, have planned a holiday in Israel.

A much depleted Platoon has now struggled on, and, together with the Assault Pioneers, it spent its last few days of independence at Athienou. The disintegration of the Platoon might have come earlier than expected had not one of our patrols, led by Cpl. Pritchard and L/Cpl. Shaw, discovered a prepared ambush position along the Athienou road. Two home-made mortars had been lined up on a bridge and two bombs placed under the bridge.

Not travelling to Germany, Cpls. Jolley and Willets, L/Cpl. Shaw and Ptes. Pidgeon, McKay, Errington and Sparkes will leave us for civilian life when the ship docks in England. We wish them the best of luck—and we now disappear.

Anti-Tank Platoon

In this last quarter we have been very busy. First, under Lt. Waite's temporary command, we went on

detachment to Kiti, then to Athienou. Following that we had a month in Alexander Barracks.

The big news of this quarter was the arrival of two MOBATS. Lt. McRae, Sgt. Raffael and Cpl. Seager brought one down to Browne Camp to "play" with. The following week an extensive cadre was started, which ran for three weeks. The Platoon worked hard and the results were good. During our final week in barracks two notable things happened. First, we got rid of "Old Floosey," the 17-pounder, and recently we fired the MOBATS.

On October 3 we went to Cape Pyla for the last time, to fire the MOBATS. We fired a total of 38 rounds, five of which were H.E.S.H. L/Cpl. Gilbert and Ptes. Harris and Steele must be congratulated for some good shooting, L/Cpl. Gilbert knocking the turret off a Daimler 2-pounder with one H.E.S.H. round.

We said goodbye to Pte. Woodcock this quarter, but welcomed Ptes. Harris, Hamling, Dinning, Millard, and Hawke, L/Cpls. Mullender and Bailey, and Cpl. Barnes, who recently re-engaged. We congratulate Mullender, Bailey and Gilbert on their promotions. Our contribution to the Battalion's Advance Party was "Bwana" and "Five-One." Lets hope we have MOBATS in Germany.

Assault Pioneer Section

Since the last Journal notes the Section has disengaged itself from the Anti-Tank Platoon and has assumed its independent role again—to the relief of the anti-tanks! After a long tour away from camp, the Company managed to pack three weeks continual training during a "rest" period. No ground is now too hard for the Assault Pioneers, having constructed a four-man shelter trench at the rear of the camp.

The new members of the Section went on a ten-day course at Limassol, and all had a most enjoyable and instructional course. The I.S. situation keeps us busy. During our last stay at Athienou a patrol, commanded by Cpl. Pritchard, found a large amount of explosives, and home-made mortars under a bridge near the village. It had only just been set up and would have certainly made the Assault Pioneers "walk on air."

We welcome to the Section Ptes. Beavis and Torpey, both ex-batmen. They now enjoy cleaning picks and shovels instead of boots and pips! Before the next Journal notes we will say goodbye to L/Cpl. Ford and Ptes. Roberts (09), O'Shea, Mephram and Marshall (an ex-Pioneer). We wish them luck in civilian life. Finally, we congratulate L/Cpl. Roberts on his promotion and he and his wife on the birth of a daughter.

And so to Germany.

SERGEANTS' MESS

It cannot be said that the last quarter was lacking in I.S. activities. Our palatial Mess resounded 24 hours a day with the clump and slither of booted Sergeants dashing out to their Company or pounding, well satisfied, towards the luxury of soap and water (Sgt. "Darkie" Taylor wishes to dissociate himself from that last remark).

We need not, in our brief notes, record or discuss

the various highlights of the many I.S. operations—set-piece or spontaneous—which have crowded the past difficult weeks, but even the sordid inter-communal strife of the summer months did not fail to produce that welcome chuckle we all like to enjoy at another member's expense. We recall, for instance, that delightful occasion when Sgt. Henshaw was elevated to the post of I.C. administration at a peacemaking detachment at Kalokhorio. Confronted with the complexities of a No. 1 burner and an assortment of strange uncooked foods, he commenced, rather wan of features, to produce the evening meal. His antics with pressure and petrol were surpassed by his efforts to boil potatoes. He was observed dropping them with a smug plop into warm, oily water and determining their progress with an egg-timer.

The I.S. situation has, of course, played havoc with Mess life. Sgt. Speakman and his cheerful Mess staff continually maintain that atmosphere with which we are all familiar, and the appearance in the bar of a soccer machine has resulted in derisive whoops punctuating the club-like atmosphere of the bar as Sgts. Callaghan and Warner struggle to enjoy a sedate game of "killer."

We apprehensively decided to hold our final farewell function on September 13 (who cares!) and we decided on a Mess dinner and dance. Members unanimously asked that their wives should join us at dinner. The sparkle of the happy family atmosphere was enhanced by the glitter of the choicest pieces of silver from the Officers' Mess. Thank you, sirs.

It was at this same function that we formally said farewell to R.S.M. Wild, who leaves us for the 8th Middlesex (T.A.) on disembarkation. R.S.M. Wild has fathered the Mess since December, 1954, and we all sincerely wish him the very best for the future. R.S.M. McMillan, we are told, will be chaffing at the bit for us at Hamelin. We are, of course, looking forward so much to Hamelin.

CORPORALS' CLUB

There is very little to report from the Corporals' Club, as it has not been possible to hold many outings or entertainments recently. In fact the only social occasion held in the last few months was a dance held on October 11 (at the time of writing the 11th was last night, so please make allowances). The dance was organised by Cpl. Beechey at fairly short notice, and a very good job he made of it. Invitations were sent to the Commanding Officer and Mrs. Nolda, the Sergeants' Mess, the W.R.A.C. and Q.A.R.A.N.C. contingents in Dhekelia, and such N.C.O.s of the 1st Welch who were with us.

The President eventually ran the organisers to earth three hours before the dance was due to start, christening the newly-erected bar. Prominent with glasses of beer at this stage were the P.M.C., Cpl. Torrie, and L/Cpl. Dunsby with Cpl. Daynes, the Officers' Mess chief barman, setting them up.

As far as anyone can remember the evening was a great success. The Band performed nobly under Cpl. A. Burrow, the drinks flowed fast—too fast in fact—and the ladies from B.M.H. Dhekelia were a most

talented and beautiful bunch. There must be many who would willingly take a rest in the B.M.H., having seen the excellence of the nursing staff. Today most of us feel as if we were in legitimate need of hospital treatment anyway.

SPORT

Cricket

Owing to heavy I.S. duties, very little cricket was played during the season. A few Dhekelia Garrison Minor Unit League games took place in May, while, on one occasion, the Battalion team was on the transport ready to leave when a thunderstorm chose to intervene, and "rain stopped play."

It was not until August 29 that the first match was played. By dint of being the only major unit in our district, we reached the Famagusta area final with 29 Field Regiment as our opponents. They batted first, and at the end of 40 overs (to which each side was restricted) they had collected 139 runs for the loss of 8 wickets. Pte. Pasqual, who was bowling off-spinners for the first time, was most effective and captured five wickets. We managed without difficulty to pass their total with the loss of only two wickets. 2/Lt. Pickard and 2/Lt. Dobson both batted very well and were unbeaten.

Our next game was a friendly against Dhekelia Garrison, who had had plenty of successful cricket throughout the season. Batting first, the Garrison team made 112 for 7 wickets in 30 overs, Ptes. Pasqual and Hudson taking the wickets. At one stage during our innings we were in the doldrums with the score at 47 for 5, but 2/Lt. Dobson again did well, ably supported by L/Cpl. Bird, who, though naturally a robust hitter, played a restrained and capable innings.

In the Island semi-final our opponents were R.A.S.C. West. 2/Lt. MacMillan and Cpl. Torrie, the opening bowlers, allowed our opponents to collect only a meagre score of 65. However, we lost 5 wickets before Lt. Gaston displayed the limitations of the bowling when he went in with a score of 52. The match was all over four balls later.

In the Cyprus District knock-out final we played the Royal Welch Fusiliers, whom we knew to be a very good batting side. They won the toss and batted first, and indeed when their opening batsmen were still intact when our opening bowlers were taken off, prospects of a long day in the field looked dimly high. But shortly afterwards the whole picture changed, as three of their key batsmen were run out, in all of which Pte. Hudson had a hand. Pte. Pasqual and Pte. Hudson took advantage of this break-through, and by lunch the score stood at 65 for 6 wickets. After the interval, however, our opponents made a recovery, and despite accurate bowling it was not until the score stood at 120 that the next wicket fell. The remaining enemy wickets toppled soon after, and we were left needing 138 runs to win. Pte. Pasqual bowled extremely well, as his analysis indicated: 25 overs, 6 maidens, 5 wickets for 45 runs (15 of which he conceded in the first three overs). After the early loss of two wickets it was once again 2/Lt. Dobson who overcame the fiery opening

spell of bowling, and produced another good score. Together with 2/Lt. Pickard, who with his enormous reach dominated the bowling, he took the score within sight of victory. It was left to Lt. Gaston to conclude the proceedings, which he did characteristically with a short but sweet innings of three balls, in which he scored 10 runs.

It was therefore a short but successful season for the Battalion team.

It was appropriate that we should be well represented in the Army team; 2/Lt. Dobson, 2/Lt. Pickard and Pte. Pasqual well deserved their selection, and are to be congratulated, while 2/Lt. MacMillan was unlucky to be only twelfth man.

The results were as follows:

Famagusta Area Final

FAMAGUSTA AREA FINAL

29 FIELD REGIMENT	139 for 8 wickets in 40 overs. Pte. Pasqual: 5 for 45. 2/Lt. MacMillan: 2 for 57. Cpl. Torrie: 1 for 22.
1ST MIDDLESEX	142 for 2 wickets in 27 overs. 2/Lt. Pickard: 78 not out. 2/Lt. Dobson: 29 not out.

ISLAND SEMI-FINAL

R.A.S.C. WEST	65 all out. 2/Lt. MacMillan: 6 for 28. Cpl. Torrie: 4 for 35.
1ST MIDDLESEX	69 for 5 wickets. 2/Lt. Waters: 35.

ISLAND FINAL

ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS	137 all out. Pte. Pasqual: 5 for 45. Pte. Hudson: 1 for 28. 2/Lt. MacMillan: 1 for 26.
1ST MIDDLESEX	138 for 4 wickets. 2/Lt. Dobson: 65. 2/Lt. Pickard: 50.

The team was as follows: 2/Lts. R. H. C. Waters (captain), C. F. Dobson, J. M. Pickard, Lt. I. I. Gaston, 2/Lt. D. A. J. MacMillan, Cpl. Torrie, L/Cpl. Bird, Pte. Young, Sgt. Raffael, Pte. Pasqual and Pte. Hudson.

Swimming

Once again the Battalion took part in and won the Dhekelia Garrison swimming meeting.

This year we entered the Cyprus District Swimming Championships and had to swim off against 2nd Wireless Regiment in the group finals. We won four out of the five events, but unfortunately were disqualified for an infringement in the last event after winning it by 25 yards!

In the finals we were runners-up to 37 Field Engineer Regiment, losing by 2 points. This was quite an achievement as we were last after the first event, but thanks to good swimming by Ptes. Andrews, Eldred, Stone, Mears and Weston (18), L/Cpl. Lavell, Sgts. Ward and Kenward, C/Sgt. Morgan and Lt. McRae, we pulled up and were sharing first place at the start of the last event. However, we were beaten in this race by 37 Field Engineer Regiment.

Due to I.S. commitments, the Battalion did not participate in any water polo events, but we hope to do so in Germany.

Depot Notes

EDITORIAL

Welcome home 1st Battalion! Good luck in B.A.O.R.!

When not altering our diaries to fit the changes in 1st Battalion's arrival dates the Annual Administrative Inspection has been uppermost in our minds. The preparations have had to compete with a crashing cacophony of builder's noises and fine film of plaster-brickdust amalgam. The results of the Administrative preparations have yet to be seen, but the results of the builder's efforts are beginning to appear: decent washing facilities in one of two barrack blocks, with work beginning on the second, and a much brighter Orderly Room block.

Our recruiting figures are improving steadily and getting somewhere near to those required for producing a Regular Battalion in 1962-63. Every effort is being made to reduce wastage and further improve quality and numbers. Here we would stress that every member of the Regiment, past and present, can play a part. If they hear of any young man or boy who is interested in the life, to persuade him at least to write to us for details, or better still come and see us. We welcome all such visitors at any time and do give them the best advice and help possible.

Rumours of the move and close down of the Depot are again well to the fore as the result of a sifting board some 16 strong which considered the problem here recently. Elsewhere you will see that the Depots of the Queens and East Surreys close next summer and move on a temporary basis into Wemyss Barracks, Canterbury, until such time as the necessary alterations to the new permanent Depot at Howe Barracks are completed. The new Brigade Depot is to be set up in April, 1960, when the Royal Sussex Depot closes down and goes to Wemyss, also on a temporary basis.

We, on present planning, are due to close in two to three years and move to Canterbury, with any luck direct to Howe Barracks. The final date is not firm. When the Depot does close a Regimental H.Q. is formed. It is small and will be housed with the Museum in the present Orderly Room block to act as a "rear link" in the County and administer our affairs.

Sad as it will be to go after over 50 years in Inglis Barracks, we welcome the news that our successors in due course are to be the Home Postal Regiment, Royal Engineers.

The repercussions of the closing of the Depot, with its move to Canterbury, and setting up a R.H.Q. are many and we are fortunate that we have the time to plan and benefit from the experience of those who precede us.

TRAINING COMPANY

This quarter, like last, has seen a continued emphasis on events designed to influence our recruiting figures. Two Intakes, the 53rd and 54th, have arrived and 53rd have passed out. Both these Intakes have missed the

boat to Cyprus, but will be joining the 1st Battalion in Germany.

A new Regimental recruiting brochure has been produced and is in circulation, and a Depot postcard, shown over, is available for sale for all who are interested.

On July 5 Sgt. Power and Cpl. Gunn took the Regimental recruiting booth to the Edmonton Carnival and answered numerous questions about Army life. On July 7 we were inundated with small boys from the William Ellis School, who were put through their paces by our N.C.O.s on the range and assault course. They were allowed to fire both the Sterling sub-machine gun and the self-loading rifle and, we hope, were suitably impressed. They certainly showed genuine keenness and perhaps some will join us as Regular soldiers in the near future. On July 19 Sgt. Redmond and his Platoon acted as stewards at the Middlesex County Athletics Meeting at Chiswick Stadium. Their services were greatly appreciated and a letter of thanks was received from the chairman of the committee.

The recruiting booth was again on display, this time under Sgt. Plumb, at Twickenham Fair on July 26.

Sgt. Edey and eight members of the Permanent Staff were issued with full dress scarlet uniforms and appeared at the White City Stadium during the week of the S.S.A.F.A. Tattoo. Their duty was to open and close the vast gates to the arena for each event. Complimentary tickets were issued to the gate party for their friends to watch the full dress rehearsal.

On August 26 we were visited by a team from the National Blood Bank, and everyone gritted their teeth and volunteered their dutiful pint of blood.

The R.S.M. was in full cry on September 8 for ten days and a number of junior N.C.O.s and potential N.C.O.s can tell the story better than the writer of these notes. The results of his labours were highly satisfactory and there are now many more chevrons floating about the Depot.

Sgt. Edey was again given the opportunity to lead a party of brightly coloured soldiers of the Permanent Staff at a pageant of uniforms during the Willesden Flower Show on September 13. They were dressed in uniforms dating from the Battle of Crecy to the present day, with a life-sized St. George leading the list. The 53rd Intake were also taking part, providing a contingent for a grand march of various branches of the Army as a finale to the pageant.

Sgt. Simmons, Cpl. Stevens and Ptes. Hazell, Baker and Bambury took the well-used recruiting booth to Wood Green for the Civil Defence Exhibition held there on September 20. It is not known to what extent they sabotaged Civil Defence recruiting, but they did their best to do so.

On September 26 the 53rd Intake passed out in front of the Mayor of Finchley, Alderman A. T. Pike, O.B.E., J.P., and music was supplied for the first time by an all boys' corps of drums from Christ's College, Finchley C.C.F.



The prizes were awarded as follows:—

Best All-round Recruit (who also won the Rifle and P.T. prizes)	Pte. Vincent
Best L.M.G. Shot	Pte. Hills
Best Regular Recruit	Pte. Eckford

As usual it is impossible to mention all the arrivals and departures at the Depot, but we welcome S.I. Bristow (A.P.T.C.) as our new P.T. instructor who has taken over from S.L. Morris, to whom we wish good luck at the M.C.T.C. Colchester.

We also welcome Sgt. Blackwell from the 1st Battalion. Cpl. O'Rawe came back to us after a spell in civilian life, grinning as usual and glad to be back.

A hearty welcome is extended to Cairns and Holland, our latest Regular soldiers from the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion. May their career with the Regiment be all that they have hoped for. Finally, we would like to wish good luck to two old stagers in the Company, Sgt. Edey and Sgt. Simmons, whose work here has been an inspiration to all. They deserve all the luck possible in the Battalion.

OFFICERS' MESS

When these notes appear in December, July will seem far away and much will have happened between times, but, although somewhat out of date, we had better continue where we left off towards the end of July.

It was then that Ken Clayden stayed one night before flying back to Ghana.

Major Miles Marston, who recently commanded the Depot of our friends the Argyll and Sutherland High-

landers, and is now in the War Office, has been living here since he took up his new appointment.

A French officer from Morocco, Commandant le Brun, spent most of August with us; the usual language difficulties were experienced by both sides!

On August 8 Col. Stevens, the Brigade Colonel, and Colonel Grace, who has now succeeded him, came to lunch. On the 9th 2/Lts. Cowing and Goring reported from Sandhurst and immediately went off on the usual courses.

2/Lt. Cooper joined us at the end of the month and awaits the return of the Battalion.

Malcolm Gilham was married on September 6, as also was Mike Sidnell. It was a pity the two events clashed. We were indeed unaware of the second wedding until the very last moment, when all available officers had already accepted the invitation to attend Malcolm's wedding at Hayes. Our best wishes to both couples.

Col. Curtiss, G.E. North London, and Col. Roche, our own local G.E., lunched with us on September 9. The following day saw the Colonel of the Regiment here when there was a Regimental Council meeting.

Lts. Tetteh and Wallace, two Ghana officers recently commissioned, spent a week here in September.

At a small dinner on September 18 we had our new Medical Officer, Peter Abraham, as our guest.

The Mayor of Finchley and his Clerk were with us on the occasion of the Passing-Out Parade on September 26. On the following day a party of "Friends of London" came to the barracks and went round the Museum, and the Officers' Mess where they had tea.

Hugh Evans, after being blown up by mines in Muscat, was eventually flown back to this country. His right foot is not too good and it will, in any case, be a very long business. With him, we just hope for the best. He is not bedridden, and except for spells in hospital, gets about well on a pair of crutches.

In addition to those previously mentioned, we have had numerous others here either for a night or a meal—Brigadier Weston, Cols. Hewitt, C. M. M. Man and Brotherton, Majors Porter, Burrows, Hicks, Kent, Newman, Jeffcoat and de Gaye, Cpts. Jordan and Legge, and Lts. Morden and Rogers.

John Pollard came back from Cyprus in advance, and goes over to prepare things for the Battalion in Hamelin. Oh, and of course, Gordon Crumley was here, too, enjoying life as ever.

The Colonel of the Regiment dined-in on Friday, October 17, when we had quite a number of guests—the Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex, the Deputy Chairman of the Middlesex County Council, the Clerk of the County Council, Mr John Grant and Gen. Martin (military correspondents of the *Times* and *Telegraph* respectively), and Sir Ian Jacob (Director-General of the B.B.C.).

One final word. In our notes in the last issue it stated that the Bishop of Manston had visited us. This was a printer's error; it should have read the Bishop of Maidstone.

Best wishes for Christmas to everybody.

W.O.'S' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

The quarter has been a rather quiet one in the Sergeants' Mess, though at the time of going to press it would seem to be otherwise. We are within a week of our Annual Administrative Inspection, and many of our members are doing strange and wonderful things that they have not done before. The Mess has in fact become a hive of industry. One "early to bed" member remarked that he had to get blanced up and get some sleep before attending the "night" drill parade.

October 31 will mark more than the date of the Regimental Reunion; it should also mark the return of the Depot to normality, but will it? We must wait and see. We hope to go in force to Seymour Hall on the 31st and to Southampton on Sunday, November 2, to give a big welcome home to the 1st Battalion, and we will be as peaceful as they allow us to be. If the last quarter was quiet, then the next one looks like being a very hectic and eventful one indeed.

On August 16 we entertained the committee and 30 members of the 600-strong Old Hendon Ex-Service Men's Club. On September 13 we planned a three-cornered dancing evening with 7th and 8th Battalions Middlesex as our guests, but our first Saturday evening dance clashed with training commitments of the 7th Middlesex who could not attend, but we look forward to seeing them next time. On September 17 the Royal Fusiliers were again our guests, from their afternoon football victory to their ultimate defeat in less serious forms of football in the Mess. With their 100 per cent. attendance they outnumbered us on our own ground,

and had it not been for our guest players coming to the rescue we would surely have lost the day.

Our parties with the 7th have become a feature of our entertainments and we look forward to many more happy days together.

Away from home we have been the guests in varying numbers of our friends and neighbours—No. 10 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E., R.A.F. Hendon, 8th Middlesex Hounslow, at Brighton Races with the Finchley Police, and the prize giving evening at the Old Hendon Club. Unfortunately, getting home restricts our members at functions away from our home ground.

Arrivals during the quarter include C/Sgt. George Markham and Sgt. Jimmy Marable whom we all know so well, and S/Sgt. Shine, R.A.E.C., whom we welcome for the first time. We also extend a warm welcome to Sgt. Blackwell who joins the Training Staff as the Platoon Sergeant of El Bodon Platoon. Departures include C/Sgt. Cripps to Depot East Surreys on his promotion—heartiest congratulations to him from us all. Sgt. Simpson on his last round-up has quietly stolen away to face the rigour of civilian life and our best wishes go with him. S/Sgt. Utley, R.A.E.C., has returned to R.H.A., Regents Park.

We shall miss Sgts. Simmons, Edey and Plumb when they go to join 1st Middlesex next month, where we wish them well.

Visitors during the quarter have been many; we hope they all enjoyed coming, we certainly enjoyed seeing them. Characters in order of appearance were Sgt. Clements, the Great H.P., S/Sgt. Medlock, C.S.M. Les Graham, W.O.2 Frank Redpath, ex-C.S.M. Jaques, Sgt. Gibbs, O.R.Q.M.S. Colebeck, R.Q.M.S. Cooper and Sgt. Patterson. Those not mentioned we look upon as frequent visitors and we apologise for not mentioning them here.

Sgt. Power is our latest candidate for Pirbright and we look forward to his return with a glowing report. We congratulate Sgt. Plumb on his very good "B."

If this were spring we would say there is a spate of spring fever in the air, but being autumn we must assume it is a touch of autumnal madness. Sgt. Gibbs was the first to announce his forthcoming marriage. That was shock No. 1, Sgt. Warner's made No. 2, Sgt. Redmond astounded us all by giving us three days' warning of his marriage, and R.S.M. McMillan of 8th Middlesex exploded a nuclear matrimonial bomb by suddenly telling us he intended getting married next week. Our heartiest congratulations are extended to one and all; we are still suffering a little from the shock, but when we recover we will extend a most hearty welcome to all those lucky members concerned and the lucky ladies of their choice. There will indeed be something to write home about in the next quarter's notes.

As we finish these notes we are making final arrangements for the arrival of 1st Battalion. It is regrettable that their stay in U.K. will be so short, but we hope to see most of them on November 15 and again on December 13 when we are the hosts at a Welcome Home and a Farewell Party respectively. Undoubtedly there will be many impromptu gatherings which will give great joy to us all. More about those next time.

CORPORALS' CLUB

Since last going to press, life has been relatively quiet.

With the close of the cricket season, all members are eagerly looking forward to the soccer season. A Club team is in the process of being formed, and in due course we hope to win back our lost honours from last season. It will be tough going all the way, for we have lost Cpls. Ted Gun, Len Southwell and Tom Wollin, also L/Cpls. Cox, Keast-Butler and Walker to Civvy Street.

We welcome back to the Club Cpl. Frank O'Rawe, who since his arrival has changed the Club somewhat. His jovial nature has brought many a laugh to the lips of fellow members.

We also welcome Cpls. Robertson and Stubbings, L/Cpls. Barber, Cahill, Hawtin, Taylor and Weston. May their stay be a pleasant one.

We did manage to get a passing glimpse of Mick Finnis before he left for civilian life. Whilst he was here in the Club, the younger members of the Club seemed to be very interested in his weird tales of Cyprus, and how he won his "Goshi" medal.

We will take this opportunity to say farewell and *bon voyage* to Cpls. Stubbings and Turner, and L/Cpls. Barber, Da Costa, Taylor and Weston, who will all be off shortly to join the 1st Battalion in Germany.

Congratulations to Cpl. Dave Miles on his recent marriage.

With the coming of the Annual Administrative Inspection, the next two weeks or so will be fully taken up with preparations, but as soon as it is over a Welcome Home Dance will be held for members of the 1st Battalion Corporals' Club.

Finally, congratulations go to L/Cpl. Corbridge on his recent promotion to Corporal. Well done!

SPORT

Cricket

The latter part of the season saw the fortunes of a rather weak but undaunted Depot XI take a turn for the better.

Our fixture list again suffered by the cancellation of two matches because our opponents failed to produce a side at the last moment and one game was called off due to rain.

We did, however, play six matches, of which we won three and lost three. The main causes of our improved fortunes were much sounder batting, particularly by L/Cpls. Howell (A.C.C.), Hooper and Herbert and Pte. Coombes, all of whom batted well on one or more occasions. Perhaps the most notable of these innings was that of L/Cpl. Howell, who made a very fine 25 against the hostile and accurate bowling of a very strong H.Q. Eastern Command XI. Capt. Pike as usual bowled extremely well, taking a large proportion of our opponents' wickets, and L/Cpl. Rickett settled down into a useful quick-medium stock bowler. Pte. O'Brien also bowled well on occasions.

The results were as follows:

Depot v. R.A.F. Northolt	.. ..	Won by 9 wickets
Depot v. Home Postal Depot (R.E.)	.. ..	Lost by 3 wickets
Depot v. Depot The Royal Fusiliers	.. ..	Won by 20 runs
Depot v. H.Q. Eastern Command	.. ..	Lost by 122 runs
Depot v. A War Office XI	.. ..	Won by 72 runs
Depot v. Depot The Queen's Royal Regt.	.. ..	Lost by 8 wickets

Football

After a not very successful cricket season, in spite of the efforts of Capt. Wollocombe, who devoted most of his time to it, we have started a new football season at the Depot with high hopes. As a result of our position in the London District Mid-Week League table last season, the Depot has been promoted to Section B. Unfortunately, as the standard required has gone up, so the standard of our play has gone down.

It was with regret that we said good-bye to S.I. Morris during the summer. He will be badly missed, both on and off the pitch. Other stalwarts of last season who have left us are: Cpl. Southwell, L/Cpl. Barton, Ptes. Oakley and Talbot. On the credit side, we welcome S.I. Bristow to the Gym. Up to the present, he has not found his best form on the soccer pitch, but his contribution off the pitch is invaluable. Other newcomers we welcome are L/Cpls. Bridge and Rogers, Pte. O'Brien and several recruits from 53rd and 54th Intakes who have played regularly.

At the time of writing we stand bottom of the B Section of the league, having played 5 matches and lost them all.

Detailed results:

v. Welsh Guards	.. ..	Lost 5-3
v. Depot Royal Fusiliers	.. ..	Lost 5-3
v. Home Postal Depot (R.E.)	.. ..	Lost 5-4
v. No. 12 Company R.A.M.C.	.. ..	Lost 6-0
v. Household Cavalry Training Squadron	.. ..	Lost 7-2
v. Provost Company R.M.P.	.. ..	Lost 5-3

Hockey

The hockey season has not yet started, but we have entered the London District League and hope for a more interesting season than last year.

Boxing

In the boxing ring we have back with us Cpl. O'Rawe and L/Cpl. Rogers, both of whom went to Colchester in October for the Army trials. L/Cpl. Rogers was unlucky to injure a hand in his first bout and could not carry on, but Cpl. O'Rawe did well and has been placed on the list of Army representative standard boxers.

Rugby

London District are again running a Rugby XV, and five members of the Depot Staff had trials at the beginning of the season. Lts. McManus and Lloyd, L/Cpl. Taylor (157), Ptes. Hazell and Truscott. Of these, Lts. McManus and Lloyd and L/Cpl. Taylor have played, and Pte. Hazell has been selected as reserve.

THE CAMBRIDGE CLUB

A Mrs. Banks of Wood Green spoke to about 40 wives at the September quarterly meeting on her life and experiences in war-time Hong Kong and where she had been a prisoner. She was most interesting, for she had been able to get into the camps and had known and helped various Middlesex P.O.W.s. Sgt. Hanshaw, an ex-P.O.W. himself, was brave enough to join the throng of females who sat enrapt listening to Mrs. Banks, and to the incredible speed in which she delivered her talk.

A jumble sale was held on October 18 to help swell the Club's funds. This time the quality and quantity of the jumble was superior to that of previous efforts, but unfortunately the sale itself was not so well patronised. However, a profit of £10 was made and thanks are due to Mesdames Kerswill, Markham, Slagg, Ambler, Weller, Wollocombe, Jennings, Griffiths (visiting from 8th Battalion) and Burgess, also Margaret and Christopher Ambler, Vivian Jennings, Clare Battye and Ann Griffiths for all their invaluable help.

OLD COMRADES, MILL HILL BRANCH

Greetings again "Die-Hards" old and young. You know, I and all you other fellows who try to send in something intelligent for the Journal subscribers to read must admit that it is very difficult to be topical when things, which should be occupying our attention, do not happen until next week. However, we can manage something—so here goes.

At our Annual General Meeting our Chairman, Major Percy Newman, said, when addressing the meeting, that in connection with the proposed reorganisation of the Army he was very sorry to see we were losing our Cap Badge. I am sure we all agree, but the loss of the Cap Badge surely is not the point. Like the Regimental Colours, including, of course, the Colour of Her Majesty The Queen, it is what it stands for and what it really represents. Ask any old soldier what his Cap Badge meant to him and maybe for a time he would not be able to tell you, but let him lose his Badge and see what a noise there is about it. Did you ever know of a case where a Cap Badge was declared unserviceable through the love and devotion that had been expended on it? I don't think you did, but you will know that there are many badges in lots of funny places, stowed away until an Old Comrade comes along and then out it comes, and with pride he says, "Look at that, boy, my old Cap Badge; the hours I've spent on that." He looks at it and if you are able to understand you may be able to guess some of the thoughts passing through the old "bonse."

Proud of their Badge, why yes; so proud that in days gone by, for fear that it would not be noticed, they fixed a piece of mirror glass behind it to draw attention of all and sundry to the Badge of the "Die-Hards." May I respectfully say that it reminded me of something that goes like this: Let their light so shine that all who follow after may through that light continue on the path along which we all have through the ages come, and like true "Die-Hards," "Die hard my men—die hard." Whatever happens in the reorganisation of the Army it will not in the least affect the glorious story of Our Regiment, and it most certainly will not stop us being proud and proclaiming to all that we have been and still are "Jolly Die-Hards."

BUSTY.

The Chairman's Notes

Before the A.G.M. commenced the Chairman announced with regret the death of Mrs. H. Sills which occurred on September 23.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Ferguson represented the Club at

the funeral and a wreath was sent on behalf of members and their wives. A letter expressing our deepest sympathy was sent to Mr. Sills.

The A.G.M., held on Saturday, September 27, was well attended. It was pleasing to see members who travelled many miles to attend, which shows the interest they have in the Club.

The main item was the election of officers for 1959. The following were elected: Major P. Newman, Chairman and Secretary; Major R. W. J. Smith, Vice-Chairman; Mr. E. Crouch, Treasurer; and Messrs. O. Taylor, F. Gribble and R. Ferguson, Committee.

Mr. G. Pocock and Mr. H. Mathews very kindly offered their services if, at any time, they were required.

The Chairman, in surveying the past year, thanked the members who had supported the Club by their attendance. He did, however, remind us that many more of our comrades would attend, but for various reasons could not do so, therefore it was the duty of those who could attend to do so, in order to keep the Club flourishing.

The organisation and administration of the Club is now in the hands of the Committee. It's not an easy task keeping it in running order after a full day's work, but they will do their best to keep it on an "even keel."

The ladies who have done such sterling work during the year must not be forgotten. We are grateful to them for selling tickets, and making and serving refreshments. Thank you, ladies, for your help.

Mr. Mathews remarked that many members were not wearing the O.C.A. badge. How right he was; very few were wearing it. The main reason is because buttonholes are seldom made in suits today, therefore the present type of badge cannot be worn. I am taking this up with the Association to see whether a brooch type cannot be obtained.

It was indeed a pleasure to have as our guest at the A.G.M. Major Ian Battye, M.B.E., who as you know commands the Depot. He sat with us throughout the meeting and told me afterwards how impressed he was with the way it was conducted and the interest shown by the members.

Major Battye addressed the members, and after congratulating them for taking such interest in the Club, explained why he thought it necessary that we should take it over "lock, stock and barrel," simply because the personnel of the Depot will at some future date leave for Canterbury. Therefore if taken over now, we shall have the benefit of the "accounting experts" to put us on the right path should we need them. So you see your elected Committee is now responsible for your Club.

He also explained the working of the new Brigade of which our Regiment forms a part. It was, however, very sad to learn that we shall lose our Cap Badge, but will keep our collar badges. (Personally, I dare not write what I think of that.) He also spoke of many other items concerning the Regiment, and I would like to record here and now a big "Thank you, Sir" for attending our A.G.M. and for the interest you have shown towards the Club since you have been at the Depot.

During the month two more have joined the Club—

Mr. Harman of Margate and Mr. Buckle of London. We give you a welcome and hope you will, if possible, visit us on the last Saturday of any month.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

P. NEWMAN, Chairman (Mill Hill Branch).

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

GENERAL



Throughout the last quarter the local celebrations of the Territorial Army Jubilee have taken first place among the many activities of the Battalion.

The celebrations included band concerts, a vehicle drive through the boroughs of North Middlesex followed by a display at Alexandra

Palace, an Officers' Dinner at the Stationers Livery Hall, London, and an All Ranks Jubilee Ball at the Hornsey Town Hall. Details of these events are given elsewhere in these notes.

On October 5 a party of 45 all ranks, led by the Commanding Officer, attended an eight-day autumn camp at West Tofts Camp, Stanford P.T.A. An account of autumn camp appears separately.

The recruiting drive has continued successfully and the Battalion is now within striking distance of trebling its strength within the twelve months January to December, 1958. Three ingredients have led to this achievement—Publicity, hard work by all members of the Battalion, especially the Permanent Staff and, finally, the enthusiasm imparted into all ranks by the Commanding Officer.

Following the move of Support Company from Hornsey to Tottenham, a "Shooting for Pints" recruiting fortnight was carried out in conjunction with 216 Field Squadron R.E. (T.A.), during which nearly twenty recruits were gained between the two units. Unfortunately the Royal Engineers attracted the greater number of recruits.

At the Middlesex T. and A.F.A. Rifle Meeting, held at Henley Park on September 28, the Battalion enjoyed its best success of the season, winning the majority of the major events. These included the Inter-Unit L.M.G. pairs, the Inter-Unit Championship and the falling-plate competition. The following represented the Battalion: Major D. E. Simpson, T.D., Major J. D. Gunnell, Capt. P. A. Stocken, Capt. M. A. H. Lanyon, W.O.2 Holdford, B.E.M., Sgt. White, Sgt. Hughes, L/Cpl. Johnstone and L/Cpl. Chapman.

The Corps of Drums and Band have had an unusually heavy programme in the last three months and they are to be congratulated on the way in which they have performed under Bandmaster Whitewood. Drum-Major Poulter has taken over the Corps of Drums to



THE BATTALION RECRUITING CARAVAN

relieve W.O.2 Holdford, B.E.M., from one of his many tasks in the 7th Middlesex. It is a strange but comforting sight to see W.O.2 Holdford as the right-hand drummer on parade.

The honour of representing the Battalion in the Lord Mayor's Show has fallen to the Band and Corps of Drums. This event completes the Jubilee Year. The Battalion is taking part in the Show because Sir Harold Gillett (Lord Mayor Elect), a former 7th Middlesex officer, has decided that the theme of the Lord Mayor's Show will be the Territorial Army.

The heavy programme of rifle meetings has dominated the autumn training of the Battalion. In between events Support Company, under Major J. C. Du Parc Braham, has managed two visits to Hangmoor and Chobham Ranges for support weapon firing. Otherwise weekend training has been confined to a party of 40 from all companies to Stanford P.T.A. on the weekend September 27-28, and a Brigade Officers' Study Day at the Duke of Yorks' H.Q. on Sunday October 19, under the Brigade Commander.

T.A. Jubilee

On Sunday morning, October 5, the Battalion, in conjunction with four other units in North Middlesex, took part in a vehicle drive through the boroughs of Tottenham, Edmonton, Enfield, Southgate, Wood Green, Finchley and Hornsey. The route was over 20 miles long and the Mayors of the boroughs took the salute from seven saluting bases along the route. Over 40 vehicles, guns and trailers were in the column and perfect timing was maintained throughout the drive.

In the evening a display took place at Alexandra Palace and the Band and Corps of Drums beat Retreat before the Mayors.

The Officers' Dinner was held at the Stationers Company Livery Hall, London, on October 17. Lt-Col. W. P. M. Allen, was chairman for the dinner and the speakers included the G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command, Lt-Gen. Sir Charles Coleman, who proposed

the toast to the Territorial Army. Col. J. K. Maitland, the Honorary Colonel replied and also proposed the toast to the guests. The Mayor of Hornsey spoke for the guests. Apart from a number of former officers of the Battalion, guests present included the Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Town Clerks, representatives of the Trade Unions, Chambers of Commerce and the Press. Nearly 90 officers and their guests enjoyed a memorable evening, made particularly colourful by the Mess dress of the officers of 7th Middlesex. During the dinner a telegram was received from H.M. The Queen and another from the Colonel of the Regiment, Lt-Gen. G. C. Bucknall.

Five hundred members of the Territorial Army units of North Middlesex attended the Jubilee Ball held at the Town Hall, Hornsey, on October 24. Dancing continued until after midnight.

Autumn Camp

In view of the number of new recruits joining the Battalion, the Commanding Officer decided to hold an autumn camp from October 5 to 12. This enabled many recruits to carry out their annual training and so qualify for Annual Bounty. At the same time it provided the Battalion with an opportunity to digest and train the new arrivals before the new training year opened. Forty-five all ranks took part, thirty of whom had no previous experience.

The weather was very kind throughout and practically no time was lost due to the weather. Accommodation was in huts at West Tofts Camp, Stanford, P.T.A. The training was vigorous, including one 24-hour exercise.

Film shows took place each evening. The recruit course was fired during the week and a number of the Battalion joined those in camp for a classification weekend. The Officers' v. Sergeants' match took place on Sunday, October 12.

The Champion Recruit at Weapon Training was Pte. Ford.

On Saturday, October 11, the Mayor of Enfield and Col. J. S. Crosby visited the camp and lunched with the officers before watching firing on Thetford Range.

During the camp, preliminary practice took place for the Nijmegen March for which the Battalion will enter a team in 1959.

Congratulatory

We offer our congratulations to C.S.M. Webb, Sgt. Elston and Cpl. Williams on their marriage and to Sgt. Jackson on his engagement.

We congratulate Sgts. Marshall and Stimpson, Drum-Major Poulter, Cpls. James, Elderfield and Linden, L/Cpls. Stone, Revell, Sattar, Wallage, Bryant and Sharkey on their promotion.

SERGEANTS' MESS

We are pleased to welcome Sgts. Marshall, Stimpson, Graham, Fisher and Reynolds as new members and we congratulate the first three mentioned on their recent promotions.

Our congratulations are also due to C.S.M. and Mrs.

Webb and Sgt. and Mrs. Elston on their recent marriages. We wish them every happiness and success for the future.

Perhaps the biggest surprise that we have had for some time was when that supposedly stalwart bachelor, Sgt. Jackson, announced his engagement. Some of the older married members are visibly shocked, and whenever the future bridegroom appears in the Mess there is much shaking of heads and mutterings into beer glasses. However, "Jacko" takes all the leg-pulling and questionable advice in good part, and, in fact, he seems so taken up with the future, that when recently on the range, he spent at least an hour 10 yards behind the 300 yards firing point flat on his back, blissfully dreaming of days to come, and completely oblivious to all that was going on around him.

Here we must mention the shooting competition on Thetford Rifle Range on Sunday, October 12, between teams representing the Officers' Mess, the Sergeants' Mess and the Recruit Training Company, the latter completing an eight-day autumn camp in the Thetford area. We are pleased to be able to report that the Sergeants' Mess gained a very narrow victory over the Officers' Mess by 8 points (644 to 636), whilst considering their limited experience, the recruits put up an excellent performance, which reflects great credit on their coach, Sgt. Graham. The Sergeants' Mess was represented by R.S.M. Thom, R.Q.M.S. Howes, C.S.M.s Cubbit and Curry, and Sgts. Elston, Davies, Hughes and Curl. R.S.M. Thom and Sgt. Davies fired particularly well.

We close these notes by reminding all past and present members of all "Die-Hard" Sergeants' Messes that they have a standing invitation to visit us at Hornsey on any Tuesday or Thursday evening. We shall be very pleased to see them.

THE ELMS CLUB

We have now started our autumn programme, and a very busy one it is. On September 11 we joined the Cambridge Club at the Depot, taking with us Mrs. Field Banks, a war heroine, who gave a very interesting talk on her experiences under the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong, including how she was able to help many men of the Middlesex Regiment who were interned there.

We are pleased to learn Mrs. Goodge is much better and will be joining us at the Club again soon.

Recently we started a Premium Bond Club, suggested by Mrs. St. John. This has proved very successful, many of us having already drawn bonds. On October 15, we are beginning Wednesday afternoon meetings again for members who find it difficult to join us on Thursday evenings. In this way we hope to welcome many more newcomers. Plans are well under way for taking our children to a pantomime in January, but more about that next time.

Some of the Committee officers have changed. The new Committee is as follows: Secretary, Mrs. Davies; Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Pat Wallage; Treasurer, Mrs. Legge; Assistant Treasurer, Mrs. Chittock. It was decided the other officers should remain for a year.



8TH MIDDLESEX, MARCHING AT END OF FOURTH DAY

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

The September report from the 8th Battalion ended with the brief comment that the Nijmegen March team returned to England on Sunday, July 27. That was the end of a five-month venture which had many chapters, a lot of hard work, some discomfort, but a great deal of fun and good comradeship. Some of the ups-and-downs are worth recording, as it is the Battalion's intention to enter again and their sincere wish that during the coming year they will be joined not only by the 7th Battalion, but by the 1st as well.

NIJMEGEN MARCH, 1958

In 1909 45 members of the Netherlands Armed Forces set out to carry out a series of marches over different routes, within a given time limit, as a fitness and endurance test. The Marches grew in popularity, four civilians were allowed to join in in 1916, three women entered in 1920, and in 1928 the Marches were made an international event, the number of participants then reaching 1,181. By 1958 the number of marchers exceeded 12,000, of whom over a thousand were women

and about 8,000 were from the Armed Forces of 19 countries.

The marches take place annually and are organised by the Netherlands League for Physical Culture with, however, considerable assistance from the Services. They are in no sense a race, and the organisers strongly discourage racing. The participants may enter, in the case of civilians as individuals or in club teams of 11 or more, and in the case of the Services as individual N.C.O.s or officers, or in unit teams of at least 11, led by an officer. A medal is presented to everyone successfully completing the marches and a team award is made to teams who arrive complete. Teams over 15 strong must arrive with less than 10 per cent. casualties over the four days. There are various classes of entrant; we chose to do 25 miles a day for the four days, carrying 22 lb. of kit, including rifles, but some teams chose the alternative of 30 miles daily with 2.2. lb.

Trouble frequently starts in the Sergeants' Mess and the 8th Battalion is not exceptional in this respect. The Mess held its usual Christmas Ball in December 1957, and among the guests were two ex-members of the Battalion (C.S.M. Tucker and C.Q.M.S. Crosby, late of "B" Company and now with 10th Battalion the Parachute Regiment). C.S.M. Tucker had taken part in the 1957 marches, and during the evening he succeeded in arousing a certain amount of interest in

the 8th. His good-tempered leg-pulling rekindled several ideas that both the Commanding Officer and Major Geoffrey Webber had had for several years. Major Webber had actually started to train a team several years previously but had been prevented from entering by other training commitments. The Commanding Officer was rather cautious at first, as he realised that to enter a team would entail much training and many other activities would consequently suffer. During January he "felt the ground" with the Battalion, and in February the decision was taken to start training as it was felt that the publicity would be well worth while and a successful team entry would serve to emphasise that the morale and physique of the Battalion was as high as in its days as a Parachute Battalion.

The first training march was held on Saturday, March 1. The Commanding Officer still had doubts in his mind as to whether the newer and younger members of the Battalion really knew what they were in for, and he consequently set out on the first day to really test their morale. He succeeded. Nineteen all ranks assembled at "A" Company Drill Hall at Cowley, near Uxbridge, at 1400 hrs., collected rifles and set off for the Ferry Inn at Cookham, 15 miles away. Nineteen all ranks arrived six hours later, very weary, but in good heart and still sufficiently conscious to drink beer.

Training was then planned systematically, gradually increasing from six miles early in March, after the first "marathon," until our annual camp in June. During March one march was carried out each week, increasing to 16 miles by the end of the month. During April the distance was increased to 25, and on May 3 and 4 the first two-day march was carried out, with 16 miles on the Saturday and 22 on the Sunday. By camp we were marching 50 miles during the weekend. Little marching took place during the first week of camp, but four marches were done of 20 miles each during the first four days of the second week. After camp there were two short marches to keep the feet hard, and one hard weekend when the team marched from Hounslow, which they left at 2030 hrs. on Friday evening, to Ferring, near Worthing, a distance of 62 miles, which they reached early on Sunday afternoon.

Next year training will start on April 1, with a six-miler, and steadily increase to camp. The important thing is to start training and to keep it up. On the March itself the Commanding Officer, who took part in every training march, had no blisters at the end of the last day; some of those who did less training were very sore indeed.

A lot was learned during the training period and, naturally enough, more still during the Marches. Boots are of paramount importance. The standard Army boot was unbeatable. (Several very expensive alternatives purchased privately were abandoned during training.) They must, however, fit perfectly. Two pairs of well-fitting new boots should be obtained well before training is due to start, and thoroughly softened with Kiwi "Wet-Prufe" or similar silicone compound. They should not be loose and must be well studded. Two pairs of woollen socks suit most feet. Wool without darts is essential; the blisters received by Major Webber after wearing non-wool were hideous for weeks. One

or two members of the team wore Commando-type rubber soles, but much assistance is obtained on the actual March by the "crunch, crunch" of the nailed boot, which keeps the pace together, especially when other units are overtaking or being overtaken. When repairs are required it is well worth while getting boots through-soled, rather than having the usual half-sole, as this avoids the formation of a ridge across the sole of the foot. Boots should be laced firmly but not tightly, with a double bow which will not come undone. Soreness at the top of the boot can be avoided by doubling socks back inside the boot around the ankle. Army foot powder rubbed into the feet and sprinkled inside the socks is excellent, as it contains a hardening agent, not present in normal talcum powder. All ranks must be taught how to treat their blisters; tiny ones should be left; large ones should be pricked with a sterile instrument, drained and covered with an adhesive dressing. It is a great help if at least one of the orderlies who accompany the team is both trained and experienced in foot care.

The few weeks after camp were busy. Passports were obtained, using photographs taken at camp for all those who did not already possess them. Confirmation of the final figures of the entrants were sent to the travel agency, who had of course been contacted with a provisional booking in April, and to the March organisers in Holland. The Commanding Officer spent much time in obtaining funds from sources which shall be undisclosed but to whom all the team are most grateful. It costs about £10 per head from private resources for each member of the team and their accompanying two administrators. Currency was changed and kit was checked.

The team left on Friday, July 18, to the relief of Capt. A. N. Jordan, who came with the Quartermaster (Lt. F. Griffiths) to Liverpool Street to see them off. Brigadier D. R. Wilson and Lt.-Col. Peter Allen (of the 7th) were also at the station by 0800 hrs., a gesture that was much appreciated. The crossing from Harwich to the Hook was like a mill pond. Vast quantities of beer were drunk, sitting on the after-deck in bright sunshine of M.V. *Koninigen Emma*. A special train was provided from the Hook to Nijmegen and the team reached the Snijders Kazerne, the Royal Dutch Air Force Barracks in Nijmegen, by 2200 hrs. By 2300 hrs. all ranks were drinking beer in Nijmegen, and eating, in most cases, ham and eggs. Saturday, Sunday and Monday were taken easily. The team paraded in the morning and did a short six-mile march, checked kit and spent the afternoons and evenings looking around Holland. Nijmegen is a charming town of great character; it is a mixture of the old and the new, with parts going back to the 12th century, while much of the town was rebuilt after the war. The 8th Battalion was last in Nijmegen in September 1944, when, as the Support Battalion, with M.M.G. and 4.2 Mortar Companies of the 43rd Wessex Division, it took part in the fighting to try to break through to relieve the Airborne Division at Arnhem. Lt.-Col. Peter Allen was then a Company Commander of the 8th with a M.M.G. Company, and the Commanding Officer (then Capt. I. D. Brotherton) was the Battalion Signal Officer and

was wounded on the Waal Bridge when his jeep was shot at by an 88-mm. gun, probably from a "Tiger" tank. On the Saturday the Commanding Officer, with Major Webber and Major Hall, went to Arnhem and visited the beautifully kept War Cemetery. The subalterns went to Brussels to visit the fair (and night clubs).

On Tuesday the team was up at 0400 hrs., a particularly difficult exercise, as some of them did not retire before 0200 hrs. After a hasty breakfast of coffee, bread, salami and cheese they paraded at 0445 hrs., marched down the half-mile to the Wedren Square and, after collecting the team check card, set off at 0515 hrs. Despite the hour, there were several hundred locals already up to watch the start. Within a few minutes, before crossing the Waal Bridge, several Regular Army units from Germany overtook the team at nearly 140 paces to the minute. The Commanding Officer refused to march at over 118, a drill which paid dividends on the third and fourth days. The first day's march led through Bemmel, nearly to Arnhem, back to Elst, Valburg, Costerhout and over the Waal again. The normal Army halting routine was used by the team, ten minutes in the hour, with an hour's break for the haversack ration half-way round. At the second halt, at one of the official resting places, the Israeli teams were giving a folk dancing display to the music of a trumpet. Their women's team was extremely smart and marched very well in close formation; it included two parachutists. There were three halting places provided and the team always used them, as coffee, tea and a variety of other aids to marching could be obtained there. The main halt of an hour gave an opportunity for foot repairs to be done under the supervision of Major Webber, the chief bicycle orderly, and his assistant, Cpl. Williams. There was so much to see and so many people watching and cheering the marchers on, that time passed quickly and everyone was surprised how soon the day's march was over.

The second day's march was to the east and the third day to the south. By mid-day on the third day spirits were a trifle low, particularly as it was pouring with rain, but after the mid-day halt the sun came out, spirits rose and to the team's joy they found, on approaching the one and only hill on the Marches, that they were steadily overtaking team after team, starting with the German Army, the Israelis and many Dutch teams. Morale was then sky-high and C.S.M. Thorogood suddenly found his voice and an incredible repertoire of songs, which he did not stop singing until he was back in Nijmegen. The fourth day went quickly, the route going south-east over the Maas at Grave and back over it again at Cuyk by a Bailey bridge built for the day by Dutch Army engineers. At the outskirts of Nijmegen the troops all halted, left their equipment and changed into best battle-dress. The team downed the residue of the rum left over from the camp scheme issue and marched the last three miles, at attention, at the slope. The Commanding Officer abandoned the rifle he had carried 536 miles (439 on training and 97 on the March) and came in with his blackthorn stick and a large bunch of carnations under his arm. The crowds in Nijmegen were unbelievable—the local papers said that half-a-



2/LT. MURRAY AND SWISS NURSE

million were watching the last day. And that was that! The team ordered arms and, with broad grins all round, went back to barracks in a Dutch Army truck, complete with the team and individual medals, a quick change and out again to one of the enormous and excellent meals that can be obtained very reasonably at all times of the day and most of the night.

The following evening they left Nijmegen, spending the night crossing the North Sea, a little rough this time, in the M.V. *Koningen Emma* again, sleeping like logs, having averaged about three hours' sleep a night for the previous eight days. The Adjutant and Quartermaster were at Liverpool Street with transport, and by 0900 hrs. the exercise was over.

It was in every way worth while. The training was hard and the March itself was hard enough to give everyone a great sense of achievement. The T.A. in general, and the Battalion and Regiment in particular, got a great deal of useful publicity from the Press, the B.B.C. and news reels. It gave the younger members of the team a chance to meet other N.A.T.O. troops and other units of our own Forces, as well as Dutch civilians. It gave the older members a chance to relax from the everyday cares of civilian life, which may be the reason that every Field Officer in the Battalion was in the team. Above all, and despite sore feet, the team thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the Battalion will certainly enter again. This year's team consisted of: Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton, Major G. W. Webber, Major P. J. Hall, Lt. H. E. Couch, Lt. M. D. Beresford, Lt. K. F. Trevett-Lyall, 2/Lt. K. D. Murray, C.S.M. Thorogood, Cpl. Williams, Cpl. Young, L/Cpl. Gainsbury, Pte. Roberts and Pte. Wheeler, and most of these will be there again.

RECRUITING

Throughout the year the Battalion has been recruiting at a steady rate; although the latter half of the year has shown a slight falling off in the number of recruits, the earlier efforts directed to recruiting have been maintained.

In this, its Jubilee Year, the Territorial Army has been very much to the fore in the National Press and on TV, which has undoubtedly accounted in no small measure for the healthy rise in recruiting throughout the country, but it is still the individual who can achieve the best results in this sphere, and all ranks now serving should never slacken in their efforts to interest their civilian friends and acquaintances in the T.A. and do their utmost to encourage them to join.

EXERCISE "SEA LION"

For the third year in succession the Battalion were afforded facilities at the Joint Services Amphibious Warfare Centre at Poole, which enabled this exercise to take place during the week-end September 6-7, 1958.

It was attended by approximately 70 all ranks of the Battalion, many of whom were making their first visit to Poole, but to newcomer and "old hand" alike it proved to be an extremely interesting and instructive week-end.

The Battalion group travelled to Poole by train on Saturday and were taken straight to the J.S.A.W.C. for a meal on arrival. Unfortunately, as the exercise timings were influenced by the tides, the programme had to be speeded up, and there was not as much time as one would have liked to spend on exercise preparation, issue of rations and stores, briefing and orders, etc. There was only time for a short period of instruction and practice with the L.C.A. at the Hard, which included embarking a Champ 4-ton and trailer before the exercise was due to begin.

The Battalion was organised with a tactical H.Q. and three Rifle Companies, Major Webber commanding. "A" Company was commanded by Lt. Trevett-Lyall, "B" and "S" Companies combined, commanded by Capt. Holmes, and "C" Company commanded by Capt. Lobb. The Commanding Officer was exercise director and chief umpire, assisted by the R.S.M. Capt. Jordan commanded a small party, including two N.C.O.s from the Depot, and acted as an enemy group.

The Battalion embarked in three L.C.A.s in the early evening of September 6, and the exercise began with an assault landing on the coast south of Poole, on the Arne peninsula.

It was a wet landing for most of the troops, as the landing craft were still in a couple of feet of water, but the leading troops went ashore with great gusto and "A" Company in particular were on top of the "enemy" before they had a chance to get away, with the exception of one signaller, who was rendered immobile by his trousers having dropped around the ankles.

The Battalion task was to move inland about five miles to destroy road and rail communications which were vital to the enemy for the transport of war materials and, having achieved the object, to return to the coast by roundabout route to rendezvous with the L.C.A. at first light on the morning of September 7 and be taken off by the L.C.A.

Throughout the exercise the Battalion was frequently engaged by "enemy" patrols and all ranks were exercised in battle procedure, though Company Commanders were handicapped by the breakdown of wireless communication. However, the mission was successful and

the Battalion returned to the rendezvous by march route during darkness. There they were met by the "Q" staff, who provided a welcome cup of tea, and a bivouac area was established for the night.

Just after "Stand down" in the morning the L.C.A. appeared and the Battalion embarked to return to the J.S.A.W.C. for debriefing, a clean-up prior to return, and a tour of the Hard under a Sergeant of Royal Marines, who lectured and displayed the various types of craft in use.

The Commanding Officer had a final summing up on the exercise generally, bringing out the main lessons to be learned, and if those are remembered for the future, then a great deal has been achieved. Certainly one thing that will be remembered by many sufferers is that the mosquito in that part of the country is of a particularly vicious and persistent breed.

The Battalion is indebted to the Commandant and Staff of the J.S.A.W.C., who were so co-operative and helpful in affording us the services they did at a time when they must be heavily committed elsewhere.

THE PERRING TROPHY

The M.M.G. Platoon, "S" Company, fired in this competition at Pirbright on Sunday, September 14, 1958, which is now a straight fight between ourselves and the 7th Battalion, as we are the only two T.A. units in the county with the Vickers machine-gun.

The section was commanded by Lt. Hogg, with Cpl. Dew, Pte. Turland and Pte. Smith as No. 1 Gun team, and Sgt. Light, Cpl. Bartholomew and Cpl. Tinson as No. 2 Gun team.

The weather was fair, with good light, and the section scored a total of 182, which proved to be the winning score.

The M.M.G. Platoon are to be congratulated upon winning this trophy for the third year in succession, the 7th Battalion having won it last in 1955.

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX RIFLE MEETING

A team of 12 officers and other ranks represented the Battalion at this meeting, which was held at Bisley during the week-end September 20-21, 1958.

The team comprised: Lt.-Col. Brotherton, Major Webber, W.O.2 Wales, C/Sgt. Saunders, Sgt. L. Wood, Cpls. Ashcroft, Dew, Thomas and Young, L/Cpl. Elston, Ptes. Cleaton and Hutchins.

In spite of some consistent shooting by one or two team members we had no successes in the team events, and even "S" Company M.M.G. team were unable to repeat last year's success in the Machine-Gun Competition and retain the Munro Cup.

The Commanding Officer was in good form during the morning and was among the leaders in the Service Rifle Championship at the qualifying stage, but unfortunately did not maintain the same high standard after lunch. He was, however, awarded a silver spoon as one of the leading competitors in this event.

For those younger members of the team who were competing at Bisley for the first time it was a valuable experience, which should stand them in good stead for the future.

MIDDLESEX TERRITORIAL ASSOCIATION MEETING

This meeting was held at Henley Park on September 28, 1958, and, having had the benefit of a week-end at Bisley the previous week, the Battalion had high hopes of being successful.

Two teams were entered in the Inter-Unit Rifle Competition. Lt.-Col. Brotherton, Major Webber, 2/Lt. Murray, Cpls. Young, Thomas and Ashcroft, as "A" team, did very well, and the team total of 403 was for some time the highest total on the board, but was eventually beaten by a few points and the "A" team had to be content with second place.

The "B" team was represented by W.O.2 Wales, C/Sgt. Saunders, Sgts. Haines and Wood, Ptes. Beauchamp and Hutchins, and were unable to pull anything "out of the bag" in scoring a total of 310.

In the L.M.G. Competition we were also beaten in the team event, despite a very fine shoot by Cpl. Thomas and Cpl. Young, who obtained the highest score of the meeting and were awarded the L.M.G. Cup. These two N.C.O.s are rapidly making a name for themselves as an L.M.G. pair and are to be congratulated upon winning this event so convincingly.

Cpl. Young also did particularly well in the rifle shooting, with the second highest individual score at the meeting.

The standard of shooting throughout the meeting was very good, and though the Battalion team did not win a major event outright, they were far from being disgraced. In fact, at the final rally the margin between units was very small indeed.

OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

The Battalion has been reinforced recently with a number of new officers, who make a welcome addition to the existing officer strength.

Capt. R. C. Whipps has joined the Battalion and assumed the appointment of O.C. "H.Q." Company on October 6, 1958. This enabled Capt. D. B. Brooks to return to his beloved "D" Company.

Lt. P. D. Hollidge has also joined the Battalion recently and is appointed I.O. in "H.Q." Company.

Both these appointments come at a time when "H.Q." Company had been having a lean spell with a succession of changes of command, due to officers' business and other commitments, so both Capt. Whipps and Lt. Hollidge are doubly welcome on that account and we wish them both many long and happy years with the Battalion and "H.Q." Company.

Heartiest congratulations go to 2/Lt. L. R. S. McDonald, who has been granted a T.A. Commission. He continues to serve with "D" Company, to whom he is already known.

It was heartening to hear that Lt. Young, of "B" Company, had finally left the hospital, where he had been undergoing treatment for a number of weeks. An old injury had been aggravated anew as a result of the long marches he undertook in training for the Nijmegen team. He is not yet fully active, of course, but all ranks will wish him a complete and speedy recovery now that he is "out and about."

PERMANENT STAFF

The Permanent Staff has also had its share of changes during the last few weeks and most notable of these has been the loss of C.S.M. Roberts as a P.S.I. His Regular Army contract has expired and he was finally discharged on September 23, 1958, but we are glad to report that he has signed on with the unit as a Territorial.

He has been a very loyal servant of the Battalion for a number of years, both during the days of the 11th Parachute Battalion and also since the change-over to 8th Middlesex. Fortunately he is not lost to the Battalion as he has taken up employment with his old Company as storeman-clerk, so "Taffy," as he is more affectionately known, will continue to serve the interests of the 8th Middlesex, in a different capacity.

Sgt. R. Ford has joined the Battalion from the 1st Middlesex and has been posted as P.S.I. to "D" Company. Having been serving in Cyprus during the last two years, it is hoped that the change will be to his liking and that he will enjoy his tour of duty with the T.A.

His posting to us caused a slight readjustment to be made, and Sgt. Jolly has now gone to "B" Company to replace Sgt. Dickie. Sgt. Dickie was due to have left the Battalion a few weeks ago but now remains for a further few weeks, so has been called in the "H.Q." Company, where he can assist the Q.M. and supervise the work of the M.T., pending his posting at the end of the year.

THE HONG KONG REGIMENT

The quarter has been another busy one. The training programme has been very full of weekend exercises and range days. All the Companies have had a weekend out in the hills to settle down for the more arduous expeditions expected during annual camp. The Regimental Band as usual has been very busy, and again this year has led the parade on two "other service" occasions. The first of these was the Battle of Britain Parade and march past on September 21, when the Corps of Drums and the Band headed the parades. The second occasion was Trafalgar Day, when again our musicians did their stuff. On this parade they led the Royal Naval Contingent to Government House and his Excellency Sir Robert Black inspected the Band in the forefront.

The last month has, of course, been almost entirely devoted to preparation for annual camp. We do not know as yet what the powers that be have in store for us, but rumour has it that "worse than last year is to come." We hope to be able to report in the next edition that all was well and that camp was its usual success.

In the sporting world we can again report that we have won the Colony Knock-out Water Polo Championship for the second year. In addition, we made our debut in the swimming championships and won two events and were runners-up in two more. In addition to these successes, we also defeated the Army in the Terry Trophy, which is the annual swimming and water polo contest between the Regiment and the Army.

R.S.M. Budden is now part of the "landscape" and has acclimatised himself to the peculiar ways of volunteers. The Middlesex affiliation is as strong as ever and we all look forward to reports of 1st Middlesex and their activities in this issue. We are glad to hear that the continuity of Middlesex Adjutants is to be maintained, and by the time these notes are printed we shall have welcomed Capt. and Mrs. Cain to our fold.

AUTUMN GOLF MEETING

Considering the weather forecast we were, as usual, lucky at the weekend September 20-21. Saturday was fine, and on Sunday rain descended at a convenient time when all couples were within range and it was possible to curtail the round and go in to tea after nine holes.

It is always too much to hope that numbers will be equal and convenient for the weekend, but they would have been had not Norman Clayden been stricken with a severe cold on Saturday. Fortunately this was overcome by Mrs. del Court marking for a very tired would-be golfer on Sunday morning, and a member of the N.H.G.C. coming in in the afternoon to make up the foursome—and he won. It is best to draw a veil over most of the golf, as the course definitely won and the scores were incredibly bad. A very welcome win was that of the Colonel of the Regiment, who won the Jay Cup for the aggregate of the two days. We regret to say that only one other competitor produced an aggregate for the two days.

On the first day Capt. R. D. Latham won the medal round with Major Clayden as runner-up, whilst the Cooper Cup went to Capt. Latham and Lt.-Col. del Court, with Major Pearce Gould and Capt. M. V. Hayward as runners-up.

There was then a halt and we retired to Mrs. Le Patourel's flat for cocktails and all the noise of a successful party in full swing. Back to the club, where Norman's share of an excellent dinner was eaten by Mrs. J. F. S. Morrison, a very welcome addition to the party.

After the dinner, the very serious business of the A.G.M.

I do not know when the party broke up, and the steward won't tell me, but I know that I was in bed at 10.30 p.m. and awoke still doing sums golfing and monetary at 1.10 a.m., which is not a very good start to another day's golf and accountancy.

Scores on Sunday did at least reach the seventies, nett in some cases, and appropriately, the Captain elect won the Handicap Cup with a net 76.

The afternoon foursomes were cut short owing to the rain and the time factor. I might mention that the member for Clydeside, having caused complete fustian over his train to Glasgow, held up the whole course, would not let us through and then refused to give up, to the utter astonishment of his voluntary driver.

The mixed foursomes were won by Mrs. Sutherland and Mr. E. Evans with 19 points—runners-up being Mrs. Evans and Lt.-Col. Worton. The Divot was fully earned by Major Ian Battye with what is believed to be the highest score ever recorded and handed in at

the North Hants Golf Club 152-24; 128. We were very sorry that Major Kempster, on doctor's orders, and Major Bywaters for family reasons could not attend, and Major Battye will doubtless thank the former for his most useful and appropriate Divot.

The A.G.M. passed off in a quiet and orderly manner.

Captain. It was agreed that it was time a younger member of the society took over the captaincy and Capt. P. A. S. Wollocombe was unanimously elected as he is at the right place at the right time.

Committee. This was agreed upon and will be: The O.C. Depot, the Captain, Lt.-Col. Worton and a T.A. member—Col. W. D. Ellis.

Prizes. It was proposed by Gen. Bucknall and seconded by Brigadier Proctor that the provision of prizes should not be automatic and that the Committee should decide according to the entries what prizes, and how many should be awarded at each meeting.

Thanks. The meeting expressed thanks to Brigadier Proctor for organising this meeting, to Mrs. E. C. le Patourel for kindly holding the cocktail party and for getting patient partners for the members in the mixed foursomes, and finally, to the Committee and Staff of the Golf Club for all that they did to help the meeting to be a success.

Gratuities. It was agreed that as many of those taking part were living in the Club and probably contributed to the Staff Fund, whilst others were members and automatically did so, it was reasonable to ask the Officers' Club as hitherto to donate £3.3s. od. to the Staff Fund.

Next Meeting. Brigadier Proctor was asked to arrange for September 19-20, 1959, for the next autumn meeting if North Hants Golf Club will have us.

DEATHS

TOMKINS.—We regret to announce the death on August 28 of ex-Pte. F. J. Tomkins, who was a member of the Association and a reader of the Journal for many years. Our sympathies have been extended to the family, but we were not able to be represented at the funeral as we were not informed in time.

SMALL.—We have received from Australia the story of the tragic death of Capt. R. E. Small after an accident at a sawmill where he was working. Capt. Small emigrated to Australia three years ago, and leaves a widow and three small children.

DODSON.—The death occurred after a long illness of ex-Pte. C. V. Dodson, who was a P.O.W. in Japan. A letter of condolence was sent to his widow on behalf of members of the Association, but we were not able to be represented at his funeral as we were not informed until too late.

PORTER.—Ex-Pte. L. L. Porter, who was also a P.O.W. in Japan, died on October 26, and an N.C.O. from the Depot attended his funeral.

HOAD.—Walter Hoad, who served with the Regiment in the First World War, died on November 1 and a Requiem Mass was held at the Sacred Heart Church in Battersea on the morning of November 4.

inconvenient for some members as the weekend coincided with the return of children to schools.

5. *Brigadier Baker.* It was proposed by Brigadier Rackham and approved by the Committee that a vote of thanks be recorded to Brigadier Baker for his long and devoted service as a member of this Committee.

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

A. W. CLARK, Major,
Secretary, Middlesex Regiment Officer's Club.

Inglis Barracks,
Mill Hill, N.W.7.
October 2, 1958.

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

NOT ON THE REGIMENTAL LIST

Rank	Name	Appointment and Location
Brigadier	G. P. L. Weston, D.S.O., O.B.E.	Commandant, Army Air Corps Centre, Middle Wallop
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 (Scottish) Port Task Force, Glasgow
T/Brigadier	R. A. Gwyn, O.B.E.	Commander, 146 (W.R.) Infantry Brigade (T.A.), Sheffield
T/Brigadier	G. Lervill, O.B.E., M.C.	Commander, 168 Infantry Brigade (T.A.), London
Col.	J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E.	A.G.2, War Office, Stanmore, Middlesex
Lt.-Col.	J. W. G. Ormiston	G.S.O.1 (Org. & Trg.), H.Q., A.F.N.E., Oslo
Lt.-Col.	A. G. Hewitt, M.B.E., M.C.	C.O., Ghana Training Centre, Kumasi
Lt.-Col.	C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C.	C.O., Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Plymouth
Lt.-Col.	G. B. Ayre	A.Q.M.G., S.H.A.P.E.

REGULAR OFFICERS

Lt.-Col.	W. P. M. Allen, O.B.E., M.C.	Comd., 7th Middlesex
Lt.-Col.	D. C. L. Nolda, M.B.E.	Comd., 1st Middlesex
T/Lt.-Col.	T. W. Chattey	A.Q.M.G., H.Q. Cyprus District
Major	G. C. Dawson	2IC, Adm. Wing, Mons O.C.S.
Major	I. H. Battye, M.B.E.	Comd., Depot Middlesex
T/Lt.-Col.	F. R. Waller, M.B.E., M.C.	A.Q.M.G.(M.), H.Q. B.A.O.R.
Major	A. J. Bennett	D.A.A.G., H.Q. Cyprus District
Major	R. K. B. Allott, M.C.	Port Security Officer, Cyprus
Major	F. F. Thompson, M.C., T.D.	G.S.O.2, H.Q. Northern Ireland District
Major	I. R. Burrows, O.B.E.	1st Middlesex
Major	P. L. Crutchfield	D.A.Q.M.G. (Works), H.Q. Eastern Command, Hounslow
Major	P. L. Pearce-Gould	G.2 (S.D.), H.Q. Southern Command
Major	R. D. Hutchings	1st Middlesex
Lt.-Col.	D. Sax	Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham
Major	G. Kent	D.A.P.R., The War Office
Major	S. E. Honess	1st Middlesex
Major	C. N. Clayden	G. (S.D.), H.Q. Eastern Command, Hounslow
Major	E. A. H. Jeffcoat	Depot, Middlesex (H.S.)
Major	P. W. Galvin	1st Middlesex
Major	M. F. Leonard	Malay Forces
Major	J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.	D.A.A.G., A.L.F.C.E.
Major	C. H. Mieville, M.C.	Adj., Hong Kong Regiment
Major	P. G. V. Bellers	469 G.L.S., B.A.O.R.
Major	J. de Gaye	M.I.3, The War Office
Major	K. J. Carter	Staff College
Capt.	A. D. C. Eales	Trg. Officer, East Aden Protectorate
Capt.	J. S. C. Flavell	Adj., 8th Middlesex
Capt.	N. F. Legge	Adj., 7th Middlesex
Capt.	H. J. A. Moore	G.3 (I.), H.Q. 24 Indep. Infantry Brigade
Capt.	J. I. D. Pike, M.C.	Federation of Malaya Military College
Capt.	B. A. M. Pielow	Adj., 1st Middlesex
Capt.	R. M. Cain	Adj. (Designate), Hong Kong Regiment
Capt.	G. G. Norton	1st Middlesex
Capt.	B. K. Clayden	H.Q., Ghana, West Africa
Capt.	W. M. M. Deacock	22 S.A.A. Regiment, Malaya
Capt.	H. J. Evans	Depot Middlesex (H.S.)
Capt.	B. H. Marciandi	1st Middlesex
Capt.	C. L. Lawrence, M.C.	1st Middlesex
Capt.	P. A. S. Wollocombe	Depot Middlesex
Capt.	L. C. Sharpe	C. O. D. Bicester (att. R.A.O.C.)
Capt.	I. S. Rutherford	P.R. Pool, H.Q. B.A.O.R.
Capt.	G. Kitchener	1st Middlesex
Capt.	R. K. Collins	I.O., 51 Indep. Infantry Brigade, Cyprus
Capt.	J. S. B. Pollard	1st Middlesex
Capt.	R. D. Fisher	Ghana Regiment Training Centre
T/Capt.	M. V. Hayward	Adj., Depot Middlesex
Lt.	W. G. A. Crumley	1st Middlesex
Lt.	A. E. McManus	Depot Middlesex
Lt.	T. J. Humber	3rd Para.

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Appointment and Location</i>
Lt.	J. M. Hewson, M.C.	1st Middlesex
Lt.	I. M. E. Lloyd	Depot Middlesex
Lt.	H. M. du V. Lohan	Pool of Interpreters, Cyprus
Lt.	M. C. D. L. Gilham	1st Middlesex
Lt.	M. G. Waite	1st Middlesex
Lt.	M. F. Deakin	1st Middlesex
Lt.	P. V. Cheesman	1st Middlesex
Lt.	P. D. J. Clarke	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	M. Julian	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	A. B. Gowing	Depot Middlesex (H.S.)
2/Lt.	G. Goring	Depot Middlesex (H.S.)

REGULAR QUARTERMASTERS

Major	C. A. Trestain, M.B.E.	7th Middlesex
Capt.	S. C. W. Weller, M.M.	Depot Middlesex
Capt.	A. E. F. Waldron, M.B.E.	1st Middlesex
Lt.	P. Donovan	1st Middlesex

SHORT SERVICE OFFICERS

Major	L. G. Lohan, T.D.	Ministry of Defence
Major	A. E. Peasley	Adj't., Home Postal Depot R.E.
Major	J. Bywaters, M.B.E.	Training Officer, W.O.S.B., Barton Stacey
Major	G. W. P. Hodding, T.D.	S.O.P.T., H.Q. Scottish Command
Major	R. H. Last	War Office
Major	C. E. Rome, M.B.E.	G.S.O.2, Ministry of Supply
Major	E. L. Ellisdon	War Office
Capt.	A. R. Cowan	1st Middlesex
Capt.	A. R. F. Smith	3rd Q.O. Nigeria Regiment
Lt.	P. J. Rogers	Nigeria Recce Squadron, Kaduna, Nigeria
Lt.	J. U. H. Burke	Airborne Forces Depot
2/Lt.	P. McRae	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	M. F. K. Young	3rd Q.O. Nigeria Regiment
2/Lt.	P. W. Heselton	Ghana Regiment

SHORT SERVICE QUARTERMASTERS

Major	L. T. Honeybun	M.E.L.F., Cyprus
Major	H. I. Burnett, M.B.E.	A.P.O., Ashton-under-Lyne
Capt.	H. J. Jennings	Depot Middlesex (H.S.)
Lt.	E. J. Pike	Aden Protectorate Levies
Lt.	F. L. Griffiths	8th Middlesex

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICERS

2/Lt.	J. D. McCubbin	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	J. E. Phillips	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	C. F. Dobson	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	A. V. Hancock	2/6th K.A.R.
2/Lt.	D. A. J. McMillan	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	R. H. C. Waters	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	G. Bullock	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	R. J. Quinn	1st Training Regiment, R.E.M.E.
2/Lt.	A. Smith	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	E. J. C. R. Von Maltzhan	1st Sierra Leone Regiment
2/Lt.	R. T. Randall	Somaliland Scouts
2/Lt.	E. H. Montgomery	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	D. R. J. Evans	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	M. S. Cooper	Depot Middlesex (H.S.)
2/Lt.	V. A. Alexander	Depot Middlesex (H.S.)
2/Lt.	E. C. S. Ivens	Depot Middlesex (H.S.)

OFFICERS RECENTLY RETIRED

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>
Major	P. Collins, T.D.	August 29, 1958
Major	H. N. MacL. Martin	September 25, 1958
Major	H. M. F. Langley	October 16, 1958
Capt.	A. N. Jordan	December 1, 1958
Major	P. D. H. Marshall	December, 1958