

The Die Hards

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)

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THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN)

(57th and 77th)

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

"Mysore," "Serinapatam," "Albuhara," "Ciludad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyrenes," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsula," "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa 1900-32."

World War I—46 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "La Bassée, 1914," "Messines, 1914," "Arras, 1917," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Bellevue," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "Albert, 1916," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Fiers-Courcette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "Bapaume, 1917," "Arras, 1917," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "Arleux," "Plickem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazeubrouck," "Bailleul," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suva," "Landing at Suva," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell 'Asur," "Palestine 1917-18," "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Muran, 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," "Siily, 1943," "Francofonte," "Sierro," "Sierro Hills," "Italy, 1944-45: "Anzio," "Carroceto," "Gothic Line," "Monte Grande," "North-West Europe, 1944-45: "Normandy Landing," "Cambes," "Breville," "The Odon," "Caen," "The Orne," "Hill 112," "Bourgeois Ridge," "Troam," "Mont Pincon," "Falaise," "The Seine, 1944," "The Nederjin," "Le Havre," "The Lower Maas," "Venraij," "Meijel," "Gellenkirchen," "Venlo Pocket," "The Rhineland," "Goch," "The Reichwald," "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).
6th Bn. (Royal Middlesex Militia). } In suspension.

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 1930-45 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.).

Amalgated Unit

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

NEW ZEALAND

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

HONG KONG REGIMENT

British Army Post Office, 1, Hong Kong.

Colonel of the Regiment: Lt.-General G. C. Bucknall, C.B.,
M.C., D.L.
Officer Commanding 1st Battalion: Lt.-Col. D. C. L. Nolda,
M.B.E.

Officer Commanding Depot: Major I. H. Battye, M.B.E.
Officer Commanding 7th Battalion: Lt.-Col. W. P. M. Allen,
O.B.E., M.C.

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

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 (DCO), Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

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

Subscriptions should be forwarded to the Editor, as above. Cheques and Postal Orders made payable to Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, and crossed "G. & 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.

Editor's Comments

Honours and Awards

In the recent Birthday Honours, two serving officers of the Regiment were awarded the M.B.E.—Lt. Col. Lohan and Major Pearce Gould. We offer both of them our congratulations. The latter is now second-in-command of the 1st Battalion.

British-Pakistani Himalayan Forces Expedition

Elsewhere in this issue there is a very interesting account by Capt. Warwick Deacock of the climbing of Rakaposhi. This hitherto unscaled mountain peak in the Himalayas was recently conquered by a Joint Services Expedition, in which Warwick Deacock played a notable part. It is stimulating these days to see officers taking part in activities which call for such determination and sense of adventure, and such efforts, undoubtedly, enhance the prestige of the Regiment. Warwick Deacock is now seconded to the Special Air Service Regiment in Malaya, where fresh adventures no doubt await him!

The Late Colour-Sergeant Fletcher

We were very sorry to hear of the sudden death of this well-known and well-liked N.C.O., who, in the pre-World War II years, had been a most able P.R.I. clerk, and after that was the Officers' Mess Sergeant at the Depot. Many former officers of the 2nd Battalion and the Depot will remember him for his willing assistance in helping them over their accounting problems, and cricketers for his excellent copper-plate writing in the leatherbound Cricket Week scorebook. To his family we send our deepest sympathy. An obituary notice appears elsewhere.

The Regimental Cap Badge

We greatly respect and admire the sentiments expressed by "Busty" Hull in the last issue about the eventual loss of our Cap Badge. To all former "Die-Hards" it will indeed be a great loss, for we have cherished and polished it for many years! But we must point out that, while to future "Die-Hards" the old Cap Badge will not have the same significance, they, in their turn, will come to care and value the new Brigade Cap Badge, and perhaps later to cherish it. The collar badges of our Regiment will remain as a continual reminder of the "Die-Hard" spirit.

Some may say that future "Die-Hards" will have divided loyalties. Perhaps, as some cynic remarked, their division of loyalties may be eased when their headdress is removed! It is not that we agree with this cynicism, because we feel that a Home Counties Brigade spirit should be fostered and encouraged, but it will only come with time and tolerance from former and serving "Die-Hards." History invariably teaches us a lesson, so we must not forget the Army reforms brought about by Cardwell in 1871. These great reforms caused bitterness and offended great interests, but in the long term they achieved a greater efficiency for the Army. From these reforms the 57th and 77th Regiments lost their identities, but from the Sandys' reforms we do at least retain our identity. Furthermore, the Regimental Cap Badge will be retained by the 7th and 8th Battalions, both of whom have their own great T.A. traditions and will be worthy bearers of our Cap Badge.

A Regimental Marriage

As we write these comments a truly Regimental marriage is planned to take place on 14th March between Major Norman Clayden and Miss Jean Worton, both of whom are "Children of the Regiment." Norman is the only son of Lt.-Col. Bill Clayden and Jean is the only daughter of Lt.-Col. and Mrs. John Worton. We offer them our sincere congratulations and best wishes for their future happiness. With the greatest respect, Norman Clayden's period of courtship may well be termed "The Years of Perseverance"!

British Field Sports Society

For those of our readers who are interested in the continuance of field sports in this country, we draw their attention to the existence of the above society, which is needful of support to combat the present campaign against all field sports. In this connection, we are glad to publish the following notice from its Secretary, Brigadier Pepsy.

UNDER FIRE

Hunting, shooting, fishing—whatever your sport, it is "under fire."

The British Field Sports Society is the only organ-

ization which is daily protecting your interests. But its work cannot prosper unless more members and funds are forthcoming. If you are not already a member of the Society, please write for details now to:—The Secretary, British Field Sports Society, 51, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE LETTER No. 2

Readers of those Regimental Journals which published the first of these quarterly letters will remember that that particular letter closed with a list of certain Officers and Warrant Officers holding key appointments in the six 1st Battalions and the six Regimental Depots within the Home Counties Brigade. Readers who missed that first letter may care to refer to the October issue of *The Dragon*, the November edition of *The Queen's Own Gazette*, the winter copy of *The Roussillon Gazette*, or the December publication of *The Die-Hards*.

As a follow-up to that, and with Battalions coming and going so rapidly at the present time, it may not be without its interest to take a look at the many journeys which our six Battalions have undertaken during the past few years; in each case the year 1950 has been taken as a (purely arbitrary) kicking-off date. Here, then, in potted form, are six sagas of travel:—

1 QUEEN'S	1 BUFFS	1 SURREYS
50 B.A.O.R.	50 Hong Kong	50 Greece
53 U.K.	U.K.	U.K.
54 Singapore	51 Canal Zone	51 Tripoli
Malaya	52 U.K.	Canal Zone
Singapore	53 Kenya	N. Africa
55 Malaya	54 U.K.	54 U.K.
56 Singapore	55 B.A.O.R.	55 B.A.O.R.
57 B.A.O.R.	57 U.K.	58 Benghazi
	58 Aden	U.K.
1 R. SUSSEX	1 R.W.K.	1 MIDDLESEX
50 Canal Zone	50 U.K.	50 Hong Kong
52 U.K.	51 Malaya	Korea
54 B.A.O.R.	54 B.A.O.R.	51 Hong Kong
56 U.K.	56 U.K.	52 U.K.
Korea	Suez	53 Austria
57 Gibraltar	Cyprus	55 U.K.
		Cyprus
		58 B.A.O.R.

So much for the past. What of the present, and even the future? It will be revealing no secrets to say that 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment, due to amalgamate with 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment in October, 1959, to form the 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, will be leaving B.A.O.R. a month or so before that date. The 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment, only recently returned from Benghazi, await their arrival in Bury St. Edmunds under the command of their newly-appointed C.O., Lt.-Colonel Tony White, M.B.E., who it is thought may well become the first C.O. of the new Battalion.

1st Battalion The Buffs, after one year in Aden, were due for a move to Cyprus early in 1959. Much to everyone's surprise, however, such a move did not materialise and, by the time this letter appears in print in some Journals, they will have returned to B.A.O.R.

Their amalgamation with 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment is not due until the summer of 1961, and long before that time the latter will, one assumes, have come away from Cyprus. It is much to be hoped that the amalgamation will take place somewhere in England.

1st Battalion The Royal Sussex Regiment are billed to leave Gibraltar in the spring of 1959, but it is perhaps early days yet to say exactly where they are going. And finally 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, who recently passed through this country after three most successful years in Cyprus, have quickly sorted themselves out in B.A.O.R.

To them all, from Commanding Officer to most newly arrived Private Soldier, no matter where they may be serving, comes a message of good wishes and good luck for 1959 from this correspondent and from all ranks of the Home Counties Brigade Headquarters at Canterbury.

As there has been, so far, little or no mention in these letters of who is to be found at that Headquarters this is, perhaps, the appropriate moment to say something more about that establishment.

Colonel Dick Stevens, O.B.E., late of the Royal Fusiliers, was, in August last year, succeeded in the appointment of Brigade Colonel by your correspondent, Colonel Raymond Grace, O.B.E., late of the Buffs. As it is always highly embarrassing writing about oneself that is quite enough about him; he plans to pay a visit to all six Battalions between now and the middle of May and is much looking forward to meeting everyone.

Major Michael Stopford, of the Queen's, has been at this Headquarters as D.A.A.G. (or Brigade Adjutant as he prefers to call himself) since May, 1957; he has recently achieved an extension of his appointment until May next year. He lives in Sturry, just down the road from this Headquarters.

Lt.-Col. "Buster" Keene has been the R.O. III at the Headquarters since 1952. He was in the Indian Army and his last appointment, in command of the 3rd Battalion Assam Rifles, included the battle of Kohima. He lives in Canterbury.

Capt. John French, of The Buffs, has been Brigade Training Officer since September, 1957. His main responsibility—and it is a far bigger headache than is enjoyed by most officers of similar age and seniority—is the well-being of 71 Junior Bandsmen and Junior Drummers, Boys between the ages of 15 and 17½ undergoing musical and educational training before going to their Regiments. A breakdown of these 71 Boys, by Regiments, is as follows:—

	JUNIOR		Total
	Bandsmen	Drummers	
Queen's	8	3	11
Buffs	7	7	14
E. Surreys	9	1	10
R. Sussex	11	6	17
R.W.K.	5	2	7
Middlesex	8	4	12
Totals	48	23	71

Of the above, four are undergoing training at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, one each

from the Queen's and the East Surreys, and two from The Royal Sussex.

The establishment does, in fact, allow for ten Junior Bandsmen and six Junior Drummers per Regiment; with six Regiments in the Brigade this gives a permissible total of 96, so that there are a number of holes still to be filled.

The musical side of their training is in the extremely capable hands of Bandmaster Gaines, of The Queen's, who has been the Brigade Bandmaster since the inception of the establishment in October, 1956. He has an all-too-small staff of N.C.O.s to assist him and between them they have produced a Band, fully capable of "playing out" at parades and elsewhere, which even in its short life has won a very considerable reputation for itself.

The Brigade School, where the Boys are taught a lot more than just their "three R's," is run by Major "Bunny" Austin, of the R.A.E.C., who has two R.A.E.C. Sergeants to help him. The results achieved by these three, to judge by the number of Boys who go to their Regiments with some form of Educational Certificate, are extremely gratifying.

The paper work in the Headquarters increases daily. The handling of it all is most ably looked after by O.R.Q.M.S. Pott, of the East Surrey Regiment, who was posted here in June, 1957. A staff of three, one of whom has the additional duty of driving the Brigade Colonel around in his staff car, are all fully employed on clerical duties.

Finally there is the Weapon Training Staff. Q.M.S.I. Timblich, of the Small Arms School Corps joined the Headquarters in March, 1957. Assisted by three N.C.O.'s, he is responsible for the organisation of, and the training in, a series of Cadre Courses, of varying duration, for N.C.O.'s and potential N.C.O.'s whom Battalions and Depots send to Canterbury for the purpose. They are taught Weapon Training, minor tactics and fieldcraft and the duties of a N.C.O.

So much for who there is, and what goes on, at Brigade Headquarters: it is, in miniature, what will eventually be found at the Brigade Depot. The date for the setting up of that Depot is April 1, 1960, but before that date certain important events will have taken place.

The first of them will have been the moves of the Regimental Depots of the Queen's and of the East Surrey Regiment into Wemyss Barracks, Canterbury, and the establishment of their amalgamated depot there. That will be followed, a matter of a few weeks later, by the amalgamation of the 1st Battalion of those two Regiments, and the creation thereby of an entirely new Unit, the 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, to which mention has already been made earlier in this letter.

As from that day, probably late in October this year, all ranks in all the Battalions in the Brigade, no matter in what theatre they may be, will wear the Home Counties Brigade badge in their caps and/or berets. This will also apply to all ranks at all Depots in the Brigade.

The Regimental Depot of The Royal Sussex Regi-

ment will be closing at Chichester late this year or early in 1960, and will move to Wemyss Barracks; and on March 31, 1960, that Depot and the Depot of the Queen's Surreys (the official, abbreviated name of the new Regiment of Surrey) will be disbanded, prior to the formation of the Brigade Depot. Thereafter, and until such time as they themselves either amalgamate or move to Canterbury, the three remaining Regimental Depots (of The Buffs, the Queen's Own and the Middlesex Regiment) will be "out-stations" of the Brigade Depot.

By the time these lines are printed the news that Her Majesty has approved the Home Counties Brigade badge will be some weeks old. No matter what our own personal feelings may be when we wear that badge for the first time, and irrespective of what our Regimental badge has meant, and will always mean, to each of us, all ranks in the Brigade will be in duty bound to hold their new insignia in high regard with the utmost loyalty. Changes, especially changes in what we like to look upon as fundamental things, are frequently unattractive and unpalatable; we tend to glance backwards over our shoulders at what has been and fiercely, even at times fanatically, to resent any alteration from the ordered pattern of long-established things. All such sentiments and feelings are inevitable and utterly right. But where changes are of equal inevitability it is futile and wrong to try to resist them. "Kicking against the pricks," however much one may be prompted to do so, is puerile and time-wasting, and it would be a pity if anyone in this Brigade could be found guilty of being dubbed obstructionist.

To bring this second letter to a close it is most pleasant to be able to record two rather special awards made by Her Majesty in recent weeks. First, that of the Military Cross to Lt. John Hewson, of 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, for bravery in operations in Cyprus; and secondly, that of the Military Medal to Cpl. P. R. W. White, of 1st Battalion The Buffs, for a courageous action on the Jebel Jehaf plateau, Aden. To both recipients comes the good wishes and warm congratulations of all their comrades-in-arms in the Home Counties Brigade.

STEADY THE DRUMS AND FIFES

The Regimental Council decided the picture "Steady the Drums and Fifes" depicting the 57th Foot drawn up under fire on the ridge of Albuhera, well worth reproducing by a first-class colour process and 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 Officers' Mess.

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

The cost of the picture supplied in suitable tube for posting, surface mail paid, is £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.

1st Battalion Notes

Our move from Cyprus is complete and the Battalion is firmly established in Gordon Barracks, Hameln. There can be little doubt that many of us are a little sad at the change. Cyprus was no easy station. For much of our stay there living conditions were hard, although these improved with our move into Alexander Barracks. Our commitments necessitated long and arduous spells of duty, and the constant threat of ambush and hit and run attack, a degree of alertness and concentration which at times frayed the nerves of the most even tempered of us. However, there was always a sense of urgency and the knowledge that we were doing a worthwhile job, while the threat of attack added a spice to living, which not even the most realistic and best organised training can ever achieve.

Perhaps the greater freedom and more regular life which all ranks enjoy in Germany will compensate for this loss, but many of us will look back to the "good old days" in Cyprus for some time to come, for

"Calm is not life's crown, though calm is well,

'Tis all perhaps that man requires,

But 'tis not what our youth desires."

Well, so much for the past, and even though we may still turn first to the news from Cyprus when we open our daily papers, our efforts are turned to the future and to a successful tour of duty in Germany.

When the last Battalion Notes were despatched to the Editor, we were cruising peacefully through the Mediterranean, with thoughts firmly fixed on our arrival at Southampton and the leave which was to follow. Our arrival and welcome were beyond expectation. One of the local newspapers of the County had organised three coach loads of relations to welcome us on the docks, and as the *Dunera* was ushered into her berth in the great port, there was a concerted rush of these visitors on to the quay, bursting aside the efforts of the civilian and military police to retain them in the customs sheds. In a small isolated group stood the Colonel of the Regiment, with Colonel Browne, who had seen the Battalion embark three years previously, Colonel Willoughby, distinctive in his red flannel, who had commanded on that occasion, and Major Battye and a group from the Regimental Depot, most of whom had seen service with the Battalion in Cyprus. The national press was well represented and a television newsreel unit also recorded the scene. It was a glad and proud homecoming, and a welcome to remember.

During the evening, the official party was allowed on board, and the Colonel of the Regiment, having talked to the officers individually gave a short address on the ship's tannoy system to all ranks. At the same time, those men whose relatives had come to meet them, were allowed ashore for a short time to greet them.

The next morning, November 3, reveille was at 4 a.m., but there were for once no laggards and disembarkation proceeded according to plan. Two special trains took the Battalion to London, and once at Waterloo we ceased for the time being to be one composite organised body and became seven hundred individuals, each hurrying his own way and each intent on making the most of his well earned leave.

In the meantime, the advance party under the command of Major Burrows had arrived at our new station in Germany and by the time the officers reassembled at the Senior on November 11, very favourable reports had begun to filter through. Both the cocktail party on November 10, and the 1st and 2nd Battalion dinner the next day, were memorable occasions. It is many years since the Battalion has been in England for these events, and it was particularly enjoyable this year to welcome a number of non-regular past members of the Battalion, as well as those still serving, to the annual dinner for the first time.

In due course, the time for return to duty arrived. The first party to return joined the advance party in Germany on November 25, and thereafter, at weekly intervals, more returned to the fold, until on December 30, the Battalion was complete except for those few members, who having spent a full three years in Cyprus, were eligible for longer leave. Great credit must be given to the Advance Party who had laboured long and hard to prepare our new barracks for occupation, and to Major Burrows for the organisation of our reception which ensured our smooth transition back to duty.

Our new barracks are comfortable enough. They are not as well appointed as Alexander Barracks, but they are better than most at home and many others in Germany. We share with 29th Squadron R.E., and 43rd Field Park Squadron R.E. For many years since the war Hameln has been a Sapper stronghold, because it is admirably situated on the Weser for Engineer training. The other unit located in the town, 125 (Bridging) Company R.A.S.C. is also intimately connected with the Sappers, and so it is a novelty for the local inhabitants to have an infantry unit in their midst. It is unfortunate in some ways, that the remainder of our Brigade is located in Minden which is thirty miles away. There are of course many advantages in not being immediately under the eye of higher authority, but there are also many advantages to be gained from the close liaison and friendships which are possible within a larger garrison. However, our new neighbours are most co-operative and have made every effort to assist us in our move into our new station. We look forward to a close association with them socially and are eager to learn what they can teach us from their own specialist knowledge.

The painters have been hard at work, and the blue of our predecessors has given way to our regimental

colours. The square around which the rest of the barracks is built is the delight of the Regimental and Company Sergeant Majors, while the gymnasium which occupies one full side of the square is in constant use throughout the day for company training, and in the evening for a considerable number of enthusiasts who enjoy the diversity of equipment to be found there. The cookhouse and dining rooms are excellent and Captain Cowan, with Staff Sergeant Medlock and his staff, provide a lavish choice of six dishes for dinner, and other meals to match. Many an Orderly Officer and Battalion Orderly Sergeant have been disappointed on returning to their respective messes after attending these meals, to find that their own compare unfavourably with them.

The town of Hameln has of course been made famous by Robert Browning in his narrative poem "The Pied Piper of Hamelin." So far we have not noticed the absence of either rats or children. We understand that during the summer there is a pageant based on the legend in which the local children take part and to see which people come from all over the country. The town is delightful and is a charming mixture of old and new. In the town centre, the Church of St. Nicholas which was destroyed during the war is being reconstructed and the progress which has been made in the past few weeks and the speed with which work is completed, is a good example of the industry for which the Germans have become famous in the post war years. On the whole, the local people are favourably disposed towards the British. The days of occupation are over and we now find ourselves in Germany at the request of the German government. In some areas where British troops are stationed there is some hostility, but in Hameln, apart from the activities of the local band of Teddy Boys there is no such feeling. In fact a number of men have already established those friendly relations summed up in the expression "having their feet under the table."

It is to be hoped that this state of affairs continues because at present all ranks do enjoy complete freedom during their off duty hours. It is this more than anything else which we all, particularly the unmarried junior ranks, will appreciate after the restrictions on all off duty activities in our last station. The Commanding Officer has done all he can to obviate petty restrictions. Corporals and privates are now no longer required to book out of and into barracks. They have to be in by two o'clock in the morning, but provided they have not forfeited the privilege of holding a late pass, there is no other restrictions on the way in which they spend their off duty hours. This is an enormous concession to soldiers serving in a foreign station, and it is to be hoped that all will do their best to avoid any incident which might lead to a curtailment of this privilege.

Unfortunately the end of the occupation has meant the end of many amenities outside barracks, because we can no longer afford the hard currency necessary for the maintenance of club premises and for the hire of sports grounds. At present, there is only one club, The Pipers Club, which is run by the Church Army,

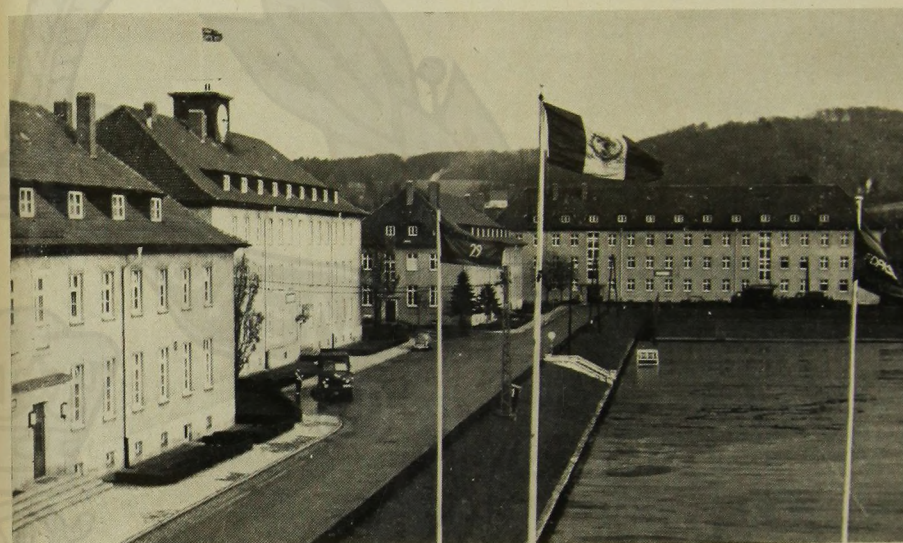
to which soldiers can go, but there are many Gast houses and cafes which are in bounds, and after all, even though language may constitute some barrier, a civilian establishment usually has more allure and is far more entertaining than the majority of service clubs. In any case, the beer is good and plentiful and the wine is cold and dry, and both are stronger than their counterparts in England, and if the girls are more aloof and unapproachable, they are pretty and have the great advantage over their English sisters, in that they are here instead of five hundred miles away.

So much for our off duty hours. The Commanding Officer has set us a formidable task for the first quarter's training in Germany. We have much to learn and not a great deal of time in which to learn it, so while officers delve into the mysteries of the assessment of atomic targets, Sergeant Majors are busy on the parade ground, and everyone is striving hard to achieve the standard of physical fitness and toughness required of the infantryman in modern war. Training areas are unfortunately limited and those which are available are far better suited to the Engineers for their bridging, than infantry tactics, but this is a problem with which the second in command is dealing. The weather is not kind to us and snow, followed by a rapid thaw and the threat of flooding, deep snow or ankle-deep mud, are very different from flaming sunshine and sub-tropical heat. However, as far as possible we ignore the weather and training goes on as usual. All the same, while Lt. Crumley and his Battalion ski team and those others who have fitted themselves out for winter sports may regret the advent of less arctic conditions, the majority of us will find the Spring a little more to our liking for outdoor activities.

So far we have not had much opportunity for sport. We arrived too late unfortunately to enter in the B.A.O.R. competitions for the major sports; the hockey, rugby and soccer competitions had all reached their final stages by the time we were ready to take part in inter-unit events again. However, we have had several friendly matches and the framework for next season's teams is being built up. The 11th Infantry Brigade Group organise a minor units soccer league, in which our company teams are competing. However, bad weather and shortage of pitches has hampered this and it is too early to say much about it. The Battalion squash team defeated the North Staffords in the first round of the B.A.O.R. competition, while on January 24 the cross country team won the 11th Infantry Brigade Group event by a satisfactory margin. All this is a good start and we hope to go on from success to success. Meanwhile in the mountains around Winterberg the ski team sally forth daily from their tents in the snow to train for the Divisional Langlauf race. We wish them success. From the team's description of conditions they are experiencing during training, they are earning it.

We have been visited by the Divisional Commander on January 8, and by the Brigade Commander on January 22. On both occasions the Battalion was obviously in good heart and we hope that suitably

HAMELN



Gordon Barracks, The Officers Mess, Battalion Headquarters and the Sergeants Mess



A general view of the square showing the gymnasium

favourable impressions were made. The Divisional Commander and the Brigade Commander both paid a special compliment to the guards found by "B" and "A" Companies for their respective visits.

We are sorry to lose Major Burrows, who has been second in command for such a short time, but congratulate him on his appointment as Military Attaché in Moscow, which brings with it promotion to the local rank of Brigadier. No doubt vodka will not be the only source of headaches in his new job. Major Pearce Gould succeeds him, and we congratulate him on the award of the M.B.E. in the New Year Honours List in recognition for his work at Headquarters Southern Command.

In conclusion we would like to say goodbye and thank you to all those members of the Battalion who left us when we returned to England, and wish them all success either in civilian life or their new Army appointments. To those who have joined us in their place we extend a welcome and wish them a happy tour of duty in Germany with the "Die-Hards."

SPORTS NOTES

Since the Battalion's arrival in Germany most outdoor games have been affected by the weather and the shortage of pitches in the Hameln area. We have played some Association football at Company level in the Brigade Minor Units League, but snow has now temporarily curtailed even this. As yet, the Battalion XI have only done some indoor training; we arrived too late to enter the Army Cup, but are entered in the 2nd Division Knock-out. After a series of friendly matches with the Garrison, the Rugby XV played one match, defeating 3rd R.T.R. from Detmold 5-0 before snow cancelled further fixtures. We also provided seven players for the 2nd Division trial. The Battalion Hockey XI has not yet played any fixtures, but companies have been making full use of the pitch.

We are fortunate in having a large gymnasium. A lot of basketball is being played at company level and the Battalion team is training hard for the Brigade and Divisional competitions due in February. Boxing training on an individual basis takes place most evenings in preparation for the Battalion competition early in February. Full use is also being made in present weather conditions of the squash court, and the Battalion team is already through the first round of the B.A.O.R. knock-out, having defeated 1st Staffords 4-1 at Minden.

A considerable amount of money is being spent on new sports kit to bring the Battalion sports store once more up to standard. A shortage of Association football and hockey pitches seems to be the only stumbling block to the Battalion thoroughly enjoying its sport in B.A.O.R. and repeating its successes of Cyprus. The Battalion cross-country team are the first to put this theory into practice: in the competition held at Minden on January 24, they not only won the 11th Brigade championship, but also came second in the Divisional competition to a team from 1st Border

which had spent the last three months training for this event.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Our last notes were written on the eve of the Battalion's departure from Cyprus, and already in the space of a few weeks we have forsaken the semi-tropical Mediterranean climate for the ice and snow of a winter in Germany.

For that reason alone, the voyage home remains a very pleasant memory of laze and leisure, but for those who chose to frequent the bar during the long hours of business it might be more accurate to describe the journey as one of haze and leisure!

Southampton Docks presented just the picture that one always associates with England at that time of the year, that is the inevitable drizzle and mist. On this occasion, however, nothing could dampen the enthusiasm and excitement everyone felt at the first glimpse of home. We were further cheered by the throng of relatives and friends who had made the journey to welcome the Battalion back, notable among them being R.S.M. Kenrick, R.S.M. Thom and R.S.M. McMillan, representing the Depot, 7th and 8th Battalions respectively, together with many other past and present members too numerous to mention.

R.S.M. McMillan has now joined the Battalion and is, of course, well known to most of us. We would take this opportunity of welcoming him back and wishing him every success in his tour with us. To all those who have joined since the Battalion moved to Germany, we extend the same welcome.

From the boat, all members went their individual ways for varying periods of leave and were rejoining the Mess in Germany in a steady trickle throughout the month of December. During the leave period, those who were able to attend a "Welcome Home" function at the Depot Mess, and we are indebted to R.S.M. Kenrick and the members for giving us such a wonderful party. It must be many years since there has been such a gathering there, as all Battalions and Old Comrades were represented.

Our new barracks and Mess are most impressive, and we are indeed fortunate in having such a palatial home. In addition to the usual Mess amenities, we have also a large ballroom, a billiard room, and a second bar adjoining the ballroom when required, a very different set-up from the Nissen or Romney hut which has so often been our lot during the past years. By chance, it happens that at a time when we have moved in to the most spacious accommodation ever, the total number of members living in Mess has dropped to its lowest and would have been lower still but for the good fortune of one escapee from the marriage trap. The living quarters are restricted, but those of you who read these notes and are volunteering to conduct the next draft, or saving for a continental holiday, may rest assured that we will be in a position to take in a guest if necessary.

The Christmas holiday was upon us almost before we were ready for it, and with the Mess by no means

at full strength. However, the traditional fun and games went on as usual. On Christmas Day we were entertained by the Commanding Officer and officers in their Mess, before serving the Christmas dinner in the Dining Hall. This was followed by the annual "slaughter" on Boxing Day, which this year was to have been a game of hockey played with a 14-lb. shot, but turned out to be something quite different. One expected to see the Riot Platoon turning out at any moment with baton and shield to disperse a riotous assembly, until it was realised that it was only the senior ranks at play. There were no casualties, and at a stage when the Sergeants were under extreme pressure it was decided (by the Sergeants) to adjourn the match for twelve months, whereupon everyone gathered at our bar for a well-earned glass of beer. Unfortunately, as someone had been sufficiently misguided to arm himself with kippers during the affray, at least one officer had his palate ruined for the rest of the day.

On January 10 we held our first function in our new Mess. It was originally intended to be a New Year's Ball, but for various reasons we were unable to hold it any earlier and in effect it really became a "Mess warmer" on a formal footing. We were pleased to entertain the Commanding Officer and Mrs. Nolda, the officers and their ladies, and also the members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes of our neighbouring Engineer Squadrons, and R.A.S.C. Company.

The evening was a very enjoyable and successful one. The Regimental Dance Band provided the music, augmented on occasions by Bandmaster Bayton, now with The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, whom many of the older members of the Mess will remember as a member of our own Regimental Band. He appears to have lost none of his old skill as trombonist.

S/Sgt. Medlock and his cooks provided an excellent buffet, of the very high standard which he has always set himself, and which on this occasion was the subject of favourable comment from all quarters.

C/Sgt. Dive and Sgt. Beechey have recently been promoted and we congratulate them both upon their appointments.

With the exception of C/Sgt. Dive, Sgts. Lloyd, Warner and Plumb, who unfortunately are occupying quarters in Hanover at the moment, all our families are living within a few minutes' walk of barracks, and we look forward to a very happy Mess life comparable with or even better than that we enjoyed in Zeltweg when our situation was so similar to that of today.

With the facilities we have at our disposal we look forward confidently to a happy and successful New Year in every respect, and wish all our old friends the same good fortune.

"H.Q." COMPANY

By January 1 the Company was complete here in Germany. The Gentlemen of the Band had returned from their long leave, and C.S.M. Perry, looking much refreshed, had taken up the reins of office once more. The fact that the Company was able to settle in

quickly was mainly due to the unflagging efforts of C/Sgt. Steward, who managed to arrive in advance of the advance party.

Now the accent is on training for war. The M.T. and Signals Platoons are each running cadres, while members of the Corps of Drums can be seen, most days, busily humping stretchers over formidable obstacles. The weather has seriously hampered our sporting programme, but at the same time it provided ample opportunity for the M.T. to test their driving skill. We look forward now to better weather and the golden opportunities of training and sport which exist in this country.

Signals Platoon

Since our last notes, written in Cyprus, we have bid farewell to Capt. Lawrence. He had been with the Platoon for nearly two years, during which time he was an inspiration to us all, always ready to offer his advice, even if sometimes unprintable, to allcomers. We are very sorry to see him go, and wish him every success in his new Company.

Cyprus is now far behind us, but newcomers to the Platoon will no doubt have to suffer many "sharp-end" stories from the old lags (sorry, campaigners) during the exercises to come. Popular tales will include that of the time when "Joe" Imber learned that a charging engine will not run on water and of the day when "Fetch Staybrite" brought no response. We left Alexander Barracks and our so carefully nursed G1098 in the hands of the Welch Regiment without leaving anyone behind; whether this was an advantage or not remains to be seen. The journey home was bearable enough, the Platoon splitting up into syndicates: one trying for the last-minute tan, others avoiding P.T., many losing their shirts, and a few misguided chaps playing deck hockey. "Meps" Mepstead seemed to have a full-time job keeping alive.

We arrived in Hameln in four parties and welcomed back our new R.S.O., Capt. Pollard, who was with the Platoon in Austria. We hope his stay will be a long and happy one. We also welcome Sgt. Walters, ex "S" Company, and just back from his Hythe course, L/Cpl. Weston on re-enlistment from the R.A.F. Regiment, and Ptes. Dorrow, Lloyd, Hall and Scorgie, who are all on the Signals Cadre. Sgt. Walters is already making his mark in the Platoon, and all of us are quick to peer over his huge battery of "In" and "Out" trays on entering the stores, to see if the coast is clear. "Ginger" Roberts and "Hard" Howard press on regardless in a little cellar world of their own. L/Cpl. Weston is already away on a ski course either ski-ing or skiving, we know not which. The Platoon seems to have settled down to life in Hameln very quickly, though late at night or early in the morning "Fangio" Fenny can be heard singing the praises of the Army and is usually joined by "Al" Hurst, who seems to spend quite a lot of time out of camp. Still, the milk here is stronger than at home.

M.T. Platoon

The M.T. Platoon is once more complete. The love of service vehicles seems to have overcome that of

"mum's cooking," and the struggle is on once more. Our barrack block here in Germany is comfortable and well heated, and the men are satisfied. The fitters' shed, M.T. office and technical stores are all located in one building. Although not perfect, they have been modified with true M.T. cunning, and now the building looks like a cross between an Operations Room and a Volkswagen factory.

Driving conditions are exciting, to say the least, especially driving on the right-hand side of the road (some drivers still shout at German ten-tonners to get over on their own side). Ice and snow during the month of January added to the hazards, and the M.T. recovery experts have been severely tested. On one notable occasion a three-tonner was recovered just as it was going down for the third time.

Cadres were started for both drivers and motorcyclists, but owing to impossible road conditions they had to be temporarily postponed.

Sgt. "Herr" Gibbs (he has now gone completely native) is still with the Platoon, but will soon be rehabilitating the Orderly Room, where, doubtless, he will air his remarkable and mainly unprintable knowledge of German.

We welcome Sgt. Elston as the new M.T. Sergeant (he seems sane as yet), Sgt. Smalls, R.E.M.E., three new R.E.M.E. fitters and those drivers who have joined us from the Depot. Departures include Cpls. Meacock and Marsden and Pte. Porterfield.

Will anyone forget our vehicles when we first took them over? (Was it 97 per cent. or 98 per cent. off the road?) Due to the good work of numerous workshops, L.A.D.s and, of course, our own fitters, the odd vehicle does seem to take to the road now.

Congratulations to C/Sgt. Dive, both on his marriage and his promotion. If his marriage flourishes as well as his stores seem to there will be no worries. (On what Army Form does one indent for nappies?)

Q.M.'s Staff

The clearing up of accounts, etc., at Alexander Barracks approached nightmare intensity as the day of embarkation came nearer. The first coach was on its way to the docks as the last remaining files and documents were loaded on to their lorry and the weary staff clambered aboard after them. It was with a feeling of relief that we boarded the *Dunera* for the voyage home, for it seemed likely that for a fortnight at least we would have little work to do. The prospect of the return from leave, however, engendered an entirely different feeling, and it was with some apprehension that we considered the amount of work it would entail.

Here in Hameln during the preliminary inspection of the stores, the attics and the locked rooms, silent men in ear muffs and overalls who had been here for years and whose working personalities had become engraved on their surroundings were unearthed. They formed an unresentful band of squatters, and it soon became evident that Store and Pioneer activity would have to carry on around them.

Credit must be given to Cpl. Tepper and the store-

men for the way in which they brought order to existing chaos. The following is a sample of the dialogue which prevailed. 1st day: "What's that heap of rubble over there?" 2nd day: "Oh, I see, these must be the stores, then what has happened to that heap of rubble I saw yesterday?" Reply: "It has just been rearranged on the shelves."

Our administration was beset with similar difficulties. There were German clerks and the rear guard of 29 Field Squadron, R.E., whose premises were situated where we now are, to be dealt with. The formation of a Married Families Department, headed by C/Sgt. Moyse, ably assisted by Sgt. Simmons, Cpl. Stubbins, L/Cpl. Taylor, recently rejoined, and Pte. Jarrett, a well-known stalwart of fascinating musical ability, was a welcome step.

Often rather interesting sidelights on problems of civilian staff arise. For example, a cryptic note was handed into the office by a man wearing leathers and a tattered ski-cap, which read "*Ein elkt. Schutzschalter für Umwälzpumpe IV erneuern—Friedeborn.*" This was immediately classified "Top Secret" and was thought to be information concerning a new Russian weapon, from our agent Friedeborn. In fact, it was found to be only a request for a new electrical switch to be fitted to a petrol pump.

The appearance of our second office has on occasion given rise to comment, for in a tooth-comb sort out, files have been brought to light that would have delighted the Archivists of the British Museum, and these are now on show, 1s. adults, children half price. Had it not been for the gallant Cpl. Bird these very valuable documents might never have come to light.

We look forward to a very busy, scheme-ridden summer with some interest. Of one thing we can be sure, life will not be quiet for the Quartermaster and his staff.

Corps of Drums

The Drums had already established a reputation for themselves with the local population of Hameln by the time the main body arrived. Within a day of starting their practice periods, Cpl. Sexton and a handful of drummers drew quite a large crowd on the road behind the Company blocks. This enthusiastic knot of spectators obviously appreciated their foretaste of things to come.

By mid-December, we were once again functioning as a complete Corps of Drums. On Christmas morning, under the direction of Cpl. Sexton, the "Drums" beat Reveille in the barracks, and were surprisingly well received by the two Sapper Units, in spite of this being a ruder awakening than that to which they were probably accustomed.

In January, training for the serious business of stretcher-bearing began. This is not entirely foreign to us as we still have some drummers who took part in the competition in Cyprus. With this nucleus it is hoped to enter two strong teams for the competition next March.

In the field of sport we are already well represented

by the selection of Dmrs. Moynihan and Howard for the Battalion cross-country team.

Congratulations are due to Cpls. Barker and Sexton on their promotion and, finally, we wish success to Dmrs. Davis and Hurley, who are now on a potential N.C.O.'s Cadre.

REGIMENTAL BAND

On our departure from Cyprus aboard H.M.T. *Dunera*, B/Sgt. Probert took over the Band, in the absence of the Bandmaster, and under his able baton we played for the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes.

After a very welcome leave of eight weeks' duration, we moved to Germany in one party. It was noticeable that the good times had by all formed the main topic of conversation.

The journey to Hameln was no new experience for the few members of the Band who were serving when the Battalion was in Austria. At the Hook of Holland we were received by the inevitable blast of cold weather but, no doubt, we shall eventually get used to it.

The naturally tiring train journey was happily relieved by the excellence of the cuisine and service. Our peace of mind was shattered on arrival at Hameln by the stentorian voice of C/Sgt. Steward, who had arrived in Germany with the advance party and was at the station to greet us and escort us to our new home at Gordon Barracks.

We welcome back from Kneller Hall L/Cpls. Jackson and Adkin, whom we congratulate on his recent promotion, and Wallwork. After a year at the school they are now greatly improved, and we know that L/Cpl. Jackson will do much to strengthen our trombone section. We also offer our congratulations to Sgt. Beechey on his recent promotion.

At the time of writing, the Band have fulfilled only three musical engagements, but we hope to get around more in the near future.

Unfortunately, we arrived too late to enter any of the sporting competitions, except for basketball, which starts in February.

We would like to add a few words concerning ex-Band members whom B/Sgt. Probert found time to visit during his stay in England.

Bill Duncan is quite happy and contented detecting crime in the Metropolitan Police, and is also a member of their very famous Military Band. We understand that "Dickie" Bird is also a recent addition to "the force."

Recently, Ralph Cook returned from Canada and now lives in a most luxurious bungalow in High Wycombe. He hopes, in the near future, to spend all his time at his mushroom farm, which promises to be a very profitable concern. His partner, Dennis Hannam, who also lives at High Wycombe, is a qualified draughtsman, but thinks his true vocation lies in mushrooms.

"Bunt" Arnott now claims success as a salesman of pork pies.

A Christmas card to the Bandmaster from Ben Evans brought news that wedding bells will chime for Ben and Patricia (of whom we have heard so much

but have yet to meet) on April 11, just a week too late to beat the tax collector. (Somebody please tell him!)

To close our notes this time we must mention what a pleasure it was to see one of our most gifted musicians again, namely, Bandmaster Denis Bayton, of the Royal Lincolns. He paid a brief visit to Hameln recently and, fortunately, this coincided with a belated New Year Ball at the Sergeants' Mess. Purely by accident the Dance Band had a trombone at hand, and we found that neither his girth nor his ability to knock out a hot chorus had diminished.

All members of the Dance Band agreed that it was an education to play with him. No doubt we will be seeing much more of him during our stay in B.A.O.R.

"A" COMPANY

The writer of these notes is going to have a successively harder task making them interesting enough to keep readers' attention now that we are no longer in Cyprus. Out there we did not have to look for adventure to report. It came looking for us; usually at one o'clock in the morning. Those of us who were fortunate enough to catch the last few months in Cyprus had just become used to the routine. The older hands, like Sgts. Callaghan and Speakman, were looking forward to some leave and real relaxation. Having had it, they, together with every one of us, now hanker after Cyprus again. Pte. O'Brien, who transferred to us from the Seaforth's in order to get there, arrived in the Battalion in the New Year. He has a special phrase which sums up the whole situation.

So had C.S.M. Beale when the Company paraded on a drill square for the first time in months. It seemed incredible to him that we were able to provide the main quarter guard for the Brigadier before we left Cyprus. For this, Sgt. Callaghan, Cpl. Manser, Ptes. Barrett, Pocknell, Yeo, Booker, Singleton and Pagram were chosen. However, it did not take long for the C.S.M. to whip us into shape again, so that the C.O. could detail us to provide a main quarter guard for our new Brigadier when he visits the Battalion. Sgt. Callaghan has been chosen again, and Cpl. Cockerton, Ptes. Long, Coubrough, Pagram and Watkins make up the remainder of this guard.

In Cyprus we took our part in operation "Last Fling," and found ourselves around Anaphotia, where, veterans will remember, "A" Company had previous successes. Unfortunately, nothing worthy of note came our way this time.

Having flung, we embarked and had ten days' sea journey home. "A" Company won the ship's hockey and were later to become runners-up in the Christmas Inter-Company Knockout here in Germany. Once in England, we said goodbye to some old soldiers; among them was Capt. Flavell, who has shepherded us through so much of our active campaigning. There is no truth, incidentally, in the report that "A" Company broke its journey to the ship in order to fire five rounds grouping on the Richmond Range. It was five rounds snap.

We have also said goodbye to C/Sgt. Morgan, Cpls.

Redrup, Brazil, Carter, L/Cpl. Barber, and Ptes. Hudson, Cheesman, Yeo, Western (18), Western (19), Booker, Singleton, Pocknell, Beech and Sawyer. Sgt. Patterson is away on courses, and Lt. Deakin has saddled his mule and gone off to Battalion Headquarters, doubtless to put all the wrongs right.

We welcome in their place 2/Lt. Alexander, C/Sgt. Wright, Sgt. Speakman, Cpl. Meacock, L/Cpls. Langley and Holland, and many others from the Depot.

Finally, as we came back in our various leave parties to find Capt. Kitchener waiting for us, we decided to extend a warm welcome to Capt. Marciandi, who will soon be our new Company Commander.

"B" COMPANY

The Battalion Notes for the last edition of the Die-Hards took the Battalion half-way through the Mediterranean on its homeward voyage, but "B" Company notes finished earlier, before we embarked in Famagusta. There is one final story which we would like to place on record about Cyprus before leaving it for ever, and so we will use it to start these notes.

On arrival at the docks, it was apparent that 5 Platoon, veterans of many a skirmish in the hills and many a brush with authority on the drill square, and not a body of men to be easily disconcerted, were somewhat shaken. Even 2/Lt. Phillips, who was normally completely imperturbable, was pale under his sun tan. On investigation it transpired that half-way between Dekhelia and Famagusta, all the brakes on the civilian coach which was conveying the platoon to the port to embark on H.T. Dunera, had failed. Cypriot drivers being what they are, it no doubt took some time for this to become apparent, and only so when, having tried to check his speed on approaching a sharp bend in the road, the driver failed to do so and found it necessary to take to the fields by the roadside, complete with vehicle and Platoon. Having at last brought the coach to a halt, luckily without any damage, the driver steadfastly refused to move any further until the full persuasive powers of the Platoon were brought to bear.

Now you must not misunderstand the point of this story. It was not the fact that the brakes had failed, nor the effects of driving the remainder of the journey, including the trip through Famagusta without them, which had caused the stalwarts of 5 Platoon to blanch and tremble. It was the thought that they might miss the boat after all.

Once on the boat, we soon settled down to the ship's routine. Life on a troopdeck is never very comfortable, but at least the food was good and the weather calm, so we were spared the added discomfort of a deckful of seasick soldiers. We took our part in the deck sports which were organised, and found ourselves in the final of the tug-o'-war.

Unfortunately, we came up against the beef of H.Q. Company in the final, and not even the blandishments of C.S.M. Bartle, our coach, could make good an average deficit of two stones a man.

Over leave we draw a discreet and thankful veil.

It was good while it lasted. The early days flew by; the time dragged towards the end, but the last days passed quicker than any time can possibly pass. Two of our members achieved temporary fame on arrival in England. C/Sgt. Moyse featured in the "Evening News." The best colour-sergeant in the British Army was what they called him—we should know! Corporal Willis, however, featured more in the public eye. The news-hounds' noses twitched at the scent of a story over Willis and his wife, and they appeared in news-reels and on the centre pages of most of the national dailies. Let us hope that they were suitably compensated for such a great loss of privacy.

And now we are in the home of the Pied Piper. It is not true that our C.S.M. floats through the corridors of our barrack block, trilling on his pipes of Pan, and that we skip and gambol behind him on to the parade ground for the benefit of the R.S.M. This may be a fairy town and Queen Mab may lodge at the bottom of the Company Commander's garden, but any fairy who appeared on the parade ground whilst we occupied it would rapidly become a dozy, idle fairy who knew not its left foot from its right. It might even find itself in company with Sgt. Orme for failing to beat its wings in time to the beat of the drum.

However, even if we do not live in a fairy paradise, life is quite pleasant in Germany. Having been warned by everyone from the Brigade Commander down to our Platoon Commander that the ale is strong and the females friendly, we are delighted to be able to place on record that the warnings are quite true. We think that if we are given time between forced marches, exercises and night cross-country marches, we shall enjoy life here to the full.

So far, our football team has played only two matches, and unfortunately lost both: to "A" Company by two goals to one, and to "B" Company of The Lincolns by four goals to two. However, we are not dismayed. Provided the forwards can learn what to do with the ball when they get it into the scoring area, we shall do all right. The makings of the team are good, and Carmody, the captain, leads them well.

We are running an inter-platoon Basketball League as well. This is good entertainment and has brought to light quite a number of promising players.

The following have left us, mostly for civilian life, and to all of them we wish the best of luck and success either in their new careers or in their new postings:

2/Lt. Phillips and 2/Lt. Julian, C/Sgt. Moyse, Cpl. Willis, L/Cpl. Gibson, Ptes. Brown 90, Button, Johnson, Long, McGregor, Page, Sawyer, Johncock, Clack, Stevens and Bailham.

We welcome the following to the Company and wish them a happy and worth-while stay in "B" Company:

2/Lt. Ivens and 2/Lt. Goring, C/Sgt. Michel, Sgt. Smith, Cpls. Lucas and Pollard, L/Cpls. Woodman, Sheffield, Williams and Hutton, and Ptes. Oddy, Dennis, Macfarlane, Smith 66, Clutton, Ward, Crakanthorpe, Clarke, Seckerson, Daniels, Hills, Elam, Taylor, Harding and O'Connor.

"C" COMPANY

In view of the number of men who were heard to remark that once off the boat they would not be seen again, it was surprising to find that everyone who was due to rejoin us in Germany did so, more or less on time, on completion of leave. However, we have already begun to feel the loss of those whose time was finished and who left the Company when the Battalion returned to England.

Heading this list were our two senior officers, Major Burrows and Capt. Cowan. Of Major Burrows let us say this: there was never a man who had such a capacity for work. Nothing down to the smallest detail went wrong when he was in command. Even the drivers' duty roster received his personal attention. We are very sad to see him leave us, and proud to know that he goes to Moscow as Military Attaché.

Capt. Cowan took over command from Major Burrows and guided us through the difficult period of the move with effortless ease. All ranks will remember the way in which he always ensured that the men were provided with everything they wanted, especially ice and drinks! He leaves us for the palatial apartments of the P.R.I., where he now only hears the tramp of our feet as we march past his office.

2/Lt. "Jim" McCubbin left us after Cyprus to carry on at the Depot, until he leaves in February. We still wonder if his glasses have been repaired, or if he has recovered from his limp of last May. "Monty" has also left—after nearly signing on! We thank him for leaving a well-organised and compact Company Office. We have no size 15 patrol boots, so it was hardly worth his while to sign on in any case! He was last seen doing coal fatigues at the Depot.

Others who have left us are Cpl. Hope (who apparently has had more active service as Guard Commander at the Depot when the Sergeants' Mess was broken into), Cpl. Chapman, L/Cpl. Lawrence, L/Cpl. Kiff, "Sonny" Dawson, Mazzone, Sims, Dempster, Maxted, "Duke," Wightwick, Montague, Grisewood, Woor, Warren, Hewitt and Burgess, and not forgetting Cpl. Holden. We wish them the best of luck in civilian life.

On arrival in Germany, Sgt. Martin and Cpl. McNicholas, with a black eye, which apparently was done by a door, were there to meet and welcome us. We are grateful to them all for the work they put in whilst we were on leave.

Major Jeffcoat, from the Regimental Depot, is now in charge of Army Group "C," and we wish him and his family a pleasant stay in Germany. Certainly the dust has been shaken off many training pamphlets which have lain hidden for many a day.

The Company is now training its way around "Ice-Cake," "Jack Frost," "Snowshoes," and "Cold Comfort," with scarcely a day in barracks. One section of 8 Platoon will remember clanking along the road with spiritual comfort under winter clothing.

On the subject of peaked caps, it is emphasised that they are to be worn in the correct Army fashion, and

not as by film directors, workmen, baseball players, or German post officials. The Company Commander has not yet worn one of these attractive articles, but when he does he may well pass as Victor Mature!

So many having left us when we returned from Cyprus, their places have been taken by many new faces, notably Porterfield, Bethel, Kelly, Fitzgerald, Stephenson, Saunders, Hazlewood, Carter, Waldron, Rappaport and L/Cpl. Cairns. We wish them well during their stay in "C" Company. Another new face with no "sun service" is that of 2/Lt. Cowing. He takes over command of 7 Platoon. The difference between him and his predecessor is apparent and he tries to bluff us all with the latest from Hythe.

We have just heard that George Haynes, who was with 7 Platoon in Aqaba and Cyprus, has been killed in a road accident in England. We, who knew him well, were all very sorry to hear this news, and we send our condolences to his family.

We conclude with the following anecdote: A certain sergeant was heard to quote, early in January, that he had only eighteen days still to serve. On being told to look in Battalion Part II Orders, he was amazed to find that he had just signed on until January 18, 1962. He was not seen again that morning . . . nor were Queen's Regulations nor the Manual of Military Law! Moral—never sign anything while you have a glass in the other hand!

"D" COMPANY

"D" Company has once more come into existence and has flourished, more or less, since mid-November. We say "more or less" as there has been an almost 100 per cent. turnover in permanent staff, and the continuation Training Platoon ceased to function after three weeks.

The first N.C.O.'s Cadre started with the New Year and Continuation Training will start up again in February. We shall no doubt have more to say for ourselves in the next issue of the journal. Meanwhile, here is a list of the permanent staff:—

O.C. "D" Company	...	Capt. C. L. Lawrence, M.C.
C.S.M.	...	W.O.II R. Dodkins
A/C.Q.M.S.	...	Sgt. Simmons
Cadre Sergeant	...	Sgt. Simmons
Cadre Sergeant	...	Sgt. Plumb
Cadre N.C.O.s	...	Cpls. Turner, Shave and Chitson
Company Clerk	...	Pte. Booth
Batman	...	Pte. Doughty
Accn. Storeman	...	Pte. Stock
Arms Storeman	...	Pte. Smith (15)

"S" COMPANY

It seems an age since we left Cyprus, with its internal security alarms and excursions which persisted almost to the end.

The majority of the Company had returned from leave by Christmas, and by the New Year we were ready to commence our intensive training programme.

Lt. Gilham has remained with us as Company 2/I.C.,

Lt. Hewson has been succeeded by Lt. Cheesman as 3in. Mortar Platoon Commander, Lt. McRae by Lt. Waite as Anti-Tank Platoon Commander, and C.S.M. Dodkins, who has returned to "D" Company, by C.S.M. Firman.

We were delighted by Lt. Hewson's award of the Military Cross for gallantry displayed in the Troulli Ambush, which was reported in the last notes. All members of Support Company offer him their heartiest congratulations and wish him well in his tour with the Parachute Regiment.

The training of all manner of specialists—mortar-men, anti-tank gunners, pioneers, drivers and stretcher-bearers—is going ahead with great enthusiasm and, by the time the next notes are written, we should look more like a real Support Company than we have done for a long time.

3-in. Mortar Platoon

Having arrived in Germany, we have spent most of our time in brushing up our mortar drills, rusty from a good leave. We managed to make one section of trained numbers and this has developed well in the last month. The remainder of the platoon, mostly ex-M.M.G. platoon, are learning slowly but surely.

When General Stirling visited the Battalion on January 8, he saw No. 1 Section digging in and having a practice engagement. This was all good training, especially as we had the first real snow that day. No. 2 Section was doing basic drills in camp.

We have four soldiers away on an M.T. Cadre and hope they do well. They are Ptes. Croskell, Thomas, Milburn and Wright.

Unfortunately, the snow has restricted outside sport activities, but we still play basketball in the gym, and should produce quite a strong platoon team.

On January 12, quick action by members of the platoon saved a nasty situation when a fire broke out in the M.T. lines, opposite our block.

Finally, we welcome two new members to the platoon, Ptes. Flanagan and May. We also send our regards to Sgts. Argent and Partridge, away on courses.

Assault Pioneer Section

The pioneers have now, after a very successful stay in Cyprus, and a morale-raising time in England, reached Germany, complete with their "axes felling," but bereft of "beards pioneers," and "haircuts civilian pattern."

We say goodbye to L/Cpl. Ford, Ptes. Roberts, O'Shea, Mephram, Booker and Marshall, to whom we wish the best of luck. Pte. Rideout will leave us shortly and we wish him luck also. A newcomer, Pte. Church, is welcomed to the section, and Sgt. Lloyd returns to its command.

Training is now under way and already the pioneers have started to dig themselves way under the hills on the outskirts of Hameln, led by Ptes. Coles and Beavis, who have six years in which to complete the task. Meanwhile, Cpl. Pritchard is having another attempt at his second-class education examination. With luck, he should get there one day, and until he does, there's a spade standing idle. "Oh, you idle thing, you!"

Anti-Tank Platoon

Returning from a well-earned and well-spent leave, after our service in Cyprus, we have at least been given sufficient time to train our gun crews. We express our thanks to Major Galvin for sparing no effort in obtaining our guns and stores in express time.

Training at the moment is going well thanks to our willing N.C.O.s especially Cpl. Seager. We congratulate him on his excellent report on his M.O.B.A.T. Conversion Course—a very good effort.

Soon, we hope to have our own drivers, Ptes. Hamling and Sinclair.

We are well represented in the field of sport. L/Cpl. Martin is captain of the company football team, and Cpl. Barnes once more represents the Battalion at ski-ing, with L/Cpl. Mullender and Pte. Dinning. We wish them well in their training.

We wish our platoon commander, Lt. Waite, a Happy New Year, and hope to see him soon, after his course at Netheravon.

Depot Notes

The coming and going of the 1st Battalion kept us occupied for all too short a time, but now they are in BAOR we hope to see and hear more of them than was possible when they were in Cyprus. Those men from the Battalion who had too little service left to make it worth while for them to go to BAOR have been hard at work in the Depot. The vastly improved firing points on our 25 yards ranges, the outdoor miniature range and the newly pruned trees in the Barracks, are evidence of their really useful work.

The builders are always with us. We now have no assault course, but work has started on a new standard brick built course, which will bring us right up to date in this aspect of training. Wreckers, plasterers,

painters, plumbers and tilers abound, each waiting for the other to finish so that they can get on with their own job. Little by little, progress is made. We will take this opportunity to recap on what has been done in the past two years: *The Cookhouse and Dining Hall* have been modernised and redecorated. Self service meals with a choice of seven main dishes are normal. We believe our food is second to none. In fact, in recent rounds of the Festing Trophy Catering Competition, scores of 273 and 284 out of a possible 300 were made, and NO points were lost for preparation or cooking.

The Barrack Rooms have been redecorated throughout and the old open grates replaced by efficient stoves.

The Wash Houses will soon have all been modernised with plenty of hot water, new basins and pleasantly tiled walls and floors. *The Orderly Room Block*, destined to be our Regimental Headquarters, has been redecorated and brightened up. So have the Museum, Sergeants' Mess and parts of the Officers' Mess.

The feeling that things are getting better and better does much to raise morale, and the improvements make Depot life more comfortable, and, in turn, more attractive to recruits. Our recruiting figures are now consistently the best in the Home Counties Brigade, unfortunately, the leading position in a poor league.

As we go to Press, Colonel J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E., has taken the passing out parade for Nivelles Platoon, formed largely from regular soldiers. Details will be given in the next edition. Colonel Willoughby's speech on this occasion pointed out the pride we should feel in being British Infantrymen, the sense of loss we shall feel on losing our cap badge and breaking old associations and the necessary constructive approach to the Brigade System — after all, reorganisation is nothing new.

TRAINING COMPANY

The month of October will long be remembered by both Recruits and Permanent Staff for the Annual Administrative Inspection by the Chief of Staff London District, Brigadier Fitzalan Howard. The inspection itself was little short of a triumph judging by the remarks made on the report by the inspecting officer but what was more memorable was the preparation beforehand. Nothing was left to chance and life was one constant round of cleaning up, inspection parades and drill rehearsals until it seemed as if life would never return to normal.

The Administrative Inspection Parade was followed the very next day by the Passing Out Parade of the 54th National Service Intake taken by the Mayor of Hendon, Alderman A. Paul, J.P., with music provided by the Corps of Drums of 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards. Prizes were awarded as follows:—

Best All Round Recruit	Private Breed
Best Rifle Shot	Private James
Best LMG Shot	Private Bowen
Highest Physical Efficiency	
Award	Private Moore
Best Regular Recruit	Private Cleasby

A large number of parents attended the parade which was followed as usual by a church service and a tea party in the NAAFI. The parents all agreed that the recruits cut a fine figure on the square and were delighted with the health and good spirits of their sons.

On October 31 some of the older members of the Permanent Staff had a very enjoyable evening at the Annual Regimental Reunion at the Seymour Hall. Many old and familiar faces were to be seen and a great deal of beer was consumed.

Everyone who was able went down to Southampton on November 2 to greet the 1st Battalion on its arrival on board H.M.T. *Dunera*. There were boarding passes

available for all who wanted them and, by some special arrangement, supplies of refreshments were produced to celebrate the occasion properly.

Training Company was presented with a new task when we were asked to look after four West African Officer Cadets who were destined to go to Mons Officer Cadet School and RMA Sandhurst. We were asked to give them an elementary knowledge of the one inch map and some coaching in the Sterling SMG and SL rifles. This was well within our province.

However, we were also asked to show them as much of the sights of London as was possible in the time available. This enviable task was given to 2/Lt. Alexander who took them to the Tower of London, Madame Tussauds, Westminster Abbey, Piccadilly Circus and many other places of interest. They were delighted and their only complaint was about the intense cold of England in November. Before they left they all wrote essays on their impressions of London, which made very interesting reading. One of these is published elsewhere in these notes.

Remembrance Sunday was marked as usual by a church service in the Gymnasium. The sounding of Last Post and Reveille and the laying of wreaths at the War Memorial and, finally, a march past Colonel Browne on the steps of the Officers' Mess. All Training Company took part on this occasion except for the newly formed all-regular platoon who were not considered advanced enough for the march past.

On November 26 Lieutenants McManus and Lloyd, C.S.M. Burgess and C./Sgt. Hockley acted as officials during the dedication service at St. Paul's Cathedral of the American Memorial Chapel. The Queen and Vice President Nixon attended this service together with a multitude of "high brass," both military and civilian.

We were again "raided" by daring commandos from Mill Hill School C.C.F. This time their task was to steal the latest British Secret Weapon (an aiming rest) from a large arsenal of secret stores ("B" Dining Hall). In spite of the sentries being alert one party managed to escape from the barracks with their precious load. A number of Mill Hill boys savoured the joys of detention in the Guardroom.

These notes end with the taste of Christmas Dinner on December 23 and still lingering longingly in the mind's eye. The cooks did a marvellous job which sent us all home for the Christmas break in a truly seasonal mood.

MY IMPRESSIONS OF LONDON

(By Officer Cadet George Dako, Ghana Army)

A lot is said about London to people outside Britain each day and so it is a place that everyone, including the most Britain hating Egyptians, must visit.

I first saw London one cold November morning from an aeroplane. It was not yet light and so London could still be seen lit up. The outlines of London had been clearly marked in yellow fluorescent lights and for the last quarter of an hour before the plane touched down, I was able to compare the size

of this great city with what I had been imagining years before I saw it.

During the fifteen mile drive from the airport to London I observed that all the roadsides were lined with houses and shops instead of trees and bushes. Although up till now very little of London has been seen by me, no other town I have seen so far, compares with it in size.

Buildings in London are really huge in size. The first sight of such large buildings as can be found in the Piccadilly Circus, St. Paul's, South Kensington residential areas and in the City of Westminster really fascinated me. But unlike buildings in Ghana or in most of the West African countries, they are neither painted nor white-washed. The top parts of all the buildings are blackened with soot, due to the intensive use of coal. However, the architecture is so high in grading that the dirt has little or no effect on the beauty of the designs in the buildings.

The advertisement system is really first class. Just walking in the London streets at night is valuable because one sees a new thing after every step and hence one becomes wiser after every pace taken in the streets. Window shopping seems quite popular in London here and it is the result of the high class advertisement. One can enjoy one's self without spending a penny by just walking about in the lighted streets.

The population of London is very dense indeed. As can be found in records, the population of London alone is twice as much as that of the whole of Ghana, and Ghana is about the same size as the British Isles. It's therefore no wonder that an ordinary London street usually looks like Christmas time in the streets of Accra or any of the big towns of West Africa.

Everybody in the London street seems to be in a hurry to do nothing! It might be because of the cold weather which urges people either to be active and see happiness or stay and freeze to death. The most interesting thing I have observed is that sometimes old men and women of over sixty years of age can be found either riding bicycles or running as fast as though training for athletics competition. And although these old-aged people are so active in order to keep warm, indoors or in buses, they become completely changed and compare only to the old people in Ghana. They look as though they will be dead in the next few minutes.

It is very impressive to note that while almost every taxi and bus is driven by a young man in Ghana, here in London it is exactly the opposite. An old man who can hardly hear or see because of age drives vehicles so beautifully that it is pleasant to watch him.

Transport in London is no cheaper than it is in West Africa although it is more available here in London than in West Africa. Hiring a taxi-cab in London is pretty expensive and so are the railway transport and the bus services. However the traffic is so congested here in London that the high expense in transport is justified.

There are entertainments at every corner in London by means of which one can enjoy one's self. When

one sees the outside of the Tower of London one cannot imagine one can find so much of historical importance and interest inside it. The things in the Tower have been so delicately preserved that when their age is spoken of it sounds incredible. Madame Tussaud's exhibition is worth seeing by everybody because it is of high artistic value.

London is a place where a large variety of things can be found each day of the week but sometimes to find enjoyment means money. If therefore prices of things could be lower than they are now and the weather a bit warmer then London would be an ideal place to live in.

SPORT

Football

This season's football story is not a very happy one. We have continued to play to the best of our ability but the opposition in B Section of London District League is too strong for us. Since the last edition of "The Die-Hards" we have played another five league matches and lost them all. We have played a few friendly games when not involved in League fixtures and some very good games have been enjoyed.

We were all very pleased to see Pte. Duggan back with us, in spite of the fact that he is unable to play football now. Sgt. Redmond is still playing with his usual dash and Cpl. Hooper as cool as ever in goal. Unfortunately a large proportion of the team are inexperienced and although they try hard cannot compete with the older more experienced teams of other units. Ptes. Johns, Ryan and Peak are recruits who have been playing consistently and they will be missed when they go on draft to Germany early in February.

Next season will probably see us back in C Section of the league where we should be able to do as well as last season.

Boxing

The London District Open Individual Championships are due to take place on February 11/12 at Chelsea. There are three competitors from the Depot and we have high hopes for their success.

The three competitors are:—

L/Cpl. Bridge	}	Regimental Police
L/Cpl. Rogers		
L/Cpl. Cornish	...	Trg. Coy. Clerk

Rugby

The Depot is still well represented in the London District Rugby team which has been enjoying quite a successful season. Lts. Lloyd and McManus have played regularly as did L/Cpl. Taylor until he left us for Mons, O.C.S. Since his return from Cyprus 2/Lt. Phillips has also played regularly.

Other games have been flourishing under the guidance of S.S.I. Bristow in the Gymnasium. Basket Ball has become very popular and it should soon be possible to raise a Depot Team. Volley Ball is also a popular evening sport.

Cross-Country

Again this year we have some keen cross country runners entered for the London District Individual Championships at the end of January. Cpl. Stevens, Cpl. Hebbes, Ptes. Dittert and Wise are all training hard, and we have high hopes that some if not all will qualify for the Eastern Command race later in the season.

OFFICERS' MESS

After writing our last notes, we were all much involved in preparing for the Annual Administrative Inspection at the end of October. 2/Lt. Heselton avoided the worst of this period by going off to Ghana where he is now serving at the Regimental Training Centre at Kumasi.

A large board of Officers assembled here on October 20 with the task of working out accommodation plans at the time of our closing down and moving to Canterbury. It is comforting to record that a small Regimental Centre will remain in the present Orderly Room block, which will also house the museum.

Ian Burrows and 2/Lt. Cheeseman paid us a visit on 27th.

After the Inspection on 30th we relaxed at the Regimental Re-union at the Seymour Hall on 31st.

The long awaited return of the 1st Bn. from Cyprus gave us great pleasure. The Colonel of the Regiment went down to Southampton to greet them, as also did numerous Officers, Col. Browne, Col. Willoughby, Major Batty, Major Heywood, Capt. Wollocombe, Capt. Hayward, Lt. McManus, Lt. Lloyd from here, and Major Pearce Gould, Capt. Jordan, Capt. Pat Pielow and Lt. Griffiths also joined the throng. We were most pleased to find Col. W. H. V. Jones on the Docks once again to welcome his old Regiment, and Malcolm Gilham's wife was also present. In addition a large contingent from the Sergeants' Mess travelled down by coach.

It was a most joyous occasion, and the Battalion entertained us on board most hospitably.

As most will be aware, personnel of the Battalion went on leave straight from the port of disembarkation and had no base in this country at all. When their leave was over they reported to Harwich and embarked for the Hook en route for Hameln.

2/Lts. Ivens and Alexander joined us on November 3.

On November 8 many of us attended the ceremony at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster, and on Remembrance Sunday our Padre—Rev. D. P. Lang—conducted a most impressive Service and we had the usual laying of wreaths at the Regimental War Memorial.

The Cocktail Party at the United Services Club on 10th was a great success, as was also the 57/77 Dinner at the same club the next evening.

The Elgee Dinner was once again held at the Depot on Wednesday, 12th.

Pat Donovan stayed for the night on 15th when the Sergeants' Mess were entertaining the 1st Battalion.

Lt. Wallace, a Ghana Officer, returned here from

Germany on 22nd and flew off home on 25th.

Col. Desmond Ellis, whom we know here so well, spent a night with us on 25th and Lt. Col. John Ormiston came to lunch the next day.

Co. Burge and Capt. Pett from records came down on 27th and Col. Nolda, Capt. Marciandi, Capt. Legge and Capt. Flavell assembled here to meet them.

2/Lts. Phillips and McCubbin, both from Cyprus, reported for duty at the end of November.

The Regimental Council met here on December 1 which brought the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Gwyn, Col. Allen and Col. Brotherton to the Mess. Brigadier Weston looked us up three days later.

The A.D.M.S. London District came to lunch on 17th. On 19th we had our annual Christmas Party which everybody voted was a great success. Unfortunately, for various reasons, about 10 people dropped out at short notice through sickness and other causes, but the 30 or so diners managed to cope with the surplus food! The Committee, who organised the affair — Mike Hayward, Tony McManus and Ian Lloyd are to be most heartily congratulated.

The Mess closed down over the Christmas period after two most enjoyable parties at the Sergeants' Mess.

2/Lt. Mallalieu, now commissioned into the Regiment, came to lunch on December 30, having paid a flying visit from Germany, and we do welcome 2/Lt. Pitman, newly commissioned from Sandhurst, and now doing his Hythe and Warminster courses.

Captains Scott and Holloway from AG 2 lunched on January 2.

Hugh Evans, who now goes about without crutches or sticks, visits us from time to time and is at present at Hadley Court of which he gives a glowing report. We only hope his improvement continues.

Lt. Col. Brinley Ayre, who now has a civilian appointment, looked in on January 5, as also did Nick Carter.

2/Lt. Cooper finished his National Service on January 1 and left us for civilian life.

Brian Marciandi pops in from time to time, plays squash, and rushes off again.

We much regret to record that Captain Jennings has been admitted to Millbank Hospital, and we offer him and his family our condolences on this sad happening just before Christmas. We trust that by the time these notes appear in print he may be very much better.

It is not possible to mention by name, all our visitors this quarter. We have been delighted to see so many of the 1st Battalion and hope that Hamelin will be a pleasant place after Cyprus.

W.O.S. AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Like Good King Wenceslas we are looking out on the deep and crisp and even snows that lay round about us. We are coming to get more winter fuel and pull our chairs nearer the fire, the frost indeed is cruel. There is a strange quietness about us now and the Mess seems strangely bare after the removal of the Christmas tree and the decorations. After such a hectic quarter it is indeed strange that there are now

only two stalwarts in occupation in the Mess, the R.S.M. and C/Sgt. Morgan, all the rest have gone, some to 1st Battalion, some have got married and some like good old soldiers have faded away we know not where.

On November 2 we drove to Southampton to meet the 1st Battalion arriving from Cyprus, it poured with rain all day. How well they looked arriving from sunny climes to the dull and murky English winter.

A number of old and young turned up on Remembrance Sunday which was observed in the customary manner.

On November 15 we held a re-union dance in the Mess and though there was little room for dancing with such a large crowd present a most enjoyable evening was had by all. It was a grand re-union and our serving members were there from far and wide.

We are sorry that the 1st Battalion could not remain for Christmas, their stay seemed so very short and many of them had already departed before we held our Farewell Party for them on December 13. To those we missed we now send our good wishes and hope they are enjoying life in their new station in Germany.

Though our Farewell Party was smaller it was again enjoyed by all.

The Mess Christmas Draw was held on Saturday, December 20, and the House Full notices were displayed long before the start, as usual Sgt. Palmer won all the star prizes in a well organised and successful evening. Two evenings later on Monday 22, all members were present for our Formal Christmas Party. Sgt. Banks produced a most excellent meal and afterwards the Officers and Ladies were our welcome guests at the Dance which followed.

On December 23 we were the guests of the Officers, and after enjoying their hospitality we joined in serving the troops Christmas Dinner in the Dining Hall.

We broke up in high spirits after lunch and returned to work on 30th. Only C/Sgt. Markham can tell us what happened during the days we were away, he kept the flag flying in our absence.

We must avail ourselves of this opportunity to welcome C/Sgt. Markham back to the fold and back to his old job as Mess Caterer which he so ably performs.

We welcome also C/Sgt. Morgan to the fold and he is now in the process of taking over from C/Sgt. Powell in Trg. Coy.

We hope that both he and his family will enjoy their tour at the Depot.

On January 4 we were shocked to learn of the sudden and untimely death of our old friend C/Sgt. Ernie Fletcher who was our recruiter at Finchley. He was with us the day before in the Mess. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

An obituary notice will appear on other pages.

To all those members and guests who were with us during the quarter, far too many to mention in these notes, we now send our Best Wishes for the New Year 1959.

CORPORALS' CLUB

With the Annual Administrative Inspection a distinct memory and Christmas fading into the distance, the Club and members are settling down once more. Many new faces have appeared in the past few weeks. We welcome Cpls. Willis and Redrup and L/Cpls. West, Whittle, Dubbery and Moore who are gathering patience and understanding in readiness for the next Intakes. Welcome to L/Cpl. Scott who has joined us from the Rhodesian Army and congratulations on his Canterbury result. Congratulations too to L/Cpls. Hooper and Herbert on their promotion to Cpl. (well done!).

As we pull our chairs closer round the club fire our thoughts turn to winter evenings. It is hoped to have a record evening very shortly. If this proves successful we hope to hold one a week. The Club football team has not ventured a match as yet but this will be rectified very shortly. The lunch time thrashing at darts is highly favoured by all. Cpl. Ken Herbert on the Training Staff side now has his thumb and forefinger well zeroed and is quite a match for L/Cpl. Lance Cornish leading the clerical side. Already there is talk about the cricket season and our hardy cricketers can't wait to hit the ball for six. Cpl. Wood has taken over the M.T. in the Depot and seems to be managing fairly well. Cpl. Hebbes has now become day Orderly Sergeant and has that worried look although from 1500 hrs. until 1700 hrs. he can be seen with Cpl. Stevens pounding the local area in preparation for the London District Cross Country Championships at the end of January.

MUSEUM NOTES

The following new exhibits have recently been obtained for the Regimental Museum.

- (i) Cross belt plate 77th Regiment, Officers pattern 1835.—Purchased.
- (ii) Crimea medal 77th Regiment, Capt. W. H. C. Pechell.—Purchased.
- (iii) Three-quarter length painting of Col. W. F. Cheesewright, D.S.O., T.D., in uniform of the South Middlesex Rifle Volunteers.—Presented by Mrs. S. Dewar.
- (iv) Message addressed to "R.S.M. M.E.B.O." and dated November 11, 1918.

TELEGRAM

"Following received at 0645 hours from GHQ aaaa Hostilities will cease at 1100 hours troops will stand fast at the line reached at that time which will be reported by wire to GHQ aaaa Defence precautions will be maintained aaaa There will be no intercourse of any description with the Enemy until instructions are received from GHQ aaaa Further instructions will follow aaaa For action line held should be reported this office as soon as possible aaaa"

The above was presented by Mr. R. Douthet who was the recipient of the message.

The historical library is now being catalogued, books repaired, pictures mounted and detail added wherever

possible. Very soon now shelves are being fitted in the room so that records dealing with any era of our history are readily and easily available. Books, letters, photographs—with names of those who are shown—are very useful and acceptable. Letters are received from all parts of the world asking for information of the Regiment or of individuals who have served.

To give examples here are requests received within the last fourteen days.

U.S.A.—A master of geography and history requests information re the Regiment and the County.

New Zealand.—Information of a soldier of 57th who was born in 1837.

Canada.—Details of 2/10 Battalion in World War I.

Australia.—Details of prints, paintings and history of the 57th and 77th Regiments' service in Australia.

South Africa.—Details of an officer who commanded West Middlesex Militia 1809.

The above letters are in addition to those from all parts of the U.K.

No gift to the Regimental Museum counts as rubbish—all are acceptable. Buttons, badges, items of uniform, equipment, cuttings from old newspapers, obituary notices from local papers, all are useful and often supply the missing chapter of a story.

A case of head dress, including tropical pattern, is now being prepared and especially required are: (a) General officers peaked cap; (b) field officers peaked cap; (c) 1890 pattern officers cap ("side cap"); (d) felt hat 1900 pattern as worn in South African War 1899-1902; (e) any type of tropical head dress.

Also still required to help to complete the collection of badges are the following: (a) Officer's pattern Glengary badge of 1881; (b) Public Works Battalion's cap badge issued to 18th, 19th and 26th Battalions in 1915. This badge has an extra scroll underneath the "Middlesex Regiment" white metal scroll bearing the inscription "Public Works Battalion." This extra scroll is in brass.

Any information on the 19th (Service) Battalion (2nd Public Works Pioneers) formed by the late Lt.-Col. John Ward, M.P., is required by the Curator. Would any reader who served with this Battalion and who can give help in compiling a record please communicate with the Curator at Inglis Barracks.

R.W.J.S.

OLD COMRADES' CLUB (Mill Hill Branch)

Since our last notes appeared in the journal many things have happened in connection with the Club, and I am sure our Chairman is appending a list of these. Of all the functions which occur each year, maybe one in accordance with your age will be remembered more than any other, a dance, a social evening in the Mess or Club, a sports meeting, a Christmas draw, the "Albuhera" dinner, all these things you have enjoyed and they will have their memories and they will all be connected with other people, some you know, some you don't know. According to your age I said: this is so, believe me, as the years go by things change and you

change, maybe for better, maybe for worse, and this brings me to the function which I remember most, and it is the Service in the Depot on Remembrance Sunday. Many services I have attended in many far flung places, and as I stand now at the depot Service and look around to my right and left, in front of me and behind me there I see the people, the Officer reading the lesson, the Officers in the front seats, Old Comrades, some to the right, some to the left, these are the memories of days gone by, behind me the young men of the days to come. We are here to pay homage to the memory of those who are no longer present. Why, what are the thoughts of all these people old and young as the service proceeds; they will not all be alike, you know, young and old never did think alike, but throughout the ages the young have always had to listen to the voice of experience, and so time has gone on, on, on and now out into space, the young, I wonder, I wonder. Time, space, change. I want to put something to you; it has occurred to me that quite a lot of us Dear Old Comrades are on our way into space. Before we all go and leave the Old Comrades' Club without any members we ought to do something about the Young Comrades' Club, we cannot allow this spirit which brings so many of us together on Remembrance Day to fade out, it must go on and youth must always take over from age. Please do not read this and forget it. If you have left the Regiment since 1945 or are still serving, write to me and give your views on how you think your Club, the Young Comrades, can be formed, what you would want, who you will want, and tell us what you think of the present Old Comrades' Club; it is your Club but we don't see much of you, why not come and have a go for yourself? I make a special appeal to the members of the 1st Battalion Sergeants' Mess to treat this seriously, and I do look forward to hearing from you. Please address your letters to:—

BUSTY, c/o Major P. Newman, M.B.E.,

11 Cavendish Avenue, Finchley, N.3.

Don't let the Old Diehards down. Play the game you cads, play the game. Whoever you are and wherever you are, may God bless you.

BUSTY.

Chairman's Notes

The New Year is with us, will you all endeavour to make it the most successful year in the history of the Club? Each and every one of us can do so by attending the monthly meetings, or, if that is not possible, by writing a short letter which will be placed on the notice board for all to read. What about it, chaps?

For the Club the past year has been a good one, the membership has increased as did the attendance at the meetings. Our membership now is 150 and the average monthly attendance was 50. Many more would attend, but for various reasons could not do so.

The final evening was the Christmas Draw on December 6, what a party it was, the room was packed to overflowing and without doubt all enjoyed themselves, none more than our pals from Chelsea Hospital in the persons of Sgt. Bailey, Cpl. Grimrod and Sgt. Garrett.

The 80 odd prizes which decorated the table were bought and wrapped by Mrs. Newman, to whom all credit is due for such a lovely display. Refreshments were in the capable hands of Mrs. Smith, and together with other lady helpers no one went short of "tea and wads."

From the many old friends who have not been seen for a long time were Mr. and Mrs. Percy Hale and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bayles—to see them was a pleasant surprise for me and I do hope they will come again.

Remembrance Sunday.—I would like to pay tribute to three groups of people who, by their untiring efforts, helped to make Remembrance Sunday a very pleasant and memorable day:

(a) To Major and Mrs. Dick Smith for "digging out and cleaning up" the Clubroom, which made it presentable on Sunday. I fully realise what it entailed in time, labour and expense to prepare such a room as ours, and the remarks passed were most complimentary.

(b) To Mrs. Newman, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Baldwin who bought, fetched and carried the ingredients for refreshments, and toiled until 10.15 p.m. preparing them. Good they were to eat too, and similar complimentary remarks were passed by members.

(c) To all the ladies who helped to make tea, serve refreshments and clean up afterwards. I'm sure they deserve our warmest thanks.

Service and March Past.—It was indeed a pleasure to see so many of you at the Service and March Past. Unfortunately I forgot to take a count, but at a guess I would say about 40 marched past. Sgt. Bailey and Cpl. Grimrod who are in-pensioners at Chelsea Hospital, stood during the March Past on either side of Colonel Browne, who took the salute. I wonder what the young recruits thought of the two smart men in red coats with gleaming buttons and medals? I don't think they will easily forget last Sunday's March Past. After the March Past we adjourned to the Club for refreshments and to raffle a bottle of port and sherry, which were kindly given by Mr. Lowe. The proceeds, which amounted to £6 6s., will be put towards the Christmas draw.

Buttons.—Are there any retired or serving officers with a few mess dress buttons to spare? These are required for a very special reason, so turn out those old boxes containing souvenirs collected over the years, no preference for the 57th or 77th, just send them to: Major P. Newman, 11 Cavendish Avenue, Finchley, N.3, and you have my warmest thanks.

Obituary

It is with the deepest regret I have to inform you of the death, on November 17, 1958, of ex-Sgt. A. E. Crathern, M.M. Unfortunately it was not known until November 30, consequently it was not possible to send a wreath, but a letter of sympathy was sent, on behalf of our branch, to Mrs. Crathern.

Sgt. Crathern joined the Regiment on April 10, 1906, and served with it until March 20, 1920. He was drafted to India from Guernsey about 1906/7, returning home at the outbreak of the 1914/18 War.

He proceeded to France with the B.E.F. in August, 1914, and was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field, in addition to the 1914 Star, G.S. and Victory Medals.

He was very fond of the Regiment, and although not in good health he attended most Regimental functions. In 1944 he and his wife lost their eldest son in Burma. This was a great shock to them, but fortunately their other two sons returned safely, which softened the blow. To a family which served their country so well, I say to them on behalf of our branch—"Well done, we are proud of you, especially as Dad was a 'Die-Hard.'"

P. F. NEWMAN,
Chairman (Mill Hill Branch).

THE CAMBRIDGE CLUB

On December 11 the Club held its Christmas Party. The Crawford Hut was transformed with a Christmas Tree at one end (and the bar open at the other!) and we were so grateful to the Old Comrades and to Major Smith in particular for allowing us to use the lovely decorations which they had put up for their party the previous Saturday. Mrs. Davies of the Elms Club produced a magnificent Christmas cake for us and was so sorry that she was unable to come to the party. Mrs. Legge (also of the Elms Club), Mrs. Ambler, Mrs. Burgess and Mrs. Kerswill all contributed to what could be called a "seasonable" buffet. Husbands were asked to join their wives for this meeting and some came along and we were also delighted to have with us Col. Willoughby and R.S.M. Kenrick. Capt. Jennings kindly acted as caller for the Tombola session. We were so sorry to hear that Capt. Jennings was taken ill just before Christmas, which he had to spend in hospital, and hope that he is now on the road to recovery. Special thanks are due to Mrs. Burgess who really ran the party and made a happy evening for those present.

A not very well attended Whist Drive was held on January 14, but it was a foggy, frosty night and no doubt people preferred to stay by their firesides.

Quarterly meetings for 1959 will be held on March 12, June 11, September 10 and December 10.

Please make a note of these dates and join us at the Crawford Hut at 8 p.m.

OBITUARY

Major Charles Toller Whinnery, M.C.

Died in Bournemouth on February 7, 1959.

Born in 1893, he was educated at Charterhouse and Worcester College, Oxford.

He joined the Regiment at the outbreak of the First World War, and was commissioned on May 22, 1915. He was subsequently awarded the Military Cross.

After the war he served with the 3rd Battalion in Cologne and Upper Silesia, and in 1921 was promoted Captain. He then did a tour at the Depot.

Early in 1923 he joined 2nd Battalion in Singapore, where he was a tower of strength on the cricket field. (That season he headed the batting with an average

of 60, and a highest score of 93 not out.) He was also a useful hockey player, as solid as a rock.

He retired in 1933, a year or two after completing a second tour of duty at the Depot.

In the thirties he was a familiar figure at Regimental golf meetings, and a fine golfer he was.

He came back as a Brevet Major in 1939, and was employed at home throughout the war.

Those who served with him will have many happy memories of him, his burly figure, his happy countenance, and his kindness to all.

We did not see so much of him after the second war because he went abroad for some time, and then he lost his robust health.

He bore his illness with great fortitude.

As, towards the end, he was completely incapacitated, his many friends can only be thankful that this grand man is now at rest.

Colour-Sergeant E. Fletcher

With the sudden death on January 4, 1959, of Colour-Sergeant Fletcher, the Regiment and the Army Recruiting Staff have both lost a very well-liked and staunch comrade.

I first came to know L/Cpl Fletcher, as he then was, when he was my P.R.I. clerk with the 2nd Battalion from early 1938 until we mobilized in September, 1939. He was an excellent accountant, being most reliable, thorough and extremely neat in the keeping of his books.

He enlisted on November 25, 1926, and after his recruit training at Mill Hill he joined the 1st Battalion at Aldershot, moving later to Catterick, and then to China in 1927 with the 57th. In the following year he joined the 77th at Ahmednagar and served with them in Madras, Khartoum, Colchester and Gosport. On mobilization, he was found medically unfit to serve with a Field Force unit, and was posted to the Regimental Depot.

In 1941, he was promoted to Sergeant and was appointed the Officers' Mess Sergeant at the M.G.T.C. and later at the post-war Depot. In this capacity he served for nearly 11 years, and there will be many officers who will remember him during this period for his thoughtfulness and help.

On July 31, 1952, he was discharged from the Army, but on the following day joined the Army Recruiting Staff, in which he was still serving at the time of his death. Unassuming and reserved by nature, he was a true and loyal "Die-Hard" and, to me, a very likeable person.

A.E.G.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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.

Golf

May 7: Spring Golf Meeting, Hendon.

May 11: Home Counties Brigade Meeting, Hendon.

Sept. 19/20: Autumn Golf Meeting, Fleet.

BROOKWOOD WAR MEMORIAL

On Saturday, October 25, Her Majesty the Queen unveiled a memorial which commemorates 3,500 men and women of the land forces of the Commonwealth who died at sea, in raids and missions mounted from the United Kingdom, or on active service outside the main theatres of war, and who have no known grave.

It stands in the Brookwood Military Cemetery, near Woking, Surrey, in which are buried 3,900 soldiers from every army of the Commonwealth and from the armies of many of the Allies.

The memorial, which has been built by the Imperial War Graves Commission to the design of Mr. R. Hobday, A.R.I.B.A., takes the form of an open rotunda of Portland stone with fourteen piers radiating from a grassed court in the centre. Each pier has on either face a panel of green Broughton Moor slate bearing the names.

Facing the central court is a curved stone wall, on one side of which is the bronze box containing the memorial register and on the other the following inscription:—

1939-1945

THIS MEMORIAL BEARS THE NAMES
OF THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED MEN AND WOMEN
OF THE FORCES OF THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH
AND EMPIRE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY AND IN MANY FOREIGN LANDS
IN HOME AND DISTANT WATERS
IN THE CAMPAIGN OF 1940 IN NORWAY
AND IN LATER RAIDS ON THE COAST OF EUROPE
AND TO WHOM THE FORTUNE OF WAR
DENIED A KNOWN AND HONOURED GRAVE

On a frieze immediately above this inscription appear the words from the Book of Deuteronomy:—

THE ETERNAL GOD IS THY REFUGE
AND UNDERNEATH ARE THE EVERLASTING ARMS

Surrounding the Memorial are wide grassed walks bounded by curved yew hedges with recessed seat features and flower beds, the whole being framed by eight weeping birches. Four adjacent quadrants are to be planted with rhododendrons, azaleas, heathers and other shrubs and flowers.

An individual invitation to attend the ceremony was posted to the next-of-kin of each man commemorated on the memorial or buried in the cemetery in which it stands, and as anticipated several thousands of them were able to attend. Among those who were present were representatives of the armed forces of the Commonwealth, of the regiments and corps whose men are commemorated at Brookwood, and of ex-Service Associations.

The Regiment was represented by Brigadier N. P. Procter and Lt.-Col. and Mrs. J. R. B. Worton.

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



Quite apart from the celebrations of the Territorial Army Golden Jubilee, 1958 must number among the most memorable peace time years in the life of the "Seventh." In this year the Battalion nearly trebled in strength, and "A," "B," "C" and Support Companies have been firmly established at their respective T.A. Centres.

Throughout the year, the planning and organisation of nearly every activity was made by Battalion Headquarters. Towards the end of the year progress was such that the Commanding Officer became convinced that the time had come for a change in policy. Accordingly operation "Broad Front" was launched. Under "Broad Front," companies organise their own recruiting measures and training week-ends, and at the same time each Company Commander takes on some Battalion Study Day or T.E.W.T., assisted by Battalion Headquarters. Already the new policy is taking shape with recruiting drives by Support Company under Major J. C. du Parc Braham on Saturday, January 17, and another under Capt. S. J. Carter for two weeks "Shooting for Pints" by "A" Company. "B" Company only awaits its chance for the use of the Loud Hailer and Recruiting Caravan to make a further bid to raise their Company strength to fifty all ranks. Progress in Headquarters Company under Major R. G. Garrett continues and since the new year it has been possible to form Intelligence, Medical and Regimental Police sections.

The principal Battalion winter training events have been Study Days. The Commanding Officer, assisted by Major D. E. Simpson, organised an indoor officers' study day on December 14, to explore the Deployment of an Infantry Battalion in Nuclear War. This study will be followed up by a T.E.W.T. in the Aylesbury area on February 14/15. On January 10/11 the Annual Exercise with the Civil Defence organisation of the County took place. The exercise was in two parts, a study on the Cloth Model on Saturday followed by an exercise in Deployment, Rescue and Signals on Sunday. The exercise could not have taken place without the excellent support received from the Middlesex C.D. Services.

Other activities in progress at the present time include .22 shooting under Capt. M. A. Lanyon and R.Q.M.S. Howes for the 1958/59 season, and First Aid training for the Brigade Competition on March 8, under Lt. J. C. Worswick (R.M.O.) and Sgt. Stansall. In the field of sport R.S.M. Thom, single handed, has raised a Battalion Football team which will compete with the 6th Queens for the Divisional Cup on February 1. Lt. Richards with fourteen other volunteers is practising for the Divisional Cross Country

Championships to be held at Richmond on Sunday, February 15.

Lastly, but not least, the Annual Remembrance Day Parade and Service was held on Sunday, November 9, 1958. The Battalion turnout was excellent, far surpassing previous years. The march past was taken by the Hon. Col., Col. J. K. Maitland and the Mayor of Hornsey, Ald. G. Watson.

Before going on to the Company and Mess notes, a word of praise for our wives. Let it be said at once that the progress of the Battalion is closely connected with the fortitude with which they have been temporary or nearly permanent grass widows.

Our congratulations to 2/Lts. Phillips, Sedley and Van de Pol on their appointment to a Commission in the Battalion. We wish every success to C/Sgts. Jackson and Medcalf, Cpls. Gibbons, Johnstone, Brooks, Stansall and Henshaw on their promotion.

"B" COMPANY

The outstanding event of the quarter was the presentation to "B" Company by the Mayor of Enfield of a new shoulder flash, embodying the Arms of the Borough, which the Company now wear; and of a pennant, on which are emblazoned the Arms of the Borough. The Commanding Officer welcomed the Mayor with a speech in which he emphasised the close links of the Company with the Borough and stressed the honour which was being done to us. The Mayor then presented the pennant, and spoke of the connection between Borough and Company, the Company Commander, Major Gunnell, replying with a short speech of thanks.

Besides the Mayor, there were present Col. Crosby, the Lord Lieutenant's representative for Enfield, together with the other members of the Lord Lieutenant's committee. They were entertained in the Company Mess afterwards and so ended a memorable evening.

A number of the Company visited the Regimental Depot in December. Major Smith gave a short talk on Regimental history and then showed us round the museum. This was an extremely interesting morning and it is hoped that a second visit will shortly be arranged to allow a more detailed inspection.

Bounty night was marked by a social evening in the Drill Hall at Enfield, and despite fog and rain there was a good turnout and the evening was a great success.

We must add a note of regret that Pte. Tubbs has left us to do his National Service. He appears to have settled down extremely well, and his cheerful face will be missed.

"C" COMPANY

It is a welcome sign that we are able once again to include separate notes for "C" Company. We are continuing to expand (although H.Q. Company sometimes disputes this!), and at the time of writing we believe we are the strongest Rifle Company in the Battalion.

The Company is now organised in two platoons, one of trained soldiers and the other of recruits. On



GROUP TAKEN AT THE MANSION HOUSE

(left to right) Colonel of the Regiment, Major Simpson, Colonel Ellis and the Lord Mayor

any Tuesday evening the loud yet friendly voice of C.S.M. Curry can be heard at Hornsey instructing the uninitiated in the mysterious arts of war. Even the longest harried volunteer succumbs after a very few drill nights. On Thursdays Lt. Richards helps an enthusiastic crowd on the miniature range, and we have the makings of a fine Company shooting team.

All members of the Company have attended at least two weekends during the past quarter, and we were pleased to have four members in the Battalion soccer team, and the largest number of spectators at the Duke of Yorks on Sunday, November 30—although our hoarse shouts were a little in vain!

On Saturday, December 13, a very successful Company Party was held at Hornsey, and we were pleased to welcome the Commanding Officer, the Adjutant and the R.S.M. and Mrs. Thom as our guests—we were indeed sorry that Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Legge were unable to attend. A riotous darts match, consisting of the wives versus the men, got the evening off to a fine start, and Sgt. Conroy at the piano and Pte. Haggard and his fellow guitarists kept things rolling. Our grateful thanks are also due to Cpl. and Mrs. Moore and Pte. and Mrs. Barrell for the excellent buffet supper.

Our congratulations go to L/Cpl. Austin on his pro-

motion, and we give a special welcome to Sgt. Hughes and all our newest recruits. At the same time we are sorry to lose Pte. Meek for a year, but hope he will enjoy working in the North Country.

Finally, should any reader be thinking of leaving the 1st Battalion, what about a little part-time soldiering in "C" Company, 7th Middlesex?

OFFICERS' MESS

The festive season has come and gone; but in a small way the Officers' Mess joined together to welcome in the New Year. A dance was held in the Mess for the Officers and their ladies and guests. An hilarious moment was soon after midnight when a hula-hoop was produced, and all and sundry males, notwithstanding rank, were made to give a "demonstration." Your scribe regrets to say that no one could equal the efforts of the younger guests.

On Remembrance Sunday the officers entertained their usual guests following the Service, and later the serving officers and their wives watched the Battalion football team playing against a Depot team at Mill Hill.

The highlight of the last three months was the attendance of seven officers as guests of the Lord Mayor, Capt. Sir Harold Gillett, at the Mansion House

when he entertained the 7th Battalion Officers Dining Club. Those who attended were Lt.-Col. W. P. M. Allen, Majors Simpson and Gunnell, Capt. Leighton, Reed and Beaumont, and Lt. Beesley; after, they returned to Hornsey where they had the pleasure of the company of the Hon. Col., Col. J. K. Maitland and his son, Col. Maurice Browne and Major Battye.

Now thoughts are on the visit of the G.O.C., 44(HC) Infantry Division for supper on February 3, and the dinner to bid farewell to Col. Maitland in March when his extended tour as Hon. Col. come to an end.

Camp and its problems of Mess staff are causing worried looks on the faces of the P.M.C. and his committee; how they wish that half a dozen ex-Mess staff from the 1st Battalion or the Depot would come along and volunteer to join the T.A.

Any offers?

SERGEANTS' MESS

Since the last issue of these notes we have held two Mess Socials, both of which were very successful and reflect great credit on the newly formed Entertainments Committee led by our old friend, C.S.M. Arthur Goodge. Sgt. Conroy, one of our newer members, has also been a valuable asset at these functions and his prowess "on the keys" fills a long felt want in the Mess. The writer cannot recall a Mess member being such an accomplished pianist since the Mess was reformed after the war.

Sgt. Wotton ran our Christmas Draw this year and is to be congratulated on the success achieved, even if it did appear that C.S.M. Bob Cubitt had "cornered the market" as regards prizes. Altogether it was a very pleasant evening and we were pleased to see a number of old friends present, notably Major Cummins who did so much for us during a long spell as Officer i/c Sergeants' Mess.

As foreshadowed in our last notes, November 22 saw the "doom" of one of our most stalwart bachelors, when Sgt. Jackson "took the plunge" and was married at St. Catherine's Church, Wickford, Essex. The following members attended the ceremony and formed a small Guard of Honour for the bride and bridegroom as they left the church—R.Q.M.S. Howes, O.R.Q.M.S. Munds, C.S.M. Curry, C/Sgts. Carnie and Moran, and Sgts. Wotton and Hughes. A presentation in the form of an electric clock was made on behalf of the Mess and we wish Sgt. and Mrs. Jackson every happiness for the future. The Mess members attending the wedding sat beneath the 1914-18 War Memorial Tablet in the church and noticed with pride that even in this small country church in Essex there was recorded the name of a "Die-Hard" of the 1st/7th Middlesex.

After parades on Tuesday and Thursday evenings the Mess is the scene of many fierce campaigns waged on the dart board and the real "fanatics" have even pitted their skill against teams from several public houses without being in any way disgraced by the results. However, it must be recorded that although R.S.M. Thom usually throws a very nice dart on such occasions he more than met his match when he

recently challenged the Rev. O. R. Fulljames, M.A., the Rector of Hornsey, and was soundly beaten in two straight games. The return match, if the R.S.M. can face it, will no doubt be very much a "needle" affair.

ELMS CLUB

Club activities are still in full swing. In March we celebrate our second anniversary and though our numbers are not as many as we would like, we feel we are doing well. At present our membership stands at 24. Letters and diaries for the next three months have been sent out to each Company, hoping that they will attract new recruits for us.

We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Goodge with us regularly again and Mrs. Reynolds, a new member.

In November last Mrs. Battye and her Cambridge-shire Club Committee from the Depot were our welcome guests, the first time they had been able to manage the difficult journey from Mill Hill.

Also in November we had two very interesting talks given by the W.V.S. and Red Cross. On December 4 we held our own Christmas Party. Those of us who braved the fog menace had a very enjoyable time. Mrs. Davies made a Christmas cake and Club funds provided the drinks. A week later on December 11 those of us who could, joined the Cambridge Club Christmas Party at Mill Hill and again a merry time was had by all.

Mrs. Gunnell, Mrs. Chittock and Mrs. Holdford battled bravely with mountains of food on January 3 preparing for the Children's Christmas Party held on that day.

The Elms Club were also given the exacting task of selecting the six very lucky children of the Battalion to go to the Lord Mayor's Party on January 10, at the Mansion House.

On January 24 all club members and their children are going to Wembley to see "Holiday On Ice."

Our next outing after this will be the theatre on March 20, but we have not yet decided which show it will be.

7th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS' CLUB

An unique occasion in the history of the 7th Battalion and, as far as is known, in the Regiment, took place on the evening of January 2 this year, when the 7th Middlesex Officers' Club held their 31st Annual Dinner at the Mansion House as guests of the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Harold Gillett, M.C. Sixty-nine Officers and Guests sat down to dine. Brev. Col. J. K. Maitland, Honorary Colonel of the 7th Battalion and President of the Club, was in the chair.

Amongst those present were Lt. Gen. G. C. Bucknall, Colonel Middlesex Regt., The Right Hon. the Lord Bishop of London, Col. Maurice Browne, Lt. Col. W. P. M. Allen, Commanding the 7th Battalion, Major Ian Battye, Commanding the Depot, and Col. A. de S. Clayton, Secretary of the County Association.

The dinner was held in the Salon, the table being decorated by Flowers (in the Regimental Colours)



Scene in the Mansion House on the occasion of the 7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment's Officers' Club Dinner

kindly given by the Lady Mayoress. Battalion silver loaned by 7 Middlesex helped to put that extra touch to the table—which was a picture to look at.

A telegram conveying Humble Duty and Loyal Greetings was sent to H.M. the Queen, and her reply was read to all present.

Speeches at these functions are not encouraged, but on this occasion the Chairman said he was, under the circumstances, going to break the rule.

Thanking the Lord Mayor for his kindness in inviting the Club to dinner, he said it was unique for an Officer of The Middlesex Regiment to become Lord Mayor of the City of London and offered Heartiest Congratulations. Continuing, Col. Maitland described the circumstances under which The Lord Mayor won the Military Cross—stressing the point that it was "Well and truly won."

Replying, Sir Harold said it was most gratifying to him to be able to invite, and dine with, so many Officers with whom he had served in 1914-18. It brought back many happy memories of his association with them and the Regiment in which he was proud to serve. Continuing, Sir Harold said: "One outstanding incident in connection with the Regiment will always be a delightful memory for me. It was during the Lord Mayor's Show when I was taking the Salute at The Mansion House. From the balcony, I saw

the Band of 7 Middlesex proudly marching towards me when, suddenly, it struck up the Regimental March. I shall always consider this gesture the most glowing tribute which could be paid to me; I shall not easily forget how touched I was as it marched past.

Col. Allen gave a report on the activities of the Battalion during the past year, from which it was obvious that its most active and driving force was in the field of recruiting. The fact that about 125 recruits, every one a volunteer, speaks for the hard work and efficiency of the Permanent Staff. This news was greeted with enthusiasm and was a perfect ending to a very pleasant and historic evening.

16 MIDDLESEX INDEPENDENT CADET COMPANY

It was most unfortunate that our notes for the December *Die-Hards* were not published, so in order to complete the chronicle of events it must be put on record that the Company attended a very successful Annual Camp with the Middlesex A.C.F. One of the highlights was a 36-hours endurance exercise in which members of the Company took part. Meals were cooked by cadets in mess tins and bivouacs were made for night shelter. Another exercise in which selected Cadets took part was the firing of live ammunition

onto moving figure targets by an infantry section.

The lessons learnt at Camp were incorporated in several training schemes arranged during the autumn.

Several members of the Company were invited by the Officer Commanding 7th Battalion to undertake training with the Battalion on a weekend scheme on the Stanford Training Area during September. The party bivouaced and carried out some very useful training.

The first weekend in October saw the whole Company on another bivouac exercise. Conditions were extremely bad owing to almost continual rain. In spite of the hardships a successful night exercise was held. The adverse conditions gave ample opportunity for Cadet N.C.O.'s to control their sections under difficulties. The Company was not downhearted at the striking of camp and in fact its members were singing during the return journey to H.Q. The Company had a further opportunity to match itself against the elements in the latter part of October, when several members combined with No. 4 Squadron of the Middlesex Yeomanry, stationed at Uxbridge. The scheme was a night operation in the Aldershot area. It involved a move up of four miles, a river crossing in assault boats, an operation on the far bank, held strongly by an "enemy," to remove some radio beacons, and a withdrawal after a successful operation across the river, together with the return four-mile march back to "our own lines." Throughout the exercise, which began on the Saturday evening and concluded in the early hours of the next day, it rained incessantly. At the conclusion all members agreed that it was a highly successful exercise and one in which the Cadets showed maximum enthusiasm. It is in the interest of the Army Cadet Force that many more of these tougher exercises are organised.

The Depot has been visited on several occasions for week-end training. The Regimental Museum is one of the attractions for the recruits. Sgt.-Maj. Beale visited the Company on November 24 and gave a most interesting lecture on the "Life of the Regiment in Cyprus." The Company is indebted to the Depot for the help it receives on all occasions, especially for the arrangements that are made when the Company is billeted for weekend training.

The 7th Battalion has given valuable assistance in supplying equipment and instructors, etc. Sgt.-Maj. Goodge arranged an interesting lecture, when some weapons associated with an Infantry Battalion were shown and discussed. This type of lecture and demonstration helps the Cadet to appreciate the striking power of the modern Infantry Battalion.

Several members have applied to visit the B.A.O.R. during Easter, and it is hoped that they may have the opportunity to visit the 1st Battalion in their quarters somewhere in Germany.

Recently we have received news of past members of the Company who are now serving: Cpl. Hillyer, Royal Signals, competed in the 1958 Dutch Endurance March completing 100 miles in four days; Cadet Saunders is now settling down after joining the Green Jackets a few months ago, and Cpl. Moss is now with the Young Soldiers Battalion.

At a recent Empire Test for .22 bore the Company secured from fourteen candidates the following results: Three Marksman, seven 1st Class Shot, and four 2nd Class Shot.

The training programme for the next six months will concentrate on exercises, day and week-end, of the tougher nature in which emphasis will be made on section leading and its responsibilities.

NEWSLETTER, HORNSEY O.C.A., T.A. CENTRE, HORNSEY

The social activities of the Hornsey Branch have been going on very well both in the past year and at the start of this year. We are looking ahead to a very full programme which will include several darts matches both at home and away, also the summer coach outing to the coast, and we will also hold a couple of dances at the T.A. Centre.

An enjoyable Christmas Eve and a New Year's Party with guests from the Hornsey Branch of the British Legion were the highlights of the season. We spent an enjoyable evening on January 17 at Redbourne with dart matches and a good old sing-song, and everyone is now looking forward to the next.

Seats on the next coach outing, which takes place on a Saturday, should be booked well ahead.

In the next quarterly newsletter we will endeavour to draw up a programme of events; if you have any suggestions to make, come along one Wednesday evening. The members of the Club welcome all past members of the Regiment, together with their wives and friends, to join us every Wednesday evening, when we have darts, crib, tombola. The ladies join in and help to make the evening a success.

A word to the Old Comrades 1/7th (1914-18): The reunion will take place a little later this year and notices will be sent out shortly to this effect.

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

With the coming of the winter months the majority of the Battalion's activities have moved indoors. The usual round of parties and celebrations during the darker evenings have taken place and, although vitally important training sessions were in progress, relatively little has happened to catch the eyes of the public. Christmas parties, as usual, took place at all companies either before or shortly after Christmas. Support Coy had the inevitable "Uncle Henry" (alias C/Sgt. H. Rae) in lieu of Father Christmas at Hampton Hill, while Drummer Ward—his girth fitted the part well—disguised himself with false whiskers and issued presents in the vicinity of the Christmas Tree at H.Q. Company, Hounslow.

The Officers Mess went to the Hotel de Paris at Bray early in December for their annual dinner/dance and, following the policy that was introduced last year,

they widened their circle to include not only members of the Mess at the present time but also those who had served with the Battalion during the days it spent as 11 Para and the original 8th Battalion during and before the War. Serving members included Brig. E. E. F. Baker and Mrs. Baker. It was with great pleasure we welcomed Col. Fane de Salis, who commanded the Battalion before and during the early years of the war, and Mrs. de Salis, together with Capt. J. H. Whybrow, who was a Coy. Commander with the Battalion during the war. Colin Cullimore and Chris Courtney represented 11 Para. It was a very successful evening and ended up, for the majority of the guests, at the home of 2IC (Major Geoffrey Webber) at 3 a.m. with a film show of the previous year's camp, the highlight of which showed Lt. D. W. Hogg being awakened by the C.O. from his bed, which had been mysteriously transported to the middle of the Battalion parade ground. It is hoped that next year many more ex-Officers of the Battalion will join us for the evening.

Shortly before Christmas Sp. Coy. at Hampton Hill held their annual All Ranks dinner in the Drill Hall, an excellent repast being provided by the caretaker and his wife (Pte. and Mrs. Williams). Guests were again present—"Bill" Minchin drove down from Leicester for the occasion. The star guests were the C.O. and the Secretary of the local British Legion (Mr. T. H. Arnes). Tommy Arnes was a Platoon Sergeant in the Hampton Drill Hall before the war, so during the evening he produced his nominal roll book, which included Pte. I. D. Brotherton as the P1 Range Taker. During the evening he signed on for a further period of three years, only, we regret to say, to be thrown out by the M.O. on the following Thursday for wounds which he received in the Battalion during the War.

The Annual Study Week-end took place at the Cowley Drill Hall on the 10/11 January and was well attended by officers and senior N.C.O.s. The Adj. (Captain Jimmy Flavell) had worked hard, with the result that time went rapidly and interest was maintained. "Guest Stars" included Maj. E. J. Naish of 294 Fd. Regt.—Battalion's own Bty. Comd., and Maj. J. B. Worden, who commands 873 (Indep.) Movement Lt. Bty., R.A. Sig. Sgts. Hawkins and Tett did excellent work with a tape recorder, endeavouring to teach complete wireless procedure in 1½ hours.

In this Anniversary year of the T.A. the Battalion has had its fair share of the rather impressive increase in the overall recruiting figures for the T.A. With eyes on the Summer Camp, which this year is to be held at Plasterdown from July 4 to 18, our aim is to build the battalion into a sufficiently large unit as to make exercises both realistic and interesting. Naturally we are never satisfied, so the net increase for the year of 75 all ranks, although pleasing, is no reason for complacency and only goes to show what a little effort will do. Several of our companies have taken the opportunity provided by a war film being shown at their local cinema to provide demonstrations of weapons to the somewhat reserved British public. We can recommend this practice to Units who have not yet attempted

such an approach, and, provided the initial period of shyness can be got over, the results more than justify the effort required.

"A" Company are our champion company when it comes to recruiting, closely followed by "B" Company at Ealing, and they attribute much of their success to keeping the public informed of their activities, by taking Press representatives on as many of their outdoor schemes as possible, thus relying on the local paper to do what sometimes more direct approaches fail to do. Having read some of these enthusiastic reports it surprises me that not more members of the Press are members of the T.A.

One exception to this is Capt. R. C. Whippes, Company Commander of H.Q. Company. He might object being called "Press," but his work as a Public Relations Officer keeps him on the fringe of that often-maligned body and he is busy at the moment introducing new ideas to extend our recruiting during the next months.

On most Drill Nights members of the Company and Battalion Rifle Teams are busy practising on the indoor ranges, and it is our intention next year to better last year's performances, which were below what we like to think is our normal standard. The Inter-Company Competition seems to be in the pocket of H.Q. Company, who have shot consistently well throughout the competition. In the Inter-Unit .22 Rifle Competition the Battalion have won through two rounds. Our opponents in the next round—due to be held before January 31—are 169 Inf. Workshops, R.E.M.E.

The three months since we last went to print have seen the usual change of faces and we sincerely welcome the newcomers, and say, regretfully, to those who have left—"au revoir" and we hope to see you again soon. Those who have left us include our Adjutant, Capt. A. N. Jordan, who is seeking fame and fortune in Northern Rhodesia, training to be a tobacco farmer. "Naps" was liked and respected by all, and he will be missed. "Naps" joined us over four years ago, taking over the job of Adj. under Lt.-Col. R. A. Corby in the days when the Battalion were 11 Para. His early days were spent in the usual manner of the Parachute Adj., organising ballooning and rather hectic Airborne week-ends, all of which he took in his stride. We can only wish him the very best of luck in his new career and hope to see him when next he is in London. In the chair vacated by "Naps" comes Capt. J. S. C. Flavell from the 1st Battalion. "Jimmy," another ex-parachutist, and C/Sgt. Rea, are the only two members of the battalion who were at Arnhem. He is already making his mark on the battalion, particularly in the training field. It would appear that his sense of humour will enable him to survive his period of service with the T.A.

R.S.M. T. McMillan left us before Christmas and our well-wishes are extended to both he and Mrs. McMillan, who were married only a few days before R.S.M. McMillan left to return to the 1st Battalion. R.S.M. Wild joined us November 30, 1958, and made a hit at the Sgts. Mess Party by winning two bottles



Pte. N. K. Beauchamp wins 8th Middlesex Cross-country run, January 25, 1959.

of wine in the raffle. R.S.M. Wild comes from the 1st Battalion, where he saw service in Hong Kong, Korea, Austria and Cyprus, and will be of undoubted value to the Battalion in the future.

True to T.A. tradition, we keep up our sporting interests, and inter-company basket-ball continues, while certain hardy souls even go to the lengths of playing rugby as and when the opportunity presents itself. Of the two matches planned one was played and the other had to be cancelled because of the impossibly hard state of the ground. The game against the London Scottish T.A. was enjoyed (surprisingly) by those who played, the more so because the Battalion won by 14 points to 8. We should like to take this chance to congratulate Capt. A. Holmes, of Support Company, who has played several games for the senior Middlesex County Team, and wish him even greater success in the future.

When Lt.-Col. "Bill" Corby left the Battalion he presented us with a fine piece of silver. The Corby Cup, as this was called, was awarded for the first time this year to the best all-round Territorial in the Battalion. All ranks (other than the C.O.) may compete for it and points are given for a wide variety of things, such as attendance, representing the Battalion in Rifle and Athletic meetings, tests of endurance (such as the Nijmegen March), and skill at Arms. The Cup was won this year by Cpl. G. Young, of "C" Coy, with a score of 74 points, followed by Lt. H. E. Couch, of "C" Coy, with a score of 72 points; 3rd place was tied for by L/Cpl. D. Gainsbury, of "B" Coy, and 2/Lt. K. D. Murray, of Sp. Coy.

The last athletic event that took place in time for inclusion in these notes was the Battalion Cross-Country Run on January 25, 1959. There was an excellent attendance at the Depot, Mill Hill, from all was the best individual coming in in fine style. "C" Coy was the winning Company, and if the same stan-

dard is maintained in the Eastern Command Cross-Country Run the Battalion should do well.

With reluctant thoughts of what is happening to our national cricket team in Australia we wondered if there are any units who would like to play us at cricket during the coming summer. We do not boast any ex-Test players but we will assure any interested opponents that none of our bowlers can be classified as "throwers," although few also would want to regard them as "bowlers." Any offers for fixtures?

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

Your correspondent is wearing sackcloth and ashes after his failure to get into the last edition of *The Die-Hards*. Hence it is that this effort includes so much news that is, perhaps, stale to some of its readers.

An early camp meant that, for the first time for four years, the Regiment was able to spend the August holiday with wives and families. This proved to be an invaluable prelude to the intensive social and training activities of the winter season.

The first major activity was the Regimental Rifle Meeting at Purfleet. There was a goodly crowd of wives and families to see some encouraging shooting, and to try their hand with the rifle. The weather was kind and the sun shone benignly. The Band, strengthened by colleagues from the 7th and 8th Battalions, provided light music as a background to the crack of rifle and bren—not to mention the impromptu Test Match (on a very mean wicket) which was captained, umpired, organised and what have you by Capt. Davies and Slack.

The Old Comrades turned out in force to assist in the butts and to shoot for their own trophy. A modest Major Wynne carried off the Harris Bowl, whilst Sgt. Godleman was again to the fore. The trophies were presented by Gen. Hughes, our Honorary Colonel.

October brought the usual autumn exercise. Once again we enjoyed the hospitality of our R.A.F. colleagues—and, mercifully, we were gifted with reasonable weather. Despite the trek to the exercise area—no mean feat for T.A. personnel at week-end—the exercise was effective, instructive and jolly good fun. Minor crises occurred, of course—the C.O. desecrated Sunday morning by his efforts to free his Landrover from a well-camouflaged hazard; O.C. "Q" Battery met with disappointment at the local club; the B.R.A. found that he was operationally *non persona grata* with the R.A.F., and the high standard of living in the Air Force might well have lost us recruits.

For all that, the Regiment put up a very creditable performance—revealing once again that they are good soldiers (where on earth they made contacts for refreshment on the far-flung O.P.s one will never know). No exercise can have culminated more joyfully—the Adjutant's wife presented him with a son and heir. Congratulations, Capt. and Mrs. Wadham.

It is some years since the Regiment's Officers had their ladies to dine with them in the Mess. This pleasant custom was revived in October. A repast worthy

of the occasion was enjoyed, enhanced by the presence of six of the Depot's smart W.R.A.C. waitresses. Gen. Hughes toasted the ladies, to which Mrs. Doyle, wife of the C.O., replied quite charmingly.

The Annual Reunion Ball held by the Officers of the Unit took place at Edgware on Friday, October 31. The Rotunda, at Woolwich, kindly loaned some interesting items of Regimental property, including small cannon, armour, halberds, etc., which were used to great effect by the Quartermaster and his staff. The R.A. Dance Band provided music for dancing—and a suitable accompaniment for the popping of champagne corks. A memorable occasion for some hundred Officers, ex-Officers and their wives. A happy "baptism" for Mrs. Hughes, wife of our Honorary Colonel.

The events of Jubilee Year ended early in October with an All Ranks' Ball at Harrow. The R.A.M.C. organised a first-class party. The Regiment was proud to produce the oldest T.A. ex-soldier in Sgt. Stewart—like all old soldiers, he shows no sign of dying.

Remembrance Sunday was kept, as usual, at Kingsbury, where a fine body of ex-members of the Regiment gathered to pay their respects to our dead. The Padre, Capt. Kingston, spoke feelingly of the loss of the spirit which has been so vital to us in war. No one could fail to be inspired by his words. Afterwards there were reunions in the three Messes. May I appeal through these pages to those who do not join us on this occasion to try to be present in the future.

Christmas brought its spate of junketings. The Good Luck Shoot proved an asset to the Adjutant, amongst others, and a good party for all. The Sergeants held their Annual Ball, which is mentioned elsewhere in these notes. As a guest, your correspondent must congratulate the Mess on this excellent affair.

It was late in January when Christmas was finally brought to a close with a Children's Party. They obviously thought it was an excellent idea to have a second visit from a most beneficent Santa Claus—transported in twentieth century fashion in a decorated jeep, and equipped with microphone to summon the bairns for their presents. There was some question as to whether the cartoons (Pluto, Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse), the ice cream, etc., were more enjoyed by adults than by children.

Life is, once again, real and earnest—although "Q" Battery's earnestness was damped when trying to defend London Airport on marshland. I trust they have better luck at Brighton—at least they have only to fear the distraction and not the weather.

On December 31, the Regiment lost Major E. C. Howkins. He was "dined out" on January 10. We wish him well and hope to see him frequently. Old Officers of the Regiment might like to know that Major Howkins has kindly agreed to act as contact between the Regiment and ex-Officers of the 9th.

We still need recruits. T.A. life is fuller than ever. 1959's Camp brings us that long-awaited mobile training. The New Year is alive with promise—join us and help to realise that promise.

REME Notes

We are once again at the end of the T.A. year, and although events proceed apace, we have managed to increase our training and our social programme. We have, of course, lost a few chaps to the demands of civilian employment, but we have gained nearly three times as many in our recruiting efforts. A number, equal to half our original strength, have qualified in a trade, or have been upgraded. In the Brigade Small-Bore Competition we gained third place—no mean feat for a small Unit like ours.

Many of the events of the year are run in close co-operation with the Regiment, and we feel that the partnership is a pleasant and effective one. Real progress has been made in recruiting. Friday night socials at Edgware, instigated by R.E.M.E., have proved successful, and we feel that we are now making a very real contribution to the life of the Regiment.

"P" Battery Notes

"P" Battery has now returned to its spiritual home at Edgware. The result is a sharp increase in interest and in recruiting. Old members of 571 please note—you will be welcome and you may be inspired to join us again.

Congratulations to Lt. Wyeth on his marriage—every good wish from the Battery to him and his good lady.

Further congratulations to Lt. Willoughby, whose wife presented him with a son and heir. Capt. Kingston presided at the christening, and a pleasant gathering at Kingsbury T.A. Centre suitably "wet" Master Willoughby's head.

Battery ego is high. At the Regimental Sports our athletes swept the board. At the Hendon R.A.F. Fete one of our astute spotters, Bdr. Mottau, won for himself a flight from Elstree for accurately judging the height of an aircraft.

Lts. Wyeth, Dumper and Wonnacott almost provided this issue with an obituary notice in their handling (?) of a 40 mm. gun at Muckleborough Hill. In thickening mud on an impossible incline, all efforts, including a noble but vain grab at the hand brake, failed to hold the lumbering piece. A kink in the topography saved a very ticklish situation.

Congratulations, mingled with sorrow, to our B.C., Major Howkins. Along with the bar to his T.D., came the news that he had decided to retire from the T.A. On behalf of the Battery, "Thank you, Sir, for your hard work on our behalf, and may you have a happy 'retirement'—don't forget where 'P' Battery is to be found, and visit us often."

"R" Battery Notes

At the Regimental Rifle Meeting in September, the Battery were runners-up in the Inter-Battery Competition. Sgt. Kline won the Sergeants' Cup, while Gnr. Banks secured the Recruits' Cup. Both went to represent the Regiment at the Middlesex T.A. Championships, together with Bsm. Vaisey and B.Q.M.S. Hall.

The Battery greeted the new Brigade Commander,

Brigadier J. Hepper, D.S.O., on October 1 at the Annual Inspection. Once again the Battery added its share of smartness to that of the Regiment.

As a relief from gunnery training, which occupies so much of our time, an extensive and ambitious map-reading exercise was held in the area of Ivinghoe Beacon and, apart from consistent rainstorms, the occasion was, very literally, a howling success.

Mention of rain is a reminder to congratulate Capt. Bill Campbell, who represented the Middlesex Regiment on the cricket field.

Old associations with the Borough of Wembley were renewed on Battle of Britain Sunday, when a select contingent from the Battery attended the parade organised by the local R.A.F. Association.

A Battery Supper was held early in November, which was well attended and enjoyed by all. Congratulations to the cooks on a really first-class meal. The usual Christmas activities provided the Battery with an enjoyable round of fun and games—talking of “howling successes,” the Children’s Party wanted some beating.

Regretfully we record the departure of Gnr. Banks, mentioned earlier in these notes. He is leaving us to become a Regular soldier. We wish him well in his Army career.

P.S.—The Regiment has formed a friendly association with the U.S. submarine *Nautilus*. Capt. Garratt, our recently-retired Adjutant, noticed in a Press photograph that the sub’s number was 571. The C.O. wrote to the Commander of the *Nautilus*, who has replied agreeing to an association and enclosing a fine photograph of his vessel.

9th BATTALION O.C.A. NOTES

We were pleased to see such a good attendance of our members at the Remembrance Day Service at Kingsbury, and it was like old times to see “Wally” Turner once again in action wielding the baton. The customary tributes to our late members were placed on the Memorial by our President, Col. J. N. Lamont.

At the Albert Hall ceremony on November 8, Jack Chignell was selected a Standard Bearer of the local British Legion branch.

The Centre has been the scene of a number of functions where we have combined with the Regiment and has resulted in many enjoyable evenings. The Good Luck Christmas Shoot proved to be the best ever, and our thanks are due to “Les” Spivey for the very successful arrangements which resulted in the Adjutant, Capt. Wadham, taking the first prize—a very popular winner.

It is with great regret that we have to report the passing of three of our members in Capt. “Tommy” Rogers, “Vic” Ambler and “Ben” Sewell. The Association were represented by members and tributes sent on behalf of all members.

By the time these notes appear, the arrangements

for the A.G.M. and Dinner will be well in hand, when we look forward to a bumper time, as is usual when we all get together.

We send our best wishes to all branches for another successful year.

THE HONG KONG REGIMENT

The main event of the quarter has, of course, been Annual Camp, which was held this year at Far East Farm Camp. The emphasis this year was on attack, and this was practised at all levels, culminating with a Battalion attack at the end of a four-day exercise. Not least among the lessons learnt was how to live out on the ground without the help of vehicles or the Colour Sgt. and his cooks. The camp ended with the Chart and Compass race, which was won by 6 Platoon.

Remembrance Sunday this year unfortunately fell on the first day of camp, which prevented the Adjutant laying the Middlesex wreath himself. However, his place was taken by the Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. J. D. Ricketts, who laid the wreath on behalf of the Regiment. The Regiment was also represented at the ceremonies at the Cenotaph and at the Club de Recreio.

After three years with us we have had to say farewell to Major C. H. Mieville. We hope his memories of Hong Kong will be as happy as those he leaves behind, and that he finds the hills of North Wales to his taste. As Adjutant, Major Mieville did a great deal to strengthen the affiliation between our two Regiments, and we are pleased that he is succeeded by another Middlesex Adjutant in Capt. R. M. Cain. It was perhaps fitting that the handover date should have been announced at a farewell dinner party and that the exact date came as a surprise both to the Commanding Officer and the new Adjutant!

We were delighted to hear that at the cocktail party which marked the return of the 1st Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) from Cyprus, the Hong Kong Regiment was represented not only by two former Commanding Officers, Lt.-Cols. Carter and Clayton, but also by our recently retired second-in-command, Major Botelho.

During the quarter we lost the last of the Middlesex officers serving on the staff here when Major George Hodding called on the Regiment before departure. Major I. R. Burrows had, of course, already left the Colony.

It is with great sorrow that we have to record the death of our Hon. Colonel E. G. Stewart, D.S.O., O.B.E., E.D., on December 18, 1958. Colonel Stewart had a long association with the Volunteers and will be remembered by older Diehards as having fought with them before the fall of Hong Kong in 1941. A memorial service was held on December 22, 1958, which was attended by officers of the Regiment.

NEWS LETTER BY M.B.

The outstanding events of late have been the arrival home from Cyprus of our 1st Battalion at Southampton on Sunday, 2nd November. Major Heywood and myself were given the staff car of London District H.Q. to take us down to the Port. We had a somewhat adventurous journey for en route the car over-heated, and was cloaked in steam. The driver, who was excellent, got us to the dock half-an-hour before the ship docked, and we saw the whole affair, and everyone will realise how much the sight aroused us.

The second great event was the 31st dinner of our 7th Battalion, which was held at the Mansion House, where we were guests of the Lord Mayor of the City of London, Sir Harold Gillett. An account of this appears elsewhere.

To turn to less exalted matters we are glad to welcome Lt. (Q.M.) F. L. Griffiths as a Regular Officer to our 8th Battalion. He has taken the place of Capt. Jennings, now I am sorry to say unwell as the result of heart trouble—so tragic when I remember his previous strength. Major Clark remembers Griffiths many years ago as a very able officer’s servant. To return to Jennings I know how fate sometimes overtakes us, and so I suffered myself after many years of good health and strength.

We suffered great sorrow on December 19 by the death of Major R. D. Bennett, a very old friend of many in the elder generation. He was a most amusing companion, full of wit, and able to cheer a mess table. Born on October 6, 1886, he first came to us on August 29, 1906. He retired on January 26, 1932, and had lived many years in a lovely old farmhouse, Tytherley Manor, near Axminster in Devon.

He leaves behind his wife and daughter. I first met the former at St. Thomas’s Mount, a few miles out of Madras, where Battalion H.Q. were sited in Fort St. George. I loved the old fort with its Georgian houses, and long before the walls had been washed by the sea waves, but are now withdrawn by the construction of a harbour of great importance. I often recollect the value of India to our British Army there and in Burma. Now we have no troops nearer than Singapore and Hong Kong.

I heard in a Christmas card from Major “Hippo” Beadnell and his wife Linda, and so was reminded of our beloved Colonel Fred Swainson and his wife, a great rider and renowned rifle shot in India. Both died many years ago.

I had a brief letter from a young relative of Haji Shaboodeen Bahadur, which reminded me of our famous contractor, who spent more than fifty years with our Regiment, and was known to all, for he looked after at least three of our Battalions.

I was pleased to see the well-earned promotion of Lt.-Colonel “Flash” Chattey, who suffered so severely as a prisoner of war in Japanese hands in the Second Great War. He is now employed in Cyprus.

I had a letter from Elizabeth, wife of Lt.-Col. Hewitt, O.C. Ghana Regimental Training Centre at Kumasi, Ashanti. She asked after our Capt. Hugh

Evans, who has suffered severely on service in the Persian Gulf, and I fear may not be able to continue service in our Regiment, having been blown up by a road mine, which has severely damaged his foot. We all remember him as an athlete playing in all games, and this result gives sorrow to us.

I had a letter dated December 15 from Ken Clayden, who is due to go as Adjutant to our 7th Battalion at Hornsey in early September, 1959. We remember him here as Adjutant of our Depot, and can feel confident all will be well in that post.

I had a long letter from The Very Reverend Ormonde Birch for Christmas. He is very old friend, having been our Chaplain to the Regiment at Dinapore. I lived with him in The Cantonment Magistrate’s bungalow, and we had happy times together. He later became Archdeacon in Calcutta, and on retirement returned to Melbourne, Australia.

I heard from Col. Archie Stewart on December 22. He had recently had Brigadier Ord Tidbury staying with him. I am sorry to say Hilda, Archie’s wife, has not been too well. I lived for many years with them in India after their marriage.

Colonel Stewart came to “The Elgee Dinner” here on November 12—a small gathering, mostly officers who served under Col. Elgee in 1st World War, and have ever since honoured his memory for he was a most remarkable soldier and a true “Die-Hard,” who will never be forgotten so long as one of us remain, and Archie Stewart and myself are the oldest left now.

On December 15 I had a letter from Col. Samuel. Am sorry to relate his heart is still not sound and he can do little. I heard not long back from Willoughby Newton and his wife Elise. Both are well, and he is still a great fisherman, at which he spends much time in Ireland. He had heard from J. D. Clinch, who is a doctor in Pontypool, and has had two sons and four daughters. Few are left who will remember Jamie Clinch, who was so well known in our 1st Battalion at Aldershot.

Major-Gen. Delano-Osborne died on November 12, 1958. He was born on March 13, 1879, and joined the Forces August 3, 1898. He was educated at Harrow and was twice married. He started his Army life in Royal Scots Fusiliers, and served in the South African War, 1899-1902, and the First Great War, 1914-1919. He was appointed Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of The Royal Hospital at Chelsea, 1933-1938. He commanded our 4th Battalion from 1920 to its disbandment.

I have recently secured a good photograph of Brigadier William Ince Webb-Bowen. Born July 26, 1882, and died (after retirement), December 11, 1945, in South Africa. He was a hugely strong man, and would box in the Mess on his knees but never hurt anyone. People remember him in the Naval and Military Club when he had a quarrel with a loud, boasting man, and went out to fight him in the Green Park opposite, where he knocked him out.

I heard from Hervey del Court in Hermanus, Cape Province, South Africa, at end of November. He could not attend our 1958 Regimental Parties at the

U.S. Club, and returned to South Africa without us meeting. This is his first failure for many years, and I cannot hope now for many more chances.

I had a letter dated November 7 from our old friend Sir Vyvyan Holt, of Korean fame. He hopes later to visit me at the Dépôt. All will know how bravely he behaved in Korea as our Minister, and assisted the Bishop, a very old man, in the rigours of a long march to the Chinese border, and great privations as prisoner there. His eyes suffered very much, and, as often happened to our prisoners of war in Japanese and Chinese hands, they received no medical attention and no care.

I am again in touch with Mrs. H. P. Anson on October last, who has been granted a flat in Queen Alexandra's Court at Wimbledon. She was the daughter of Colonel Daw, who was Q.M. in our 1st Battalion when I joined in Burma, and Anson was Adjutant. He was killed in the 1st World War, serving in our 8th Battalion, on May 25, 1915, in the Middle East. She sent me her husband's Army List 1910, which he had when he joined, and many of his mess buttons and badges for gifts to officers who come here.

On October 28, Lt.-Col. Rex Waller, A.Q.M.G. (Movements) at H.Q., B.A.O.R., wrote to tell me of his interesting duty covering the British Area in Germany, including Berlin, and our communications through Holland and Belgium. He says Hameln, where our 1st Battalion now is stationed, is one of the better locations in Germany, and should be happy after three years of strain and tension in Cyprus. The Battalion has already gained a high reputation as a well led and efficient unit. He has met Lt. Colonel John Herapath. Rex's wife Mary and younger daughter Jane have joined him since mid-November, and his elder daughter Angela, at school at home, will go to him in the holidays.

I attended the 2/10th Battalion service in Chiswick Parish Church and read the lesson from the lovely Book of Revelation of St. John The Divine. Colonel "Stumps" Green informed me on 10th October he had seen a pleasant pair of pictures at Maryhill Barracks given in memory of our Lt.-Col. E. S. Gibbons, who was killed in action whilst commanding 7th Battalion H.L.I. in 1917. I served with him in the 1st Battalion in India for some years.

A few personal reminiscences of a Daughter of the Regiment

We have had some colourful personalities amongst us from time to time. Of course, I cannot speak from more than a social point of view, but some individuals have become almost legendary as time goes on and I am tempted to jot down one or two, as seen through the eyes of the very young.

We were out in Malta in 1913 with the 77th, and in the Brigade—we had the Scottish Rifles—a young subaltern among them was growing impatient of peace-

time soldiering, so, when a nice little war broke out in the Balkans he quietly disappeared from Malta and was soon forgotten. When the 1914 War was in full swing he turned up amongst us in the "Die-Hards." He was wounded and sent to convalesce at the Empress Eugenie's Hospital for Officers in her lovely house at Farnborough, and it was there we were able to get at least part of his adventurous story from him.

He was a tall and remarkably good-looking Scot—the Errol Flynn type! He enlisted in the Foreign Legion and had seen service with them, during which time he gained a medal, which he showed us along with some snapshots of himself in the romantic "Beau Geste" uniform. When the 1914 War broke out he had escaped—but, of course, would never tell us how—and here he was. He used to ask us up from Aldershot to play tennis in the Empress's grounds. She, naturally, had a preference for a French-speaking officer and, of course, Ronald Brodie was bi-lingual and a favourite of hers. The Empress, still lovely, frail and nearly 90, used to be wheeled out in her chair to watch the play, and it was there that my mother made her most courtier-like remark. She was sitting beside the old lady with her back almost to the court, when the Empress graciously observed in broken English, "You cannot see! Will you not turn your chair towards the court?" My mother replied, "I can watch tennis any day, but I cannot always sit and look at an Empress." I think she was deeply touched with this reminder of her former glory.

When we were stationed in Londonderry in 1908, we acquired a French bulldog, which was at first lent to us by a wealthy young Australian-born officer, Arthur Cooper, but "Max" became so attached to us that he was eventually handed over, and used to lead the Regiment on route march with evident pride. This young officer was fond of buying any new gadget and then generously giving it away. We acquired through him also what surely must have been one of the first Thermos flasks, a safe, and a diabolo set, which was all the rage among the young at that period.

The bachelor Adjutant at that time, Captain W. D. Ingle, became a great friend of ours and, greatly to my father's horror, used sometimes to take us children into the Barracks, and even to the almost sacred Mess, where my father himself would on no account let us go. We used to see a good deal of this Officer as the years went by. He was a first-rate bridge player, and I believe used to choose the port for the "Rag," as he was an exceptionally good judge of wine.

A great friend of my father was—or rather, became—Colonel Elgee. He always sported the suspicion of a Peninsular officer's side-whisker, and was another tall and handsome Scot. I think his eccentricities were well-known. He didn't appear to have much fondness for his relatives and always called his mother "Mrs. E." He served abroad a good deal and was a worshipper of what he called "Old Man Sun"; he used to sit in the hottest days in Malta calling for a little hot soup to warm himself. My father used to take me with them in the dog cart to visit Miss Hughes-

Hallett at the Palazzo Sheria—long since pulled down. I think there were stories of him in the 1914 War appearing on the battlefield mounted on a white charger, which one can visualise somehow.

A very forceful lady—the wife of a senior officer—was once asked to sing at an "At Home." I believe that Colonel Elgee disliked her intensely for some reason or other. Anyhow, for the first and only known time, she broke down completely in the middle of her song and, rubbing her gloves into a tight ball, she flung them at him, exclaiming, "There's someone in this room antagonistic to me—and it's YOU, Mr. E.!"

You must all know—or should do—our Regimental historian, Major Woolwright. In the early part of this century a detachment appears to have been stationed at Bullafont in Southern Ireland. There was a Ball in progress in the Mess, and several people remarked on a young girl in grey who was seen once or twice on the stairs and no one knew her name. She became celebrated as the "Bullafont Ghost" and even walked right through Major Woolwright—or he through her! Anyhow, he was staying with us some time later, sitting up as usual over a book, when we all went off to bed, saying "Oh, Major Woolwright, we will leave you to put out the light," whereupon he rose hastily saying "No, thank you, I am not being left here sitting by myself," and he would never allow us to laugh over a ghost story after that.

A rather serious young man used to call on us when we were living at Finchley before World War I, and when we children used to go into the drawing room on a Sunday afternoon he would come and join us in our favourite game "Word Making and Word Taking." He is, happily, still very much amongst us now and known and loved by all ranks—I refer, of course, to Maurice Browne.

We had so many "types," some grave, some gay, but always kind and charming to us children. It all seems long off now, but I am sure, were it known, we have just such colourful and adventurous types amongst us now, who will equally become the legends and heroes of the future generation of the "Die-Hards."

I cannot close this short account without paying some small tribute to the faithful and loyal service we always had from our batmen. One in particular I remember, Dodman, the groom who was with us in India in '98, and who saved my mother's life. She was out riding alone and her horse bolted with her across the maidan and towards the cliffs that dropped steeply down to the sea below. My mother felt that all was up, when, as she described it after, a slight figure in a scarlet tunic appeared from nowhere and stood right in the path of the galloping horse with arms outstretched. When the horse was almost up to him it stopped, either in sheer astonishment, or on recognising its master. My mother stepped quietly from the saddle and was quite unhurt.

I wonder if anyone else can remember how the same Dodman came to an untimely end? On a Sunday morning at Mill Hill, during Troop Service, there was a sudden altercation in the stables between himself and

another groom. They came to blows and Dodman fell, striking his head on the stone floor. He died almost immediately. I remember being taken to his military funeral about 1906. It was one of the first to take place in the cemetery at Mill Hill, which lies to the right of the Ridgeway, some mile or so from the Barracks.

My other anecdote concerns one Jones. My sister and I were then aged about five and eight respectively. It was during a rather grand tea party which "Mim"—as we always called our mother—was giving. Someone asked my sister which among the batmen we had had she liked best. She replied promptly, "Oh, Jones, because he tried on all Mim's hats for us." Can you imagine the poor young man, who had been left in charge of the children for an hour one afternoon, being taken into the best bedroom, confronted with an array of fashionable hats, and told, "Now, put them on!"

MEN OF THE REGIMENT

Drummer Dudley Stagpoole, V.C., D.C.M.
(57th Regiment)

Drummer Stagpoole holds the unparalleled record of having won the two top decorations for an other rank within seven days. Stagpoole was a fighting Irishman and quite a character. He had all the attributes of the British private soldier of the period from the Peninsula to 1914. He was four times married and raised a fine family; he could fight courageously as his decorations prove and he could soldier in any climate, having served in the cold of the Crimea, the heat of India and the climate of the bush in New Zealand.

He was born at Limerick in 1838 and joined the 57th Regiment in 1854 when less than sixteen years of age. The following year he joined his regiment on active service in the Crimea. The regiment had already fought at Balaclava and Inkerman and was now besieging Sebastopol. What an atmosphere for a lad full of endeavour to come to. A tough, and battle experienced regiment, full of pride in the deeds of such heroes as Captains Stanley who led the charge at Inkerman; Bland, that giant of a man who mowed the Russians down like ninepins until mortally wounded; C/Sgt. Gardiner the first D.C.M. of the 57th and who had the month previously been awarded £5 from Lord Raglan for bravery in the field; Ensign Grace who had been commissioned from Sgt. for his bravery at Inkerman and who was the son of an old "Die-Hard" who had fought at Albuhera. Such were his comrades.

Stagpoole's first battle experience was on June 18, 1855, the anniversary of Waterloo, when the abortive attack on the Redan was made. In this action, the 57th lost its Colonel and a third of the Officers and men who took part. At Tchernaya, fought on August 16, the 57th again were in action, and by now young Stagpoole was getting battle wise. The final and successful attempt to capture Sebastopol was on September 8, 1855. After the blowing up of the Redan, which followed the capture of the Malakoff, Stagpoole was the first British soldier to set foot in

Sebastopol. After the capture of Sebastopol, the 57th took part in the capture of Fort Kinburn, which surrendered on October 18. Peace was signed on March 30, 1856, and for his services in the Crimea, Stagpoole was awarded the British Crimea Medal with the bar Sebastopol and the Turkish Crimea Medal.

The Regiment served at Malta from June, 1856, until May, 1858, when it moved to India, where it proceeded on field service against the remnants of the mutineers. It was garrison service of a hard kind, but no fighting was done by the Regiment. In November, 1860, the Regiment embarked for New Zealand to take part in the Maori War.

It was September 25, 1863, at Kaipakopako, in the Taranaki district, that a number of the 57th were in ambush waiting for the enemy. One of the soldiers unfortunately discharged his rifle, which caused the enemy to run. The order was given to follow them into the bush, and Stagpoole found a track that led to their camp. He laid in wait about five yards from the track and soon heard the bush moving. A Maori chief came out with his bow and spears and called to his men. Stagpoole fired and wounded him, and before the natives could spear him, rushed to the chief and pinned him to the ground with his bayonet. For this action he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Seven days after this event he was at Pontoko when an enemy attack was made on St. Patrick's redoubt, which was defended by 100 men of the Regiment. The enemy strength was estimated at 700. This news was given to Major Short, who was with the main body five miles away. Major Short's party doubled practically the whole of the distance. The enemy were too numerous, with the result the party had to retire to the redoubt. As they were doing this, Stagpoole's right-hand man was hit and the Maoris, who were savages and gave no quarter, were advancing on him. Stagpoole handed his rifle to a comrade and ran back and rescued the wounded man. Whilst doing this he was slightly wounded in the head. Later in the action another man was seen to be laying wounded between the two forces. Ensign Down and Dmr. Stagpoole rushed forward. The man was eventually carried to the redoubt. During this second rescue Stagpoole was again slightly wounded in the forehead. For this action of gallantry both Ensign Down and Dudley Stagpoole were eventually awarded the Victoria Cross. Stagpoole was also offered promotion to Lieutenant if his education permitted. It didn't.

He retired to pension in 1877 after twenty-three years' service.

For years he worked in the Army Ordnance Department at Deptford and at Woolwich Arsenal. He died at Ware, Herts, on August 1, 1911, and was buried at Hendon Park Cemetery on August 5, 1911.

Notes

1. Dmr. Stagpoole's medals—Victoria Cross, Distinguished Conduct Medal, Bar Crimea with bar Sebastopol, New Zealand Medal, Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, Turkish Crimea—are now in

possession of the Officers of the 1st Battalion. These are the genuine group inscribed with his Regimental number and Regiment. Two dummy sets are known but both these are wrongly inscribed.

His younger son, Dudley Stagpoole, served in the 3rd Battalion and 1st Battalion; another son served with 2/8th Battalion. His eldest son was killed at the Battle of Atbara, 1898.

2. Kingsford says in his History of the Middlesex Regiment (Country Life edition) that Stagpoole was for many years the only holder of both the V.C. and D.C.M. This is not so, the first recipient of both decorations was C/Sgt. George Gardiner, 57th Regiment, who won both decorations in the Crimea, the D.C.M. at Inkerman, November 5, 1854, and the V.C. on March 22, 1855.

3. A memorial was erected on Dmr. Stagpoole's grave at Hendon Park Cemetery and unveiled by the Colonel of the Regiment, Col. Maurice Browne, on September 17, 1947. R.W.J.S.

BIRTHS

WOLLOCOMBE.—On December 2, 1958, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Hammersmith, to Sheila (*née* Power) and Patrick Wollocombe, a daughter.

BROCK.—On January 25, 1959, at Beam Hall, Merton Street, Oxford, to Eleanor (*née* Morrison), wife of M. G. Brock, a son.

ENGAGEMENTS

The engagement is announced between Lt. I. M. E. Lloyd, The Middlesex Regiment (p.c.o.), son of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. E. Lloyd, of Pinner, Middlesex, and Pamela, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. Vivian, of Aberdare, Glam.

The engagement is announced between Major C. N. Clayden, only son of Lt.-Col. H. W. Clayden, and Jean, only daughter of Lt.-Col. J. R. B. and Mrs. Worton, of Fleet, Hants.

The engagement is announced between Lt. M. G. Waite, of the Middlesex Regiment (p.c.o.), and Miss Jane Barber, of Leeds.

DEATHS

AMBLER.—We are sorry to announce the death of Mr. V. Ambler, late of the 9th Battalion, whose funeral at Southend was attended by a member of the 9th Battalion, O.C.A., on behalf of the Association.

BENNETT.—On December 19, 1958, Major R. D. Bennett, m.c., late of our Regiment, died at his home in Axminster. A letter of condolence was sent to Mrs. Bennett and the family, but as the funeral was private we were not represented.

CONNOLLY.—Ex-Pte. C. Connolly died on November 11, 1958, at the age of 71. The Regiment was represented at his funeral and a wreath was sent on behalf of the Association. A letter of condolence was sent to the widow and family.

CRATHERN.—We regret to announce the death on November 17, 1958, of ex-Sgt. A. E. Crathern, m.m. We were sorry that we did not know early enough for the Regiment to be represented at the funeral.

FLETCHER.—C/Sgt. E. Fletcher died very suddenly on January 4, 1959, and will be very much missed by many of us. A letter of condolence was sent to his widow from all members of this Association, and many floral tributes were sent by the Battalions of the Regiment. A tribute to this very popular ex-member of our Regiment appears elsewhere in this issue.

GOVEY.—On November 7, 1958, ex-Pte. H. Govey died at his home in Albuhera Close, Enfield. His funeral was attended by Major A. T. Jones, and a wreath was sent on behalf of the Association.

SEWELL.—We regret to announce the death, after a long illness, of ex-Pte. "Ben" Sewell, on January 16, 1959. Mr. Sewell was many years ago batman to Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks, who had visited him during his long illness in hospital. The Regiment was represented at the funeral, and a wreath was sent.

BONNOR.—We regret to announce the death on February 6 of Mr. T. Bonnor, who served with the Regiment from 1914 to 1926, and who has been working within these Barracks for many years. An N.C.O. attended the cremation on behalf of the Association.

WHINNEY.—On February 7, after a very long illness, Major C. T. Whinney, m.c., died in a nursing home in Bournemouth. The Regiment was represented at the cremation and an obituary appears elsewhere in this issue.

NORTH.—We are sorry to record the death of ex-Sgt. Major R. A. North on February 8 after a long and arduous illness at the age of 73. A letter of condolence was sent to the family and an N.C.O. attended the cremation. Mr. North was a regular reader of the Journal and has been a member of the Association for many years.

IDEAS AND A MOUNTAIN

An Account of the Climbing of Rakaposhi (25,550 ft.) by the British-Pakistani Himalayan Forces Expedition

The Idea

I have already told in these pages of the Parachute Brigade expedition to Alaska in 1956. That adventure provided Capt. Mills, R.A.S.C., and myself with much food for thought. We had learned many lessons; that if you want and work for a thing hard enough, you can obtain it; that good planning is as important to an expedition as any major operation of war; that co-operation is essential at all levels; and that integrity and a fierce maintenance of the aim is a *sine qua non* of the true, well-planned adventure. It almost seems that in time of peace one can find a parallel in these adventures to the game of war. It may well be that this opinion is held by the Joint Chiefs of Staff for, in 1957, after a spate of exchanges of "appreciations," the final brief which I had placed before the C.I.G.S. by Major Charles Wylie (one of the Everest team) resulted in the most encouraging reaction from that quarter.

This was our "green light," and the tiny cottage where I live in Surrey began to swell visibly with files and equipment. The most arduous part of any expedition is undoubtedly the pre-planning, and we were helped greatly in this case by the complete co-operation of the three Services. Jimmy Mills' and my plan had been for a Joint Services' Expedition to include Pakistanis as climbers in their own right. The object of our endeavours was finally fixed as Rakaposhi—an ambitious project, but one that if it succeeded would have a profound effect on the future policy upon such ventures. Both of us believe strongly in "doing" life, and this sort of adventure required the very qualities that should go to make up fighting forces.

The Mountain

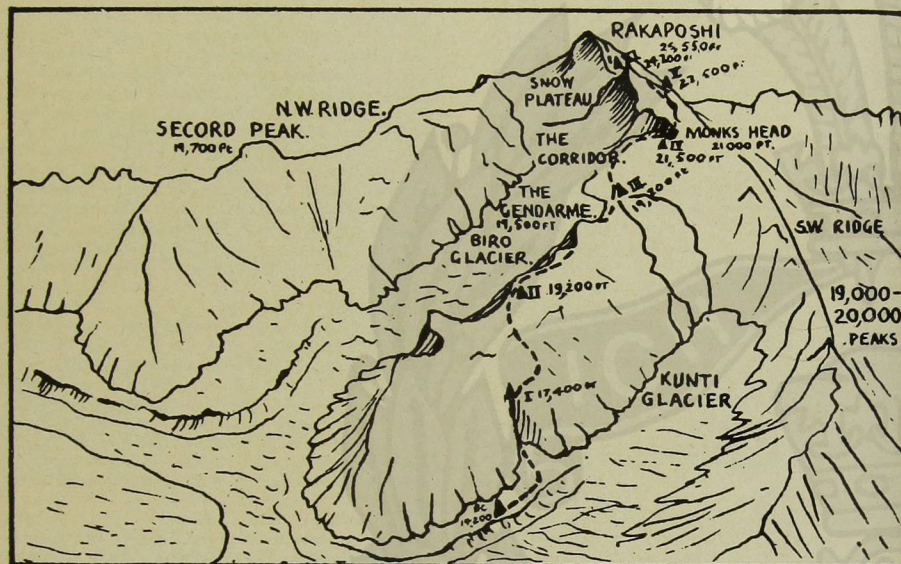
Rakaposhi is one of the most famous mountains in the Karakorum Range of Pakistan. It has resisted the attempts of some six previous expeditions, starting with Lord Conway in 1892 and culminating in an Anglo-American attempt in 1956 (led by Capt. Banks), when a height of 23,500 ft. was reached. In 1958, therefore, it was one of the great unclimbed peaks of the world, and its successful ascent would be—in the words of the Manchester Guardian—"a glittering mountaineering prize."

The expedition was composed of seven British Officers, two Pakistani, and one surveyor provided by the Surveyor-General of Pakistan. Three signallers were provided by the Pakistani Army and six Hunza high-altitude porters were recruited by the good offices of His Highness the Mir of Hunza. The expedition could not have been more international and Joint Service in character.

At 1.45 p.m. on June 25, 1958, the expedition leader, Capt. Michael Banks, R.E., together with Surgeon Lt. Tom Patey, R.N., stood on the summit of Rakaposhi. This is the fourth highest mountain to be climbed by a Commonwealth party; the second highest to be ascended without the aid of oxygen. This short account of their success is not only a mountaineering tale but one of Commonwealth co-operation.

The British team left England on April 25, 1958, to fly to Karachi by Transport Command Comet, all except Brooks, who was making his way from New Zealand after completing the trans-Antarctic crossing. From Karachi, where the team was looked after and enjoyed meeting the Pakistan Air Force, the expedition flew to Rawalpindi to be the guests of the Signals and the Service Corps respectively. At this town, the G.H.Q. of the Pakistan Army exists in atmosphere redolent of Aldershot! The D.C.I.C. wished the climbers luck, and thanks were extended to the D.G.M.T., Brigadier Roddam, who, as mentor of the sports world in this country, had been responsible for most of the staff work there. Veiled promises were also levelled for future celebrations!

From Pindi by Bristol freighter, the route lies up the valley of the Indus—an exciting and dramatic flight that reveals the gigantic splendours of the Karakorum in a theatrical manner worthy of one of Hollywood's "super-epics." The landing on the tiny air-strip at



Gilgit gave a suitably climatic ending to the performance, and it was here that the team was completed. Six-foot four Capt. Rajah Mohammed Aslam, adjutant of a Punjab battalion, had joined us in Pindi and now we met Capt. Mohammed Shah Khan of the Northern Scouts and he—a Hunza himself and also an uncle to the Mir—helped with the provision of our six porters.

The atmosphere of Gilgit is nostalgic and lends substance to those murky pictures so often seen in our Messes: vague landscapes in mauve and purple of the sporting North-West Frontier days, when, according to our friends in the old frontier Messes, the British used to pay tribesmen to attack our troops during their annual training to keep them up to scratch. Who knows, for these were Kipling's times when whimsy and fiction were often fact? The evenings spent on the lawns—usually and refreshingly without the stimulus of a bar, for we were amongst Muslims—were thoroughly satisfying to our inquisitive minds; conversation was cultured and often erudite, for the Scouts are men of resource, who by books and conversation have learned the art of passing time in lonely places. No television was needed here! Sometimes the skirl of bagpipes would surprise one's ears, but this legacy from the British seems quite at home at 5,000 ft. in the foothills of the Himalayas. Also in the evenings we would go and watch the officers play the locals at polo; it wasn't the game of Cowdrey Park, but a rough, lusty game played on a small ground walled with "bumpers" of rock and played on agile ponies that knew and it seemed enjoyed the game just as much as

the players. The picturesque Hunzas, wearing their fawn, homespun garments and large beret-type hats, cheered on their favourites to the strains of wildly exciting hill music of reed pipes played to keep the tempo going. This was a game left over from the days of the moguls—a war game for men only!

From Gilgit, we eventually set off with our two-and-a-half tons of food and equipment, sorted into sixty-pound "coolie loads" nearly one-hundred-and-twenty in all. A remark had been passed by a local dignitary to the effect that we would never conquer Rakaposhi with so little kit! This was one of our prides, as the locals were used to Continental expeditions setting off with up to ten tons in kit. Jimmy Mills had produced a similar ration to the Alaska one, with sixteen man-days of food in the normal ten-man compo box, whilst I had cut down on costs by gathering all the team's "buckshee" clothing and kit and by careful mental pruning had produced the ultimate in lightweight equipment. It is surprising how little one can get by on if one really tries. The importance of even half-a-pound at high altitudes is considerable; to a mountaineer one shirt should last three months and one meal one day; then, with a warm bag and a good tent, plus the enjoyment of good companionship, one can ask for little else. Luxury was a thimbleful of medical comforts on infrequent visits to base camp, recreation was a song to the Doctor's accordion; and, for intellectual relief, one could always try making bread or suet "rolly-poly" in a primus oven at 14,000 ft.!

By jeep, up the road to Hunza we charged in a



Porters descending by a fixed rope at 19,000 ft. during the assault on Rakaposhi, the 25,550 ft. Himalayan peak

cavalcade of dust like modern Khans, to where, at Mut an Darf, we had to dismount and cross the turbulent Hunza River by a swaying bridge made out of three ropes plaited from birch twigs. On the opposite bank sat our coolies, and the first of a long series of lessons in labour relations then commenced. For two days our way led up the desert of the parched foothills, merging slowing into verdant pasture lands by the glacier streams, and then to alpine spruce woods, which petered out at the tree line into scrubby pasture where we were quizzed by a few shepherds. Caught by the not-yet-finished winter, we had to wait, cold and rather disorganised, for the snow to go before pressing on to our base camp at 14,000 ft.

Base camp was established on May 20, and for almost a month the task of establishing the six camps required to get within range of the summit went on, impeded by incessant snowfalls, avalanches and blizzards. This period was not without incident, and on one occasion Rajah and Shah Khan were escorting the Hunzas down from Camp One when an avalanche hit them. They were swept head over heels down the mountainside for 15,000 ft., but all of them, merci-

fully, came to rest with only cuts and bruises!

Camps were duly pitched at a height of 19,000 ft. Above this was a 2,000 ft. face known as the Monk's Head and considered to be the crux of the peak. On June 20th, seven climbers and all the available Hunzas climbed this great rampart, and the way was now open to the summit. The Hunzas had performed a splendid job of carrying up to this height and, since the "sahibs" also carried loads of comparable size, the logistics back of the climb were overcome. This had been of great interest to Jimmy Mills and I, and eventually we produced a staff paper setting down exactly what had to go where. For instance, Camp Three required eighty-six man-loads before Camp Four could be established. We gave a copy to each climber, and the plan worked down to the last primus-pricker, which says quite a lot for the self-discipline maintained at that altitude.

Above the Monk's Head were three giant steps of about 15,000 ft. and each requiring a day to climb.

On June 23, Mills, Sims and Banks helped carry loads from 21,000 ft. to 23,500 ft., enabling Brooks and Grant to carry on for a further thousand feet and

establish Camp Five for the summit pair. This final camp was 1,500 ft. below the summit and had taken every ounce of our declining powers to achieve. Three of us by now had been living about 19,000 ft. for over three weeks, and deterioration of all sorts was creeping upon us unknowingly.

On the next day, June 25, a violent blizzard was blowing, but time, food and energy were fast running out, so Banks and Patey set off to try for the summit. Meanwhile, at Camp Four, Mills, Sims and I had been joined by an exhausted Brooks and Grant, whose tent had split in the high blizzard. Above us, somewhere, was being worked out the drama of the results of over a year's planning and weeks of hard physical effort.

On the summit ridge of Rakaposhi, at a height never attained before on this mountain, the summit pair were taking turns to lead, heads down into a violent blizzard. The cold was intense: the driving snow percolated everywhere, and, in spite of their special vapour-barrier

boots and windproof clothing, the two climbers were being searched by the icy fingers of the cold that only great mountains can wield so insidiously.

After five hours of climbing the summit was reached. By this time Patey's fingers and Banks' toes were frost-bitten. They did not linger on the summit, but made their tired way down to the tent, falling, stumbling, and frequently losing their way in the swirling snow.

When we heard the heartening news and had treated the two exhausted men, we went down next day by easy stages to the base camp, where we arrived three days later to have a splendid Hulagula party with our Hunzas.

Team-work led to the success of this adventure, no more, no less. All of us came back with a deep liking for our Pakistani friends and a sense of fulfilment. Each of us had seen the dawn creep over the secret world of the Karakorum, turning sombre ice into flame-picked loveliness. That surely was reason enough for going and for wanting to go again?

SUBSTANTIVE ROLL, WARRANT OFFICERS, COLOUR SERGEANTS AND SERGEANTS

WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS I

Bde. Pos.	Number	Rank	Name	Date of Promotion	Last Known Station
4	5837545	W.O.1	M. Wild	December 7, 1954	8 Mx.
9	5619855	W.O.1	T. McMillan	January 29, 1957	1 Mx.
16	6211991	W.O.1	A. Kenrick	December 20, 1957	Depot
17	1520025	W.O.1	J. Thom	December 26, 1957	7 Mx.
—	5382114	W.O.1 (Bmr.)	F. Jackson	April 1, 1952	1 Mx.

WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS II

5	6200940	W.O.2	S. Blacknell	April 1, 1952	E.R.E., U.K.
6	6197047	W.O.2	A. Etheridge	April 1, 1952	7 Mx.
27	4267949	W.O.2	A. Goodge	May 4, 1954	7 Mx.
30	864814	W.O.2 (A/W.O.1)	R. Budden	May 4, 1954	Hong Kong Regt.
31	6200579	W.O.2	F. Firman	May 4, 1954	1 Mx.
34	6210526	W.O.2	A. Cooper	May 4, 1954	1 Mx.
36	6403001	W.O.2	F. Redpath, B.E.M.	August 8, 1954	E.R.E., Cyprus
41	6302433	W.O.2	S. Bartle	December 7, 1954	1 Mx.
55	22221076	W.O.2	J. Rodgers	August 26, 1956	5 Queen's, T.A.
56	6968442	W.O.2	R. Dodkins	September 1, 1956	1 Mx.
59	6217070	W.O.2	W. Thorogood	July 17, 1957	E.R.E., U.K.
62	6206327	W.O.2	C. Burgess	July 17, 1957	Depot

COLOUR SERGEANTS

2	6200792	C/Sgt.	G. Hockley, B.E.M.	January 1, 1953	Depot
3	6200351	C/Sgt.	T. Perry	January 1, 1953	1 Mx.
9	6539621	C/Sgt.	G. Whitehead	January 5, 1954	E.R.E., Overseas
11	6205098	C/Sgt.	L. Shrubbs, M.M.	January 22, 1954	1 Mx.
12	6550325	C/Sgt.	F. Powell	March 25, 1954	Depot
20	5949742	C/Sgt.	H. Davis	December 19, 1955	8 Mx.
25	6201818	C/Sgt.	J. Morgan	May 22, 1956	Depot
40	14066481	C/Sgt.	J. Potter	September 22, 1957	1 Mx.
41	14862617	C/Sgt.	W. Wright	October 2, 1957	1 Mx.
44	6203495	C/Sgt.	R. Cubitt	March 25, 1958	7 Mx.

SERGEANTS

Bde. Pos.	Number	Rank	Name	Date of Promotion	Last Known Station
—	6197647	Sgt.	F. Markham	April 1, 1952	Depot
6	6204927	Sgt.	J. Breame	April 1, 1952	E.R.E., U.K.
20	14066639	Sgt.	P. Dive	October 31, 1952	1 Mx.
21	5781748	Sgt.	J. Moyse	November 7, 1952	1 Mx.
25	14476662	Sgt.	D. Weller	December 16, 1952	E.R.E., U.K.
36	6200376	Sgt.	G. Palmer	May 1, 1953	Depot
62	21014189	Sgt.	S. Michel	January 8, 1954	1 Mx.
70	19039053	Sgt.	A. Dacosta	January 22, 1954	1 Mx.
76	6923739	Sgt.	E. Steward	January 22, 1954	1 Mx.
88	21014210	Sgt.	R. Reynolds	March 25, 1954	7 Mx.
92	6202925	Sgt.	R. Hope	March 25, 1954	8 Mx.
93	22229443	Sgt.	M. Easttrap	March 25, 1954	1 Mx.
95	22221109	Sgt.	D. Bailey	April 29, 1954	E.R.E., U.K.
99	22229344	Sgt.	G. Simmons	April 29, 1954	1 Mx.
102	22193814	Sgt.	K. Beale	April 29, 1954	1 Mx.
106	6201236	Sgt.	J. Marable	May 17, 1954	Depot (H)
110	6205018	Sgt.	J. Preston	May 17, 1954	E.R.E., U.K.
114	14470810	Sgt.	D. Walters	May 17, 1954	1 Mx.
121	22541432	Sgt.	J. Dickie	July 13, 1954	8 Mx.
131	19039445	Sgt.	A. Nicholson	August 15, 1954	1 Mx.
132	22221098	Sgt.	J. Warner	August 16, 1954	1 Mx.
133	22550985	Sgt.	M. Butler	August 16, 1954	Colonial Forces
138	19145508	Sgt.	A. Gibbs	September 14, 1954	1 Mx.
139	19136922	Sgt.	W. Smith	September 16, 1954	1 Mx.
149	22309544	Sgt.	J. Martin, M.M.	January 12, 1955	1 Mx.
171	5437863	Sgt.	E. Brooks	February 12, 1955	1 E. Surreys
172	22259650	Sgt.	F. Potts	December 13, 1955	1 R.W.K.
176	22541352	Sgt.	R. Buckley	December 15, 1955	E.R.E., U.K.
180	22549082	Sgt.	P. Amor	February 3, 1956	S.A.S. Regt.
187	22276303	Sgt.	R. Clements	May 22, 1956	1 Mx.
197	14465101	Sgt.	R. Tower	September 22, 1956	Depot
199	22375925	Sgt.	K. Lloyd	December 3, 1956	1 Mx.
200	22221320	Sgt.	K. Partridge	December 3, 1956	1 Mx.
203	22588606	Sgt.	D. Lagden	December 3, 1956	1 Mx.
204	22562397	Sgt.	E. Langford	December 3, 1956	E.R.E., U.K.
212	22787149	Sgt.	C. Orme	March 7, 1957	1 Mx.
217	22774695	Sgt.	M. Elston	March 7, 1957	1 Mx.
231	23526228	Sgt.	H. Horder	September 10, 1957	1 Mx.
243	22812279	Sgt.	R. Ford	November 7, 1957	8 Mx.
244	22823238	Sgt.	C. Shinn	November 7, 1957	E.R.E., U.K.
249	22542445	Sgt.	N. Taylor	November 7, 1957	1 Mx.
250	6098747	Sgt.	B. Callaghan	December 27, 1957	1 Mx.
256	6211953	Sgt.	H. Males	January 30, 1958	E.R.E., Overseas
257	22843287	Sgt.	C. Blackwell	January 30, 1958	Depot
260	6217126	Sgt.	A. Probert	March 20, 1958	1 Mx.

ORDERLY ROOM SERGEANTS

6202735	W.O.2	E. Colebeck	January 1, 1957	1 Mx.
14476433	W.O.2	P. Soper, B.E.M.	January 27, 1958	Depot
19133915	C/Sgt.	G. Cripps	October 6, 1958	Depot, E. Surrey

DRUM MAJORS

2741385	C/Sgt.	J. Lewis	August 10, 1957	1 Mx.
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BAND SERGEANTS

6200547	C/Sgt.	W. Grogan	December 23, 1955	H.C. Bde., Depot
6217128	Sgt.	J. Davies	December 22, 1956	Depot

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