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World War II—*Battalions—No War*, 1940: "The Dyle," "Defence of the Escaut," "Ypres—Comines Canal," "Dunkirk, 1940," "South-East Asia, 1941: "Hong Kong," *North Africa*, 1943: "El Alamein," "Advance on Tripoli," "Mareth," "Gothic Line," "Diebel Roumanea," "Sicily, 1943": "Francoforte," "Sferro," "Sferro Hills," *Italy*, 1944-45: "Anzio," "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," "Giekenkirchen," "Venlo Pocket," "The Rhineland," "Goch," "The Reichwald," "The Rhine," "Lingen," "Brinkum," "Bremen."

Korea 1950-51, "Naktong Bridgehead," "Chongju," "Chongchon II," "Chuan-Ni," "Kapyong-chon," "Kapyong."

Brig. J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E.

1st Bn.—Lt.-Col. I. H. Battye, M.B.E.

571 L.A.A. Regiment (oth Middlesex)—Lt.-Col. I. R. Doyle, T.D.

H.Q.: Wevmss Barracks, Canterbury.

Brigade Colonel: Col. H. R. Grace, O.B.E., D.A.A.G.; Major M. R. H. Stopford.

1st Bn. (Amalgamated)

1st Bn. (Amalgamated with 2nd Bn. 1948)—B.A.O.R.
Regimental Depot and Regimental Museum
 Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.
Territorial Army Units
 7th Bn. Hornsey, N.8.
 8th Bn. Hounslow.
 571 L.A.A. Regiment R.A. (9th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment T.A.)

Record Office—Infantry Records, Exeter.

Regimental Pay Office—Canterbury.

Canada

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

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

HONG KONG REGIMENT
British Forces Post Office, 1, Hong Kong.

Headquarters:

Depot, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill,
N.W.7.

Chairman: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L.
Secretary: Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E.

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Uxbridge	Mr. A. W. Bennett, 110 Yeading Lane, Hayes, Middlesex.

9th Bn. Joint Secretaries	} Mr. J. K. Taylor, 40 Becmead Avenue, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex. Mr. H. J. Fisher, 180 Purves Road, Kensal Rise, N.W.10.
Hong Kong	
Malaya	Capt. W. J. T. Lane, M.B.E., c/o Hong Kong Defence Force, British Army Post Office, 1.
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Articles, news items, etc., are welcomed from readers; however, the Editor necessarily reserves the right of publication. Such contributions to the Journal should be addressed to the Editor, as above.

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

Editor's Comments

Old Comrades' Association

A healthy, flourishing and contented Old Comrades' Association is, in our opinion, one of the hall-marks of a good regiment. It was most encouraging, therefore, to note the response to our recent efforts aimed at giving the Association more publicity, and several helpful comments and suggestions have been received.

The membership at present, we understand, is about 950; but for a Regiment such as ours, however, this can hardly be considered sufficient, and we feel sure that more branches both in and out of Middlesex could well be formed. In this respect, we are glad to hear that Major "Taffy" Jones is to start a new branch at Enfield. Any offers for the next? Apart from the obvious social aspect of the Association, it is also a major factor in recruitment for the Regiment, which at this stage is of the utmost importance. Perhaps one of the most worthy objects of the Association, however, is that of providing assistance to past and present members of the Regiment, their wives, widows, children and dependants who find themselves in difficulty, financially or otherwise. This may surprise many, but cases of such a nature reach the Association almost from day to day, all of which receive every sympathetic consideration and help as befits the circumstances.

Your support is requested in the furtherance of these activities. So come forward, all Old Comrades and Die-Hards—join your Association now!

Brigadier E. E. F. Baker

We hear, with sincere regret, that Brigadier Euston Baker has declined the nomination for his continuance as Chairman of the Middlesex T. and A.F. Association,

of which he has been a member since 1923. This is indeed a great loss, as he is a very distinguished member of the Regiment and of the County of Middlesex. Brigadier Baker served with the Regiment throughout World War I, gaining two M.C.s and the D.S.O. when in command—at a very young age—of the 2nd Battalion. Between the two wars he commanded the 7th City of London Regiment and our 8th Battalion, still being retained as Honorary Colonel of the latter. During World War II he commanded a brigade in the Home Forces, for which he was honoured with the C.B.E.; and for ten years he was an A.D.C. to his late Majesty, King George VI. In 1957 he was further honoured by the award of the C.B. for his services as Chairman of the County Association, all of which is a remarkable and splendid record. To Brigadier Baker go our best wishes and gratitude for all he has done for the Regiment and the County.

The Man Brothers

Col. Andrew Man and Brigadier Christopher Man are, we suggest, the two most distinguished brothers who have ever served in the Regiment, though this statement, no doubt, may be contested by some of our readers. However, Col. Andrew is shortly to retire from the Active List after 33 years' service, during which time he commanded both the 1/7th and 1st Battalions, gaining his D.S.O. in Korea. He has held numerous A/Q staff appointments, where his reputation for meticulous detail and thoroughness has been fully confirmed. We wish him good fortune in his retirement, and we have no doubt that he will continue to support the activities of the Regiment, which he has served with sincere devotion.

To Brigadier Christopher, the younger brother, we offer our congratulations on his temporary promotion and on his appointment to command a Territorial brigade in the Liverpool area. After graduating from Cambridge, he joined the 2nd Battalion in 1935 and was later posted to the 1st Battalion, with whom he fought in Hong Kong until taken prisoner by the Japanese; and it was in the sinking of the *Lisbon Maru* that he gained his M.C. The privations he suffered at the hands of his captors do not appear to have affected him, as he later served with distinction in the Parachute Regiment, and during the past three years he has been in command of the Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion—a very testing appointment—where he gained an O.B.E. for his outstanding achievements. On behalf of our readers, therefore, may we say that we are proud of our Man brothers.

Changes in Command

By the time these comments are published, several changes in command will have taken place throughout the Regiment. Lt.-Col. Clinton Nolda, after three most successful years in command of the 1st Battalion, was succeeded in November by Lt.-Col. Ian Battye, to whom we offer our congratulations on his promotion. He has only recently relinquished command of the Depot, where he and his charming wife will be sadly missed. During his command he made strenuous and original efforts to obtain Regular recruits for the Regiment, achieving a greater degree of success than any other regiment in the Home Counties Brigade.

Col. Peter Allen, to whom we also offer our congratulations on his promotion and appointment as Colonel A.A.G. Recruiting, relinquished command of the 7th Battalion in September. He is succeeded by Lt.-Col. Simpson, his second-in-command and a former T.A. officer of the King's Regiment. Under Col. Allen's command, the 7th Battalion has grown both in strength and spirit; and its rifle shooting prowess, well known in the 44th (Home Counties) Division and Middlesex, is largely due to Col. Allen's leadership and enthusiasm.

In November, the command of the Depot devolved upon Major Hutchings, who until recently commanded a company in the 1st Battalion. In this appointment we wish him every success, as he will be faced with the vital need for more recruits and the eventual dissolution of our Depot in 1961.

Officer Retirements

Since the last issue (delayed by the printers' strike), there have been several retirements of officers from the Active List.

Brigadier Godfrey Lerwill, who transferred to the Regiment from the Indian Army on its dissolution in 1946, handed over his T.A. brigade to Brigadier John Willoughby in September and has since retired to civil life. A true leader and commander—the like of which the Infantry can ill-afford to lose—Brigadier Godfrey will be remembered for his bluff and sincere personality. We wish him well and can assure him that we were proud to have him as a "Die-Hard."

Those two well-known quartermasters—Major Leslie Honeybun and Capt. Harry Jennings, of the 1st and

2nd Battalions respectively—have also recently retired from active soldiering after many years of loyal and faithful service to the Regiment.

Leslie Honeybun enlisted in 1921 and served for 17 years with the 1st Battalion in all its pre-World War II stations; during this time he will mostly be remembered as the Battalion Education N.C.O. On mobilisation he was appointed R.Q.M.S. of the 2nd Battalion, was commissioned as a Q.M. with the 8th Battalion with whom he served until 1945, after which he held E.R.E. appointments at the London District Assembly Centre and in Cyprus.

Harry Jennings enlisted in 1933 and served for seven years with the 2nd Battalion, being badly wounded at Dunkirk. In 1951 he was commissioned as a Q.M. and served with the K.A.R. and later the 8th Battalion. It was in 1958 that he was suddenly taken very ill with a heart attack, which has caused his premature retirement. In this he has our sympathy and good wishes, for he was always a very active and keen games player and represented the 2nd Battalion at rugby and boxing during his pre-war service.

Capt. Warwick Deacock, whose articles in this Journal on his adventurous exploits will be missed, has retired to take up an appointment at an outward-bound school in Australia.

As we go to press, we have just heard that Col. Eric Hudson retired very recently after 40 years' service in the Regiment and in the R.A.E.C. He was commissioned from Sandhurst in 1919 and served mainly with the 1st Battalion, except for two years as S.O.P.T. Eastern Command. On account of the slow promotion rate during those pre-war years, he transferred to the R.A.E.C. in 1934 and later became Commandant of the Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun. Col. Eric will also be remembered for his outstanding ability at all games. His wife, Molly, is a daughter of the late Col. Harold Glass of our Regiment.

Military Attachés

As a Regiment, we are not prone to produce many officers with those qualifications required of them for an appointment as a military attaché; in fact, the last to hold such an appointment was the late Lt.-Col. "Monkey" Stewart, when he was Military Attaché in Bangkok in 1935. However, we were delighted to hear that Major Ian Burrows, now temporary Brigadier, is installed as Military Attaché in Moscow. He is a fluent Russian speaker and an excellent staff officer. We offer him our congratulations and hope that he will be able to contribute an article on his experiences whilst in Russia.

News of Officers

Readers will please bear with us if these comments contain a preponderance of officer news. It is pointed out, however, that this is unavoidable, due to the numerous changes in command and retirements which have occurred since the September issue. Furthermore, readers will appreciate that those serving officers who are on the Brigadiers', Colonels', Employed and Seconded Lists are, perforce, debarred from being mentioned in the Battalion Notes, and their only chance

of a mention, therefore, is in our comments. Your Editor welcomes news of warrant officers and senior N.C.O.s on the E.R.E. List, and he suggests that such news is sent either to him or the Adjutant of the Depot.

Regimental Golfing Society

It was very disappointing that the autumn meeting had to be cancelled through lack of support. The Golf Secretary, Brigadier Procter, and your Editor are very much concerned by this and feel that these pleasant golf meetings may well disappear unless more support is forthcoming. It would appear that the reasons for

this dwindling support are that the "old and bold" golfers are fading away and are not being replaced in sufficient numbers by the younger generation; and also the fact that there is no longer a Regular battalion stationed in England. We can remember, with nostalgia, the numerous officers who played golf when the 2nd Battalion was at Colchester, Portsmouth and Gosport. However, we do know that there are about 30 members of the Regiment who still play golf, and we appeal to them to ensure that the Golfing Society does not fade into oblivion. Perhaps we should resort to one meeting a year? If so, when and where?

1st Battalion Notes

The summer has been fully occupied with sport and training, and the sun has shone continuously on all our activities. No match has been abandoned because of rain, and on only one occasion has the Battalion returned even slightly damp from field training. That one occasion, the climax of our period with the tanks at Haltern was memorable. We were completely flooded, but such sympathy as we could spare from our own discomfort was bestowed on the civilian holiday-makers who were camping close by.

It was a pity, in fact, that the weather broke for this short spell at this time. We had had a most enjoyable week's training with our tank squadron, and had progressed far beyond our earlier efforts at Soltau, and when the heavens opened soon after the start of our final exercise, some sense of anticlimax was experienced by all. At least we could complain no longer of the dust which had enshrouded all our movements up till then.

As soon as we returned from Haltern, we went off by companies to Sennelager for annual classification. As the Battalion has been serving in an active service theatre for so long, where many of the required standards for star pay classification have been waived, this year's shooting was of the greatest importance to many other ranks who were in danger of losing money if they failed to get good results. They were not helped much by the fact that for the first time we were shooting the new classification course with self-loading rifles. This new course has been designed to test a man much more realistically in the requirements for modern war than the previous course, and at first it is not easy. However, as one becomes more accustomed to the practices and to shooting on figure targets instead of on the familiar four-foot target, results improve. There were, in fact, few men who failed to attain the standard they needed to retain their existing pay rates, and some succeeded in qualifying for higher rates. We look forward to progressively improved scores as season follows season and practice makes perfect.

After Sennelager, we had a short pause in Battalion activities while certain Albuhera Shield activities were

disposed of, and companies polished up their minor tactics in preparation for the autumn manoeuvres, which by this time were looming large ahead. In August and September we played off the cricket and hockey competitions, and at the same time disposed of the swimming. The various results of these appear elsewhere. It is sufficient here to say that they were all conducted with the enthusiasm and keen competitive spirit associated with the Albuhera Shield. At the conclusion of these matches, "A" Company emerged as winners of the shield, and although basketball is still to be played off, no other company can overtake them. Congratulations to "A."

Mid September saw the end of these competitions and the accent swung once more to Battalion training. Exercise "September Scrabble" was to be our last venture at watch and ward before the Brigade and Divisional exercises. We tried out a rather new technique this time, and although there were mistakes, it begins to look as though we are getting somewhere near to a reasonable solution for the conduct of this, the most difficult phase of war yet devised. This exercise was followed by an indoor study period and a T.E.W.T., in the course of which the Brigade Commander broke the news to us that, whatever other operations we might be required to conduct during the forthcoming exercises, the Battalion would not be required to watch and ward. At this, it was noticed that there was a tendency among the newer members of the Officers' Mess to disappear into dark corners with their Warminster précis. In the event it was proved that their apprehension was unwarranted. A very full account of Exercises "Battle Axe III" and "Phoenix" appears elsewhere in these notes. Suffice it to say here, that both exercises were resounding successes for the Battalion, and it was most satisfying to see such concrete evidence of the thorough preparation carried out during the year.

The Battalion is now returning to a more normal way of life. Sport is receiving due attention, and although as yet none of the competitions for the major sports have started, our soccer, rugby, and hockey teams have

played a number of friendly matches. It is dangerous to try and forecast possibilities in the realm of sport in the Rhine Army, as standards vary so much from year to year with the transient population of units. However, our hopes of success in the hockey are quite high. We have a strong leavening of experienced players, and in the remainder of the Battalion there is an enthusiasm for the game which augurs well for its future.

On November 19, the Commander of 11th Infantry Brigade Group will carry out the annual administrative inspection of the Battalion. This will be in some ways a sad occasion, for it will be the last time on which the Commanding Officer will be on parade. It will undoubtedly be a sad occasion for him—no matter how excellent the parade may be—and all ranks wish him further success in his next appointment as G.S.O. 1 Training at Headquarters, Western Command. Also on parade on that day for the last time with the Battalion, in his present rank at any rate, will be C.S.M. Bartle. We extend our congratulations to him on his appointment as R.S.M. of the 8th Battalion. Major Hutchings will be missing from the parade, having departed at the beginning of November to relieve Major Battye at the Depot, in order that the latter may come out here to assume command when Lt.-Col. Nolda leaves us.

In early September we welcomed a large draft from 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment, who were early sufferers under the amalgamation schemes among Infantry Regiments now in hand. They have settled down well and have proved their mettle on training and on the sports field. Few are due to stay with us for very long, but we hope that they will enjoy their stay with the Battalion and not be too upset at leaving their old Regiment.

Shortly after these notes are due with the Editor, another parade will be held on which we shall remove our present cap badge—so familiar to all readers of these notes—and replace it with the new Home Counties badge. We are pledged to this new badge, but we must, just once, express our regret at being parted from the old one. The badge we wear may be different, but we shall still be "Die-Hards," even if in an unfamiliar guise.

SPORT

Sport this quarter has been mainly concerned with the Albuhera inter-Company swimming, cricket and hockey, and the individual successes of Cpls. Finnis and O'Rawe in the Modern Pentathlon and Army Boxing Championships respectively.

With the basketball yet to be played, "A" Company have established a commanding lead in the Albuhera Competition and are to be congratulated on winning the shield for this year. As reported elsewhere, they also won the Cricket Shield. "H.Q." Company are finishing strongly, "H.Q. 1" winning the swimming and "H.Q. 2" the hockey.

Cpls. Finnis and O'Rawe have both just returned to the Battalion from England. Cpl. Finnis did extremely well in the Pentathlon trials and is now to train for the 1960 Olympics. Cpl. O'Rawe took part in the Army boxing trials and won all his fights. He then boxed for the Army against the Rest and won. Finally, he was selected to accompany the Army team to Warsaw

as reserve, but did not in fact travel. We congratulate both of these N.C.O.s on their outstanding performances.

With a ten-day exercise so soon after the start of the season, it is difficult to assess our winter prospects. Hockey has got off to a very good start, rugby seems encouraging but has not yet been really tested, and soccer is so far disappointing but will no doubt improve. Our hockey team is certainly a good one, and we have hopes for its success in the major competition this year.

Soccer

Battalion soccer is in the process of growing, and at this early stage has shown that it will experience some pains. The teams have played only two matches, the first against the South Wales Borderers which proved that we are not thinking with a football mind, and the second against R.A.F. Scharfholdendorf, which was a trial game for the 2nd XI. What is needed this season is greater enthusiasm and a realisation that kicking the ball aimlessly up the field will not get goals. If we get a team which will think ahead and pass the ball to each other we will have a team capable of getting good results. I hope to report those results in the next Journal.

Results:

1 Mx. v. 1 S.W.B.: 1st XI lost 1—5; 2nd XI lost 1—8.
1 Mx. v. R.A.F. Scharfholdendorf: 2nd XI won 5—2.

Hockey

This is one sport in the Battalion where the same old faces are seen year after year. We are fortunate in that we have two hockey pitches on the square and they are constantly in use. The inter-Company hockey competition was noticeable for its high standard of play and the great spirit in which the matches were played. The eventual winners were "H.Q. 2," all the old stalwarts, in a very spirited game in which they beat "H.Q. 1," the Band.

The final placings were:

- 1st "H.Q. 2"
- 2nd "H.Q. 1"
- 3rd "S" Company
- 4th "A" Company
- 5th "C" Company
- 6th "B" Company

The Battalion team is taking shape. Our training was interrupted by the October exercises. In spite of that, the Battalion took on 1 R.H.A., at least, the Band took them on, and beat them by 7 goals to 2. We have played two more fixtures, in which we beat 19 Field Regiment 9—0, and the R.E. Hameln 4—1. R.S.M. MacMillan started the season in great form by netting five goals against 19 Field Regiment. Other members of the team are W.O.1 Jackson, Sgt. Taylor, Capt. Hayward, Cpl. Torrie, Sgt. Leat, Major Clayden, Sgt. Carson, 2/Lt. Lofting, Sgt. Handford and Pte. Kattenhorn.

We are sorry to lose Capt. Gaston, our Medical Officer, who was a player of some distinction and gave us a firm base on which to work; we shall also miss him on the penalty corners. We shall also miss Capt. Marciandi when he goes to Brigade Headquarters next month.

We look forward to an interesting and, we hope, a successful season.

Rugger

Only three matches have been played so far this season and all have produced an encouraging standard of play. Grounds have been extremely hard, and still are, and we have as yet been unable to use our forward strength to best advantage. We have now a fixture each Saturday and we should have a good season. We are hoping to get at least three players in the Divisional side, and possibly from there into the B.A.O.R. team.

Results to date are:

1st XV v. R.A.F. Scharfholdendorf Won 23—3

1st XV v. H.Q. 11 Inf. Bde. Gp. Won 27—3

"A" XV v. Hannover District Lost 11—14

The following have played this season: Cpts. Lawrence, Pollard and McManus, Lts. Cheeseman, Waite, Clarke and Deakin, 2/Lts. Goring, Cowing, Ivens, Taylor and Lofting, C.S.M. Beale, Sgts. Tarry, Smith, Briggs and Edey, Cpls. Stopp and Finnis, L/Cpls. Booth, Elvins, Clatworthy, Chalmers, Jones and Fordham, Bdsms. Coleman and Pte. O'Gorman.

Swimming

The Albuhera inter-Company swimming meeting was held at Sennelager on September 1 in fine weather, with about 150 people present.

This meeting was held three weeks after the Battalion had gained fifth place in the B.A.O.R. meeting and the standard was quite high. We found that there was a lot of talent which had not been discovered previously which would have strengthened the Battalion team considerably.

At the close there were only three points between the first four companies, and excitement reached a great pitch.

Points awarded were as follows:

	H.Q.1	H.Q.2	"A"	"B"	"C"	"S"
2 x 100 m. Freestyle ..	6	2	8	12	4	10
4 x 50 m. Breaststroke ..	10	8	0	6	4	12
* Plunge ..	4	3	6	1	2	5
2 x 50 m. Backstroke ..	4	8	12	2	6	10
4 x 50 m. Freestyle ..	12	8	6	10	0	0
Diving ..	4	1	2	6	5	3
4 x 50 m. Medley ..	8	4	12	10	2	6
TOTAL ..	48	34	46	47	23	46

The final placings were:

- 1st: "H.Q. 1" Company
- 2nd: "B" Company
- 3rd: "A" Company
- 4th: "S" Company
- 5th: "H.Q. 2" Company
- 6th: "C" Company

Next year we will include the butterfly style in the medley relay, and thus bring ourselves up to date. We may even be able to run the whole meeting on the same lines as the B.A.O.R. meeting, thus assisting us in our selection of a team for that competition.

Cricket

The first match of the Albuhera Shield competition was played between "A" Company, the eventual winners, and "C" Company. After some good bowling,

especially by C.Q.M.S. Potter, "C" Company dismissed "A" Company for 81 runs, 2/Lt. Pitman scoring 21. "C" Company therefore had high hopes as their opening pair went in to bat. Pte. Beauchamp, however, was the only one who really held out against some steady bowling. Soon, with some indifferent batting, "C" Company were all out for 71 and "A" Company were on their way to success.

"B" Company played "H.Q. 2" on September 4, and after scoring 135 for 7, Pte. Rowlands 29 not out and L/Cpl. Rickett 26, they dismissed "H.Q. 2" for 43, Rowlands taking 4 for 8 and L/Cpl. Rickett 6 for 19.

"B" Company then played "A" Company in what turned out to be a very interesting and hard-fought match. "A" Company batted first to score 100 for 6, Pte. Peak scoring 20 and Pte. Parsley 22 not out. Again L/Cpl. Rickett bowled well, taking 3 for 53 and Pte. Rowland 2 for 37.

"B" Company then batted, and "A" Company with some very good bowling dismissed them with only 6 runs to spare. Pte. Ramatullah took 6 for 29, and Pte. Peak 4 for 32. Pte. Coleman scored a spirited 21 for "B" Company.

On September 14, "B" Company played "S" Company and scored 123 for 7, Pte. Rowlands scoring 66 and Pte. Katterhorn taking 6 for 34. "S" Company could only muster 64 in reply.

The final between "A" Company and "H.Q. 1" was a rather tame ending for "A" Company, as they had no difficulty in scoring the required 67 they had been set to win, and they got this with only one wicket down. Pte. Parsley made 34 not out and 2/Lt. Pitman 21 not out.

Final placings in the league were:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1st: "A" Company | 4th: "S" Company |
| 2nd: "H.Q. 1" | 5th: "C" Company |
| 3rd: "B" Company | 6th: "H.Q. 2" |

SERGEANTS' MESS

Due to heavy training commitments, the social side of the Mess has been curtailed.

However, dinner nights are still being held once monthly, and we were happy to have as a guest of honour Major H. Evans, who was holidaying in Germany and spent a few days with the Battalion.

During the last dinner we had the opportunity of welcoming the new O.R.Q.M.S., W.O.2 P. Soper, B.E.M., and of saying farewell to W.O.2 E. Colebeck.

El Bodon Day was celebrated by a ball, which the C.O., the officers and their wives attended. This ball, ably organised by Sgt. Nicholson the M.C., was enjoyed by all.

Welcome to the "Queen's" draft in the form of C/Sgt. Jessup, and Sgts. Briggs and Eldridge who are no strangers to the Battalion, having served with us in Hong Kong and Korea. Welcome is also extended to newly promoted Sgt. Aburrow of the Band.

We have said good-bye to C/Sgt. Easttrap, who with his wife is travelling overland to the Depot in his Mercedes.

By the time these notes appear in print we shall have said good-bye to C.S.M. Bartle to the 8th Battalion on well-deserved promotion to R.S.M., C.S.M. Shrubbs



"H.Q." COMPANY (2) HOCKEY TEAM, WINNERS OF THE ALBUHERA HOCKEY

also to the 8th Battalion, and Sgt. Lloyd and Sgt. Turner to the 7th Battalion. We wish them the best of luck in their new spheres.

Congratulations are extended to S/Sgt. Girling, R.E.M.E., C/Sgt. Walters and Sgts. Partridge and Leat on their "new arrivals." The babies' heads have been well and truly wetted.

Saturday evening socials are proving popular, and due to the influx from Hannover into the new quarters in Hameln, are attracting a larger number of married families.

A new club has been formed called the "Shufti" Club, the idea being that if a member cannot produce his badge provided by the Dutch brewery of Amstell, drinks all round is the penalty. A great number of bottles of Carlsberg are being sold since this club has been operating, and a number of married "pads" have been seen shrinking away from the bar on the command "Shufti!!"

A games evening in the Station Sergeants' Mess was enjoyed by all, and the Mess held their own in both the games and the drinking.

We are looking forward to the return match.

"H.Q." COMPANY

At the time of writing these notes, the Battalion has just returned from the last exercise of the season. For some members of the Company it will be the very last exercise, and for the newer members, the first of many.

The annual administrative inspection is approaching, and drill parades, kit inspections, etc., loom large on the horizon. C.S.M. Wright has the unenviable task of parading 80 per cent. of the Company for drill parades, the remaining 20 per cent. are labelled "indispensable" and so they have the "disappointment" of staying in their stores, offices, etc. The C.S.M. has not yet achieved full attendance, but he is gradually winking those "odd bods" out of the dark holes.

In the world of sport the Company has had some successes. The Albuhera hockey and swimming shields now adorn the Company office, along with the Athletics shield. The Company took 1st and 2nd places in the hockey, 1st place in the swimming and 2nd place in the cricket. Members of the victorious teams were:

Hockey, H.Q.2

Capt. Waldron
Capt. Gaston
R.S.M. MacMillan
C.S.M. Shrubbs, M.M.
Sgt. Leat
Sgt. Poole
Cpl. Quinn
Cpl. Meehan
Pte. A. Anderson
Pte. Bryant
Pte. Cuthbert
Pte. Emms

Swimming, H.Q.1

L/Cpl. Bradwell
L/Cpl. Adkin
Pte. Heale
Pte. Sear
Pte. Toulon
Pte. Wallis
Bdsms. Eldred

Christmas is approaching and at least seventy men have applied to go home via the military route over this period. We are expecting the remaining 200 to apply for local leave.

The German winter is setting in and guard mounting is getting steadily earlier and earlier.

Regular and National Service releases from the administrative platoon have been many. Pte. Ken Luck, that lecherous Company storeman, has departed and Pte. Elliott takes his place. Cpl. Pinnells, the cloaked mystery of the Intelligence Section is no longer with us, and with him went L/Cpl. Ken Halcrow, the rumoured embezzler of the P.R.I. funds.

Signal Platoon

Looking back on the past few months the Platoon has had its fair share of hard work, most of which has produced an amusing incident.

We spent the last week of July at Haltern with the Battalion Group, and but for a downpour on the final day which nearly washed away the stores tent, we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. C/Sgt. Walters gave a very fine tree-climbing demonstration, whilst line-laying, and at a later stage achieved undying fame by driving for one hour the wrong way on the autobahn to collect 31 sets at Hamm. In this he was ably assisted by Pte. Hall (57) (whose nickname is nothing like "Toad"), who speaks fluent German, as he has since demonstrated on his quiet holiday in England. He and Pte. Fenny, who has rejoined us from the three-month cold in England (hence the long hair, perhaps), now await their reward. Haltern was positively the last appearance of nine stalwarts from Cyprus days. We learned on the September exercise just how much we miss them. The final word on our stay came from Pte. Cox as he fell into a rubbish pit which had quickly filled with rain-water.

On our return to Hameln, Signals cadre No. 2 began, with nine new members of the Platoon and Pte. O'Riorden in attendance. All had had some experience after their week with the platoon at Haltern, and Pte. Hubbard was very quick to learn the art of exchange operating and the meaning of C.P. The R.S.O. being on leave, L/Cpl. Kirby put on the voice mortar-board, and his charm and dynamic personality soon endeared him to the class. Midway through the cadre, Cpl. Weston returned from Hythe with a very bright "B" grading and full of knowledge—as per the book! A few hours on "September Scrabble" soon brought him down to earth.

During the cadre the Platoon took part in two Battalion exercises, "August Moon" and "September Scrabble." The first was short but successful, the second was longer—though the cadre did well! Pte. Coster had a difficult time charging batteries in between getting charged himself, and Callsign 3 were conspicuous by their absence in the later part of things. This was Sgt. Briggs' first exercise with us, but he is still keen to stay! L/Cpl. Kirby ran a bearing on this exercise, but is recovering well in the B.M.H. from a cartilage operation; he hopes to be out the day before release. After this exercise Pronto put us on a week's refresher which fortunately seems to have done the trick; his wife never wanted to go to East Africa, anyway.

To round off the training season we took part in a ten-day Brigade/Divisional exercise, or rather two four-day ones with a breather in between. On both we were

lucky (modesty!) enough to be loud and clear practically throughout, though Prontos I-IV burned up a lot of red corpuscles on battery charging and wireless repairs, the latter fortunately not in our direction. Competition on the Battalion command net was fast and furious in the "Roger so far" stakes and Sunray Minor Callsign 1 was heard asking some poor operator to "Fetch Standfast" when all we had was Dawars. Just how many times can you get your own Callsign into a message? Pte. Scorgie now has his own copy of fire orders and sleeps with his Pyrene extinguisher by the bed.

We welcome to the Platoon Sgt. Briggs who was with the Platoon in Korea with Sgt. Pritchard, and has rejoined us from the "Queen's," Pte. Howlett who was a signaller in B.T.A. and Cyprus, and Ptes. Hagerty, Rand, Hubbard, Lewis, Bowden, Scott (now known as gloom), Burnett and Coles from the Depot.

Congratulations to C/Sgt. Walters and Mrs. Walters and Pte. and Mrs. Peacock on the birth of their respective daughters. As yet L/Cpl. George remains single, but there is still time. Sport seems to be very much at the between season stage, but Pte. Cox has been playing for the Battalion Soccer XI and Ptes. Bowden and Scorgie did 10 days' training for something not long ago.

We lose eight more signallers to civilian life next month. We wish them the best of luck, but warn them that Pronto has ceased giving references since Pte. Roberts landed his company directorship.

M.T. Platoon

Once again our scribe is faced with the task of keeping you informed of the happenings in the hardest-worked Platoon in the Battalion, and to start, we say good-bye to C/Sgt. Dive, who has left for the comparative safety of "S" Company. In his place we welcome Sgt. Eldridge who is now responsible for the unit tech. store. Welcome also Cpl. Aldridge who now commands the 3-ton section, and the 19 new faces we have seen on recent pay parades, many of whom have come to us from our friends The Queen's Royal Regiment. But we must point out that we, had we been in Holland, would not have retreated in the face of the enemy! (Reference October issue, *The Soldier Magazine*.)

In the past, the Platoon has been called upon to do their best, but over the period of exercises "Battle Axe III" and "Phoenix" they excelled themselves. Every vehicle that could muster enough road wheels was out, and we again find ourselves saying thanks to our R.E.M.E. detachment. Their work in preparation was only beaten by their efforts in the field. Many stories have come to light and to tell all would cause the Editor to lose vast amounts of hair, so we will be content to tell a few such as when the M.T.O. was about to have a sly cuppa, and he fell foul of the enemy. However, they felt that our need was greater than theirs and returned him to us intact, except for a slight loss of dignity, thus depriving Sgt. Elston of a field commission. Our R.E.M.E. detachment had a well-fed scheme due to the capture of an enemy Colour-Sergeant mit (note the German influence) rations. Instead of the usual bee in his bonnet, Cpl. Dickens

was more than surprised to find a tree in his bonnet. We wonder what EMER it is that covers the ensuing modification. We also hear that Cfmn. Rose has been broken in; the exact implications of this remain a mystery. In "A" Echelon there were plentiful supplies of "sherbet," thanks to the unstinted efforts of Cpls. Rice and Jones. Ptes. Paget and Salter have always been under the impression that slavery was abolished nearly one hundred years ago, but after being in the gentle care of a nameless Colour-Sergeant for ten days who, it is alleged, has a very scant knowledge of "The Act of Human Rights," they were heard to say, "Never again a rifle company!"

The activities of our keep fit class have been very much curtailed, as the floor bumpers have now reverted to their original use due to the very close proximity of the annual administrative inspection, and we feel sure that as in the past, the Platoon will emerge with colours flying, even if only at half-mast.

Pte. Bently joined Pte. Crawl on the M.I. room driving staff, giving quick access to hasty treatment should the need ever arise. Ptes. Puckey and Conner will represent the Platoon on the next potential N.C.O.s' cadre, and we wish them every success. Pte. Jarrett has returned from six week's U.K. leave with a selection of spicy stories, none of which we are led to believe cost more than 15 bob a time.

Now we wish to say a Happy Christmas and New Year to all our readers; it is hard to think of how we will spend it, as the "Icebox" has now been put "Out of Bounds."

STOP PRESS.—This oil-stained scribbler almost forgot to mention the fact that our Lieutenant (Q.M.) has been promoted to the rank of Captain (Q.M.), and the whole Platoon sends its congratulations to the M.T.O. Who knows, he may even get the beers in!

Corps of Drums

July started with the Corps of Drums rehearsing for the 2nd Division Massed Bands Parade, and although rain nearly cancelled the show, the parade was a great success, with Drum-Major Lewis, the senior Drum-Major on parade, leading all the massed bands in the Grand Finale.

The last week in July was spent at Haltern doing platoon training under Lt. Mallalieu, who had taken over as O.I.C. Corps of Drums from Lt. Deakin. The training proved to be very useful, having just enrolled into our fold ten new members, namely, Drms. Brett, Butler, Mears, Marshall, Jones, Murphy, Pumpfry, Sylvestor, Watts and Randell. On our return from Haltern the Drums went on block leave, some for six weeks and some for two. Over this period our new members were initiated into the mysteries of drum, bugle, and flute.

The last half of September found us busily preparing for the Brigade Group exercises, of which more next time.

Over the quarter we have bidden "Auf Wiedersehen" to Cpl. Barker, Drms. George, Applegate and Lambert, four very useful members of the Drums to whom we wish every success for the future.

THE BAND

Having had the task of preparing these notes thrust upon me for the first time, I find the gap left by such former stalwarts as Sgt. Davies and Bdsm. Wark more prodigious than I at first thought. However, I shall endeavour to record a few things of interest, in chronological order, hoping that the lack of Shakespearian or Homeric quotations will pass unnoticed.

Our well-earned leave in the Motherland last August is now almost a matter of history. It never fails to surprise me now rapidly talk of leave past is superseded by talk of leave to come.

Many will be surprised to learn that our Band Sergeant has chosen to remain with us for at least another three years—having already completed 13 years of invaluable service with us. Another candidate for the pink form was our multi-instrumentalist, Cpl. Rose, whose terminal date brings a look of abject terror to the faces of some of our younger members.

Two new arrivals in the Band are Bdsm. Johnson, an oboist only recently released from the protective wing of ex-B.S.M. Grogan, and Bdsm. Smith, a promising young drummer, who is reaping the full benefit of National Service.

Congratulations are due to four newly promoted and appointed N.C.O.s: Sgt. Aburrow finds his way to the Mess at last; Cpl. Jackson was recently promoted and we once again have a N.C.O. in the percussion section, L/Cpl. Taylor. Lastly, L/Cpl. Routledge will no doubt find life a little easier at Kneller Hall now, with the dreaded thought of D.R.O.s behind him.

The Band account books were dusted yet again last month when remuneration for two more local engagements was distributed. An interesting local engagement to come is November 12, when we are due to give a military band concert in the new Opera House in Hameln, which bears the impressive title of Weser-bergländ Festhalle. Included in the programme is our old faithful from the Kneller Hall inspection, "Carnaval Romaine," the rehearsal of which will no doubt bring joy to the faces of many!

In early September we combined forces with the Band of the 1st Battalion The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, to perform in the Niedersach Stadium, at Hannover. This we found to be both enjoyable and educational, as American, French and German bands were also in attendance. Some of us are still in doubt as to which is the "best military band in the world." The Band of the U.S. 7th Corps, since it so appeared in the programme were obviously under the impression that they were! Our prize bass player Bdsm. Binns once again put his foot in it when the equally well-attired French arrived, by asking if they'd brought Elvis along with them! I feel sure that King Creole would be pleased to hear this.

More recently we gave a concert in our Sergeant's Mess ballroom for our Associated Regimental offspring. Interested parties may soon be able to purchase a new treatise on the military band, after the Bandmaster's efforts to describe the instrumentation to our young but inspired audience. Credit must be given to the inspiration of our bass players Bdsm. Cox and Binns, who stole the show with a little solo exhibition.

Many moons ago the Bandmaster set a shining example of hanging up his bicycle clips and taking delivery of the latest gleaming Austin A40. His only problem now is to find parking space between the superlimousines of those of us who followed his cue.

Last week we said "bon voyage" to Bds. Ashby, French, Green and Wornes, who left us for a year's hard work at Kneller Hall. We wonder if they will reach home soil before finding the house bricks so surreptitiously planted (by persons unknown) in their baggage.

"A" COMPANY

We are delighted to report that we have won the Albuhera Shield this year. All ranks of the Company, past and present, who have contributed to this success, in any way whatsoever, are congratulated on the parts they played. The shield has not in fact been presented yet, because there is still the basketball competition to be played. However, whatever the result of this may be, we are fortunately in an unassailable position.

Although we have ended the period under review on this auspicious note, it did not start with much promise. The Company 2IC started unhappily by commanding the Company on exercise "Goulash." After trying the Colour-Sergeant's first brew, we rechristened the exercise "Goul-Hash." Capt. Norton, on leave at this time, did not know what he had missed.

There were three phases to this exercise: bad, awful and disgusting. We were privileged to have had our photographs taken (by courtesy of the R.A.F.), and cleanliness of our tables (6-foot) and boxes (hay) are now recorded for all time. The C.O. was not convinced, however, by Capt. Kitchener's explanation that the position photographed was our "container" position.

Our next tour out of barracks was a week at Haltern, where we developed the knowledge of tanks that we had absorbed at Soltau. Except for the last night when we had a tropical downpour we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, even if the Company did try to "take on" all the Ruhr miners in the area.

One of the chief lessons that we learned, demonstrated successfully by the C.S.M. and Pte. Silverman, was that plaster of Paris will not wash!

Perhaps the most useful training we have done is our annual classification. Here everyone's effort comes under individual and magnified scrutiny. No quiet sliding away for a kip; no bluff about all the hard work we had been doing while the C.S.M. or O.C. was not looking. We went down to Sennelager for this and had a very happy week under canvas, undisturbed by R.S.M.'s drill parades or C.O.'s inspections. Come to think of it, many of our figure targets had an undisturbed week too, although on at least one occasion the targets on a neighbouring range were surprised. Nevertheless we came away with the C.S.M., L/Cpl. O'Brien, Ptes. Peak, Temple, Pagram, Gibbons and Duncan, L/Cpl. Taylor, Sgt. Patterson and Cpl. Brumwell as marksmen on the S.L.R., L.M.G., or both. We had only five failures on the S.L.R., and nine on the L.M.G. out of the whole Company of 64.

After our shooting we had a fairly long spell in barracks, during which we accomplished a great deal in

the sports field. We will mention some of the details of this a little later.

Our next field soldiering was on Exercise "September Scramble." This was a very short exercise, in danger of being even shorter for "A" Company when the enemy discovered the location of Company H.Q. There is no truth in the rumour that Mr. Pitman did not know where Company H.Q. was, and therefore let the enemy through his platoon position, so he could follow them. Anyway, the enemy did a very fine night assault. If they had taken into account the quarry that was between their start line and Company H.Q. it might even have been successful. As it was, with their boots CWW, Parkha tails and peaked winter hats, they gave a passable imitation of penguins falling off an ice-flow.

Finally, the slambang finish to our year's training, exercises "Battle Axe" and "Phoenix." This is variously reported on elsewhere. However, so far as "A" Company were concerned we had a successful exercise. On "Battle Axe" we were stationed in two villages called Grosse Ilde and Kleine Ilde, or to quote the C.S.M., Big and Little Idle. No. 1 Platoon distinguished itself by its choice of habitation in a barn. There followed a painful interview between the owner and the platoon which is understood to have been a trifle one-sided. However, such is the diplomatic success of the Company that the interview ended by our not only keeping the barn, but also installing the rest of the Company in the owner's other barns and the Company Commander having supper with him. We also managed to hide ourselves so effectively that the M.T.O., in trying to find us, was put "in the bag" by an enemy patrol in the Company area. His comments are not for republication, but after all, if you will wander round the "sharp end," what can you expect?

From our "idle houses" we were then sent forth to counter-attack in the Royal Lincolns' area at night. This attack would have been a resounding success for "A" Company, except that the Lincolns were already sitting on our objective. Since they had their own password and were wearing enemy head-dress, this caused initial confusion. Chaos was finally completed, however, when it turned out to be "A" Company of the Royal Lincolns, with the same wireless channel and Callsign. The Company Commander still maintains he did not tell Callsign 23 to withdraw!!

A pleasant two days was then spent in a rest area. The weather was wonderful throughout the period, and this, plus a good night's sleep and baths, improved our morale enough to take the pants off "C" Company for a bottle of beer a head at baseball.

The next exercise, "Phoenix," the culmination of our year's training was not so well enjoyed. Our high-lights on this were the capture of a Bundeswehr patrol on their own local manoeuvre, by No. 2 Platoon, when they blundered into our positions. They were not amused, and we now know the origin of the expression "Sauer Kraut." We also performed prodigies of marching at night only to be umpired out of everything till first light, but had our own back by capturing the C.O. of the Lincolns next morning at a road block. There is no doubt that Sgt. Taylor's and Col. Innes's astrological charts are closely allied, as was borne out

"B" COMPANY H.Q. IN THE FIELD



by the resigned remark: "Oh, it's you again!"

Our final battle was something of an anticlimax, since we were expecting to be attacked by an armoured regiment and an infantry battalion. We therefore were rather disappointed to have been overrun by a single unsupported tank of the 10th Hussars who appeared to have lost his way.

However, these things are sent to try us, and we are now confronted with the annual administrative inspection. Of this "battalion bogey," no doubt a future serial will be written.

Sports' Report

At the beginning of the quarter we played the Albuhera football competition. After drawing first with "B" Company in the semi-final, we eventually beat them 1-0 in the replay. In the final, however, "C" Company beat us 5-0, the goals being produced by some lightning bursts down the middle to which we had no answer. In the hockey we had the wrong side of the issue of luck, and after beating "C" Company 1-0, we had to be content with fourth place after losing 3-1 in extra time to "S" Company. The swimming competition was a very close-run affair, four points covering the first four companies. (We came fourth.) The highlight of the competition, from our point of view, was the excellent plunge of L/Cpl. Taylor, who surfaced 34 feet 6 inches from the end of the bath. We also won the medley relay.

On the cricket field we came into our own. Our matches were marked by some very keen fielding, some excellent bowling by Ptes. Peak and Rahmatullah (49), and some steady batting by 2/Lt. Pitman and Pte.

Parsley. Our path to success was marked by beating "C" Company by 11 runs, "B" Company by 6 runs (100 to 94, Pte. Rahmatullah 6 for 29, Pte. Peak 4 for 32), and in the final we beat "H.Q. 1" by 9 wickets. The final match showed just how well the team backed up the bowlers. Peak and Rahmatullah bowled 15 overs each, giving away only 66 runs. In reply we got 67 for 1 (2/Lt. Pitman 21 not out and Pte. Parsley 34 not out).

"B" COMPANY

Once more we realise that the Journal notes were due in yesterday. Once more we rack our brains to discover what has been happening since only the other day when the last notes were delivered. Fortunately this quarter has been a full one.

The end of July found us at the Haltern training area, a picturesque little dust bowl near the Ruhr. Here we renewed our acquaintance with "them tanks" and practised the "press on" tactics which later were to embarrass the umpires during the formation training period. At the beginning of August we moved to Sennelager to complete annual classification. After our field-firing earlier in the year it would have been dull but for the financial inducement of maintaining or increasing star pay. After Sennelager we had an end to our gypsy existence for a while, and got down to the serious business of Albuhera sport and a modicum of training. Swimming, hockey, football and cricket, all had to find a place. The weather was ideal for cricket, but a trifle too warm for football and hockey. Naturally the swimming was held over until the weather became a little cooler! Although we are not currently a Company

of gladiators, all competitions were marked by plenty of determination. Individual efforts that spring to mind are: Rowlands' indefatigable bowling and Harriss's and Mongers' last-wicket stand, on their first week-end in the Company; Cpl. O'Rawe's and L/Cpl. Rickett's powerful swimming; and, most felt, because we have now lost him to civilian life, Carmody's captaincy of the football side. Lucky break practices, and a few drill practices in preparation for our November administrative inspection, and exercise "September Scrabble" was upon us. This was the last Battalion exercise before the Brigade and Divisional exercises. As is traditional in the Company, the main battle ground was the immediate area of Company Headquarters, and No. 6 Platoon were off net!

Exercises "Battle Axe" and "Phoenix" are reported fully elsewhere, but the memory that we will retain is the satisfactory one of hordes of umpires, at a loss to know how to hold up "B" Company, when their D.S. notes said that it should have taken us twice as long to cover the ground that we had already crossed. The week-end in between the Brigade and Divisional exercises gave us time for a good sleep, a shower, and on the Saturday night a bonfire sing-song at which all ranks of the Company were called on to do their bit. No one was obliged to take the time-honoured alternative to singing, although the Company Commander, who had lost his voice on a hillside near Diekhöfen told us an edifying story!

Hail and farewell is for ever our lot in today's army and there are too many arrivals and departures to mention all individually, but welcome particularly to Lt. Legg, who arrived just in time to command a resuscitated No. 4 Platoon during formation training, and to the draft of 15 men from 1st Queen's, who form the nucleus of No. 4 Platoon. Farewell to Major R. D. Hutchings, who is off to command the Depot, and to C.S.M. Bartle, who leaves us in mid-November to be R.S.M. of 8th Middlesex. We congratulate both on their new jobs. They formed a team that we shall miss. Good luck to them both, at least we shall know where to find them, when we go home.

We cannot finish these notes without mentioning Cpl. O'Rawe's successes in the Army boxing world. Not much has been seen of Cpl. O'Rawe in "B" Company these days, but he has been making himself felt in other quarters and has been selected for training with the Army team. When not away with the Army team he gets a grip of our novices. Good luck, Cpl. O'Rawe!

"C" COMPANY

The past quarter has contained two major events—the Albuhera Shield Competition and training which culminated in the autumn exercises.

In July we had high hopes of winning the Albuhera Shield, having beaten "A" Company (5-1) in the final of football. A photograph of the team is shown in this issue, and our only regret is that most of its members will have become civilians before next season. In August we lost to "A" Company in both hockey and cricket on successive days in the first round of these competitions and under the "knock-out system" of

points this extinguished our aspirations of winning the shield, but both games were keenly contested and only lost by a narrow margin. Pte. Beauchamp played very well indeed in both these sports and saved us from collecting either of the wooden spoons. Misfortune continued to follow the Company when Cpl. Burford dislocated his shoulder one week before the swimming competition. We were soundly thrashed in this sport, although the team selected from 2/Lt. Montgomery, Sgt. Edey, L/Cpls. Waters and Murphy, Ptes. Well-belove, Weston and Skinner, and Cpl. Hoar tried their best. Only the basketball competition now remains, and as only three points separate the 2nd and 5th places, we are making a strong bid to secure the highest possible position—meanwhile congratulations to "A" Company on winning the shield.

On training our greatest friend has been the weather; throughout all the exercises this year it has rained only once, and this was during our final exercise at Haltern, when even Pte. Rappoport's sense of humour was severely tested as our camp site gradually submerged, during 24 hours of continual torrential rain.

While at Haltern we became expert at quick action with the tanks, and although a certain senior officer complained that no Company attack could ever be launched in seven minutes from the first contact, we beg to differ. It was, however, an unpleasant shock in September when we realised that due to the continual turnover in members of the Company, at least a half had never mounted a tank. Despite this difficulty, all ranks thoroughly enjoyed exercises "Battle Axe" and "Phoenix," and Company battle honours include:

(a) Seizing of Poppenberg Bridge over the River Leine for the benefit of the Royal Lincolns, whose task it was.

(b) Disrupting the breakfast of the Royal Leicester Regiment, the enemy, caught unprepared.

(c) Defeating an armoured-infantry attack on our defensive position which should have overrun us through sheer weight of fire power and numbers. (There was no need to "Die-Hard" this time.)

The training of long-range patrols has been one of our summer activities, and this included an exercise with "A" Company as the enemy during September. Sgt. Edey's patrol having crossed the River Weser in assault boats, successfully evaded the watch-and-ward positions occupied by "A" Company on the far bank, and later were delighted to report that a search party had passed within five yards of their patrol base. For once "A" Company has failed to "look up" since the patrol had all climbed trees.

Assault boats certainly have their limitations, and most members of "C" Company will agree that these boats are —! —! heavy.

Our effective strength dwindled during August to 35, and although leave in the U.K. was partially responsible, we have said good-bye to many old friends, including Pte. Woodley, Company storeman of long standing; Pte. Thornton, who has left his mark on everyone's kitbag with his paintbrushes; Cpl. Evans, who paid £203 to leave; and Cpl. Pell, L/Cpls. Hoar and Ransom, Ptes. Sanders, Willis, Bregan, Binnee, Porterfield and Clerk. 2/Lt. Montgomery left us in



"C" COMPANY FOOTBALL TEAM

Rear row: Pte. Hams, Cpl. Young (captain), Pte. Brown, Pte. Linford, L/Cpl. Waters, Pte. Beauchamp, Cpl. Burford
Front row: Pte. Bethell, Pte. Woodley, Pte. Pratley, Pte. Williams, Pte. Stewart

September for London University if his map-reading permits.

The arrival of 24 all ranks, including 10 from the Queen's Royal Regiment, during the second half of September received a royal welcome, particularly when we were duty Company. They formed the resurrected No. 9 Platoon for exercises "Battle Axe" and "Phoenix" under Lt. Mallalieu, where they acquitted themselves very well indeed, and we are also satisfied with their sporting potential for boxing and football. Inevitably the run-down has started, with Ptes. Court, Cuming and Barnes going to the Drums; several others will leave for civilian life next January.

We are of course looking forward to the return of our latest regular recruit, Lt. Bulloch, but more of this in our next contribution.

"D" COMPANY

N.C.O.s' Cadre No. 4 ran from July 13 to August 26. It was the smallest on record, starting only nine strong, but there was a high proportion of passes, and of the seven who stayed the course six were promoted. A draft which arrived from the Depot on July 7 did a month's continuation training before being posted to companies.

Since the end of August the Company has been in a state of suspended animation as far as training is con-

cerned. Because of the autumn manoeuvres and the imminent administration inspection, drafts have been posted straight to companies on arrival, and the next N.C.O.s' cadre is not due to start until October 26. Our officers and N.C.O.s have been kept employed in a multitude of ways, courts-martial, boards of inquiry, umpiring exercises, supervising education, and during the Brigade and Divisional exercises some were distributed among the other companies to fill in the gaps, while the remainder formed the Battalion rear party in barracks.

C.S.M. Dodkins has returned to his old stamping grounds in "S" Company. His transfer was "temporary," but we suspect that we shall not see him again. Sgt. Edey has returned to "C" Company, and Sgt. Turner and Cpl. Shave have been posted to "A" and "B" Companies respectively. Cpl. Short finally decided to return to his barrow in London and bought himself out. We wish them all good fortune in their new tasks.

In their place we welcome C/Sgt. Jessup from 1st Queen's as acting C.S.M. He last served with the Battalion in Korea and Hong Kong and it is good to see him again. Sgt. Partridge is joining us temporarily to train the next N.C.O.s' cadre.

2/Lt. Robertson left for N.S. release in August, and Lt. Deakin, who replaced him, has now left for the Regimental Depot. Lt. Lloyd is due to arrive shortly.

He will take over the Company from Capt. Marciandi, who is putting away his boots for a tour of duty on the staff.

"S" COMPANY

Once again we put pen to paper to attempt to describe the events of the last three months. It always amazes me how rapidly things change in the Army, people come and go, and still one is expected to be fully trained and fully operational. I wonder how we do it.

C.S.M. Firman has now left the Company and resides in the Q.M.'s department, acting as R.Q.M.S. I always feel that this must be one of the biggest changes for any man, from commanding men to commanding rations, vests and pants. One consolation, they can neither talk nor walk. We thank him for his services to the Company. C.Q.M.S. Eastap left us on October 18 on his way to England with family, by car. He goes to the Depot. He has looked after us very well and we shall miss him. We wish him a safe journey home, and hope he will like his new job and will soon get a quarter.

Company Headquarters continue to function. Its main task, the checking of ABs 64 Part 1, permanent passes and identity cards, the amendment of pamphlets, and the production of Company Standing Orders. Pte. Church was given an outing on exercise "Battle Axe III" when he was No. 2 on the M.M.G.; for "Phoenix" he returned to the Assault Pioneers.

This period started with two weeks at Haltern, a place where "A" Company of the 2nd Battalion had its Headquarters at the end of the war, when they occupied this part of the country before going to Palestine. Haltern provided us with some admirable training. No exercise or movement across country was without its ambushes and explosions which usually brought the column to an abrupt halt, giving much satisfaction to the Assault Pioneers. The 48-hour Battalion exercise at the end of our fortnight was held in pouring rain. In spite of the discomfort we learned a lot, particularly concerning the driving of trucks over a foot of mud.

Exercises "Battle Axe III" and "Phoenix" were a real test, and the Company stood up to them well. In the advance to contact, the Company, except for the Mortars, moves in "F" echelon. The platoons, however, played their full part in all the other phases of war, including the M.M.G. detachment we had out with L/Cpl. Chalmers as No. 1, with Ptes. Church and Coles to assist him. Little sleep was had during our ten days of battling, but no serious accidents were recorded.

Mortar Platoon

The Platoon spent five days shooting for 94 Location Regiment (radar and sound ranging), to give them practice in their task of pinpointing enemy mortars. They have greatly improved in their speed in detecting us when we fired. This also gave us the opportunity of carrying out a little more live firing. A forced march took us to Haltern, where the Battalion had already been in camp for a week. We were in time to take part in the final Battalion exercise.

The October exercise proved both arduous and interesting. First we fought in a nuclear battle for four days, and then in a conventional battle for the last four

days. Unlike the rest of the Company, we are always required and usually travel well up in the order of march for the Advance to Contact. Apart from our normal duties as a supplier of fire, we had first to ambush a patrol which was spotted approaching the Commanding Officer's "R" Group. This was carried out successfully, but the patrol turned out to be from the German Bundeswehr on training completely unconnected with our exercise. One cannot say that we were not alert. Our second action was when "S" Company was ordered to enter the village of Eminen, some twelve miles away, and secure it as a start line for the remainder of the Battalion. *En route*, enemy were reported in the wood on the roadside; we were second in the order of march and were ordered to clear the wood. With great speed we scaled a wooded hillside with a gradient of one in four, reaching the top, we flushed some Seaforths who made off in an armoured car. We continued to sweep the woods, and in so doing captured four S.A.S. with a radio transmitter and code. This was a good capture and a great credit to the Platoon. The S.A.S. had to have their boots removed to prevent escape.

We may not have been able to see the result of our mortar fire, but we scored a direct hit when we were blowing our mortar pits in our last defensive position; the timing was perfect. The Company Commander arrived at 0130 hrs., got out of his Champ, and was immediately struck by a piece of rock (large piece at that). We will not be allowed to forget this for some time.

The Company has not met with much success in the sporting world. Our cricket team, with four Battalion players, could only finish fourth. In the hockey we did a little better, finishing third, only after extra time.

The final sport of the Albuhera Shield is basketball. The Company team shows a certain amount of promise, and we hope to do well.

Foremost in our minds now is the annual administrative inspection. Many hours will be spent in marking kit, checking documents, painting equipment and stores, which might well have been spent in training. The men enjoy field training, but are not impressed by the day-to-day routine of barrack life. As we go to press we are found wondering whether Pte. Rainbow's permanent pass is still valid, or whether Pte. Nicholson has marked his socks which were in the wash when we had the marking kit.

Anti-Tank Platoon

We suffered at Haltern at the hands of the Assault Pioneers who followed, ambushed and blew us up at every turn. In spite of this we eventually won through. L/Cpl. Gilbert's keen observation saved us on several occasions when he spotted mines laid in the tracks and verges. This was apparently all aimed at making us more alert. We also practised quick crash actions, which towards the end we got rather good at. We must admit, however, our map-reading leaves much to be desired. Umblirting (Divisions) are apt to be a little disconcerting. The Company Commander gave the detachment commander a little extra practice at this.

On exercise "September Scrabble" we were detailed

to carry out an experiment with Hexamine Cookers. These are solid fuel cookers designed for individual mess-tin cooking. They were entirely successful and we hope that they have come to stay. Apart from washing and shaving, we produced the following meal:

Tinned Soup a la Mess,
Legs of Mutton, "Scottish Style,"
As above, with Apple Pudding,
Compo Cheddar and Hard Tack,
Rosé.

The tactical setting of the exercise saw us carrying out our task in the watch-and-ward phase of the nuclear battle. Guns were out with the Companies and were entirely self-supporting.

Exercises "Battle Axe III" and "Phoenix" gave us a real test, as all phases of war were practised. We were fortunate enough in avoiding being ambushed. We were able to operate over new ground, and this made the selection and occupation of positions more interesting. Our final position was an occupation by night in preparation for a dawn attack. L/Cpls. Gilbert, Creaser and Mullender had good shoots the following morning. Cpl. Barnes could only present his Ventura to the enemy.

Having recovered from the strenuous ten days on the exercises, we are now back to more mundane things: administration, kit marking, cleaning equipment, interspersed with football and basketball. Boxing also is imminent. Pte. Millard has consented to box, provided he does not have to box Pte. Hamling.

Assault Pioneers

The section, without Sgt. Pritchard, warmed up at Haltern by being a nuisance to the rest of the Company. They laid ambushes, cratered tracks and laid mines. The Anti-Tank Platoon lost more than one truck in these skirmishes. L/Cpl. Roberts was sent off to simulate tanks firing to give the Anti-Tanks a chance of quick laying and firing. The first explosion brought a farmer driving a tractor to an immediate halt. He dismounted, inspected his vehicle thoroughly and drove on. The second explosion saw a repeat of the first, but this time he also inspected his plough. Eventually we told him, at which both enjoyed a good laugh.

We have continued the practice of keeping people on their toes. Sgt. Seager was caught when he opened the stores door at the wrong time. When will this Anti-Tank Platoon wake up?

Exercise "September Scrabble" was a tame affair for us. We laid a few booby-traps, but most of the time remained at Battalion Headquarters to protect them in an emergency.

We were fortunate in having ten days afloat on the Weser. After much searching we acquired sufficient material to build two rafts. Accompanied by an assault boat, we cast off on Tuesday, September 22. We travelled by night and remained in camp by day. We were given numerous tasks of cratering tracks and roads, and of blowing a bridge on the autobahn. The most difficult part of these tasks was, in fact, locating the tracks and bridge. The current on the Weser was strong and we found it impossible to raft upstream against it.

One night we ran into some fishing nets, which caused some anxiety before we could get clear. We tied up at Minden after ten days and we were lifted back in transport. Within four days of returning we were off on the Brigade and Divisional exercises. Apart from cratering and booby trapping, we carried out more than one patrol against enemy patrols which had penetrated our defences. We still find map-reading a little difficult at night. In the final stages of the exercise we provided an additional section in "B" Company's area. Sgt. Pritchard was given a 31-set to play with, and was apparently fooled by the enemy, who came up and said, "Withdraw now."

It is obvious that a little wireless training would not be out of place. We welcome Ptes. Bartlett, Baimbridge and Pollard to the section, and hope they will soon get accustomed to the bangs and booby traps. We have all learned a lot, even if it is only how to get on with each other.

COMPANY CREDITS

1. We welcome C.S.M. Dodkins and C.Q.M.S. Dive. Both had the opportunity to settle in on exercises "Battle Axe III" and "Phoenix." We hope they will enjoy their stay with us.

2. We congratulate Pte. Katterhorn on playing in goal for the Battalion at hockey, with great skill.

3. Pte. Wright, we believe, is thinking of taking up cooking or catering. He was seen on the last exercise sitting over the brew pot most of the day.

4. The following have been released: Cpls. Salt and "Shongwe" Varley; L/Cpl. "Bwana" Martin; Ptes. Sinclair, Johnson, Wright (28), Tolley, Longsdale and Pasquale. We wish them a good job, good pay, good food and a relief from wearing khaki. We hope that they will attend our reunions at Seymour Hall each year.

5. The newly joined are: L/Cpl. Forde; Ptes. Kerrison, Neilson, Pollard, Bateson, Reynolds, Webb and Wells. They were thrown straight into the maelstrom with the October exercises. We hope that they have by now had time to gather themselves together and reflect on what has happened.

6. Congratulations to L/Cpls. Beavis and Forde on their promotions and the excellent results they obtained on the N.C.O.s' cadre.

7. Congratulations to Sgt. Partridge's wife on the birth of a son. Anxious days preceded this event, during which time Sgt. Partridge was seen doing stag at the medical officer's 'phone.

8. We hope Sgt. Argent has by now thrown off his red sash. They say experience is important.

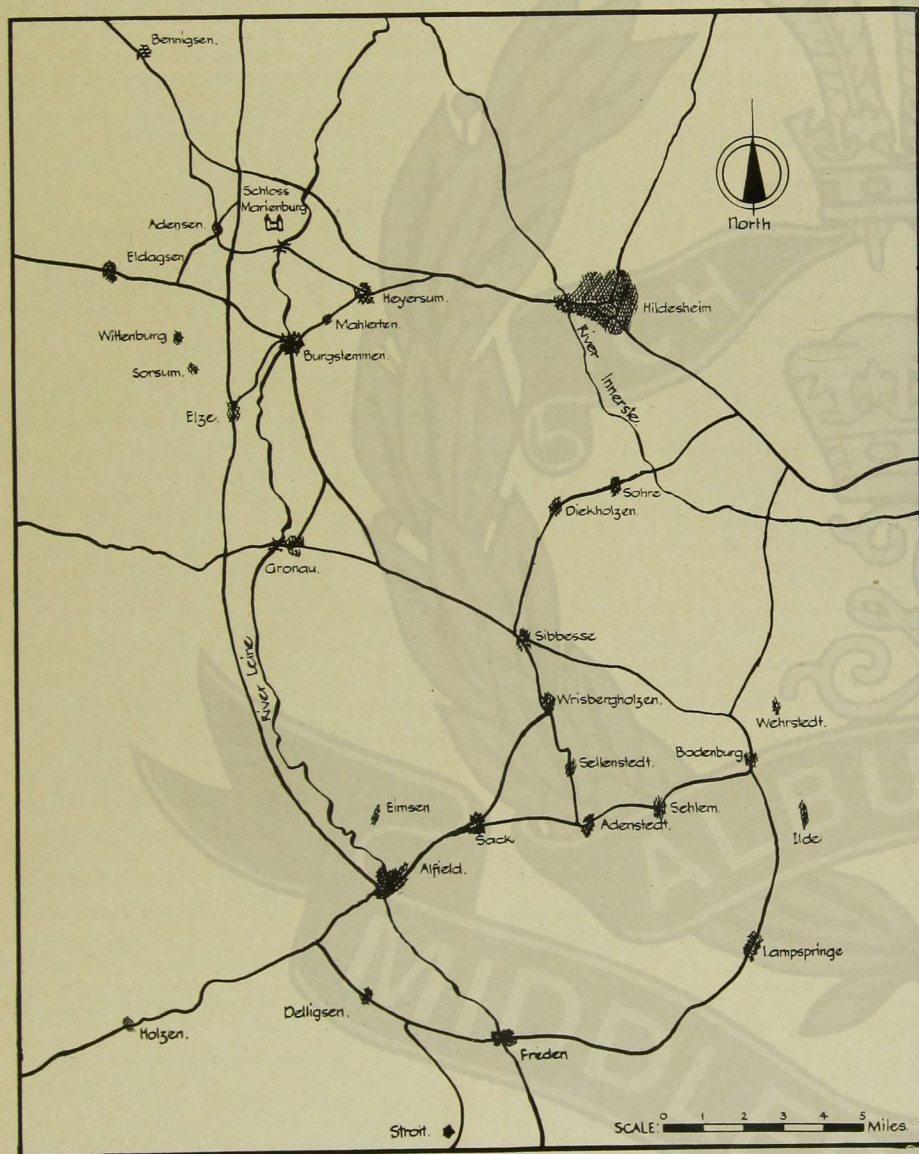
9. We hope Pte. Katterhorn can identify his socks once he has stamped his name on them.

10. We wish Pte. Lam a rapid recovery from his appendicitis. We apologise for neglecting him, but we have been out of barracks.

AUTUMN MANOEUVRES

On Monday, October 5, 1959, the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), together with your correspondent set forth on their autumn manoeuvres. These consisted of two exercises—"Battle Axe III" set by 11 Infantry Brigade Group, and "Phoenix" set

ARMY MANOEUVRES, 1959



Sketch Map of Area of Exercise Battle Axe III and Phoenix

by 2nd Infantry Division. The first had a nuclear and the second a non-nuclear setting.

"BATTLE AXE III"

The aim of this exercise which lasted from October 6 to 9, 1959, was to practise 11 Infantry Brigade Group in the defensive battle in support of nuclear weapons.

The Brigade Group formed part of the Blue Land Army, whose territory lay to the west of the River Leine. Between the River Leine and River Innerste was Vandalland and beyond the Innerste was Fantasia. The Fantasian army was organised and equipped on Russian lines.

Intelligence, quite contrary to its usual practice, had learned that the Fantasians were going to occupy Vandalland as the first phase of an assault on Blue Land. The Government of Blue Land (obviously *not* part of N.A.T.O.) decided to forestall this action by occupying Vandalland, with the additional advantage that the war would then be fought on someone else's territory. The Vandals were not expected to put up much of a resistance.

By the evening of October 5, 1959, 1st Middlesex Group was concentrated in the woods near Stroit. The group, which remained substantially the same throughout the manoeuvres, consisted of: "B" Squadron, 4 Royal Tanks (led by that modern "Prince Rupert," Capt. J. R. D. Wattenbach); 28 Battery R.A. (commanded by Major P. J. Woodward); 2 Troop, 25 Field Squadron (commanded by Lt. R. Eagle); 1st Middlesex C.C.P. (Casualty Collecting Post); Troop lift from 25 Company, R.A.S.C.

The battle was in two phases, an advance on three routes and then a defensive battle. The tasks for the 1st Middlesex Group were:

Phase I—Right flank protection by advancing from Freden, through Lamspringe to Kl. Ilde.

Phase II—To provide right flank protection in the area of Kl. Ilde; to reinforce either forward Battalion; to counter-attack in either forward Battalion area; to deal with any airborne or other infiltrators.

At 0515 hrs. on October 6, 1959, 1st Middlesex Group began to leave the concentration area and almost at once ran into trouble. One of the tanks carrying a platoon of the leading Company ("C" Company) toppled into a ditch, effectively cutting off the O.C. from his men and blocking the route forward. The next Company, "B," was moved forward quickly and the Battalion crossed the start line (River Leine) only a few minutes behind schedule.

Surprisingly enough there was no opposition at the frontier nor in the very difficult country beyond it and the enemy was not met in any strength until the advance had reached Lamspringe. A Battalion attack was then necessary and this was launched with such spirit that the enemy did not hesitate to run.

And so it was that by early afternoon 1st Middlesex Group began taking up its right flank defensive position. "C" Company covered the northern approaches through Wehrstedt and "A" Company the southern, through Kl. and Gr. Ilde. "B" Company occupied a blocking position in Badenburg, which also covered the main north-south road. That night both sides pat-

rolled actively. Then at 1000 hrs. on October 7, "C" Company was attacked and two platoon positions were overrun. As soon as the direction of the enemy attack was known, "B" Company, with two troops of tanks, was moved forward and launched a successful counter-attack. In the evening "C" Company laid a successful ambush and captured two prisoners. Except for some enemy patrolling around "A" Echelon, the rest of the night was quiet until a force of enemy paratroopers was dropped on the L. of C.

By morning they had occupied a commanding position west of Wisbergholzen. "B" Company, with two scout cars and a troop of tanks, was sent off again, and succeeded in capturing the enemy position by a brilliant flanking attack, suffering only a few casualties in the process. Meanwhile the Drums and the Assault Pioneers had occupied Badenburg.

During October 7 and 8, plans were being made for counter-attack in the forward Battalion areas, should this be necessary. Reports were filtering through of a Fantasian build up; during the night October 7 and 8, the enemy had been particularly active in his patrolling. 1st Middlesex Group was placed at half-an-hour's notice to move, from 2300 hrs.

At 0130 hrs., October 9, the Fantasian offensive began with a nuclear explosion on 1st Royal Lincolns front. (This coincided with Mr. Gaitskill's concession of the General Election, news of which soon got around.) At 0230 hrs. the Battalion began moving forward to its assembly area which was reached at 0400 hrs. At once "A" Company secured the start line, the village of Diekholzen, but not without some confusion, as "A" Company, 1st Royal Lincolns, was already there and working on the same wireless channel.

The counter attack was in two phases and each phase had a separate commander. Phase I, commanded by the Infantry, consisted of "C" Company, with two troops of tanks from 1st Royal Lincolns Group, on the left, and "B" Company, with "B" Squadron less one troop, on the right, capturing the high ground on either side of Sohr. "B" Company met with some opposition which was soon overcome. "C" Company met no enemy and went straight to their objective.

Then occurred a tiresome delay. Instead of "C" Company being directed towards the south and south-east, the momentum was allowed to drop while "A" Company with the remaining tanks was brought up to clear the enemy from the high ground they had captured earlier in the morning.

The exercise then came to an end. Was the aim achieved? Certainly a defensive battle was practised but your correspondent could not help thinking that it was not practised against a worthwhile foe nor against modern tactics. The command structure at every level was exercised and a great deal of valuable training was done.

PHOENIX

The general idea of this exercise was most ingenious. The peacetime border between Aggressor and Westland was the existing East/West German border. After great political tension, aggressor forces crossed the border without warning on October 1, and advanced into Westland. Nuclear war ensued and by October 10,

both sides had expended all their tactical nuclear missiles and the ground battle had entered a non-nuclear phase.

In the area between the border and the River Weser, the battle had moved quickly and it was now a relatively "clean" area. Both sides were attempting to re-occupy this area.

By first light on October 12, 11 Infantry Brigade Group was concentrated south-west of Hannover. During the night enemy light reconnaissance elements were reported to have reached River Leine.

The exercise began with orders by the commander of 11 Infantry Brigade Group. The advance was to be on two routes: left, 1st Middlesex; right, 1st Royal Lincolns, with 1st S.W.B. in reserve. The role of the Battalion was to advance as quickly as possible to River Leine and to seize the bridge at Schloss Marienburg.

The Vanguard consisted of "B" Squadron less two troops, and "B" Company. They got off to a sparkling start. There was a certain amount of confusion behind but this was sorted out before the enemy was bumped just west of Bennigsen. A quick attack drove them back. Then came stiffer resistance in the area of Adensen and this necessitated a Battalion attack during which a hay stack was set on fire by a light signal.

After success, the follow-up was immediate. By a brilliant *coup de main*, the bridge over the Leine was captured intact. "B" Company had continued the advance down the main road but one platoon with a troop of tanks was sent round the north side of the Schloss under cover of the woods and surprised both enemy and umpires, for this bridge was not supposed to be captured intact.

On the right, 1st Royal Lincolns had had strong opposition and so a force of two troops of tanks with "C" Company less a platoon went upstream and captured their bridge at Burgstemmen.

The Battalion then moved forward but met with a strong enemy force, a squadron of tanks and two Companies of infantry, in position on the south of the road and just east of Heyersum. This could not be overcome but 1st S.W.B. put in a successful attack just after dark.

The Battalion was then given two tasks: (1) to give left flank protection, performed by "A" and "B" Companies; and (2) to patrol down the road Diekhollen-Sibbesse. The patrolling was done by "C" Company and unfortunately the whole or part of each patrol was captured. It was clear that the enemy were in the area in strength and that an advance along that route was not likely to be successful.

The Bundeswehr, though not part of the exercise were active in this area and a small party of them was ambushed by the Battalion Headquarters reconnaissance party and then later attacked by Tactical Headquarters.

The next day, October 13, the Brigade continued the advance with 1st Middlesex in reserve, but by mid-day had come to halt in front of relatively strong opposition. The Brigadier decided to try and lever the enemy out by getting behind him and 1st Middlesex was selected for this task. An approach march of some 14 miles was involved. Three miles of this was through the hills for which guides were provided.

The assembly area was at Einsem in enemy territory

and "S" Company, together with the Drums, was given the task of securing it. On the move down, the Mortar Platoon captured four of the enemy with their wireless set and later on "A" Echelon captured two enemy vehicles.

Nor was excitement confined to the forward areas. In "B" Echelon the Q.M. observed a hare running curiously and then some deer moving quickly out of a wood. A patrol was organised and a party of four enemy captured.

The Companies debussed in Einsem and were soon ready to advance. The move across the hills was completed without incident but they ran into heavy defensive fire on the outskirts of Sack. After a while enemy resistance was overcome and "A" Company was directed up the road and track leading to Sellenstedt. Having managed to lose their umpire they were able to make good progress. "B" Company moved towards Adenstedt while "C" Company formed a firm base in Sack itself, where Battalion Headquarters was also established.

By first light both "A" and "B" Companies were astride the main road, and an enemy position was seen about half a mile to the south of Adenstedt. "C" Company and two troops of tanks were despatched at once and surprised the whole of 1st Royal Leicesters at breakfast. This attack was not in conformity with the "pink" and "C" Company had to withdraw.

Meanwhile the opposing brigade commander had narrowly escaped capture, by one minute, and a tank from 1st Royal Lincolns was ambushed by "A" Company. 1st Royal Lincolns then attacked the 1st Royal Leicesters position, but were unable to get far forward. During and after this attack the Battalion concentrated in Adenstedt ready for the next move.

Meanwhile the Aggressor build-up had been continuing and on the Brigade front he had a preponderance of both tanks and men. A withdrawal was in the offing and the first step was for 1st Middlesex to occupy a stop line from Adenstedt to Sehlem.

Later in the afternoon the withdrawal order was given. 1st Middlesex was to go first followed by 1st Royal Lincolns and 1st S.W.B. The sappers were building a bridge at Burgstemmen and the new position was on the high ground north of Wittenburg and Sorsum.

Reconnaissance parties went off and the Battalion followed after dusk. The confusion at the bridge was indescribable. Traffic control, except by the C.O. and Battery Commander, did not exist. Transport from every unit was jockeying for position and it was only due to the C.O.'s efforts that the Battalion got across intact and together. The whole business was reminiscent of a stampede from a burning cinema.

The Battalion occupied its new position by 0100 hrs. October 15, and the night was spent in preparing for the attack which was expected to come at dawn. There was a general stand to at 0500 hrs.; the sun came up but it ushered in no attack, merely another lovely morning. At long last, about 0800 hrs., four tanks were seen coming in the Battalion area and these received short shift from the well sited anti-tank guns.

A short while later the Battalion was ordered to withdraw non-tactically to allow the two armoured regiments

to have a battle which concluded the autumn manoeuvres of 1959.

The aim of this exercise, which was to exercise lower level commanders and to give the private soldiers a worthwhile exercise, were certainly achieved. Hardly a moment of the day or the night was not filled by some activity and it is a measure of their mental and physical fitness that commanders at all levels in the Battalion retained their control throughout. The troops responded magnificently and their cheerfulness on the withdrawals was most noticeable.

And what are the results of this period of training? First, all ranks of the Battalion are confident of their fitness for war and of their ability to undertake any task required of them. Secondly, it was proved yet again that the ingredients of success are: a good plan; good signals

communications; determination on the part of all ranks. Past and present members of the Regiment may be justifiably pleased with what was achieved, and the manoeuvres were a personal triumph for the Commanding Officer to whose forethought and thrust the Battalion responded so well.

At the conclusion the following signal was received from the Brigade Commander:

"To the C.O. and All Ranks 1st Middlesex.

"Congratulations on overall performance as members of a team during exercise 'Battle Axe III' and 'Phoenix' (.). Your display of cheerfulness, energy, fitness and stamina was most praiseworthy (.). Much progress has obviously been made this year (.). We still have much to learn (.). Keep it up and profit by your mistakes (.). Well done."

Depot Notes

EDITORIAL

Amongst all the usual domestic happenings of the Depot there was, this quarter, one item of unique happening. This was the inception of the Home Counties Brigade in its new form and the resulting change of cap badge. This occasion was not marked here with any ceremony, but the Commanding Officer addressed all ranks on the day of the change, October 14, 1959, and read the Special Order of The Day, which is reproduced below:

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

BY

THE COLONELS OF REGIMENTS

OF

THE HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE IN COUNCIL

On the adoption today by the Infantry Regiments of the Counties of Surrey, Kent, Sussex and Middlesex of the new badge approved by Her Majesty The Queen, the Home Counties Brigade takes its firmly established place as an integral part of the British Regular Army.

We wish to place on record our faith in the future of the Brigade; in the loyalty and devotion to duty of all ranks; and in the unity of purpose, ideals and standards of which this badge is the visible symbol.

The honoured traditions, customs and histories built up by the Regiments in the Brigade over the centuries and, in many cases, already shared, will continue.

There will be a Home Counties Brigade Depot, shortly to be established at Canterbury, which will in due course serve all Regiments in the Brigade. The Commandant of the Depot will be the Brigade Colonel, who will also be responsible for co-ordinating all matters of common concern as directed by us in Council.

Officers and Other Ranks are liable to serve in any Regiment of the Brigade, but as far as circum-

stances allow they will serve for as long as possible in the Regiment of their original choice.

Finally, it must be the aim of all who serve in the Home Counties Brigade of the future to ensure that the Brigade is as well known and respected in its own right as is any one of the Regiments which compose it.

Signed by

Colonel, The Queen's Royal Regiment
Colonel, The East Surrey Regiment
Colonel, The Buffs
Colonel, The Royal Sussex Regiment
Colonel, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment
Colonel, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.)
Canterbury October 14, 1959

The cap badge, which is one of the only visible signs of change, has tended to assume the major importance, and the fact that it is purely a symbol of the actual change is forgotten.

Although it is true that many generations of soldiers have proudly worn the Regimental cap badge, it was, in fact, in the Regiment itself that the pride lay. This pride in the Regiment is not lost because a new cap badge is worn. It remains firm as ever, and to it is added a new loyalty and pride—that of the Home Counties Brigade!

TRAINING COMPANY

This is always the busiest time of the year for Training Company. There seems to be a never-ending number of activities, which pile on top of each other until the autumn leaves begin to settle and the pace of life, we always fondly hope, dwindles into a state of pleasant hibernation.

The most notable landmarks, apart from two passing-out parades, were the annual administrative inspection, a visit by the Home Counties Brigade Colonel, the descent

on us of nearly 100 schoolboy Cadets for a week and the Home Counties Brigade Rifle Meeting. However, as will be seen, these events formed just a part of the picture.

On July 1, our new assault course was "christened" by Harrow and Mill Hill School C.C.F., who staged a private war on it. Since then, many a recruit has climbed its 10-ft. wall and taken the water jumps literally in his stride. It is a great improvement on the old, improvised course.

The recruiting booth has been out amongst the boroughs again on four occasions—at Edmonton for the carnival, at Twickenham for the fair and at Willesden and Wood Green Horticultural Society Shows. To Sgt. Redmond, Cpls. Scott, Whittle, Hooper and Redrup, L/Cpl. Collins, Ptes. Windram, Lane, Townsend, Adams and others go the Regiment's thanks for helping in this positive way the important work of keeping the Regiment in the public eye and possibly influencing many men or boys to think seriously about joining the Army as a career.

On Saturday, July 11, we again supplied some stewards and helpers to run the Middlesex County Youth Athletics Meeting at Chiswick Stadium. Sgt. Power, Cpls. Hebbes and Hooper and a party of men from the 56th intake were warmly thanked by the County Council for their part in a successful meeting.

Col. H. R. Grace, the Brigade Colonel, visited us on July 14. He spoke to all the Permanent Staff for half an hour or so about his job as Brigade Colonel as he sees it, and also about the future of the Brigade Depot and the Brigade as a whole. He stated that only the best available N.C.O.s and men would be selected to be Permanent Staff at the Brigade Depot and that anyone selected should feel he has been awarded a "feather in his cap."

Col. Grace afterwards toured various departments, inspected the rooms of the 57th intake and spoke to each man individually as he came to each bed. He visited the Sergeants' Mess and later had lunch with the officers.

Lt. Gilham brought a gleam of sporting success to the Training Company by being runner-up in the London District Tennis Championships. We never seem to do much organised sport as a company, so it is heartening that our individual members should strive to pick up a few laurels. Another example of our individual performances is L/Cpl. Rogers of the Regimental Police, who was awarded a fine trophy for being the most outstanding sportsman in the Borough of Enfield, which is reported elsewhere in these notes.

We welcomed yet another intake, this time the 58th intake, which arrived on July 16. At the same time, we had a pleasant surprise of a spare officer being sent to us for a full two months. This was 2/Lt. Andrews, who proved to be most useful to the other Platoon Commanders when the question of summer leave arose! This influx fully compensated for the loss of the draft of the 56th intake, which had left for 1st Middlesex the day before under 2/Lt. Dubbery, who had just been commissioned from Mons O.C.S. We wish them well in Germany.

During this hectic month of July, we were all preparing with ever-increasing tempo for the annual

administration inspection on July 22. This year's preparations were not complicated by the frantic "leaf-sweeping parades" which accompanied our last inspection. So it was generally a more ordered affair in which fewer tempers were frayed and the results more efficient and satisfactory.

The inspecting officer this year was the G.O.C. London District himself, Major-General Sir Rodney Moore, who was accompanied by a team of senior staff officers. The Major-General expressed satisfaction with his general impression of the visit and, in the written report which was received later, not a fault was found with Training Company's administration, which reflected great credit on all ranks for the hard work they had put into the preparation for the event.

Six officers, two sergeants and 87 Cadets from Bedford School C.C.F. spent their annual camp at the Depot from July 28 until August 5. Training Company helped them in two ways, apart from providing accommodation, etc. Firstly, we lent them instructors to teach drill—notably C.S.M. Burgess who, we gather, treated the boys with such unaccustomed friendliness on the square that they actually enjoyed their drill! Secondly, we put on three demonstrations: the kit carried by an infantry section in war, by the 58th intake; firing the S.L. rifle on the 30-yds. range, by the 57th intake; and, finally, a drill display with S.L. rifles, also by the 57th intake. We believe the boys and their instructors thoroughly appreciated our efforts and they expressed the opinion that the camp had been a great success.

We once more provided the gate party, dressed in 1914 pattern scarlet uniforms, for the S.S.A.F.A. Tattoo at the White City Stadium from August 16 to 28. The Permanent Staff undertook this duty, and the 58th intake shared the task of acting as general scene-shifters during the show. This was an arduous task for both parties entailing evening work most nights until 10 p.m., and a letter of thanks was received from the organiser for the good work done. The 59th intake arrived on September 3—exactly 20 years since the outbreak of the World War II, which was, perhaps, as suitable a date as any to start military service.

The Home Counties Brigade Rifle Meeting took place this year at Hythe on September 22, and we entered teams from the Permanent Staff and recruits. Much hard work under the guidance of Lt. Lloyd and C.S.M. Burgess had been put into practising for the competition, and we were fortunate in being able to call upon Q.M.S.I. Timbick and his team of two corporals from H.Q. Home Counties Brigade to help coach the teams for three days in early September. The results were as follows:

Recruits' Match: Fourth.

Depot Open Match: Third.

Recruits' Individual Rifle: Pte. Evans, runner-up.

S.M.G. Individual: Pte. Forder, winner.

Ptes. Evans and Forder deserve special congratulations on their individual results, and the Permanent Staff did well to come third.

On September 16, we had farewell to the draft of the 57th intake on their departure to 1st Middlesex. It was rumoured that they were to be plunged into the thick of Battalion exercises immediately on arrival

in Hameln without the advantage of continuation training. If this was the case, we hope that the standard of training achieved here was up to this exacting requirement.

The last major activity of the quarter was the T.A. Rifle Meeting, at which Lt. Lloyd and N.C.O.s and men of the 59th intake provided the butt party. It was held at Henley Park Ranges and provided the "baptism of fire" for 30 members of this intake.

The details of the two passing-out parades were as follows:

57TH INTAKE, AUGUST 28, 1959

Inspecting Officer: Major-General R. H. Batten, C.B.E., D.S.O.

Best All-Round Recruit ..	Pte. G. Burrows
Best Regular Recruit ..	Pte. G. Burrows
Best Rifle Shot ..	Pte. G. Burrows
Best L.M.G. Shot ..	Pte. R. Stanborough
Highest Physical Efficiency ..	Pte. I. Penney

58TH INTAKE, SEPTEMBER 25, 1959

Inspecting Officer: Mayor of Finchley, Councillor Major K. M. Cave, M.C., J.P.

Best All-Round Recruit ..	Pte. A. Eden
Best Regular Recruit ..	Pte. M. Zorlu
Best Rifle Shot ..	Pte. M. Evans
Best L.M.G. Shot ..	Pte. A. Eden
Highest Physical Efficiency ..	Pte. E. Philp

We have lost O.R.Q.M.S. Soper to the 1st Battalion and wish him and Mrs. Soper a pleasant tour in Germany. In his place we welcome O.R.Q.M.S. Colebeck, who comes to us with heavy sighs of relief after his long and arduous stay in Cyprus and Hameln.

A large number of familiar faces have left the Permanent Staff recently on their way back to civilian life including: Cpls. Hooper and Hebbes from the Training Staff; such redoubtable characters as Ptes. Baker and Kinsela from the M.T.; and Ptes. Truscott and Sharpe from the Officers' Mess. The Company Stores will not be the same without Pte. Harris, who has put in long and loyal service in his capacity as Company Storeman. We hope their successors will have equally successful tours at the Depot.

Many congratulations and best wishes for the future go to Cpl. Whittle and Pte. Lane on their recent marriages.

This report is long, but it does not cover all the many varied activities of members of Training Company for which there is no space to mention.

One fact which no one will ever forget, however, has been the long hours we have all spent this summer in genuine "shirt-sleeve-order" weather. Some people have been heard to remark that it is about time the British Army was issued with K.D. in England. Memories are indeed short!

OFFICERS' MESS

July to September includes the main holiday period and, at times, those "holding the fort" have been pretty thin on the ground. None could escape, however, before the administrative inspection on July 22, but some did manage to get away for a few hours to attend

Deakin's wedding on July 18. Mike stayed here a week or so before the event.

Col. Grace came and gave us a "once over" on July 14.

After spending two weeks here early in July, 2/Lt. Dubbery joined the Battalion in Germany.

Gavin Bulloch finished his National Service in April, and he reappeared here in September with a Regular commission in the Regiment.

Reporting on July 20, 2/Lt. Andrews remained with us until nearly the end of September, when he returned to civilian life.

John Moore stayed here for the second half of July before joining the Battalion, and returned to the U.K. at the beginning of October to attend a course.

The administrative inspection brought the G.O.C. London District and his staff here, and we entertained them to lunch.

Col. W. A. Stewart spent the night with us on the occasion of the Officers' Club dinner on July 24.

Bedford School ran a few days' training in barracks covering the end of July and beginning of August, and half a dozen officers of the Corps lived in the Mess.

Reporting on July 27, 2/Lt. E. S. Taylor left soon after for Germany.

Our new Padre, Rev. Milliner, arrived on the last day of July and, as no married quarter was available, lived in the Mess where, at the moment, the poor man still remains. We hope, for his sake, that by the time these notes appear in print a house will have been found for him.

Michael Waite got married on August 8 in Leeds. It was a great pity that nobody from here could attend, but we were thin on the ground at the time. We are glad to say that both he and his wife have visited us since.

On August 16, we had another mixed luncheon party, but attendance was disappointingly poor. We hope for greater support next time.

Major-General Dick Batten was the inspecting officer on the passing-out parade on August 28. Time passes, but there were a few present who knew him when he was in the Regiment, and very nice it was to see him here once again.

Lt. Michael Legg came to us at the beginning of September and joined the Battalion some two weeks later. Before flying off to Nairobi, 2/Lt. Grant had a very brief stay.

After having the audacity to make 110 runs against us in Cricket Week when he was a Cadet at Sandhurst, 2/Lt. Lofting spent about two weeks with us before joining the Battalion—a first appointment.

Pte. Rayner, who has been a waiter in the Mess, returned to civilian life on September 23 and our best wishes go with him.

Ken Clayden put in an appearance on September 24 and stayed for a few days. He takes over the adjutancy of the 7th Battalion after attending a course at Warminster.

Mr. Graham, Chairman of the Gore Division of Magistrates, was our only guest at dinner on September 24, all others having "fallen by the wayside."

The following day we entertained the Mayor and

Town Clerk of Finchley to lunch prior to the Mayor taking the salute at a passing-out parade.

The new G.O.C. London District, Major-General W. A. G. Burns, paid us a visit on September 29.

The Elgee Dinner was held in the Mess on October 6.

On completion of their National Service, 2/Lts. Robertson, Evans, Alexander, Alan Smith and von Maltzhan all passed through here.

Others we have seen include General Bucknall, Col. Green, Lt.-Col. Waller, Major Carter, Capt. Pollard, Capt. French (Home Counties Brigade) and Lt. Heselton.

Hugh Evan looks in periodically. As most people will know, he has, we are glad to say, found congenial employment in civilian life, and is at present in the Bristol area.

Charles Trestain, who has lived in the Mess for several years, deserted us and took up an appointment in Salisbury District. This suits him well, as he intends to retire in about two years' time and settle in that area.

On October 8 we had a mixed party in the Mess, the idea being to watch the Election results on TV. Mike Julian had drawn some amusing topical sketches which decorated the ante-room. Altogether, about 30 people attended, and about half that number stayed to breakfast in the early hours. One member of the party declares he never remembers seeing a single result come through the whole evening. Ah well!

By the time these notes appear, O.C. Depot will have changed, Major Ian Battye having handed over to Major Hutchings. Our best wishes go to Lt.-Col. Battye, his wife and family, and we welcome Major and Mrs. Hutchings.

Similarly, we bid farewell to Ian and Pam Lloyd and greet Mike and Diane Deakin.

Best wishes to all for Christmas and 1960.

SERGEANTS' MESS

One of the main topics of conversation in the Mess during the last quarter was the forthcoming changing of our cap badge. On Wednesday, October 14, 1959, it was with deep regret that we removed the badge of which we were so proud. We appeared on parade that day looking rather strange, with each one thinking that he had been placed in another Regiment, even though the faces were still familiar. The remark, "You'll get used to it," sums up the situation, though the sudden removal of every single cap badge came as rather a shock to members of the Sergeants' Mess who have been wearing it for so many years. We took it for granted when he had it, but now that it has gone we realise how much it meant to us. Hardly a day passes but the now familiar topic comes up as some old, or young, "Die-Hard" enters the Depot to find that Albuhera and Ich Dien backed by the maroon and old gold have disappeared into the pages of our history. All very sad.

It is reported that the Orderly Officer on the night of October 13 checked every member of the guard for being improperly dressed at 0100 hr. on the morning of the 14th, the order being that all ranks would wear the Home Counties badge with effect from October 14. One's duty is not always pleasant!

At the closing of our last notes, we wrote of the forthcoming departure of some of our members. O.R.Q.M.S. "Pete" Soper has since left us for the Battalion, where we know he is making his presence felt and will no doubt now say, "I wonder what they do with themselves at the Depot?" We wish him and his family a pleasant time with the Battalion in Germany.

C/Sgt. George Markham left us on September 1. He at last decided to take that decisive step which every old soldier is reluctant to take, out into "the great unknown" to the joys and hazards of civil life. He has served the Regiment loyally for 33 years—a fine record. As an account of his service is written on other pages, we will confine ourselves to wishing him the very best of luck in civil life and assuring him of a welcome whenever he comes to see us.

Sgt. Grasby, "the soldiers' friend"—our Pay Sergeant—has gone to R.A.S.C. Regimental Pay Office, Newcastle. We miss him here, as he was a good Mess member who assisted in every activity in the Sergeants' Mess and kept us going with his never-failing sense of humour.

We extend a warm welcome to O.R.Q.M.S. "Ernie" Colebeck, Sgt. Agness, R.A.P.C., and to Sgt. Ambler, with congratulations on his promotion to be our Mess Caterer. We hope they will all enjoy being with us.

Sgt. Butler, home from East Africa, is staying with us pending his move to the 1st Battalion. Sgt. Horder is also with us as a temporary holdee. We look forward to the arrival of C/Sgt. Eastap, but regret that the cause of his coming is the departure of C/Sgt. George Hockley, who is the longest serving member of our Mess and one of our old reliables. We hope he will be with us for Xmas, so it is not yet goodbye to George. C/Sgt. Scott, late of the Royal Fusiliers, is due here shortly on posting as our third Colour-Sergeant in charge of releases, which will now include the North Irish Brigade. Sgt. Buckley was due here, but unfortunately was admitted to hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery. The remainder of our members are, as before, all looking fit and well after long periods of leave in glorious summer weather. We were pleased to see C/Sgt. and Mrs. Steward, who visited us while on holiday from the 1st Battalion.

On the social side, the quarter has been somewhat quieter than usual. We are saving our efforts for the Xmas festivities. We did, however, have a party from 8th Middlesex with us once again for the week-end October 3-4 and enjoyed having them. Since then, our old friend R.S.M. Wild of 8th Middlesex has been commissioned as a Lieutenant-Quartermaster. We heartily congratulate him on his promotion and hope he will visit us before departing for the 1st Battalion, Queen's Own Nigerian Regiment.

History again repeats itself in that the Finchley and Golders Green Police played us at football, and we managed to hold them to a draw after a terrific struggle. Guest players for us included C.S.M. Holdford, Sgt. Chaffer and Sgt. Medland, the first two mentioned being injured in the tussle. We are glad to record that they recovered in time to row on our victorious side in the Boat Race. We were introduced to the game of "Uckers" by some Naval types and, after some very

exciting moments, we won—much to the embarrassment of the Royal Navy! They were not downhearted, however, because the sing-song that followed was in true Naval and Police tradition and a joy to all.

That appears to be all for the last quarter. Our next quarter will, of course, bring news of the departure of our Commanding Officer, Major I. H. Battye, to command the 1st Battalion, and of the arrival of Major R. D. Hutchings to command the Depot. The change is due to take place in November.

Other forthcoming events include the Regimental Reunion. Our Christmas Draw is on Saturday, December 19, and our formal Christmas Dinner Party and Dance is on Monday, the 21st. If any of our members scattered far and wide are in these parts for Christmas, we will be glad to see them.

To those we will not see, we wish all the joys of the festive season and the best of luck in the New Year.

STOP PRESS—Since these notes were compiled, Sgt. Moran has been admitted to hospital at Millbank. Although our first reports state that he is due for a long stay, we hope this is not so and that he will be back with us fit and well soon. The Depot is not the same without him.

CORPORALS' CLUB

Once more we would like to pass on to our Regimental associates the activities of the club in the past quarter.

Firstly, we would like to welcome Cpl. Smith and L/Cpl. Niles to the club and hope their stay with us will be a happy one. We should also like to congratulate the latter on his promotion and wish him every success in the future.

The members were very glad to see one of the old stalwarts of the club in the form of Cpl. Jackson, who stayed with us prior to returning to his wife and family in Hong Kong. He left us again on October 12 on the S.S. *Oxfordshire* and, although he has spent most of his time in the Far East, we were all sorry to see him depart this time; but, who knows, he might show his face again some time. We will all be very glad to see him.

We would also like to wish Cpls. Niles and Short every success in "civvy" life, and let them know that they will always be welcome.

On the entertainments side, we have held only one dance and social this quarter. The Sergeants' Mess was invited and everybody had a jolly evening; the band was first class and the buffet put on by the manageress and staff of the N.A.A.F.I. was excellent. We are now looking forward to meeting our new Commanding Officer at the next social early in November and hope that his stay at the Depot will be a happy one.

We have not been involved in any sporting activities this quarter, but hope to publish more in the next quarter.

CRICKET

For Quarter ending September 30, 1959

Results: Won 6, drawn 1, lost 3.

In addition to these results, we had two matches abandoned because of rain, three cancelled by our opponents for various reasons and, finally, one game

which we had to cancel ourselves through many of our team not being available.

The second half of the season was far more successful than the early part. This was due mainly to the heavy reinforcement we were given by the temporary stay at the Depot of 2/Lt. Lofting, who has joined the Regiment fresh from the captaincy of the R.M.A. Sandhurst 1st XI. However, to no little extent can we claim that success came our way because almost all the team improved enormously as the season progressed—particularly in the field.

L/Cpl. Addison (A.C.C.) deserves special mention for his remarkably steady and accurate bowling. He bowled 106 overs and took 27 wickets at an average of 11.5 runs. This was by far the best bowling performance of the team.

Our fortunes with the bat have been more evenly spread, and many players have had a chance to help their side to victory by scoring 20 runs or more. Mention should be made of the notable parts played by Pte. Cliffe and Cpl. Hooper in the Regimental Cricket Week. Cliffe knocked up 60 going in at number 10 in one game when it looked as if the Regiment were about to go under fast. Cpl. Hooper, in spite of almost crippling hay fever, stayed at the wicket for 90 minutes to help in a partnership of over a century against very aggressive bowling.

This season has, therefore, been really quite successful compared to previous seasons, and the whole team enjoyed their Wednesday afternoon cricket enormously. Let us hope that we can repeat this performance next season.

The detailed results were as follows:

v. *Depot Queens*. Won by two wickets.

Queens, 141 (Cliffe 5 for 26); Middlesex, 142 for 8 (Capt. Crumley 24, Cpl. Hooper 31, Pte. Cliffe 33, Lt. Gilham 26).

v. *Depot Surreys*. Lost by four wickets.

Middlesex, 62 (Pte. Austin-Jones 28); Surreys, 63 for 6 (L/Cpl. Addison 4 for 16).

v. *A War Office XI*. Match drawn.

War Office, 119 (Lt. Gilham 4 for 48); Middlesex, 109 for 5 (Capt. Wollocombe 77 n.o.).

v. *H.Q. London District*. Lost by 102 runs.

London District, 179 (L/Cpl. Addison 4 for 62); Middlesex 77.

v. *Depot Royal Fusiliers*. Won by 1 run.

Middlesex, 99 (Capt. Wollocombe 53); Royal Fusiliers, 98 (L/Cpl. Addison 5 for 35, Capt. Wollocombe 3 for 28).

v. *H.Q. London District*. Lost by 7 wickets.

Middlesex, 81; London District, 82 for 3.

v. *H.Q. Eastern Command*. Won by 4 wickets.

Eastern Command, 142 for 6 dec.; Middlesex, 143 for 6 dec. (2/Lt. Lofting 27, Capt. Wollocombe 26, Capt. Legge 42 not out, Pte. Cliffe 27).

v. *H.Q. Welsh Guards*. Won by 109 runs.

Middlesex, 167 for 4 dec. (2/Lt. Lofting 81, Pte. Hodgson, 50, Capt. Wollocombe 28 n.o.); Welsh Guards 58 (L/Cpl. Addison 4 for 8, 2/Lt. Lofting 4 for 8).

v. Sutton Postal XI. Won by 6 wickets.

Sutton 107 (Lt. Gilham 5 for 37, L/Cpl. Addison 3 for 26); Middlesex, 108 for 4 (Capt. Legge 49, 2/Lt. Lofting 27 n.o.).

v. H.Q. London District. Won by 7 wickets.

London District, 94 (Capt. Wollocombe 5 for 23, L/Cpl. Addison 3 for 15); Middlesex 95 for 3 wickets (Pte. Hodgson 29, Capt. Legge 27 n.o., Lt. Gilham 20).

THE CAMBRIDGE CLUB

The Cambridge Club still exists, but one wonders whether its days are numbered. The fact that it is alive at all is solely due to the hard work put in by Mrs. Burgess, but it is one-sided and Mrs. Burgess gets little reward for all her efforts. For support she can call upon only two or three others, namely Mrs. Markham, Mrs. Ambler and Mrs. Kerswill, otherwise it seems that the Middlesex wives lack drive and interest and it is felt that if enthusiasm continues to wane it would probably be best to say farewell to the Club. We are not alone in coping with this difficulty of arousing enthusiasm and support. Other Wives' Clubs at other Regimental Depots have experienced the same thing and some decided that it was not worth continuing. Very shortly Mrs. Hutchings, wife of the new C.O. at the Depot, will be "in the chair," and perhaps she will be able to kill or cure the Club once and for all! Our best wishes go to her.

During the year there have been three Middlesex quarterly meetings, in March, June and September. For the June meeting we hired a coach and had a mystery tour and were well supported by members of the Elms Club.

Otherwise a jumble sale (in October), the tombola meetings and whist drives have been held jointly by the depleted Cambridge Club and equally depleted Church Guild, but in spite of these joint efforts the evenings have been poorly attended, and the jumble sale raised less than at previous sales in spite of good-quality jumble scrounged by Mrs. Burgess, Mrs. Lloyd and Mrs. Battye from the quarters at Bushey.

However, nil desperandum, and perhaps better days are around the corner. Mrs. Burgess, R.S.M.'s Quarters, Inglis Barracks, will always send details of meetings to those interested in keeping the Club alive and prosperous.

At the September meeting, Mrs. Battye was presented with an antique silver fruit dish. This was very much appreciated by Mrs. Battye and admired not only by herself but by all present. Mrs. Burgess and Mrs. Ambler are to be congratulated on their excellent choice. This was a small gathering partly due to the absence of the Elms Club, but we hope they and others who were not able to attend will be coming to the Christmas meeting on December 11.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE BRIGADE COLONEL, HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE

Through the courtesy of the Editor of this Journal I am enabled to send, to all members of the Regiment, both past and present, my sincere good wishes for a most cheerful Christmas and the best of good fortune

in 1960. Since October 14 all ranks serving in the Brigade have been wearing the same cap-badge, the outward symbol of the ties which link together the family of Regiments which comprise the Home Counties Brigade. On April 1 next year the Brigade will become an even more closely-knit organisation by the creation of the Brigade Depot, staffed by the best available representatives from all five Regiments. It is my most earnest wish and hope, as I am sure it is yours, that nothing should impede the growth or harm the well-being of the Brigade, especially during the early days of its life. I must, and do, rely on you and your efforts to help me during the next two years to build up our numbers, so that when the time comes for us to stand on our own feet, without the help of the National Serviceman, we shall be in a position to do so. If each one of you, young or old, serving or retired, will set himself the task of bringing into the Regiment just one young man on a regular engagement, then we shall be able to put ourselves into that position. Make it a New Year resolution. The best of good luck to you in your efforts and in the days to come.

(Signed) H. R. GRACE (Colonel),

Brigade Colonel, Home Counties Brigade.

Canterbury.

December, 1959.

HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE NEWS LETTER No. 5

October 14 has come and gone. The new cap-badge and buttons have been taken into use and the Special Order of the Day has been read out. The Press and the Broadcasting authorities have played their part. The Brigade tie has been made and is being worn. By these and other methods, the fact that the Home Counties Brigade has arrived to stay has been put before the general public; now it is up to us to keep the name of the Brigade in that public's eye and, as has been said in the Brigade Colonel's Christmas and New Year message, to ensure that in two years' time the Brigade is chock-full of regulars.

Recruiting is very much in people's minds these days and plans are already being made for next year's major displays and other activities. The Brigade Colonel held the first of a series of quarterly recruiting conferences on the day before "cap-badge day." It was attended by Depot Commanders, representatives from T.A. Battalions, special recruiters and other recruiting officials. Much value was derived from it and much information and help given and received. It is hoped that very soon the Brigade publicity campaign will be well and truly launched, with posters, car "stickers," calendars, blotters, beer mats, brochures, pamphlets and goodness knows what-all.

Plans are also well advanced for the opening of the Brigade Depot in its temporary home in Wemyss Barracks, Canterbury, on April 1 next year. Practically all the key personnel on the Permanent Staff have been selected and, as was mentioned in the last News Letter, the staff will be representative of all Regiments in the Brigade. Amongst those filling appointments will be:

O.C. Depot and Deputy Commandant: Lt.-Col. P. E. C. Andrews (Queen's Surreys).

Depot Adjutant: Capt. C. L. Lawrence, M.C. (Mx.).
Depot Quartermaster: Capt. C. G. Roussel (Queen's Surreys).

O.C. "H.Q." Company: Major M. R. H. Stopford (Queen's Surreys).

21C "H.Q." Company: Capt. J. R. Lygo (R.W.K.).

O.C. Training Company: Major F. E. Thorneycroft (Buffs).

Subaltern Officers—"H.Q." Company (1): Lt. R. W. Bing (Queen's Surreys); Training Company (3): Lt. A. J. Prebble (R. Sussex), Lt. S. M. Boucher (Buffs), Lt. F. Deakin (Mx.).

On the Brigade Headquarters' staff, in addition to the Brigade Colonel and Lt.-Col. G. A. E. Keene, M.B.E. (Rtd.), who has been the R.O.III since 1952, there will be the D.A.A.G., Major D. C. Snowdon, T.D. (Queen's Surreys); and a second R.O.III, Major C. F. Cole, M.B.E. (Rtd.) (late Queen's).

It is to be hoped that the present R.A.E.C. Officer, Major I. C. Austin, attached to the Headquarters, will be allowed to remain.

The Depot R.S.M. will be W.O.1 G. E. Mileham (Queen's Surreys) but the appointments of R.Q.M.S. and O.R.Q.M.S. have yet to be filled. The C.S.M.s of "H.Q." Company and Training Company are already filled by, respectively, representatives from R. Sussex and Queen's Surreys; the two C/Sergeants from R. Sussex and Buffs; of the four Training Company Sergeants, two are from Mx., one from Buffs and one from R.W.K.; and the Provost Sergeant is also from R.W.K.

So much for the future, except to say that it is hoped to give a staff a bit of a "breather" after April 1, in order to allow them time to find their feet and get to know one another, by delaying the arrival of their first batch of customers until just after Easter.

Since the last News Letter Capt. John French, Buffs, has handed over his job of Officer-in-Charge, the Brigade Bandmaster's Unit. It is no exaggeration to say that, thanks to both Capt. French and Bandmaster Gaines, the 81 Junior Bandsmen and Drummers (seven of whom are attending the Kneller Hall course) who comprise the unit, are the well administered, effective, well-known and very popular Band and Drums that they have become. The unit has gone from strength to strength since its formation nearly three years ago and is now rated as one of the best of its kind; it has done so with the minimum number of instructional staff. That the playing-out Band performed 25 times in public during this summer; that there is a waiting list a yard long of boys wanting to join the unit; that in this year alone 48 of the present unit gained the boys' equivalent of the 3rd class Army Certificate of Education and nine of them their 2nd class; that one Junior Bandsman had the best entry in a recent Eastern Command Arts and Crafts Exhibition; and that another received the Royal Life Saving Society's Bronze Medal; facts such as these speak volumes for the way in which the unit has been looked after, administered and taught, and the credit belongs almost entirely to Capt. French and Bandmaster Gaines. The former has taken his family off to Nigeria and their place has been taken by Capt. John Lygo, R.W.K., whose wife produced a

daughter shortly after their arrival. To Capt. and Mrs. French the Brigade Colonel sends his best wishes and many thanks for their successful work, and to Capt., Mrs. and Miss Lygo a warm word of welcome.

There have been, or are to be, other changes, further afield, though very much concerned with the Brigade. Maj.-Gen. Metcalfe has become the first Colonel of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, Maj.-Gen. Talbot has taken over as Colonel of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, and Brigadier Willoughby as Colonel of the Middlesex Regiment. The very first holder of the appointment of Brigade Colonel, Home Counties Brigade, Brigadier F. W. B. Parry, C.B.E., A.D.C., who held the appointment from 1950 to 1953, has recently retired; his last job was Deputy Commander, Home Counties District, and he has now gone to live near Chichester. Major Ian Battye, until recently Depot Commander at Mill Hill, has gone to command 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment in B.A.O.R.; his place has been taken by Major Roy Hutchings. Maj.-Gen. Weymouth, Depot Commander at Maidstone, is shortly leaving the Army, and will be replaced by Major Ian MacMillan. And Major "Pip" Newton, Depot Commander at Chichester, is due to take command of 1st Battalion The Royal Sussex Regiment in Belfast shortly after the Regimental Depot closes down. To them all, in their new appointments or way of life, the Brigade Colonel sends his very best wishes for the future.

The "Short History of the Brigade" has been completed and draft copies have been sent to Colonels of Regiments, and to Battalion and Depot Commanders. It is hoped to obtain approval of the draft at the next Council of Colonels' meeting, on December 4, so that the final version may be ready for issue early in the new year.

In the world of sport L/Cpl. O'Connell, R.W.K., has been boxing regularly for the Army and recently won his welter-weight fight in the match against the Royal Netherlands Army. In the London District novices boxing championships early in November, two recruits from the Middlesex Regiment, Ptes. Kinsella and Holton, were runners-up in the lightweight and middle-weight finals respectively.

Cpl. Finnis (Mx.) deserves congratulations on being selected to train with the British Olympic Pentathlon team, and so does Cpl. O'Rawe, also Mx., who has been chosen as a member of the 1959-60 Army boxing team.

Two members of the 1st Battalion Queen's Surreys M.T. Platoon, Ptes. Bowden and Howard, won the East Anglian District/54 Infantry Division (T.A.) skilled and safe driving competition for their unit recently. In these days when good drivers are all too difficult to find and car crashes and mutilated bodies all too easy, the award of such prizes is much to be encouraged.

Congratulations to R.S.M. Kenrick, who many will remember as Mx. Depot R.S.M. at Mill Hill, who will shortly be commissioned to a combatant commission in a Sierra Leone Battalion; his place will be taken by R.S.M. Bartle.

As part of an adventure training exercise a party of one officer and ten regular recruits from the Queen's

(Continued on page 90)

7th BATTALION



1. Lt.-Col. W. P. M. Allen, O.B.E., M.C., Okehampton Camp, July, 1959. 2. The Signal Platoon sets up a recruiting stand one evening at Turnpike Lane road junction, Left to right: Sgt. Conroy, L/Cpl. Fox. Spectators: Pte. Bax and Pte. Wilkinson, Pte. Inquetti, Pte. O'Riordan. 3. A cinema foyer display stand in Southgate manned by "B" Company, Left to right: L/Cpl. Bryant, Pte. Hill, Pte. Drage, Pte. Harwood. 4. The Battalion team for the Middlesex T. & A.F.A. Tough Soldiering Competition, 1959. Standing: Cpl. Sullivan, Pte. Butcher, Pte. Foord. Seated: Pte. Munro, Lt. Bannister, Pte. Twilley. The team was found by "C" Company.



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

GENERAL



Since our last notes, Col. Peter Allen has handed over command to Lt.-Col. David Simpson. Col. Allen will long be remembered in the 7th for the outstanding progress made during his tenure of command.

Week-end training was varied and well subscribed, including training grounds as far afield as Snowden, Stanford P.T.A., Norfolk and Dartmoor.

Mess kit was re-introduced into the Officers' Mess and No. 1 Dress to the Sergeants' Mess.

The Battalion shooting team and football team achieved sparkling successes. Towering above all these achievements, however, were the Battalion's recruiting figures. These were sufficiently great to make the Battalion the second largest in the Division and in size the Battalion quadrupled its strength during the last two years of his command.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

Lt.-Col. David Simpson succeeded to command on August 7. By a series of flying visits to T.A. centres and Council Offices he is now firmly in the saddle. Among the first of his tasks will be the organisation of the Battalion Centenary. Planning for this has already begun and among the Committee for this event is a well-known former officer of the 7th—Major Geoffrey Bower. The events planned are as follows:

February 20, 1960—Battalion marches past Mayors of the Boroughs of Tottenham, Enfield and Hornsey, with Colours flying and bayonets fixed.

February 26—All Ranks' Centenary Dance.

March 5—Officers' Dinner at the Senior.

March 12—Sergeants' Dinner at Hornsey.

These events will be given wide publicity and it is hoped that as many former members of the Battalion as possible will join in with those serving at the present time for the Dinners and Dance.

RECRUITING

Despite a number of discharges following non-attendance at annual camp, the Battalion recruiting graph continues to climb towards the ceiling of the Adjutant's office. A further 25 recruits have been gained in August, September and October, and our record remains the best in the London area with the highest rate of progress for the Command. Two pictures appear with these notes illustrating some successful methods tried in our area. A number of other units are adopting the Battalion poster.

SHOOTING

The Battalion shooting team has completed the 1959 season with some first-class successes. Some disap-

pointment was felt at the scores put up during the T.A.R.A. de-centralised match, but in these events there have been changes in the targets used and when the results appear usually in December it is likely that the team may have done better than was at first thought.

At Henley Park at the Middlesex T. and A.F. Association Rifle Meeting, the Battalion again swept the board of all principal prizes save the inter-Unit Rifle Competition, in which they were the runners-up.

At the London and Middlesex Rifle Meeting held at Bisley on September 19 and 20, the team won the L.M.G. match with a record score of 216 points, the runners-up being 21 points behind. The M.G. platoon was runners-up in the M.M.G. competition and also this year won the Perring Trophy from the 8th Middlesex.

Cpl. Friedman distinguished himself by winning the Tyros Rifle Match. Those who fired for the Battalion were Capt. Lanyon (team Captain), Lt.-Col. Simpson, Capt. Stocken, Lt. Richards, 2/Lt. Van de Pol, R.Q.M.S. Howes, Cpl. Friedman, Cpl. Fox, Cpl. Johnstone, Cpl. Chapman, Cpl. Elderfield, L/Cpl. Giblin, R.S.M. Thom, C.S.M. Curry.

"B" COMPANY

It was with great regret that "B" Company heard of the death of Col. Crosby, the Lord Lieutenant's representative for Enfield.

Col. Crosby, an old Territorial himself, helped to form the 2nd Battalion The London-Irish Rifles in 1939-40 and later served prominently in the Home Guard. He was a great friend of the Battalion and of "B" Company in particular and, without doubt, it would have been considerably more difficult for us to re-form had it not been for his help in forming and maintaining the friendship that now exists between the Company and the local Council and organisations.

Nearly all our time and effort since the August re-opening, have been devoted to recruiting and practising for the Enfield show. It marked a new phase in "B" Company's development when, with the invaluable help of Col. Ross, Col. Crosby's successor, we staged an afternoon show to "put us on the map" in Potters Bar. Much interest was shown at our stand centred round the caravan and the highlight of the afternoon was the Beating of Retreat by the Regimental Band, preceded by a lively and realistic ambush demonstration which greatly impressed our guests.

After the show, the Chairman, the members of the U.D.C. and Col. Ross entertained the entire Company and Band to drinks in the Pavilion, a gesture which was much appreciated.

The following Saturday we had a repeat performance at the Enfield show. Our stand was again a great attraction with its weapon display, cooking demonstration and Bren stripping competition. We also repeated the ambush demonstration, which was a success thanks to the speed with which the enemy, Sgt. Harris, cleared his L.M.G., which jammed at the crucial moment and in spite of the hordes of children which nearly overwhelmed us.

After the show the "B" Company officers were kindly entertained by the Mayor and members of the



Photograph by Woodville Studios, Kingsteignton

THE OFFICERS AT OKEHAMPTON CAMP, JULY, 1959

Front row (left to right): Rev. P. D. Kingston, Capt. B. St. G. A. Reed, M.C., Major J. D. Gunnell, Major D. E. Simpson, T.D., Col. W. E. Pringle, M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., Lt.-Col. W. P. M. Allen, O.B.E., M.C., Capt. N. F. Legge, Major J. C. du Parc Braham, Major R. G. Garrett, T.D., Capt. R. J. Leighton, T.D., Capt. M. A. H. Lanyon, Lt. (Q.M.) E. J. Pike.

Second row: Capt. P. A. Stocken, Capt. M. J. Beaumont, Lt. M. S. Gedye, Lt. B. A. Hennah, Capt. R. M. Fox, Lt. J. L. Bannister, Lt. J. S. Richards, Lt. D. A. Gilkes, Lt. F. R. Fenton, Lt. M. D. Legg, Lt. C. E. Hornsby.

Back row: Lt. R. J. Ottino, 2/Lt. D. O. M. Thomas, 2/Lt. J. A. Van de Pol, 2/Lt. P. I. Phillips, 2/Lt. M. Doran, 2/Lt. P. R. Sedley, Lt. A. E. R. Beesley.

Council, in the Mayor's Parlour, before returning to the Drill Hall, where a party was in full swing, with an excellent band, an accordionist and some of our own spontaneous talent. We were pleased to welcome there Col. and Mrs. Simpson.

On Thursday, September 24, the Company was most pleased to welcome members of "C" Company to an informal social gathering, with a series of friendly darts and shooting matches, which made a pleasant and entertaining evening.

"C" COMPANY

With summer holidays over and annual camp a memory, the winter training programme is now getting into full swing, although the machinery creaked at first. We hope some of those volunteers who have found other pursuits during this protracted summer will soon start turning up again in strength, especially since attendance will start counting towards 1960's bounty.

The highlight of the quarter for the Company was the Middlesex Territorial Association's tough training competition in early September. Not much time was left after camp for training the team, but 20 of us enjoyed an excellent week-end in August, spent between Mill Hill and Bourne End. Despite dire warnings, the

assault boat practice went without a hitch, and all plunged in for a cool swim in the Thames. Our thanks go to the proprietor of the local hotel, who allowed us to bivvy in his grounds for the night—a most convivial spot!

The team for the competition was comprised of the following: Lt. John Bannister, Sgt. Wallace, Cpl. Sullivan, Ptes. Twilley, Butcher and Foord. Despite their final placing of 11th, it must be recorded that the team came fourth in the nine-mile march, first in their heat on the assault boat crossing of the Thames and they reached Mill Hill in record time after five gruelling miles through the scorching streets of North London. Congratulations to those six members of "C" Company, and better luck next time!

Recruiting, since the beginning of September, has continued steadily, and we are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Company: Ptes. Penny, Hillyer, Wood, Aldridge, Robb, Askew, Todd, Watling, Willett and Shinnick.

It bodes well for the future that all ten are enthusiastically looking forward to coming on the Company training week-end at Stanford P.T.A. at the end of October.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Since our last notes were written just after our return from annual camp and with the usual summer close-down only recently ended, Mess activity has been at a comparatively low ebb and these notes will perforce be rather briefer than usual.

The one notable event was perhaps rather a mixture of sadness and pleasure, when, on Thursday, July 30, 1959, we gave a farewell social in honour of Col. and Mrs. Allen. It was a sad occasion in the sense that most of us had come to look upon Col. Allen as not only our C.O. but a good friend. But it was a pleasure to be able to entertain him in our Mess and to make a small presentation to him as a token of our esteem, and of our gratitude for all that he has done for us during his tour. A bouquet was presented to Mrs. Allen whose efforts for and on behalf of the Battalion, notably the formation of the Elms Club, will long be remembered. We are indeed sorry to see them go, but we wish them every success and happiness in the future and hope that it is not too long before we have the pleasure of meeting them again.

Naturally we are pleased to congratulate our new C.O., Lt.-Col. Simpson, and to assure him of our utmost loyalty and respect.

Plans are now in hand for the usual winter social activities and here we would like to extend a warm welcome to all serving W.O.s and Sergeants of the Regiment, and also all ex-members, to attend whenever they can.

To our ex-members in particular who read these notes we would mention that Thursday evenings are still regarded as more or less social occasions and we are always glad to see them in the Mess, in fact, ex-C/Sgt. "Eddy" Leggett is one of our most regular and popular attenders on these evenings.

Members who remember ex-Sgt. Bill Sayers will be interested to know that Bill and his wife recently looked in at the Mess for a short while one evening. Unfortunately we cannot report that Bill is well on the way to a rapid recovery, but we are pleased to say that, despite his misfortunes, he still knows how to smile. I'm sure that I speak for all and particularly the older members who served with him, when I say that we sincerely hope that Bill and his wife strike a happier vein in the near future, they certainly deserve to, and how we admire them both for meeting adversity like true "Die-Hards."

THE ELMS CLUB

We started meetings again on September 3, after the holidays and were pleased to welcome Mrs. Simpson as Chairman. We also welcome Mrs. Bower and Mrs. Johnson who are new members.

Mrs. Allen was elected an Hon. Life Vice-President which she was pleased to accept. We were sorry we could not support the Cambridge Club at their meeting on September 10, but unfortunately we had insufficient transport, but we hope to be able to join them at their meeting on December 10.

We have cancelled the Wednesday afternoon meetings during the winter months and will reconsider holding them at a later date.

Through Mrs. Pringle we managed to obtain some complimentary tickets for radio shows including "Twenty Questions," "My Word," "Holiday Music Hall," and the "Carroll Lewis Show" which were greatly appreciated and much enjoyed.

Mrs. Holdford also obtained about 20 complimentary tickets for the television show "Star Time" at the Wood Green studios, featuring Gracie Fields, Eric Sykes and Hattie Jaques, which was enjoyed immensely by everyone.

Mrs. Allen has kindly given the club a leaving present of a Harlequin tea set, which was greatly admired.

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

Certainly the highlight of Battalion events since the last time we went to print has been "B" Company's winning of the "Tough Training" competition. Many London Units were represented and, in all, 18 teams of eight participated. The Battalion entered five teams and it is with no little pride that we announce that three of them arrived in the first eight. The course called upon a good deal of physical stamina, a complete knowledge of the compass at night and illustrated to more than one team how difficult it can be to get eight soldiers quickly into a small landing craft and away immediately from the shore. The course, lasting two days, consisted of a long march and some small arms competitive firing, a compass night march, coking in the field and bivouacking, more marching the following day to the Thames, which was to be crossed by assault boat. Then followed a difficult obstacle assault course at Mill Hill and a final eight-mile march to Hampstead Heath. It was a tough course indeed and not a few fell by the wayside. We congratulate Lt. Peter Hollidge and his team on their success, and in particular L/Cpl. Tomkins, who was a member of the winning team and who also impressed everyone with his staying power on the march with the Battalion team at Nijmegen—a veritable "Die-Hard." The team were most grateful to Messrs. Watney's, who provided them with a barrel of beer.

Another achievement of equal importance is the strength of "H.Q." Company which is now 100. This is heartening news and is due in no small way to Capt. Roy Whipp and his energetic officers and N.C.O.s.

Camp this year was at Okehampton, Devon, when for the first time for many years we enjoyed the luxurious comfort of hatted accommodation. Vast areas of training ground were close by and, except for the two-day (and nights) Brigade exercise, the weather was always very pleasant. This exercise culminated in final victory for the combined 7th and 8th Middlesex Battalions over the 6th Queen's from Bermondsey, who had firmly entrenched themselves in the highest and very rocky Tors on Dartmoor. At times these treacherous rock approaches were apt to slow down the advance of the rifle companies, who were often usually grateful for the amount of imaginary mortar and artillery support. It was very kind of the following to visit us: Lt.-Gen.



Photograph by Woodville Studios, Kingsteignton

**WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS
8th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.), T.A., OKEHAMPTON, JULY, 1959**

G. C. Bucknall, Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, Lt.-Col. R. A. Corby, Major I. H. Battye, Capt. G. Crumley, Adjutant of the Depot, and R.S.M. Kenrick. Camp next year is to be in Cumberland.

OFFICERS' MESS

We are all delighted that Lt.-Col. Brotherton is to command the Battalion for a further year.

Major G. W. Webber has left "A" Company and has moved to Battalion H.Q. at Hounslow as Battalion 2IC. Capt. J. S. C. Flavell is at last the father of a baby girl, which news he welcomed with a feeling of delight and, we understand, relief. We offer him our congratulations, also Capt. H. S. Venour on his appointment to command "A" Company, and Capt. R. Whipples whose Company is the first to reach the hundred mark.

We are sorry to record that Capt. D. B. Brooks is to leave the Battalion and we wish him and his wife good luck. We congratulate also Lt. H. E. Couch upon his training and successfully leading the Battalion team on the Nijmegen Marches, and Lt. P. Hollidge, who led the successful "B" Company team on the "Tough Training" competition. We are pleased to have had news of Capt. Jordan, who has left "tobacco" and is now with a commercial firm in Rhodesia, Capt. Buck is in West Africa, Capt. A. T. G. Wood is in the West Indies. We welcome to the Mess Lt. D. C. V. Farrant, from the R. Hampshires, and Lt. J. C. Pollock from the R.A.S.C.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Although nothing spectacular has taken place since our last bulletin, our monthly socials have continued, with

ever increasing success. We are always pleased to welcome members of the East Surrey W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess at Kingston and several of our members have had most enjoyable evenings at Kingston Barracks. We do hope that these inter-unit social visits will increase during the winter months.

Alas, annual camp is again behind us. A very successful Mess was enjoyed by all, due to the hard work of the Mess Committee, who were ably led by the P.M.C. (Henry Rea) and who was a tower of strength at planning, organising and arranging the Mess and various functions. The Mess caterer ("Owl Eyes" George Cowell) lifted the "spirit" of the Mess with the ever willingness to "tip the bottle" at any hour and thereby equalling the Windmill Theatre war-time boast "We never closed." Well done George. Although it is a well-known fact that the Army marches on its stomach, it may surprise some people to know that the same applies to the members of the Mess. This year the messing member Reg Ford, even with the usual cook difficulty, admirably overcame every obstacle and produced first-class meals—an almost thankless job well done.

The Mess was honoured this year by one "Colonel Corfey," who is of course well known to members of the 1st Middlesex. Bert Callaghan in fine voice rendered his powers at regular intervals; also the poor man's Bing Crosby (Sid Speakman) enlightened the Mess with numerous songs and tales, much to the applause of his audiences. We were pleased to welcome R.S.M. Kenrick from the Depot, who paid us a visit during mid-week-end. We understand the two R.S.M.s went to the coast sight-seeing, but we did not hear much

about what they saw, neither are we sure that Mr. Kenrick enjoyed his visit. Once again the Corporals were entertained by the Mess and a most enjoyable evening was held by all. Modesty prevents us from boasting that we won the darts competition—and also the boat race but, boy, how one Sergeant "C" can sink a pint. The guest of honour that evening was "the Old Monk" and all present gave a most enthusiastic rendering of his doubtful deeds. An enjoyable evening in which we entertained the Officers' Mess concluded our camp.

Since then we have held our monthly socials, with increasing numbers. During the months July and August, an old friend of the Mess returned to visit us, R.S.M. McMillan, who looked extremely fit, no doubt due to the more active life he is leading with 1st Middlesex (in more ways than one). We wish him and his wife (Jean) a happy tour in Germany and hope they will visit us again on their return. Congratulations to them both on the birth of their daughter. Congratulations also to C.S.M. Rea, C.S.M. Saunders, C/Sgt. Phelan, Sgts. Turland, Wagner, Thomas, Voermanek, Lloyd and Wheeler, upon their recent promotions.

We are sorry to say that the Bandmaster, Mr. F. Hart, has resigned from the Band through ill-health, but we hope to see him at our monthly socials. Finally, may we say how sorry we are that R.S.M. Wild is leaving us. We congratulate him on his appointment to commissioned rank and we wish him well in Africa.

We look forward to welcoming R.S.M. Bartle, who is taking over from R.S.M. Wild.

"H.Q." COMPANY

Since our very successful annual camp, "H.Q." Company have been preoccupied preparing for the winter season's training. With a total strength now topping the 100 mark, our T.A. centre at Hanworth Road has become a hive of activity. And still the recruiting drive goes on. Latest "gimmick" is the offer of a month's free trial to the lads of the "village." We invite them to be Territorials for just four weeks, enjoying all the social advantages of the club and at the same time take their choice of the various activities in progress. It's free, we say, because they don't get paid for it. The idea is to give them a really good look at us without the fear of being pounced upon by over zealous recruiters. This we believe will dispel any false ideas of bull and barrack squares, which the outsider normally associates with the Army. It is too soon to report on the progress of this scheme but in the true "H.Q." tradition everyone is confident of success. Congratulations to Major G. Webber and his team on their fine performance in the recent all-Middlesex "Tough Training" contest. Major Webber is 2IC of the Battalion, but he was loaned to the Company for this event, as Capt. Roy Whipples was required by the Association to keep the Press in order. The contest proved every bit as tough as the organisers promised, yet the gallant team from Hounslow took every hurdle in its stride, completely outpacing rivals who had been hotly favoured to win. They went past the finishing post in eighth position, competing against a field of 24. The following Monday evening before a capacity crowd at Hanworth Road T.A.

Centre (it was pay night) they earned a big round of applause from the entire Company. Big social occasion on our calendar is the New Year's Eve Dance, to be run by our recently organised and hard-working social committee, led by "President" Cpl. Mike Ward.

SUPPORT COMPANY

Support Company, with its number doubled since last camp, thoroughly enjoyed the delights of Devon this year. The most enduring memory of which will be long carries of the Mortar and M.M.G. Platoons during the Brigade exercise. The platoons on this occasion were augmented by volunteers from the A/Tank and Assault Pioneer Platoons. During the carry, L/Cpl. Lawson discovered that a mortar bomb case makes a most suitable container for tinned beer, which was one of the reasons for the "Mortars" morale being so high. The M.M.G. Platoon at camp carried out a successful night shoot under Lt. Hogg, while Capt. Talbot-Price, as usual assisted by Sgt. Bartholomew, managed, with no casualties to the cattle, to get his bombs away. Cpl. Goodall and his Pioneer Section had destroying time carrying out demolitions but his qualified success at camp was being caught by the R.S.M. for ammunition fatigues—"I went there to see how much explosives we had." The only sad note at Camp this year was we were unable to fire the 17-pounder, due to the non-availability of suitable ammunition. Our two Company signallers have since camp had the longing eyes of Sgt. Tett cast upon them, which in our mind, despite the P.S.I.'s evidence to the contrary, means that at least a minority of the Company are receiving the message. On our return from camp the tempo of training dies down slightly but it is now gathering momentum for the winter onslaught. Coupled with the above, since camp we have extended a warm welcome to recruits Alexander, Fox, Houghton, Raby, Ratchiffe, Tabrar, Ghosh and Stratford, who have swelled the Company strength to 50 all ranks. We have also at Staines acquired the services of Officer-Cader J. C. Parkinson for the Assault Pioneers. While on the subject of training, a successful week-end in late September was held at Hangmore Hill Ranges. The Company was pleased to have the R.S.M. with them, who proved of great assistance when it came to firing the rocket launcher; the only discordant note was that one landlord in the Bagshot area did not appreciate the Company's hymn singing.

The Company's "Tough Training" team, despite efforts put in on the ropes at Hampton, failed to secure the "beer." We congratulate Lt. Hogg, Sgts. Light and Lloyd, Cpl. Goodall, Pres. Taylor and Leach on their very stout efforts, especially Pte. Leach, who stepped in as a last minute reserve. We now look forward to a winter of training and social activities and of being able to report next issue that we are well on the way to the elusive century.

"A" COMPANY

Since we last appeared in print "A" Company has been blessed with a steady import and export of Company commanders. Not that we don't like them but they just seem to come and go at the whim of the "all



Picture by Weekly Post Newspapers

ROCKET LAUNCHER TEAM

Cpl. Harvey and Pte. Pepper under instruction from Lt. D. Farrant.

powerfuls" in Hounslow—or perhaps they don't like us. We were all very sorry to say "good-bye" to Major Webber at the end of June. He has done so much for us, not only in completely building up the strength of the Company but in every other field. In spite of these remarks we are very proud that he is now in the dizzy ranks of the "all powerfuls." In Major Webber's place we welcomed Capt. Holmes from "B" Company, who shepherded us through the trials of camp in such a way that the Commanding Officer could only make complimentary remarks about the Company in his closing address. Alas, Capt. Holmes has gone the same way as Major Webber, but we extend a warm welcome to Capt. Venour, who has joined us from 4/5 Camerons. We hope he will be staying with us. Since annual camp the recruiting factor has been foremost in our minds. Three volunteers have joined us in the last two months and we feel that this was due to the work of C.S.M. Saunders, who organised an impressive float at the Hillingdon Hospital Fete on September 12. We are glad to report that we are getting our fair share of Press publicity, thanks to Pte. Farnes, who recently joined us from 10 Para. and who works on the staff of the *Uxbridge Post*. Thanks to this association, the middle pages of the *Post* were devoted to the Battalion at camp, and the Nijmegen March was also covered. With the approach of the festive season we are busy preparing our Company dance and social—we hope this will be a great success. The dance will be an "open house" and we hope to attract some volunteers—time to form "A" Company's ideas in continuing work with pleasure. In closing we would like to offer our congratulations to C.S.M. Saunders, Sgt. Wagner, Cpls. Elston and Harvey, and L/Cpls. Reynolds and Farnes on their promotions.

"B" COMPANY

"If you can't beat us then join us," seems to be the cry of "B" Company at the moment, and the reason for this is the recent success of the "Tough Training" team in winning the County "Tough Training" competition, an achievement of which all concerned can be justly proud. Again the clarion sounds, at the success of the Battalion Nijmegen Marches team, of which six members belong to "B" Company, and now over the grape vine comes the whisper that we hope to enter a Company team, providing enough funds can be raised; progress of this will be reported in due course, and while the sound of the clarion fades away we must offer our congratulations to L/Cpl. Tomkins, who completed the double by being a member of both the foregoing events—a rather unique double. Another highlight was the barbecue held at Mill Mill. This cooks exercise was well attended by both members and celebrities, together with the local Press, who did us proud. The Mayor and Mayoress, with the Lord Lieutenant of the County, were photographed receiving the first chicken roasted over a spit by the Company cook Cpl. Boyes, the spit having been cunningly engineered by Pte. Robinson. The basketball season is already upon us and we are happy to report that we have our first win under our belts—this was against Support Company, who, I am given to understand, are expecting to walk off with the cup this year; after all it took this Company eight months to get it from "C" Company. Our next match is with our old friends, "D" Company, and was to have been held on November 5, but we have asked for a postponement as we are planning a big bang for the local populace on this date, in the way of a Company exercise. Although poaching is not our pastime, it appears that we have something at Ealing, for we welcome to the Company Cpl. Boyes, Sgt. Salter and Gnr. Hawkins (ex-452 H.A.A. Regiment), together with recruits Coleman and Hearn. We regret to announce the death of Pte. Fraser at his home on September 15, 1959.

"C" COMPANY

Due no doubt to an internal printing dispute "C" Company notes were not published in the last edition of *The Die-Hards*; nevertheless the Company has remained alive and active. Our latest shooting success is that of Sgt. Thomas (whom we congratulate on his promotion) and Cpl. Young ("S" Company), second in the Volongdis at the T.A. Rifle Meeting at Bisley. Together with Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson (7th Middlesex) they formed the winning team for the Open L.M.G. match and the Cambridge Challenge Cup. Congratulations. For the purpose of annual camp this year we absorbed the personnel of "D" Company and we can report that they settled in very well. We hope they enjoyed being with us as much as we enjoyed their company. The Nijmegen March was successfully completed and, though the team was very tired after it, all enjoyed the experience. It must be recorded that C.S.M. Roberts successfully finished the course, though badly blistered feet made the going very painful. "Good show." "C" Company entered a team for the Middlesex "Tough Training" competition last month. They were ably captained by Capt. D. E.

Lobb, who came in at the last moment due to illness of Lt. P. N. Ashton. The team came fifth after a grueling cross-country test of stamina. The lesson to be learned from this test is: Never shove off the assault boat before the Company Commander has boarded. A very successful social was held on October 10 at the Drill Hall at Wealdstone, attended by over 60 persons; all enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to the next dance.

"D" COMPANY

We are pleased to report that the Company has increased considerably since camp. The enthusiasm of our younger members is in keeping with that of the older "Die-Hards" and training programmes are becoming more energetic than previously. During November, for example, something is happening every week-end. The basketball pitch is at last completed and Cpl. Colling, together with many who have given their own time to help him, are to be congratulated on the effort they have put in. We still have no showers but letters are with the appropriate authorities and we hope that now our strength is so much higher it will not be long before we are able to keep clean. The canteen has now been redecorated, and for this we must thank Cpl. Jones, who has managed to get the work done largely at his own expense. The "Tough Training" team put in a lot of hard work and, although perhaps we did not come quite so high in the placings as we intend to next year, Ptes. Taylor, Macalonan and Tuffin, C/Sgt. Phelan and Lt. Henshaw earned the admiration of the Company by their efforts. The "few drinks at the drill hall" on the Saturday evening of the last training week-end did not finish quite as it was intended to start. Instead of the 20 expected, some 50 or so people turned up. The training next day was astonishingly good, all things considered. The annual dinner on November 21 is the next social event we must look forward to. Unfortunately there are too many this year to hold it in the canteen and it must be in the hall itself. Energetic preparations for draping and decorating are afoot.

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

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

As these notes go to press, the Regiment is in the throes of preparation for its centenary. Three days "At Home," including a Ball with the R.A. Orchestra in attendance; a parade with inspection and march past, the salute being taken by Lt.-General Sir Brian Horrocks, our quondam Adjutant; and a dinner and Ball in Wembley Town Hall will be the events around which our centenary celebrations will revolve. A colourful and interesting brochure has been prepared giving the history of the Regiment and commemorating this landmark in its life.

By the time these notes are printed, all this will be past history. In the next issue of *The Die-Hards* it is hoped to give you the full story of these events, perhaps supplemented with one or two photographs.

In the meantime, back to the arduous of preparing

for our celebrations, leaving the individual Batteries to tell the story of our most successful camp and the social and military junketings which marked it.

"P" BATTERY

Camp was the outstanding event of the past quarter. This year, instead of the usual practice camp by the sea, the training took the form of the most intensive mobile work, and was generally voted the most enjoyable over the war. In the same way that the London-Scottish used to march through the Highlands every fourth camp, so we hope that one in every four of our camps will be mobile.

Perfect weather made the fortnight, and to have the vast Stanford training area to play in, virtually unfettered by instructions, was a great joy to us after being "cabineted, cribbed and confined" to local "rubbish dumps."

Although by the end of the fortnight we had involved deployment drills mastered, many were the simple lessons taught by experience. Lt. Willoughby of "P" Battery, having pushed his motor-cycle five miles, learnt to keep his tank filled. But this error was minor compared with the member of another Battery, who filled his cycle in the dark from a jerrican without checking the colour of the can! Our ever-ready R.E.M.E. had the task of emptying three gallons of water from the fuel system.

The other ranks are all to be commended for the high speed at which they put their equipments in action, and in the very efficient way they controlled the thousand and one stores with the loss of only a few minor articles.

Our congratulations and best wishes go to Capt. M. C. Jaffe and Lt. K. Price on their recent marriages.

"Q" BATTERY

As usual at this time of the year, the most important event to report is the annual camp and the Battery's part in it. During camp, nearly all the training was on a Regimental basis and the Battery did not perform as such on exercises at all.

Everyone was delighted to see the contrast between the permanent buildings and reasonable layout at East Wretham and the tents and the so-familiar labyrinth geography of Weybourne. Added to this, the fine weather at the beginning ensured an optimistic start.

Major Wynne was at first allocated the task of initiating certain rather apprehensive junior officers into the art of riding motor-cycles, whilst the remainder of the Battery was incorporated into a composite "S" Battery for mobile training. This was carried out for the whole of camp. "Q" Battery detachments found themselves working beside, and in most cases, combined with detachments from the other Batteries, and it was gratifying to see that their standard of training compared very favourably with that of the others.

Despite the very full training programme, we managed to fit in a Battery social, which was very well attended and seemed to be enjoyed by all. Major Wynne impressed all present by his soldierly conduct in the face of great odds.

Everyone found the mobile training a very pleasant change from the previous firing camps, and one recruit

was heard to remark that he wished it had been twice as long.

Training has now started again after the summer recess, the emphasis being on teaching the lessons learnt at camp and preparing for the centenary celebrations.

We welcome Lt. Ford on his posting to "Q" Battery. To conclude on a note of success, we congratulate Sgt. Anderson on winning the Regimental Championship at the annual shoot held recently at Purfleet, and we are happy to record that "Q" Battery also won the Inter-Battery Cup, beating the opposition very comfortably.

"R" BATTERY

We returned from our first mobile camp weary, worn and tired, but quite pleased with our performances at East Wretham and divers "blasted heaths" in Norfolk.

In the comparative calm of August, a sober reflection on camp has revealed the lessons to be learned and the weak points of our training. Complacency, therefore, has been banished; with the thought of next year's camp in April ever with us, we are committed to a few month's hard work—regardless of the numerous festive occasions, which we take in our stride.

After the calm—the storm!

Our first social event was the Battery dinner held at Kingsbury on Saturday, September 26. This, being our first-ever Ladies' Night, was the subject of considerable preparation, and Lt. Hunt and his committee are to be congratulated for the success of the event. We were honoured to have as our guests Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Doyle, Major and Mrs. Bond, Major and Mrs. Hansen, Capt. and Mrs. Wadham and P.S.I.'s B.S.M. Bewick and B.S.M. Ash. It is interesting to record that Majors Bond and Hansen, now both with R.H.Q., have each commanded "R" Battery; thus the complete chain of Battery Commanders since the amalgamation was present.

Catering arrangements for the dinner rested almost solely on the capable shoulders of Cpl. Ashby, who produced an excellent meal, ably assisted by Sgts. Godleman and Osborne, and a very hard-working "posse" of Cadets.

Our guests were welcomed by Capt. Davies, and an excellent response was made by Mrs. Vaisey, who represented the T.A. "widows" of "R" Battery. Sgt. Berry most ably filled the role of M.C. for dancing and games, all of which added to the enjoyment of the evening.

As usual, the Battery was well represented at the Regimental Rifle Meeting on October 11. Capt. C. W. Davies won the Officers' Bowl, Bdr. Carpenter the O.R.s' Cup, and we came second in the Inter-Battery Competition. All in all, a satisfactory outing and, as always, the meeting proved to be a happy social occasion.

On our immediate horizon, the Regimental Centenary celebrations later in October are capturing the enthusiasm of all—with the possible exception of the Battery Commander who, having his sights firmly fixed on his forthcoming trip to Bermuda, has good reason to be otherwise pre-occupied. We all hope that the festivities not only suitably mark the event, but attract more recruits to our ranks.

"Now expectation flies his eager thought,
His bosom filled with treasures still uncaught..."

As we go to press, we record with pleasure the promotion to Captain of Lt. Mike Swann, and the return to the Regiment of a former "Q" Battery B.S.M. who is joining us as Sgt. Lockyer.

R.E.M.E. WORKSHOPS

This has been a most successful quarter, starting off with the annual camp in July, from which we all benefited due to the field training and exercises.

Recruiting is going along steadily, having had two new recruits and one transfer, all of a high standard technically.

August and September have been busy months, with training in preparation for the upgrading tests in November and preparing for the centenary celebrations and recruiting drive in October, full details of which we shall be able to give in our next issue of the journal.

REGIMENTAL CENTENARY

571 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, D.C.O.), T.A.

The Centenary Week, thanks to co-operation from many outside sources, went off extremely well. The main functions were:

(1) The "At Homes" from which the Regiment has already benefited by a small number of recruits.

(2) A dance at the Edgware Drill Hall attended by over 350 local people.

(3) A ceremonial parade at Kingsbury at which Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks took the salute, and which received fairly wide national publicity including a showing on British Movietone News.

(4) A dinner and ball for 500 at Wembley Town Hall.

All the functions have, we feel, helped to spread the name of the Regiment, and our pride in having strong Middlesex traditions, among the civilian population.

It was with very great pleasure that we were able to meet and get acquainted with Brigadier J. E. F. Willoughby, and it is the sincere wish of all ranks that the close ties at present held with the Middlesex Regiment should be fostered in future years.

THE HONG KONG REGIMENT

Since camp is due to start on October 25 everyone is preparing for that highlight of the training year. Once again we are going to Far East Farm and old haunts in Yuen Long are expected to prove as popular as they did last year. There are great speculations on what R.H.Q. have in store in the way of regimental exercises and a good deal of quiet espionage to find out which training areas have been booked.

Last quarter saw the successful conclusion of the Colony water-polo league and knock-out competition when the Regiment won both competitions for the third year in succession, thus retaining both trophies. The Terry Trophy was competed for against a team drawn from all the Regular Army units and once again was easily won by the Regiment. In the Colony

swimming championships our entries made a respectable showing and Pte. Wong Ho Lam again won the men's 200 yds. breast stroke.

The Regimental Rifle Meeting was held on August 23 at Kai Tak and, despite the hot, humid weather, was well attended and generally enjoyed. Incidentally, those "Die-Hards" who remember Kai Tak ranges may be interested to know that they are soon to close to make way for a by-pass road.

On September 4 Major J. B. Kite was posted to the pool of staff officers, having reached the age limit for service as second-in-command. He had been with the Regiment since its revival after the war and we are glad that he still wears our badges and remains an active member of the Mess. Major Oblitas has now taken over as second-in-command.

C.S.M. Rodgers and family have just arrived to join the band of P.S.I.s who live at Leighton Hill. We are particularly pleased to welcome C.S.M. Rodgers, since his parent regiment was until recently Middlesex Regiment, although he has never served with the 1st Battalion. He brings the total number of those seconded to the R.H.K.D.F. from the Home Counties Brigade to four. We hope he will enjoy his tour with us.

NEWSLETTER BY M.B.

I received a very interesting collection of papers from Col. Jimmy Reid giving an account of Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain, which forms the most important part of the great waterway connecting New York and Canada on which H.M. Queen Elizabeth recently travelled with Prince Philip. The French started to build this fort in 1755 and called it Carillon. It commanded Lake Champlain as well as the route by Lake George, and the holder controlled the great waterway between Canada and the American Colonies. Three nations have held this fort: France, Great Britain and the U.S.A. It has been attacked four times in its history, twice being successfully held, which is a record no other fort in this country can approach; and it has, indeed, been aptly called "The Key to a Continent." Space does not allow me to write more at this time, but visitors can read the whole story of this fort in the Regimental historical record book in our Colonel's office. Col. Reid attended the meetings to celebrate the opening of this great new waterway mentioned above, of which he has sent me a guide book, and also a photograph of six Regimental Colours, including one of the 77th Foot with himself among those present.

We have received a pamphlet covering the service of our 2/10th Battalion in the First World War. This can be seen in my historical record volume.

I hope to attend a service in Chiswick Parish Church for their Old Comrades and have been asked to read the Lesson, which I consider a great honour. Major Bernard Cattell organises these occasions, and I meet many old friends each year in the Church Hall.

At the end of September, I received a long letter from Brigadier Ian Burrows, now Military Attaché in Moscow. In his office, hanging beside a picture of H.M. The Queen, he has our recent print of Lady Butler's "Steady the Drums and Fifes," and his copy is, to him,

a matter of pride and pleasure. For the benefit of his many American friends and colleagues, he often reminds them that his Regiment helped to take Washington. He finds everyone at the Embassy and the other foreign Embassies wonderfully kind and helpful. His flat has been shaken by a new branch of the Metro underground railway, but as he will get the whole flat redecorated free of charge he has no wish to complain. In his five months in Russia he has travelled over 8,000 miles, but this has only scratched the surface of what he describes as "a vast and very amazing country." During the summer he has visited Riga, Leningrad, Novgorod, Murmansk and Kiev, and he intends to "chase the sun" south in the winter months to include the Black Sea coast, the Transcaucasus and Soviet Central Asia. He has met most of the Soviet Marshals, including all their senior ones, and, although it has been more difficult for him to meet the troops, he has, nevertheless, managed to do so. He has also seen Krushchev four or five times at close quarters, but has not yet spoken to him. All have quick, keen brains, he considers, great if not scholarly knowledge, and abundant shrewdness and determination. He is glad, therefore, that we in the West do not underestimate them as we did some years ago. The people, especially outside Moscow, he found cheerful and helpful, and very interested and inquisitive about life in the West. Whether in the market, hotel, or any other place of interest, the Russians want one to see and have only the best. "I have met this attitude in little places, so remote that the 'Party line' seems unlikely ever to make much impression on them," says Brigadier Burrows, "and in circumstances of such evident genuineness has made it clear that it was not assumed for the occasion." He hopes to come over on leave early in 1960 to have a break from the Russian winter and also to visit the Depot again.

The Elgee Dinner was held in the Mess in October. It was a pleasant affair and I met many intimate old friends. The guests attending included Major T. W. Heather (Adj. to Col. Elgee during the last year of the 1914-18 war and now chairman of a vast electrical company in Magnet House), Major Belsham, Col. Pringle, Gen. Bucknall, Brigadier John Willoughby and Major Heywood. Of course, I had served for many years with Col. Elgee from early 1906 to 1912, when I left our 1st Battalion to come to the Depot as a young subaltern. Also present were the Venerable Archdeacon Lisle Marsden, who had been Chaplain at that time, Gordon Parker and Sir Charles Symonds, who is a specialist at Guy's Hospital and a former Medical Officer under Col. Elgee.

I had a letter from Mrs. Vernon Garrow to say that her husband is very ill, and largely helpless, in hospital at Saffron Walden. I sent Col. Stewart's address to Mabel in the hope that he may be able to help.

I heard from Tony Hewitt in September and was most distressed to learn that his wife, Elizabeth, had been laid low with poliomyelitis. It was a relief, however, to hear that no paralysis has arisen, and that her spirits, even when very ill, were wonderful. He tells me how he loves the troops at Ghana Regimental Training Centre at Kumasi in West Africa, with their charming manners, faithfulness and shining black faces,

and all so devoted to him and the other officers.

I hear from our former Chaplain, Rev. Desmond Lang, that he is now with the 6th Field Regiment, R.A., in Germany. He has a good church which is well attended by his troops, but he has not yet been able to get a choir together as he had at the Depot under the control of Mrs. Lang, who kept both grown-ups and children of all ages in time so capably. Rev. Lang met Lt. Duberry of our 1st Battalion over there, who is, unfortunately, in hospital at Hanover having a piece of grit removed from his eye.

Willoughby Newton sent me a long letter in August giving me news of his family. His son, Brian, has been a radio officer for two years and is trying to get a shore appointment. Willoughby had met "Jamie" Clinch, who was in the Regiment with the 1st Battalion at Aldershot, retired in 1927 and later became a doctor. He was a wonderful rugby player and was "capped" nearly 50 times for Ireland.

Below are some notes on the use of maroon and old gold in our Regimental colourings. These notes come from a well-known expert of the Army Historical Research Society, to whom we are indebted.

"The use of the colours maroon and old gold by the Middlesex Regiment appears to be based on the colour of the uniform. The development and use of regimental colours is late Victorian and the main outlet was on regimental ties, blazers and band. The use also extends to regimental cards

and regimental flags used outside tents, orderly rooms, etc. Many regiments adopted colours based on the hue of the coat, of the facings and occasionally of the lace (there are no other distinctions, of course). Examples of this are used by the King's Royal Rifles—green (for coat) and red (for facings); Rifle Brigade—green (for coat) and black (for facings); Royal Artillery—blue (for coat) and red (for facings); 17th Lancers—blue and white, etc. It is obvious that in many cases more than one regiment has the same two colours; therefore, a distinction is made either to differ from another regiment or because the manufacturer felt that another shade made a better combination. Thus, the red becomes crimson or maroon—as in the case of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers' crimson and gosling green, the Royal Fusiliers' maroon and royal blue and, in the case of the Middlesex Regiment, maroon and old gold."

I give below the names of two officers of our Regiment whose memorial tablets are to be seen in Christchurch Priory, Hampshire:

John Peter Nelley, M.A., of Trinity College, Dublin; late Major, 77th Regiment; son of Col. John Nelley (Bengal Artillery). Died Malta, November 10, 1856, aged 57.

Henry Douglas Mackenzie Shute, Captain, 57th Regiment. Deceased while on service with his Regiment, December 28, 1860, aged 23.

OLD COMRADES' NEWS

It gives pleasure to see that at long last notice has been taken of, and suggestions made, in respect of Old Comrades' News. I refer of course to the letter received by the Editor and published by him in the last issue of the journal.

It would make my task much simpler if any reader would send me a note of any "Die-Hard" who may not have kept in touch with the Regiment. Tell me who he is, where he is and what he is doing—just a short note and I will do the rest. It would help a lot if you included in your note his Army or Regimental number. There must be hundreds we could bring back to the fold if only we all made a special effort. So do try, and send me a note of those you think have "strayed" from us.

MILL HILL BRANCH

The Branch at Mill Hill seems to improve with age. A total of 94, which included ladies, attended our September meeting and I can honestly say they all had a splendid evening's entertainment. The committee members were kept busy with raffle tickets, as was the Chairman taking cash for the Christmas Draw. This year we hope to increase the sale of tickets to 600, which will be 100 above last year's total.

It was nice to see Ted Crouch, Bob Overton, John Geary and Mr. Gargraves with us again. They have all been very much under the weather, and we hope now they will keep fit and well.

WEMBLEY BRANCH

This Branch is now getting into its stride and by the time these notes are in print it will have had another meeting at which I shall be present.

The Branch has lost, for the time being, one of its most hard-working and popular members. He has, after 41 years with H.M. Stationery Office (Accounts Department), retired and is now on the high seas heading towards Australia to spend a holiday with his son.

Now he is so far away, I can, with safety, tell you about his service with the Middlesex Regiment. Should any reader remember him, he would be delighted to hear from you.

His name: Sidney Bonnamy, Enlisted at Mill Hill, June, 1915. Trained with 6th Battalion, Chatham Lines. Joined 1st Battalion, (Lt.-Col. Rowley), October, 1915.

First action: Loos and the Bethune area. Spent many days in the renowned Brickfields.

First wounded: January, 1916, and recovered in hospital at St. Omer. Present at the march past when Col. Rowley was promoted to Brigadier, and moved with the Battalion to the Somme area.

Second time wounded: Delville Wood, July, 1916. Invalided out of the Army, 1917.

Well done, Sidney. Although you are miles away, I for one know you still think the Regiment is "tops."

EX-MEMBERS

On October 15 I had a surprise visit from ex-Sgt. Percy Edwards and his charming wife Rosie. He will be remembered as Band Sergeant of the 1st Battalion for many years in Egypt, Singapore and Hong Kong. He and his wife left lovely Babbacombe, near Torquay, for a few days in London and managed to snatch a few hours with my wife and I. Before he left he was made a member of the O.C.A. Mill Hill Branch, and was relieved of 5s. for a year's subscription for the Journal. Many readers will remember his son Charlie as a small schoolboy. He is now a strapping six-footer wearing the smart uniform of a prison warder.

How many remember Cpl. Bint? I met him at Chancery Lane station a few days ago. He had just retired from the Metropolitan Police and was on his way to attend an interview for a situation as security officer. I shall never forget him, because in 1937-38 when I was R.S.M. at the Depot he was always chosen as guard commander on special occasions. The G.O.C. Eastern Command—I believe it was Lt.-Gen. Sir Guy Williams—always expected to see him as guard commander, until one day he said to me: "Where is Cpl. Bint?" I replied, "He has joined the Police Force, sir." "What a loss to the Depot," he replied.

A member who paid us an all-too-infrequent visit was Mr. Trowt, who served with the 2nd Battalion from 1909 when in Guernsey until leaving it at Neuve Chapelle in March, 1915. He was subsequently appointed Bandmaster of the Lincolns. He enjoyed his visit and we hope to see him more often.

Monty Wray has been hard at work at a Cadet camp. He was a member of the 2nd Battalion boxing team for many years and also played rugby and hockey for the Battalion.

Two other "old-timers" had a reminiscing session about the 4th Battalion the other day. Do you remember Mr. R. Ferguson and Mr. Darvell? They are waiting to see other old 4th Battalion members at the Club.

The new Padre, Capt. Rev. Milliner, visited us at the last meeting and said how he enjoyed meeting so many cheerful people. No doubt that was due to the fact he had returned from Singapore and fell straight into the "lap" of Syd Buckle and Major Stewart Sutherland, who at that moment were also swapping tales of Singapore—between the odd dust-ups with the 4th Battalion about 1916-17-18.

NEW BRANCHES

At a recent Association meeting the question of membership arose. This, for various reasons, is becoming smaller and smaller and it was felt something drastic (short of another war) should be done to get old and young "Die-Hards" together again.

You chaps need no reminding that Tottenham, Edmonton, Enfield and the surrounding area have always been, up to 1939, the traditional recruiting areas of the Regiment, but strangely enough there is no Branch of the Association nearer than Hornsey. That is not good enough. It was suggested that a sub-committee under Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton should explore the possibilities of forming Branches in those

areas. This committee held its first meeting and considered the best area to concentrate first for a new branch would be Enfield. Why? Because Major A. T. Jones lives there and he was, years ago, P.S.I. at the T.A. Centre. So, you see, he knows lots and lots of old "Die-Hards" and has the nucleus of a Branch in the occupants of our Cottage Homes, who are, or should be, paid-up members of the Association. So—calling all "Die-Hards" in the Enfield area—get in touch with Major Jones at 4 Morley Hill, Enfield, and give him your support to make a success of his new Branch.

REGIMENTAL BLAZER BADGES

It was also felt that to give the forming of a new Branch more publicity it would be an idea to have a blazer badge of the correct size, shape and colour. It has been my contention for years this should be. It will also enable those who have served and are still serving in the Regiment to wear the correct badge. At present all sorts can be bought from various shops, but they are not of the correct pattern. Now Major E. L. Heywood and myself have the somewhat difficult task of selecting a badge which will be put forward to the Association Committee for approval.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

During the past few months I have been asked questions, some not too complimentary, about "What happens to the subscriptions we pay to the Association?" I am happy to say that on more than one occasion I was able to explain quite fully and to the satisfaction of the questioner and his friends a little of what the Association does; which, in my humble opinion, is not broadcast enough. Should there be, however, any reader with similar doubts about his subscriptions I ask him to read and study the following for a moment or two. I am certain he will be a happier man afterwards. Here we go. Let me "put you into the picture" as to the objects and activities of the Association.

It would take too long to explain what is and what is not done by the Association and I state briefly that there are four objects, the one of the most interest to our members being as follows:

"2 (b) To safeguard the interests of past and present members of the Regiment, their wives, widows, children and dependants and to assist those who are sick or in need of assistance," which, you will agree, is a worthy object. During the period May 1 to August 31, 1959, 53 cases have been given financial assistance totalling £363 16s. 8d. This assistance was very varied and consisted of grants towards convalescent holidays, rent arrears, removal expenses, furniture, storage of furniture following eviction, overdue bills and clothing for sick and elderly ex-members of the Regiment.

Now, do you not agree that the Association is giving practical assistance to many who have not had so much good fortune in life as most of us have had? If so, I sincerely hope that all who have not yet paid their subscription will now do so, and if circumstances permit add just a little bit extra which will be gratefully received.

Therefore, if at any time you hear the criticism, "The Regimental Association didn't help him," pause

before you, too, condemn. Perhaps the Secretary was never informed he needed help and, without information, he cannot act, so please let him know of any case you consider requires advice and help.

HORNSEY BRANCH, O.C.A.

7th Battalion T.A. Centre, Priory Road
Wednesdays, 8 p.m.

It is our hope that by spreading the news of what is being successfully done in obtaining new members during the past few months we will encourage those who have not so far put in many attendances lately to come along and meet their old friends and comrades again. To have a successful branch we must have support, particularly to carry on with the activities of the Branch, make it a focal point of interest and greatly add to its strength. Would some of our ex-officers come along and take an interest in the Regimental Association's O.C. Club and once again meet the O.R.s?

Suggestions for social activities, both for members, their wives and friends, will be very welcome. Bring them along to us together with another old "Die-Hard" or two as soon as possible. The winter session is now approaching, and our list of forthcoming events will be sent to all members of this branch in the near future.

Our past season was fairly active, although several members were holiday-making and some at camp. We were very sorry that Col. Allen has left the Battalion. He took a great interest in the O.C.A. as well as the Regimental Association, and we wish him well for the future. We also welcome Lt.-Col. Simpson, who is now C.O. By the time this is in print, the Regimental Reunion, the Regimental Field of Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday at Hornsey and Mill Hill will have passed. No doubt we all have our memories of these and past occasions.

Our members wish a happy Christmas to all now serving in the Regiment and to all Old Comrades.

9th BATTALION BRANCH, O.C.A.

Having deserted Kingsbury for a trip to California, news has had to be gleaned and I hear that the annual dinner was quite a happy evening as always, but was not so well attended as hitherto. This was partially accounted for by the date being on Whit Saturday when many go farther afield. We have learnt our lesson.

On my return there were whispers of centenary celebrations, which has since developed to a roar and, as these commence next week, the arrangements are now "buttoned up" and we await the word "Go." It has meant hard work gathering the members and ex-members of the 9th, but my next issue notes will tell of a job well worth while, by the number of replies received both for the parade on the 25th and dinner on the 27th.

Our first outing was to the Regiment in camp at Thetford and, although the party was small, we were pleased to meet Sir Vyvyan Holt and Lt.-Col. A. G. B. Drabble to swell our numbers. We had an enjoyable day and were well looked after by both the officers and sergeants. The sight of two Sergeant-Majors playing big drum and cymbals, respectively, during the inspec-

tion parade raises a point as to whether warrant officers should pass a band test before getting the crown—at any rate they kept in tune!

It is with great regret we have to report the passing of "Jock" Campbell, our highly esteemed Medical Officer and sportsman; "Sid" Creasey, a member of 1914's concert party and a leading toastmaster; also "Eddie" Sainsbury and R. B. Samuel. All will be a sad loss to our Branch and our deep sympathy is extended to all relatives.

With the longer evenings rapidly approaching we look forward to an increase in attendance on Friday evenings at Kingsbury and we welcome any member to drop in for a chat.

Greetings from the 9th Branch to all.

J.K.T.

OBITUARY

Mr. R. B. Samuel

It is with deep regret that we announce the death at his home, 47 Charles Street, Berkhamsted, on Sunday, of Mr. Reginald Bruce Samuel, editor of the *Berkhamsted Gazette* for the last 34 years.

Mr. Samuel, aged 63, had been ill for some months, but such was his cheerful disposition and indomitable spirit that he had been planning to resume work in a few weeks' time. His passing, therefore, came as a particular shock to his colleagues and many friends throughout the district.

He was a well-known personality and left his stamp on the town in which he chose to live and work. Almost everyone knew him and his wife, Mrs. Dorothy A. Samuel, and all were welcome at their home.

Mr. Samuel was a journalist of considerable talent. He was a shrewd observer, a born mixer and a man of great sympathy and understanding. He liked people, loved the Berkhamsted area and took a deep interest in the local activities of which he wrote so prolifically for so many years. He had a forthright style, with a flair for descriptive writing, and events large and small all came within the scope of his facile pen.

Quick to praise, kindly in his criticisms, he was always a champion of the area in which he had made his home. He will be greatly missed by a circle of friends and acquaintances embracing all spheres of local life.

War Service

Mr. Samuel was born in London. At the start of the first world war he enlisted in the 9th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. He served throughout the war, rising to the rank of Company Quartermaster Sergeant. Although he was mentioned in despatches, such was his modesty, that even his best friends were not aware of the fact. He served in India and Mesopotamia.

5519 Ex-R.S.M. G. A. Comber

George Comber, a well-liked member of our Mill Hill Branch, passed away on Sunday, September 13, at his home, No. 3 Memorial Cottages, Bittacy Hill. He was a well-known member of the Regiment and served with it in South Africa during the Boer War, and was in possession of the Queen's and King's S.A. medals.

For many years he was a keen member of the boxing team and in his latter years of service still kept a fatherly eye on the active members. He was buried at Hendon Park Cemetery on September 17; a wreath was sent by the Club in addition to one sent by the Association.

"He was a good soldier and a faithful 'Die-Hard'."

INFORMATION REQUIRED

Can any reader tell me the whereabouts of ex-Sgt. W. Fisher (or his relations), who served in France with the 4th Battalion and was wounded in January, 1915.

I have something very interesting for him or his family if one of them would get in touch with me.

P.F.N.

REMINDER

Have you sent your cash for the Journal?

P.F.N.

REGIMENTAL REUNION

Some 717 serving and ex-members of the Regiment with their ladies and friends spent an enjoyable evening at the Seymour Hall, London, on Friday, October 30.

It was impossible to meet all with whom one served, but one could not fail to notice the pleasure on the faces of old pals who met again after many years. Such was the case of Col. Maurice Browne and In-Pensioner Sgt. Bill Bailey who reminded the Colonel of the day when, as a young officer, he joined the Regiment at Portsmouth; not to be outdone, the Colonel remembered Bill Bailey as Col. Lumley's batman.

Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks had a word with many, including the same Bill Bailey who by now had been joined by In-Pensioner Cpl. Grimdod. They will see more of the General when he takes his boxer dog for a walk in the hospital grounds. Watch your step, sir. Those two old-timers will waylay you for a chat before you can say "Hop it."

Brigadier Basil Rackham met up with many who had served with him from time to time, one of which was ex-R.S.M. Knight of 7th Middlesex who looked fit and well. Seeing the Brigadier reminded the writer of January, 1940, when, as his first Q.M., helped to form No. 1 M.G. Holding Battalion at Whitley Bay.

Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, Cols. Andrew Man and Desmond Ellis and Major Ken Hardcastle had quite a busy and, I trust, enjoyable evening coping with the many who served with them.

Our Editor, Col. "Stumps" Green, surprised us by his presence; we thought he was in Scotland. Did you catch the 9.30 p.m. train after all?

I do not think any Regimental gathering would be complete without such "old-timers" as Bill Bratley, Stan Furness, Con. Sullivan, "Licker" Cox, George Rand, Charlie and Jack Painter, Ted Crouch and a host of others, not forgetting the evergreen "Busty" Hull, who amongst other things led the singing of the "Die-Hards" song while the younger generation was dancing to the music of Nat Temple's Band.

All voted it was a lovely evening and our thanks are due to the Secretary, Major A. W. Clark, for the hard work he put in to make it possible.

It was sad, however, to find that the Colonel of the Regiment was prevented from attending owing to military duties.

NOTE.—The Annual General Meeting was held before the festivities began, but the attendance was very poor. I wonder why. Is 7 p.m. too early for you to attend? If so, do tell the Secretary, because I know it is not because you are not interested.

P.N.

CORRESPONDENCE

Old Comrades or Regimental Association

1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.),
B.F.P.O. 33.

October 19, 1959.

THE EDITOR.

DEAR SIR,

This is purely a suggestion for your thoughts and comments on a general improvement in our aim to promote comradeship.

Very shortly we are almost to lose our Regimental home as we know it. Why not just have a house-moving instead?

Recently whilst at the Old Comrades hut I was asked, "What will happen when the old boys fade away." My reply was that the "old boys" have cut themselves from the "new boys" by not keeping up with the times.

Mill Hill is an out-of-the-way place for the good 90 per cent. of present or past members, also the transport service is very poor. The title "Old Comrades" has the aroma of the 1914-18 war trenches about it. Many forget the thousands who have, and still are, serving all over the world.

Have I an answer to bring the Old and New Comrades together? Yes! At least to my mind a step forward in the right direction.

Firstly. Form a Regimental Association Club embodying all the present Wings and Comrades.

Secondly. A central building somewhere in Central/North London, perhaps an old Drill Hall which can be converted into a club house with bar, dance floor, billiards and table-tennis room, library, luncheon room, information kiosk, six double bedrooms, display of Regimental arts and silver, on a permanent basis. Membership will be automatic with Regimental Association membership.

Many have other ideas and many may call it nonsense; some may be able to suggest an ideal new home.

The money. Let us transfer some of our investments to the direct benefit of the investors.

It is a fair risk with a good chance of a fair return, if not in bags of gold at least in maintaining a high percentage of good and lasting Regimental comradeship.

Would the editor permit or invite letters from other readers on this subject.

Yours sincerely,

C/SGT. STEWARD.

Suggestions or views on the promotion of comradeship within the Regiment are always welcome. On your specific points, however, we can give only our editorial comments, which may not necessarily be those of the Regimental Association Committee.

Although the office of the Secretary is located there, Mill Hill is only a Branch of the Association and not its H.Q. and, in any case, we do not agree that Mill Hill is at all isolated. As to the term or title "Old Comrades," it is not, we maintain, an anachronism, as you suggest; in fact, we would say that such a term personifies comradeship in every form which it implies. We consider, therefore, that it would be illogical to and not in keeping with the Regimental Association Charter to change this title. Theoretically, your suggestion for a central Regimental Association Club is an admirable one and was, in fact, mooted several years ago. Practically, however, we consider that it is out of the question on financial grounds. To buy or rent and then convert a building in Central London, its staffing, furnishing and heating would entail a very large capital outlay and, furthermore, its day-to-day maintenance would be considerable.

Under the Rules of the Association, however, the use of funds for disposal is restricted mostly to charitable purposes, and such an undertaking, therefore, would be quite inexpedient.

However, thank you for your letter, and our regrets for being somewhat critical. Other readers' views on this matter are welcome.—EDITOR.

BIRTH

FLAVELL.—On October 13, at Cowley Place, Uxbridge, to Betty (*née* Russell), wife of Capt. James Flavell, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), a daughter, sister for Anthony, Jeremy and Patrick.

DEATHS

CROSBY.—Col. J. S. Crosby, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., died on August 21. A letter of sympathy was sent on behalf of our members, but unfortunately we were not informed in time to be represented at the funeral.

COMBER.—Ex-R.S.M. G. A. Comber, who has lived for some years in one of our homes at Mill Hill, died suddenly in his home on Sunday, September 13. Members of the Mill Hill Branch and an N.C.O. from the Depot attended the funeral.

PARRISH.—Thomas W. Parrish, who served with the 7th Battalion, died suddenly in hospital after a short illness. His funeral was attended by Sgt. Moran from the Depot.

DIMOND.—On October 15, in his sleep, Col. C. F. W. Dimond, late of our 1/10th Battalion. A letter of condolence was sent to the family, and a wreath was also sent on behalf of our members.

BRIGHTEN.—We deeply regret to announce that Major H. W. Brighten died suddenly at the end of October. Unfortunately we did not hear of this until too late for the Association to be represented or to send a wreath. Major Brighten had for many years been a regular reader of this Journal and a loyal member of our Officers' Club and Association. We remember him, too, for his work in connection with the War Memorial Appeal.

BLAN.—Mr. A. C. Blan who has been a regular reader of this Journal for many years died on November 4 at his home in Wembley. His funeral was attended by an N.C.O. of the Depot.

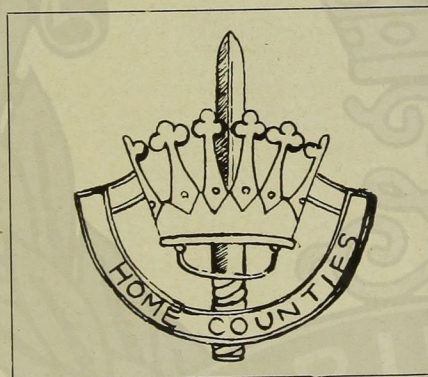
THE BADGE OF THE HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE

I little thought that, when I wrote the story of the badge of the Middlesex Regiment, the article would be published a few days before the Regular Battalion and extra Regimental employed personnel changed it for another.

The cap badge now worn by all except the Territorial Battalions and Cadets of the Regiment is that of the Home Counties Brigade, and is shared with the Regiments of the Home Counties. These regiments are: (1) The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (formed by the amalgamation of the Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) and the East Surrey Regiment), (2) a regiment to be formed by the amalgamation of The Buffs and the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, (3) The Royal Sussex Regiment and (4) The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own).

The badge was adopted by all the above regiments on Wednesday, October 14, 1959.

The badge is a six-pointed Saxon crown and the sword of London with a scroll beneath inscribed with the title of the Brigade, "Home Counties." It is in silver or white metal, viz.:

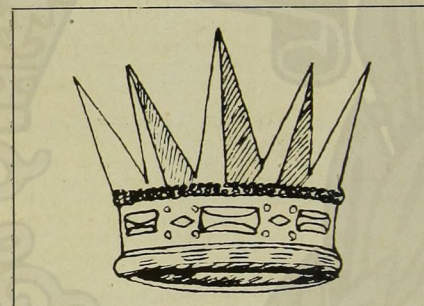


There is always great difficulty in designing a badge to be worn by a combination of a number of regiments and this badge is different in design to any other at present worn by the British Army. The Saxon crown in its heraldic form is very appropriate as two of the regiments in the Brigade have Saxon titles—Middlesex (the middle Saxons) and Sussex (the South Saxons). Kingston (King's Stone)-on-Thames has the coronation stone and was the crowning place of the Saxon kings, whilst Guildford was the seat of the Saxon Royal Mint. Both the Men of Kent (The Buffs) and the Kentish Men (Queen's Own Royal West Kent) are direct descendants of the first Saxon settlers.

The six-pointed crown in place of the ancient Saxon crown with five points as shown on the arms of the County of Middlesex fits nicely in with the number of regiments affected, i.e. The Queen's, The Buffs, The East Surrey Regiment, The Royal Sussex Regiment, The Queen's

Own Royal West Kent Regiment and The Middlesex Regiment are represented by the six points and the four regiments left by the amalgamations are depicted by the four points shown in full with trefoil complete.

To our own Regiment in particular the Saxon crown is no stranger. Our 6th Battalion was originally the East Middlesex Militia and the Saxon crown was displayed on its Colours, drums and badges from 1778 until 1902 when the normal pattern colours of the Middlesex Regiment were taken into use by the Battalion. Even then the officers wore the ancient Saxon crown in their patrol side caps and on the lapels of their mess jackets, the only Battalion of the Regiment to wear badges on their lapels. The records of the 6th Battalion in 1880—then the Royal East Middlesex Militia—say that this is the only Regiment permitted by authority to wear the ancient Saxon crown as an indication to its Saxon origin. The cap badge and lapel badges were worn until the outbreak of World War I in August, 1914. The badge of the 6th Battalion was as follows:



A similar upheaval in regimental badges took place in 1881 and in the course of years all regiments gave the greatest of loyalty to its linked battalions; in our case the 57th and 77th Regiments of Foot with the two Militia Battalions, The Royal Elthorne Light Infantry Militia and The Royal East Middlesex Militia, which became respectively the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalions of the newly formed Middlesex Regiment. Now the regiments in the Brigade must give loyalty to the new family of regiments in the same manner. For 126 years, i.e. 1755—1881, each of the above had different badges and titles, then for 78 years (1881—1959) we shared our badge and now the regiments in the Home Counties Brigade in a like manner share a badge. The regimental badge on the collar of each regiment remains as it was before the adoption of the Brigade badge as does the cloth regimental title on the sleeve of the battle dress.

Nobody welcomes changes such as these after years of service wearing one badge, but the young recruit will adapt himself very quickly. We four regiments still retain our own particular traditions and a recruit is allowed to serve in the regiment he nominates on enlistment as far as possible with service requirements. We have not died and are not to be buried; we have merely married as our parents the 57th and 77th did. I

am sure our new in-laws will make a merry and efficient family and will fight to the death for each other whenever the call comes.

To the new soldier, and the old soldier, the best advice in my opinion is the closing words of the C.O. of the Depot, Major I. H. Battye, M.B.E., when he addressed all on the introduction of the new badge. He said no tearful words of farewell, but dismissed the parade with the words "Right—to work."

And to work it is.

R.W.J.S.

MEN OF THE REGIMENT

Colour-Sergeant Edwin Bezar, 57th Regiment of Foot

Edwin Bezar was not only a fighting "Die-Hard," he was an articulate one and could express himself in writing.

He was born February 18, 1838, and was 17 years of age when he enlisted in 1855 in the 62nd Foot, now the Wiltshire Regiment, known throughout the Army as the "Springers." Within 14 days he was on active service in the Crimea, so one gathers he was with the Regiment with his family at the time. He enlisted too late to take part in the siege of Sebastopol, but served before the peace was signed. His first job as a soldier was to help clear the battlefields and cover over the hastily buried bodies which were becoming exposed.

In 1856 he transferred to the 57th Regiment, who moved to Malta from the Crimea in June that year. What excitement there was a little later with the issue of the minie rifle to replace the old smooth-bore musket, the last Brown Bess. Also the Sepoy Mutiny had broken out in India and a famous fighting Regiment such as the "Die-Hards" waited daily for orders to take an active part in the campaign. Young Bezar was on duty September 29, 1857, at the main entrance to Valetta when a mounted officer galloped to the Commanding Officer's quarter. Col. Warre, C.B. (afterwards Gen. Sir Henry Warre, K.C.B.) immediately rode to H.Q. where he received orders to dispatch, at once, two Companies of 100 men each to Aden where it was feared that a Sepoy regiment 1,400 strong would cause trouble. The two Companies had to be fitted with plain clothes as they were travelling overland from Alexandria to Suez, the Canal not yet being in existence. Bezar, with other soldiers, was supplied with a drab coat, blue trousers and a drab wide-awake hat. The men who were on the expedition made merry that night and quite a number continued the party the following morning. When the party were to move off at 4 p.m. on the 30th, the Commanding Officer was so irate that he ordered the Regimental Band, that was to play the troops to the docks, to return to barracks. Bezar says in his reminiscences that they went without that very popular air, "The Girl I Left Behind Me."

Next day most of the men were very sad about the head they had with them!

The party landed at Alexandria on October 6 and went by train to within 25 miles of Suez, the end of the track. Bezar was incensed at the brutality of the Egyptian gang-masters, who were in charge of gangs of boys and girls engaged in carrying stones. If one of the workers loitered, they were treated to a lash of the

whip across their backs. The final part of the journey was completed in wheeled vehicles without springs, four men to a cart. He says, very quaintly, that, when the wheels struck an unexpected stone, some very choice English was heard. This was picked up by the natives and causes surprise later when tourists heard them. It is an interesting fact that the remainder of the 57th, when they moved the following year, rode this same route on donkeys. Many of the men, especially those who were six feet tall, had their feet trailing in the sand. Behind each donkey marched a small Egyptian boy, who would occasionally have to poke the rear of the mule with a pointed stick.

On October 14, 1857, Pte. Bezar had his first view of Aden which has so rightly been called Vulcan's workshop. He was to spend his next three Christmas Days there and have his first experience of fighting. Water was a very scarce commodity and very brackish. It came from some small aqueducts which brought it from some distance away and the attempts of neighbouring Arabs to cut off the supply led to frequent skirmishes. In March, 1858, a force of 100 "Die-Hards," of which Pte. Bezar was one, was, with supporting arms, sent out to re-establish the water supply that had been stopped by the Arabs. Capt. W. E. Brown commanded the detachment of the 57th with Lt. Sir Robert Douglas as second-in-command. The enemy, some 3,000 strong, were soon contacted, appearing as if by magic out of the sand dunes. Yelling like djinns from the Nether Regions, they attacked our men at the gallop on their camels and beautiful Arab horses. The new minie rifle of the 57th had a much greater range than was realised by the enemy and saddles were soon emptied. This shooting so disconcerted them that they returned to Shakothman, their stronghold. Before they could put the place in sufficient a defensive state, the troops attacked and captured the town. Whilst there, Bezar tells us he came upon a box of Mexican dollars. He must have been a numismatist at heart, as he immediately started collecting.

After the action, Bezar and his comrades marched back to Aden where they were received with cheers by the inhabitants. The fighting had been thirsty work and now the supply of water was established. He tells us how pleased all were that this was so, and adds, "Arrack—a good wholesome spirit—is plentiful at one anna (1½d.) a glass; porter about the same per pint." The "Die-Hards" would fight to ensure the supply of water, but personally preferred something with a little more kick in it. The men needed this cheer during the hours the sun was down as the heat of the day made life unbearable. Even at night the heat was stifling. To keep a degree of coolness the men with Bezar would go to the sea, soak their blanket in water and go to sleep with this around them. Then, when the heat of the body had dried the blanket and they woke up, off they would go and soak it again. In May of 1858 the remainder of the Regiment called in and a number of reliefs took place before the H.Q. and the remainder of the 57th moved on to Bombay for Ahmednagar. As the troops were marching down to Steamer Point between 5 and 6 p.m., five men collapsed with sunstroke, three of whom died.

Not only was there the heat to contend with, but that dreadful scourge cholera. The men under Major Logan's command were confined to their lines during the epidemic and not one man was lost, but amongst the inhabitants 1,300 succumbed, also a number of Sepoys of the Indian Regiment. This says much for the command of the officers and the discipline of their men. The writer realises this, for he was himself confined to the cantonment in Ahmednagar in like circumstances nearly 70 years later.

Bezar had been in Aden two years and had forgotten what rain was and indeed was intrigued when he gazed at the river bed there. Spots of water had fallen once or twice but immediately fizzed in the scorching sun and was gone. April 10 saw a great cloud over Aden and a deluge struck the place. The river bed then was filled to overflowing and our hero says he is sure sufficient water fell to douse the fire in the depths of Hades. Small bungalows were washed away and many animals including 300 camels were swept into the bay. As usual, whenever there is an emergency, the troops were called upon to succour the needy and distressed and the men of the 57th rescued the camels, sheep and other animals. The former meant so much to the Arab that a gift of three rupees for each camel rescued was offered. This was refused by the military authorities.

Eventually the time came for Bezar and his comrades to leave Aden. This they did on March 14, 1860, when they were relieved by the 4th Foot (King's Own), who in one month lost 100 men to disease. During the time he was in Aden he says he was haunted by the figure 3. He was there three Christmas Days, he had potatoes three times (!), he was ill three days and had three dozen leeches applied, three men were killed by sunstroke, he had three days' leave after the skirmish with the Arabs and the men recovered 300 camels for which the natives wanted to pay three rupees each. Fresh vegetables were really scarce and highly prized by the men. On board the steamer after leaving Aden for Bombay, one of the 57th discovered a store of onions. The men soon depleted the stock, eating them like apples. (I am glad I did not have the job of conducting them at choir practice.)

Bezar was only in India a few months when the 57th embarked for service in New Zealand to fight against the Maori—the war so little known by the general public and an honour borne on our Colours. He sailed on the *Castilian*, the troops under the command of Major R. A. Logan, the journey lasting two months. L/Cpl. Bezar tells us that "seven days out from Bombay the ship caught fire. It scared a few ladies on board. The first thrown overboard was Capt. Shute; we lost five members all told during the trip. Apart from this, nothing of importance occurred during the voyage." He and his comrades took all calamities in their stride.

The ship landed the troops in Auckland on January 24, 1861, and L/Cpl. Bezar was setting foot in the country he was to love and remain for the rest of his life. When the *Castilian* tied up, an old "Die-Hard" who had served under Major Logan's father, Capt. Patrick Logan, came on board to greet the major and his men. This old soldier had fought at Albuhera,

helping to earn the Regiment's sobriquet "Die-Hards." Cpl. Bezar, on his twenty-third birthday, marched to Onehunga and embarked on H.M.S. *Niger* for the seat of war at the River Waitara. On February 19, he landed and was in the rifle pits before Te Arai Pah, where the troops were sapping. At sundown they retired from the trenches to their redoubts. The Maoris at night would creep down and fill in the sap, or as much as they could, that the men had been digging during the day. On one occasion the Maoris took away the sap roller made of supplejack and next morning shouted plenty of chaff from the palisade. The next night they came down to move the replacement. This time a shell was fastened to it that exploded as soon as it was touched, blowing the Maoris to pieces. This cured the Maoris of collecting sap rollers and Sgt. Bezar tells us he and his men roared with laughter at the prank they had played on the enemy. They were tough men and tough "pranks."

In May, 1863, a friendly Maori chief named Tamati Whaka gave Sgt. Bezar a note to pass to Mr. Parris, the Native Commissioner. The note was to inform the authorities that the truce that had been in operation for some time was about to be broken. It was! A party of the 57th of two officers and six men plus a prisoner under escort was ambushed and all were slain, with the exception of Pte. Kelly, who was wounded but escaped to give the news to his comrades. Sgt. Bezar was one of the party sent out to avenge this treacherous act and the war flared up again, the murders being, according to Maori custom, tantamount to a declaration of war. It was decided to attack the Maori stronghold at Kaitake. The troops were issued with blue frock coats and forage caps especially for service in the bush and this enabled them to keep concealed. Sgt. Bezar gave one of his men, Pte. Lever, a bottle of grog to carry for him on the march to Katikara. The approach march was successful and the enemy surprised. Sgt. Bezar tells us that it was close work with bayonets and tomahawks. In this attack the "Die-Hards" lost three killed and five wounded. Sgt. Bezar was very concerned about one casualty in particular, although this was an inanimate one. He says "the man Lever, whom I had entrusted my bottle of grog, had probably got fatigued carrying it in a bottle, and this with what was issued infused more courage than discretion into him, for he jumped into the trench and had a very narrow escape indeed." As Bezar wrote these words 30 years after the event one must realise what a grievous loss he felt when he found his grog was no more. At this action the Maori toll-gate with the dues "the Governor to pass £1000, a Bishop £900" and so on down to the small fry was captured. The Governor had said it would take a thousand men to capture the toll gate, but when the General saw two Bandsmen of the 57th using it as a stretcher for one of the wounded he remarked to the Governor, "I thought you said a thousand men would be required to take that toll gate. Why, there's two bandsmen of the 'Die-Hards' walking off with it." The troops halted for a short time on the way back and Bezar tells us that a wag of a bandsman after listening to the soldier's story of the fight ran round his (Bezar's) Company and noted down

on paper each man's account of the number he had killed, the total reaching close on 1,000. As the official number of casualties were 50, he suggests there was a "slight" exaggeration somewhere. Uniforms and arms may have changed, but the habits of bandsmen, rum carriers and the splendid British "squaddie" certainly have not.

In 1864, Capt. Lloyd joined the Regiment from home and as a dashing and powerful man was given command of No. 1 Company, the grenadiers. On April 6, he was attacked by a party of Maoris of a particular cult, the Hau-Hau. Capt. Lloyd, according to a Maori eyewitness account, slew six of his enemies before he himself was finally overcome and decapitated. His head was carried around on a pole by the Hau-Hau as an aid to recruiting for the cult. It was finally recovered and interred with the body.

Living with the Hau-Haus at this time was a deserter from the 57th. He had turned native or, in the language then current, "took to the blanket." A white doing this was known as a "pakeha Maori." Kimble Bent was the son of a half-caste Red Indian girl and Waterman Bent, her husband. He ran away from home in Eastport, Maine, U.S.A., and shipped on a U.S. training frigate, becoming a gunner. He eventually landed in Liverpool and when his money ran out took the Queen's shilling and joined the 57th Regiment, which he deserted and stowed on a barque bound for Boston. The barque was practically a wreck owing to a damage suffered in a storm, when the crew were taken off by another Boston ship, which landed them at Glasgow. He was wandering around the streets of Glasgow wondering what to do when the question was settled for him. He was recognised and arrested as a deserter. After completing his punishment he rejoined his regiment in India and from there eventually went to New Zealand. He again deserted and took up life with the Maoris, which is a story in itself. He saw the head of Capt. Lloyd brought into the village in which he lived and also saw the Hau-Hau practising cannibalism. It was after an action where white troops were killed. The body was put in an oven full of red-hot stones to roast it. Bent goes on to say, "Káténé and Wairau were two of those who ate the cooked soldier. I saw Káténé squatting there with a basket of this man meat and some potatoes before him. He took up a cooked hand and, before eating it, sucked up the *hinu*, or fat, that was collected in the palm just as if he were drinking water. The hands, when cooked, curled up with the fingers half closed, and the hollowed palm was filled with melted *hinu*." Edwin Bezar did not like Kimble Bent!

Bezar was continuously marching in the bush, fighting the native Maori who was an adept at bush craft and knew every track and tree. A skirmish on the banks of the Petea (where Sgt. O'Connor of the 57th was awarded the D.C.M.), cutting tracks through the undergrowth, surprise attacks by night and individual scoutings by day was his life at this time. On one occasion, Sgt. Bezar took a file of men out to investigate a reported appearance of the enemy. He saw a figure in the bush and fired a snap shot at it. At dawn he took out a file of men and, following in the direction the figure had disappeared, the dead body of a Maori was eventually

found. He could shoot as well as write. One day, whilst fishing in the Tangaoko River and feeling at peace with the world, he heard a rustling in the *rapou* opposite. Then a huge black head appeared. Bezar pretended he could not see this apparition, quietly pulled in his life and turned his back to the water, expecting any moment to hear the crash of a musket and the feel of a ball in the back. He was firmly convinced he would not see the morrow's sun and says, "I got to the top (of the bank) and no shot; I felt somewhat disappointed. Once on top a sudden bound brought me out of his sight, and I never covered more ground in the same space of time as I did on this occasion to the redoubt."

January 13, 1866, saw the attack on Otawapa Pah which had never been captured in any of the previous wars. This Pah was considered impregnable by the enemy and it was known that the fight would be fierce with no quarters asked. Lt.-Cols. Butler and Hassard commanded the detachments of the 57th, and the Maori in fight held their fire until the troops were within 40 yds. of the palisades. Pte. Doakes of the 57th, in face of the terrific fire, cut a passage through the palisade in a very gallant manner, this allowed our troops to pour in and get to grips with the enemy. The Maoris never fought better than in the defence of Otawapa which up to this action had defied all attempts to capture it. The casualties of the Regiment were two sergeants and five privates (including the gallant Doakes who would have been recommended for the Victoria Cross had he survived) killed, and Col. Hassard and eight men wounded. Col. Hassard died two days later.

C/Sgt. Bezar was later with a party at Keteonata when after a few shots being fired the place was captured. He captured a little grey mare as soon as he entered the place and eventually saw a saddle and bridle. He went to "collect" the last two, but when he returned he saw Capt. Sir Robert Douglas's servant walking off with the pony for his master. However, he sold the saddle for £6 to the Commissariat issuer on his return to camp. C/Sgt. Bezar at the end of numerous more forays eventually rejoined Regimental H.Q. in March, 1866, when the regimental band met and played in the last of the men who had been on outpost duty. He met up again with many friends, both military and civilian, also one with long tresses. A fortnight later he was listening to the ringing of wedding bells in place of the snapping of muskets he had been hearing for the past six years.

The 57th returned to England, leaving Auckland in March, 1867. The war was now over and all men entitled to their discharge could take it in the new country, or those not entitled could purchase their discharge. Many "Die-Hards" remained and gave trojan service to the Volunteer Forces and to the country. Edwin Bezar was the Sergeant-Major of the New Zealand Militia from 1867 to 1889. From 1892 he was a Volunteer drill instructor at Wairirapa. He was a "Die-Hard" whatever he did and always corresponded with the Regiment wherever it was stationed. He led a full life as a soldier and as a man, his children numbered a baker's dozen; his erect, smart figure was well known to all. Outliving all his contemporaries, he died on February 6, 1936, at the great age of 96. R.W.J.S.

HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE NEWSLETTER No. 5 (Continued from page 71)

Surreys Depot paddled canoes from Fordwich to Sandwich and back, a distance of 36 miles. The journey was completed in less than two days, the intervening night being spent under canvas at Sandwich.

As was mentioned in News Letter No. 4, this year has seen the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Quebec—that epic feat of arms at which the Royal Sussex Regiment distinguished themselves and from which dates the presence of the Roussillon plume in their cap badge. This year's Quebec Day, for those 8,000 soldiers, Old Comrades and families who visited the Depot at Chichester, was the swan song of the Regiment's association with the barracks, for on March 31 next year the Depot is due to close. The highlight of a memorable day was the re-enactment by members of the 1st Battalion of the Battle of Quebec episode which had proved such a popular item earlier this year at the Royal Tournament at Earls Court. This occasion was also amongst the last in which the 1st Battalion was able to be on view; they have since moved to Northern Ireland and, from all accounts, have settled themselves quickly into Holywood, Belfast.

And so another year, and incidentally another News Letter, comes to a close. Should there perchance not be space or opportunity to print the Brigade Colonel's Christmas and New Year message elsewhere in this edition, he would like to end this Letter by wishing all members of the Brigade, wherever they may be serving, a most happy and joyous Christmas and the best of everything in the coming year. Changes there are bound to be before 1966 has run its course, but there is no Regiment in the Brigade which, at one time or another throughout its life, has not had to put up with such things; and each one has emerged not only unscathed but strengthened from the ordeal. The future can, in consequence, be looked upon with confidence; and the future is a bright one, just for that very reason.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1959, at 2.30 p.m.

Present: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L. (Chairman), Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major E. L. Heywood, Major I. H. Batty, M.B.E., Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E., R.S.M. A. Kenrick, R.S.M. J. A. Thom, R.S.M. M. Wild, Mr. A. E. Sills, Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Brigadier G. Lerwill, M.C., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, T.D., Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton, C.S.M. C. Burgess.

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

2. *Secretary's Report.* The Secretary's report which was circulated with the Agenda was adopted.

Benevolent Work

During the period May 1 to August 31, 1959, 53 cases have been given financial assistance totalling £391 19s. 8d. Twelve cases have been assisted with the cost of convalescent holidays in co-operation with the British Legion, Middlesex County Council Welfare Department, etc. These grants range from £5 to £10, according to length of holiday or special requirements. In one case both the ex-serviceman and his wife were sent away as they were in need of a rest due to sickness and old age. A grant of £14 15s. was made in co-operation with the British Legion to provide a special bed-chair for an ex-Sergeant (M.M. and Bar) who had been bed-ridden for five years and was in hospital. The man was returning home and this particular chair had been recommended by the hospital for his comfort during waking hours. Due to brittle bones he dare not fall, and he had previously been

discharged from hospital for a while, but a slight fall had caused much damage and he had to be readmitted for treatment.

Help to meet rent arrears was granted to an ex-P.O.W. Japan, who suffers from blackouts, and this combined with the distress of the loss of his wife had prevented him working for some time. We were later able to find him suitable employment and further assistance was given him as he had to work for two weeks before receiving his first week's pay.

The parents of a recently deceased member of the Regiment who was posthumously awarded the M.M., were granted £10 towards their expenses in coming to London to attend the investiture at Buckingham Palace.

£10 was granted to an ex-member of the Regiment to assist in the cost of bringing his home from Cornwall to London. The man had obtained work in London and a flat to bring his wife and children to. This move was imperative as one of the children is spastic and had to attend a London clinic regularly for treatment.

We co-operated with S.S.A.F.A. by making a grant of £9 towards furnishing a room suitable for a widow to take in a paying guest and so supplement her income.

A regular ex-Corporal of the Regiment who died in 1954 at the age of 42 had, previous to his death, been a member of a self-building House Group. The other members of the Group had completed the last house and carried out the work of decoration for the widow and three children. Two of the three children are still at school and, due to severe nervous trouble, the widow is unable to work. We helped in this case by meeting the removal expenses.

Two elderly couples living on the Retirement Pension, plus supplementary allowance, were assisted with grants of £5 and £10. These two couples have both got adult mentally deficient children dependent upon them. In one case the daughter, although now in her thirties has the mentality of a child of five and is of a very destructive nature, which causes much extra expense and distress to her parents.

The other grants included many for clothing for sick and elderly ex-members of the Regiment; two families were assisted with the expense of rehousing—one of the families had been split up for a very long time, and therefore, the extra expense prevented any saving for the expense involved in setting up home. A widow was assisted with a large overdue gas account, and arrangements made for a slot meter to be installed to prevent further accounts accruing. A grant was also made towards the storing of the home of a widow who had been evicted from a W.D. Constabulary house.

Mill Hill Cottages. Since the last meeting the occupants of Cottages No. 3 and 4, Mr. Comber and Mr. Bagnall, have both died. *Regimental Reunion.* Circulars regarding the Reunion had been sent for distribution by the Branch Secretaries to their members, and the H.Q. members had all been notified. Sale of tickets has started, but slowly at the moment.

Remembrance Day. Arrangements have been made as usual for the ceremony at Westminster Abbey and members have been notified. Invitations to attend had been sent to the Chairman of the Middlesex County Council, the High Sheriff and Clerk to the County Council, and to Mayors of Boroughs and the Chairmen of Urban District Councils in Middlesex. Acceptances had been received from nearly all.

War Memorial. The sum of £364 10s. 10d. has been received from the 13th Battalion Home Guard as a donation to the War Memorial Fund. This sum has been invested in 5% Defence Bonds.

Army Benevolent Fund. An application has been made to this fund for a grant for the current year, and we are still awaiting a decision. The Secretary informs us that if a grant is made we will receive the first half on October 2.

3. *Finance Committee's Report.* Col. Fox explained that owing to his own absence on holiday, and with a view to having an up-to-date consideration of the Mullens' report, it was arranged that the Finance Committee should meet on October 5, only two days before this meeting. In view, however, of the imminence of Election Day, which was not known when this was fixed, the Finance Committee recommended that a decision on the Mullens' report be deferred until after the General Election, and that Col. Roberts be asked to join the Committee, who should meet with power to act as they deemed fit without reference back to the Executive Committee.

Col. Fox reminded the Committee of the approach which he had made to the Army Benevolent Fund in August, and was pleased to report that a grant of £350 had been obtained, one moiety of which had already been received and the other to be paid in January 1960.

It was recommended that the Committee approve of the following donations to other charities:

	£	s.	d.
Regular Forces' Employment Association	25	0	0
Family Welfare Association	5	0	0
Royal Soldiers' Daughters' Homes	5	0	0
S.S.A.F.A.	10	0	0
Forces' Help Society	10	10	0
Gordon Boys' School	5	5	0
B.L.E.S.M.A.	5	5	0
Royal Cambrian Homes for Soldiers' Widows	5	0	0
Embarkment Fellowship	5	0	0
	£80	3	0

The Report and recommendations of the Finance Committee were adopted.

4. *War Memorial Committee's Report.* In the absence of Brigadier Rackham R.S.M. Kenrick explained the report.

It was proposed by Col. Fox and unanimously approved that the administration of the Cottage Homes at Mill Hill be the responsibility of the existing Housing sub-Committee, as well as that of the Enfield Homes, and that allocations be recommended by the Housing sub-Committee to the Executive Committee for final approval. In addition, that the sub-Committee be asked to consider and report to the Executive Committee on the desirability or otherwise of charging a rent for the Mill Hill Cottages in similar terms to those in force at Enfield.

The report of the War Memorial Committee was adopted.

5. *Journal Committee's Report.* Major Batty reported that there was a reduction in the income from advertisements. He also reported that the June copy was issued at the normal time, but the September issue was late, due to the printers' strike; the December issue would, however, be out to normal time.

It was decided that the Secretary should write to the Depot, the 1st Battalion, the T.A. Battalions and Secretaries of Branches, asking them to delegate a representative to promote the sales of Journals.

The Secretary was also instructed to arrange that in future individuals' copies were held for seven days after the bulk issues had been despatched.

6. *Consideration of Investments.* Col. Fox explained the problem contained in the report from Messrs. Mullens and the recommendations, and it was resolved that the Finance Committee, with the addition of Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, be authorised to review the position of our investments in the light of Mullens' report after the General Election, at a date to be decided upon by the Chairman, and to act thereon as they deemed fit.

The Committee also approved the sale of £1,049 1s. 0d. 3½% Conversion Stock 1961.

7. *Grant.* The Committee approved a grant of £5 ss. to the Fifth Army Memorial Fund (1916-18) towards the cost of a stained glass window in the Church of St. Peters-upon-Cornhill.

8. *Branches Committee's Report.* The report was discussed and the following recommendations approved:

That a list of Branches, the addresses and the Secretary's name be published in the Journal.

That all Units be requested to submit to the Secretary of the Association lists of names and addresses of individuals on the termination of their service, together with information as to past service.

That Col. Clayton be authorised to consult an officer of the 8th Battalion who was an advertising expert to advise on publicity generally.

That a new Branch be opened in the first instance at Enfield with Major A. T. Jones as organiser. The Committee approved a grant of £50 for this purpose. The Committee recorded their appreciation of Major Jones's agreement to accept this task, and the Secretary was asked to thank him on their behalf and express the wish that every success should reward his efforts.

That the Officers' Bar at the Annual Reunion be discontinued and that all bars should be available to All Ranks.

That Major Newman explore the possibility of a sealed pattern of Blazer Badge being designed for adoption and approval of the Executive Committee.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Col. Clayton and his Committee for their report.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.50 p.m. The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday, March 16, 1960, at the Middlesex Guildhall.

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

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT OFFICERS' CLUB HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1959, at 4.50 p.m.

Present: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L. (Chairman), Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Major I. H. Batty, M.B.E., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major E. L. Heywood, Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E., Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Brigadier G. Lerwill, M.C., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, T.D., Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton.

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

2. *Secretary's Report.* The Secretary's report which had been circulated with the agenda was adopted.

Presentation to Sir Harold Gillel. M.C. It was agreed that the presentation be made to Sir Harold Gillel at a dinner to be held at the Depot in the near future. The O.C. Depot agreed to make the necessary arrangements.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5 p.m.

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

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

(as at December 1, 1959)

NOT ON THE REGIMENTAL LIST

Rank	Name	Appointment and Location
Brigadier	G. P. L. Weston, D.S.O., O.B.E.	Commandant, Army Air Corps Centre, Middle Wallop
Col.	A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E.	Army Council Representative, N.A.A.F.I.
Col.	A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E.	Commander, 4 (Scottish) Port Task Force (T.A.), Glasgow
T/Brig.	R. A. Gwyn, O.B.E.	Mil. Superv., Tac. & Log. War Games, A.O.R.G., Byfleet
T/Brig.	J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E.	Commander, 168 Brigade (T.A.)
T/Brig.	C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C., M.A.	Commander, 125 Infantry Brigade, T.A.
Lt.-Col.	J. W. G. Ormiston	G.S.O.1 (Org. & Trg.) H.Q., A.F.N.E., Oslo
Lt.-Col.	A. G. Hewitt, M.B.E., M.C.	C.O., Ghana Training Centre, Kumasi
Lt.-Col.	T. W. Chattey	A.Q.M.G., H.Q. Cyprus District
Lt.-Col.	A. R. Waller, M.B.E., M.C.	A.Q.M.G.(M.), H.Q. B.A.O.R.
T/Col.	W. P. M. Allen, O.B.E., M.C.	A.A.G. Recruiting H.Q., Western Command
Lt.-Col.	D. C. L. Nolda, O.B.E., B.A.	G.S.O.1 (Trg.), Western Command

REGULAR OFFICERS

T/Col. (L/Brig.)	I. R. Burrows, O.B.E., M.A.	Military Attaché, Moscow
T/Lt.-Col.	I. H. Batty, M.B.E., B.A.	Comd., 1st Middlesex
Major	G. C. Dawson	2IC Admin. Wing, Mons O.C.S.
Major	F. E. J. Bennett	D.A.A.Q.M.G., H.Q. Cheshire Area
Major	R. K. B. Allott, M.C.	H.Q. Movement Control, Harwich
Major	E. F. Thompson, M.C., T.D.	G.S.O.2, H.Q. Northern Ireland District
Major	P. L. Crutchfield	D.A.Q.M.G. (Works), H.Q. Eastern Command, Hounslow
Major	P. L. Pearce-Gould, M.B.E., M.A.	2IC, 1st Middlesex
Major	R. D. Hutchings	Comd., Depot Middlesex
L/Lt.-Col.	D. Sax	Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham
Major	G. Kent	A.S.C.D., Epsom
Major	C. N. Clayden	1st Middlesex
Major	E. A. H. Jeffcoat	1st Middlesex
Major	P. W. Galvin	B.M., 160 Infantry Brigade (T.A.)
Major	J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.	D.A.A.G., A.L.F.C.E.
Major	C. H. Mievill, M.C.	Army Outward Bound School
Major	P. G. V. Bellers	469 G.L.S., B.A.O.R.
Major	J. de Gaye (L)	M.I.3, The War Office
Major	K. J. Carter	G.S.O.2 (Ops.), Southern Command
Major	J. S. C. Flavell	Adj., 8th Middlesex
Capt.	N. F. Legge, B.A.	Adj., 7th Middlesex
Capt.	H. J. A. Moore	1st Middlesex
Capt.	J. I. D. Pike, M.C.	Federation of Malaya Military College
Capt.	B. A. M. Pielow	Staff College, Camberley
Capt.	R. M. Cain, B.A.	Adj., Hong Kong Regiment
Capt.	G. G. Norton	1st Middlesex
Capt.	B. K. Clayden	Depot (H.S.)
Capt.	B. H. Marciandi	H.Q. 2 Brigade, B.A.O.R.
Capt.	C. L. Lawrence, M.C.	1st Middlesex
Capt.	P. A. S. Wollocombe	Depot Middlesex
Capt.	I. S. Rutherford	P.R. Pool, H.Q. B.A.O.R.
Capt.	G. Kitchener	1st Middlesex
Capt.	J. S. B. Pollard	1st Middlesex
Capt.	R. D. Fisher	Ghana Regiment Training Centre
Capt.	M. V. Hayward	Adj., 1st Middlesex

Capt.	A. E. McManus	1st Middlesex
Capt.	T. J. Humber	3rd Parachute Regiment
T/Capt.	W. G. A. Crumley	Adj., Depot Middlesex
Lt.	J. M. Hewson, M.C.	3rd Parachute Regiment
Lt.	I. M. E. Lloyd	1st Middlesex
Lt. (t/Capt.)	H. M. du V. Lohan	G.S.O.3 (Int.), H.Q. 5 Infantry Brigade
Lt.	M. C. D. L. Gilham	Depot Middlesex
Lt.	P. Mallalieu	1st Middlesex
Lt.	M. G. Waite	1st Middlesex
Lt.	M. F. Deakin	Depot Middlesex
Lt.	P. V. Cheesman	1st Middlesex
Lt.	M. Legg	1st Middlesex
Lt.	P. D. J. Clarke	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	M. Julian	Depot Middlesex (H.S.)
2/Lt.	G. Bulloch	Depot Middlesex (H.S.)
2/Lt.	A. B. Cowing	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	G. Goring	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	R. C. Pitman	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	J. Lofting	1st Middlesex

REGULAR QUARTERMASTERS

Major	C. A. Trestain, M.B.E.	H.Q. Salisbury Plain District
Capt.	S. C. W. Weller, M.M.	Depot Middlesex
Capt.	A. E. F. Waldron, M.B.E.	1st Middlesex
Capt.	P. Donovan	1st Middlesex
Lt.	F. L. Griffiths	8th Middlesex

SHORT-SERVICE OFFICERS

Major	L. G. Lohan, T.D.	Ministry of Defence
Major	A. E. Peasley	Adj., Home Postal Depot, R.E.
Major	J. Bywaters, M.B.E.	Training Officer, W.O.S.B., Barton Stacey
Major	G. W. P. Hodding, T.D.	S.O.P.T., H.Q. Scottish Command
Major	C. E. Rome, M.B.E.	G.S.O.2, Ministry of Supply
Major	E. L. Ellisdon	War Office
Capt.	A. R. Cowan	1st Middlesex
Capt.	A. R. F. Smith	3rd Q.O. Nigeria Regiment
Lt.	P. McRae	Port Security, Cyprus
2/Lt.	P. M. Dubbery	1st Middlesex

SHORT-SERVICE QUARTERMASTERS

Lt.	E. J. Pike	7th Middlesex
Lt.	F. Redpath, B.E.M.	2nd Q.O. Nigeria Regiment
Lt.	M. Wild	1st Q.O. Nigeria Regiment

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICERS

2/Lt.	E. C. S. Ivens	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	M. S. Bloomfield	1st Q.O. Nigeria Regiment
2/Lt.	G. B. Taylor	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	E. L. S. Taylor	4 Guards Brigade, (M.T.), B.A.O.R.
2/Lt.	G. L. N. Hughes	C.O.D., Donnington
2/Lt.	H. S. Grant	5th K.A.R., Nakuru
2/Lt.	A. C. Stern	C.A.D., Bramley

RECENT RETIREMENTS

Major	S. E. Honess	Major (Q.M.)	L. T. Honeybun
Capt.	W. M. M. Deacock	Capt. (Q.M.)	H. J. Jennings
Capt.	H. J. Evans	Capt.	A. D. C. Eales



There's nothing like Leather

THE ARMY BOOT STILL SLOGS ON

*We're foot-slog-slog-slog-sloggin' over Africa,
Foot, foot, foot, foot-sloggin' over Africa
(Boots, boots, boots, boots, movin' up an' down again);
There's no discharge in the war!*

Rudyard Kipling's description of the P.B.I. in his poem "Boots" describes—in words a soldier might have used—the tremendous strain of a sustained route march, and how well the British soldier, and his boots, have always stood up to it.

Next to his rifle, a soldier's boots are his most precious possession. The Duke of Wellington's axiom still holds good: "The most important item of equipment for a soldier is, first, a good serviceable pair of boots; second, another pair of boots; and, third, a pair of half-soles."

Without his boots, a soldier loses mobility and becomes a sitting pigeon for the enemy. Even without an enemy, he would not last long barefooted. Arctic cold would give him gangrene and frostbite; jungle depths would find his feet and ankles smothered with filthy clinging leeches; a mountain climb would leave him with feet bleeding and incapacitated.

Of course, no soldier has any illusions about his job. It is to go anywhere and do anything. War is full of the unexpected, and not even the most detailed planning can provide for the unpredictable. But, in facing these hazards, every soldier is entitled to expect that any hazard which can be foreseen should be minimised by the provision of the best and most hard-wearing equipment possible.

Only leather, it is justifiably claimed, can meet the variety of conditions and strains for which a soldier must be prepared. There are good scientific reasons for this. The fibres of leather, as the microscope shows, are three-dimensional, and interlock in the most intricate way, combining pliancy and strength in a way which no other natural material can equal and which no synthetic material can even begin to imitate.

Woven fibres criss-cross in two directions. Try to imagine the weave not only horizontal, but vertical as well, and you will have some idea of how tough leather is. No known method of weaving can duplicate the qualities of leather.

In other respects, too, synthetic materials, ingenious though they are, cannot do what leather does. Leather combines opposite qualities. It can be made to resist moisture, and yet retain its porosity and absorbent qualities. If leather were not absorbent, perspiration from the foot would not be able to escape; perspiration which cannot be absorbed by the shoe causes the foot to become inflamed, with resultant skin troubles such as athlete's foot.

Repelling moisture and absorbing perspiration, the leather Army boot does two opposite jobs at once, but it does another—it ventilates the foot as well. Leather "breathes," for it is actually porous. Here again no synthetic material has this quality. The Leather Manufacturers' Research Association has proved that the feet of an active man on a warm day give off an average of six ounces of perspiration in 12 hours—two

pints in a week. But the soldier is more active than any civilian, and it is easy to see that he would soon be in a state if he were ever compelled to wear boots with anything but leather soles.

The British Army Boot has a long and honourable history. It has stood up to every imaginable climate and to every possible condition. It has been abused, outraged, misused and overworked, and come through with flying colours.

Leather has been the soldier's friend for thousands of years. Sandals of leather from the tomb of Tutankhamen can still be seen in Cairo Museum. Sir Leonard Woolley, in his excavations at "Ur of the Chaldees" found proof of their extensive use of leather. There is in the Turin Museum a fragment of leather 7,000 years old, while flints used for scraping hides have been estimated by archaeologists and geologists to be at least 18,000 years old.

From classical statuary it would seem that sandals were the most popular type of footwear in ancient times, but boots were known to the ancients too. Homer mentions them about 907 B.C., and so do Roman historians.

Haydn, in his "Dictionary of Dates"—a standard reference work—says that boots "are said to be the invention of the Carians, and were made of iron, brass or leather." I do not know who the Carians were, for even the "Encyclopædia Britannica" is silent on the subject, but I am willing to wager that the Carian soldiers had something to say if they were forced to go on long marches in iron boots!

The ancestor, one might say the Adam, of all Army boots is the Army ankle boot, which was introduced in 1913. Until then the handsewn Blucher was issued, but these, it was realised, could never be produced in sufficient quantities for a modern army. It was clear that Britain would need a million pairs, and that a revolution in manufacturing techniques was called for.

And so the First World War saw the triumph of the machine-riveted seam against the old hand-sewn welt, and the widespread use of full or semi-chrome leather for uppers. Chrome tanned leather can be given any surface colour required, but can be recognised, by a cross-section, by its bluish tinge.

The poor old Quartermaster is usually accused of handing out any old pair of boots which comes to hand, with sadistic indifference as to whether they fit or not. In fact, an immense range of sizes is made, ranging from size 3 to 22!

Even before 1914, immense research had gone into the designing of the Army ankle boot. Measurements of whole regiments were consulted and averaged, it was thought that the boot produced could never be improved, and under the most terrible conditions it proved equal to every ordeal. The scrape of gravel and rock, the impact of flying metal and the endless squelch of mud left the boots wearable and sound.

The research, however, continued. By 1938 the orthopaedists (who understand the bone structure of the body, and the stresses which they can sustain) and scientists had combined to design a new type of ankle boot which saw service in every field in the Second World War.

The complexities of modern war have, of course, increased the range and the specifications of the sort of Army boots required. More than 150 different varieties of footwear had to be designed and manufactured in the last war. The Arctic boot, which saw service in Norway and other cold climates, had to be specially treated so that the hide would not set hard in extreme temperatures. The climbing boot had a reinforced toe and metal sole fittings to give grip in climbing rough surfaces, and the assault boot was made to withstand anything—sand, gravel and rock.

Then there were the jungle boots worn during the Burma Campaign. Red ants, leeches, snakes, termites, torrential rain and all-enveloping mud—it had to resist them all. The loathsome leech was excluded by a leather tongue sewn right across the "throat" of the boot to the top of the upper and tightly laced. And it had double soles. No use looking for a boot repairer in the heart of the jungle! Without boots the jungle would soon get you if the enemy did not.

A soldier will put up with most things, but not with boots which do not fit him or cause him discomfort in wear—and quite rightly too!

ADVT.

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