

The Die Hards

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



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THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN)

(57th and 27th)

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

"Mysore," "Serinagapatam," "Albuhara," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsula," "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa 1900-02," "World War I—46 Battalions—" Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "La Bassée, 1914," "Messines, 1914," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Bellevue," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme," "Albert, 1916," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Flers-Courcette," "Marval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "Bapaume, 1917," "Arras, 1917," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "Arleux," "Ploeghem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "St. Quentin," "Roosters," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazeubrouck," "Bailleul," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Dorian, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suvla," "Landing at Suvla," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughhar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell Asur," "Palestine 1917-18," "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murmur, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

World War II—7 Battalions—North-West Europe, 1940: "The Dyle," "Defence of the Escaut," "Ypres-Comines Canal," "Dunkirk, 1940," "South-East Asia, 1941: "Hong Kong," "North Africa, 1942-43: "El Alamein," "Advance on Tripoli," "Mareth," "Akarit," "Djebel Rounana," "Sicily, 1943: "Francofonte," "Sferro," "Sferro Hills," "Italy, 1944-45: "Anzio," "Caraceto," "Gothic Line," "Monte Grande," "North-West Europe, 1944-45: "Normandy Landing," "Cambes," "Breville," "The Odon," "Caen," "The Orne," "Hill 112," "Bourguibus Ridge," "Troarn," "Mont Pincon," "Falaise," "The Seine, 1944," "The Nederling," "Le Havre," "The Lower Maas," "Venraij," "Meijel," "Gelenkirchen," "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."

Colonel of the Regiment

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

Commanding Officers

1st Bn.—Lt. Col. I. H. Battye, M.B.E.
Depot—Major R. D. Hutchings
7th Bn.—Lt. Col. D. E. Simpson, T.D.
8th Bn.—Lt. Col. I. D. Brotherton.
571 L.A.A. Regiment (9th Middlesex)—Lt. Col. J. R. Doyle, T.D.

Home Counties Brigade

H.Q.: Weymss Barracks, Canterbury.
Brigade Colonel: Col. H. R. Grace, O.B.E.
D.A.A.G.: Major M. R. H. Stopford.

Regular Battalion

1st Bn. (Amalgamated with 2nd Bn. 1948)—B.A.O.R.

Regimental Depot and Regimental Museum

Ingils 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 and Pay Offices

Record Office—Infantry Records, Exeter.
Regimental Pay Office—Canterbury.

Allied Units

CANADA

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

NEW ZEALAND

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

HONG KONG REGIMENT

British Forces Post Office, 1, Hong Kong.

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

Headquarters:

Depot, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), Ingils 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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2/7th Bn.	Major R. E. Robotham, M.C., 39 Cyprus Avenue, Church End, Finchley, N.3.
Hornsey	Mr. A. E. Sills, 100 Somerset Road, Tottenham, N.17.
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Uxbridge	Mr. A. W. Bennett, 110 Yeading Lane, Hayes Middlesex.
9th Bn.	Mr. H. J. Fisher, 180 Purves Road, Kensal Rise, N.W.10.
Hong Kong	Capt. W. J. T. Lane, M.B.E., c/o Hong Kong Defence Force, British Army Post Office, 1.
12th Bn Home Guard	Capt. S. R. Bonnamy, 3 Claremont Road, Ealing, W.13.

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

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

Subscriptions should be forwarded to the Editor, "The Die-Hards" Journal, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), Ingils Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7; cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, and crossed " & Co." Annual subscription 5s. (post free).

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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Editor's Comments

The Closing of the Depot

On July 27, a decision was finally taken on the dates for the closure of the Depot, and for the future development of the Inglis Barracks site.

Our Depot will disband on January 31, 1961, and the rear party will have until March 31 to dispose of stores and tidy up. R.H.Q. will be established with effect from February 1, but we do not expect that it will be fully staffed until your Editor arrives to take over command, at the beginning of April.

The last National Service Intake, scheduled for the East Anglian Brigade, joins on October 6, and will pass out just before Christmas. Regular recruits joining after the last week in October will be sent to Home Counties Brigade Depot for training.

As soon as we have moved out, site clearing will begin and new buildings and improvement to existing buildings will start in August.

The final layout will be as follows:—

A and B blocks will be reconditioned and occupied by the Home Postal Depot. Their offices and headquarters will be built on the present site of the lavatories, and the dining halls and kitchen are to be demolished, leaving a clear space between the blocks.

C block is to be demolished and in its place a new block for the headquarters of the W.R.A.C. Battalion who are to be the other occupants of this site, will be erected. The women soldiers' living quarters will be in new barrack blocks to be put on the present football pitch adjacent to C block.

The huts of 10 Command Workshops are to be cleared and the hillside will then be landscaped, which will certainly be an improvement.

Our R.H.Q., which will include the Museum, will be located in the present Depot Orderly Room block, and our War Memorial will remain *in situ*.

Cricket Week

The year 1960 will be a sad one for all lovers of cricket throughout the Regiment for it will probably see the end of our enjoyable and hospitable Cricket Week, therefore it is fitting to record that it ended on a happy and unique note for it is the first time that a serving general officer has represented the Regiment—we refer

naturally to Major-Gen. Joe Weston, who has played regularly since he was first commissioned in 1931. Our congratulations to him on this splendid achievement and incidentally on his substantive promotion; our thanks also to him for his unfailing support of our Cricket Week.

We are mindful also of the financial support always given by the Officers' Club, without which the Cricket Week would never have been possible.

Rev. A. J. Wilcox, C.B.E.

Former members of the 2nd Battalion will be very sorry to hear that Padre Wilcox died recently at the age of 71. He was an old and dear friend of the 77th, whom he came to know well in Cairo in 1920-21. After retiring from the Army he was appointed curate to St. Margarets, Westminster. A personal tribute from *The Times* appears elsewhere.

Capt. Sir Vyvyan Holt, K.B.E., C.M.G., M.V.O.

Another great loss has been sustained by the Regiment in the person of Capt. Sir Vyvyan Holt, known affectionately to his many friends of the 2nd and 9th Battalions as "Dammie." He was a gallant gentleman and a most loyal supporter of our Regiment. Personal tributes from Cols. Fox and Sloane Stanley appear elsewhere.

Remembrance Sunday

Although the Depot closes shortly the War Memorial remains, and it is our fervent wish and hope that future Remembrance Sundays will be held at the Regimental Memorial at Mill Hill.

OFFICER RETIREMENTS

Major J. Bywaters, M.B.E.

Major John Bywaters recently retired from the Active List after 21 years' service with the Regiment. He enlisted in the 7th Battalion in 1939 and was commissioned in 1940, when he joined the 2nd Battalion at Poole. It was whilst serving with this Battalion that he sustained an injury to his back which caused permanent disability and prevented him from serving with field units. He also served for some time with

26 Machine Gun Training Centre and, later, with the British Mission in Greece. In the last ten years of his service he was employed as a Permanent Staff Officer with the Regular Commissions Board and the War Office Selection Board at Barton Stacey, where he was awarded the M.B.E. for his services.

John Bywaters has always been a keen member of the Regiment and was often to be seen at the Regimental Golf Meetings, where he was a most successful competitor. He is now Secretary of the Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club and was very kind to your Editor when the latter played there in July.

H.M. THE QUEEN'S SPEECH TO THE 3rd BATTALION GRENADIER GUARDS

"Colonel Way, Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Guardsmen of the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards:

"I do not think that there can be anybody here today who does not feel a pang of sorrow and regret as we say goodbye to this historic Battalion. Owing to the changing structure of the Army, other Regiments have already lost Battalions with long and distinguished records. Many of them have held their final parades, and their Colours have been laid up. Through being your Colonel for ten years, I have had a closer link with the Grenadiers than with any other Regiment in the Army, and that is why I have invited you here today. But I would like you to remember those other Regiments too; and I ask them to regard this Parade as symbolic of my feelings of sympathy with all Corps and Regiments in the Army which have lost units for which they have as great an affection as all Grenadiers feel for their 3rd Battalion."

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 30 .. Autumn Golf Meeting—Hendon.
- Oct. 28 .. Annual General Meeting—Seymour Hall.
- Nov. 12 .. Remembrance Day Service—Field of Remembrance, Westminster.
- Nov. 13 .. Remembrance Day Service—Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.
- Nov. 23 .. Officers' Club Cocktail Party—Depot.
- Nov. 25 .. 57th/77th Officers' Dinner—United Services Club.

57th/77th MILITIA DINNER

This dinner is being held at the United Services Club on Friday, November 25, 1960.

Those eligible to attend are officers who have served with any Regular or Militia Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment at any time.

It is hoped, therefore, that Short Service, National Service and Emergency Commissioned officers who served with the 1st or 2nd Battalions will attend. Further information may be obtained from the P.M.C. at the Depot. Regular and Militia officers will receive the usual letter in due course, but it is impossible to circularise everybody.

OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER, 1960

The Officers' Club Dinner was held at the United Services Club on Friday, July 22. Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall presided, and the following also attended: Lt.-Col. G. B. Ayre, Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, Capt. M. J. Beaumont, Major F. J. Bennett, Capt. R. Bennett, Capt. S. R. Bonnamy, Major J. C. Du Parc Braham, Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton, Col. M. Browne, Major K. J. Carter, Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey, Major A. W. Clark, Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Major P. Collins, Lt.-Col. H. Cook, Lt.-Col. S. F. W. M. del Court, Major W. R. Dawe, Lt. M. F. Deakin, Lt. R. T. Douthet, Major H. C. Ellis, Col. W. D. Ellis, Major H. J. Evans, Major H. Farrow, Brigadier E. W. C. Flavell, Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, 2/Lt. G. N. Freeborn, Major P. W. Galvin, Capt. M. C. D. L. Gilham, Lt. E. C. Graham, Capt. R. E. Guest, Major J. A. Hamilton, Major H. K. Hardcastle, Major G. Hartley, Col. S. F. Hedgecoe, Lt.-Col. A. S. Hewson, Major E. L. Heywood, Major G. W. P. Hodding, Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian G. Horrocks, Major R. D. Hutchings, Major S. C. Jay, Major R. A. Kaye, Major G. Kent, Capt. C. L. Lawrence, Major R. J. Leighton, Major Sir Arthur Lewey, Major H. R. MacKenzie Biggs, Col. A. M. Man, Col. N. Moller, Capt. H. J. A. Moore, Capt. H. A. Parker, Major A. E. Peasley, Major B. A. M. Pielow, 2/Lt. R. C. Pitman, Col. W. E. Pringle, Lt.-Col. D. Sax, Col. R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker, Major H. Sherwood, Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, Col. W. A. Stewart, Brigadier O. H. Tidbury, Capt. C. G. Webber, Capt. S. C. W. Weller, and Major M. P. Weedon.

During the Dinner telegrams from H.M. The Queen and from the 1st Battalion were read, and Gen. Bucknall informed those present that he had received a letter from the Colonel of the Regiment who regretted his inability to be present himself, and he had asked Gen. Bucknall to deputise for him.

OFFICERS' CLUB "AT HOME"

The "At Home" was held in the Officers' Mess at the Regimental Depot on June 25. Some 50 past and present members of the Club and widows of deceased officers attended, and enjoyed the excellent tea provided by the NAAFI.

Another dozen or so who had intended to come were unfortunately kept away by a very bad thunderstorm in London in the afternoon. The storm in fact missed Mill Hill and the visitors were able to enjoy the brilliant sunshine on the lawns. A few guests took advantage of their visit to the Depot to look over the Regimental Museum.

An otherwise very enjoyable occasion was spoiled only by the knowledge that this would be the last time that we would be able to hold this party at the Regimental Depot.

STOP PRESS

CRICKET

We have just heard that the Depot won the London District Challenge Cup by beating the Provost Company, R.M.P.

1st Battalion Notes

In contrast to last year, Sennelager, Soltau, and the Nuclear Battle generally, have taken place under lowering skies.

We ended our last journal notes at Sennelager, not daring to look into the future. The later part of April was taken up with finishing off our training there, and making full use of excellent ranges and facilities provided. Sennelager is always a welcome break from the normal routine of barrack life, and although living conditions are not of the best, a visit there is more than worth while. All ranks made a great effort, and displayed great enthusiasm, and many lessons were learnt, from tactical handling of weapons to the lighting of stoves. We returned on April 3, and immediately plunged vigorously into our activities for May.

These were varied, and included many sporting events, besides the usual testing training schemes and exercises. The Battalion made its mark in the 2nd Division Individual Athletics Championships. Lt. Cheesman gained first place in the discus and weight; while Cpl. Sheffield won the hurdles, 2/Lt. Everard the 800 metres, and Pte. Ward the 400 metres. We extend our congratulations to all these athletes. Our swimming team was unearthed from somewhere, and managed to retain the 2nd Division Championship Cup after a close tussle. An account of these activities appears elsewhere. Apparently only pressure of training prevented us from going forward to the B.A.O.R. finals. The month of May also saw us sweep the board at the 11th Infantry Brigade rifle meeting, with a win in every team event. Last year we won by the skin of our teeth, but this year there was no doubt as to who were the winners. We extend our congratulations to the shooting team on this outstanding achievement. The result was a worthy reflection of the team's hard work and keenness in none too easy conditions.

Despite the rigours of the training programme we found time to celebrate Albuhera Day. The Sergeants' Mess held a most successful ball to which the officers and their ladies were invited. The buffet was particularly appreciated, and was the work of W.O.2 Medlock (A.C.C.), who is still with us from Austrian days.

Exercise "May Madness" also took place during this month, and tested the various departments of the Battalion in rapid movement. Pouring rain made the exercise noteworthy.

Later, some platoons went to Hohne to practise infantry/tank co-operation with the tanks. Again many lessons were learnt, and a study made of the other fellow's point of view. Hohne, incidentally, is next to the camp site of Belsen, the remains of which can still be seen.

Yet another party went to Norway, this time under 2/Lt. Pitman, who has now withdrawn to the Depot. An account of their activities appears elsewhere in this journal. Lt. Legg has taken a further party who have

not yet returned at time of writing. All speak highly of these trips as training, and the activities certainly seem to be varied. Raw fish seems to be one of the high-lights.

The new Brigade Commander paid us a visit and seemed well satisfied with what he saw. We also received a visit from the new Divisional Commander. In addition we supplied Berlin train guards without any international incident occurring.

During June we managed to concentrate our efforts on the Queen's birthday, and a parade was held this year to mark the occasion. The Commanding Officer took the salute. This was followed by a Beating of Retreat on the square by the Band and the Corps of Drums, to which local notables were invited. Afterwards, a cocktail party was given in the Officers' Mess to all those who attended the Retreat, and this was followed by a kellar party.

Exercise "June Joy" followed this, to be followed in its turn by the annual training fortnight at Soltau. This year we were camped in a different locality, and much nearer to the showers and other facilities. Soltau is situated on the famous Lueneburg heath, which many will recall from war days. However, we were very unlucky with the weather, and it poured with rain most of the time. Nonetheless, much first-class training was done, despite testing conditions. Well fitted for battle from Soltau, we went quickly into Exercise "Blind Mouse," a stiff test for staffs and headquarters.

As we go to print, the Battalion is away on yet another scheme, this time in co-operation with German forces. For once the sun is shining.

The wanderlust has not only gripped the "Norway-ites," so to speak, but also the assault pioneers, who built themselves a raft and sailed down the Weser more or less in a northerly direction.

They had a successful trip, even if they did not get as far as they expected.

Major E. L. Heywood visited us from the Depot and was to be seen visiting Hameln's places of interest. Also, Lt.-Col. del Court paid us a visit from South Africa, and attended the Queen's Birthday Parade. Finally, we had a visit from the Colonel of the Regiment, who took a keen interest in all our activities.

We are indeed sad to lose our Bandmaster, Mr. F. A. Jackson, who has been our Bandmaster for the last ten years. He is retiring, and we wish him every success in civilian life. He, and Mrs. Jackson, will be missed very much. An appreciation of him appears further on.

This seems to be a quarter of departures, for we also lose our Padre, the Rev. Desche. He has been with us some nine months, and we are indeed sorry to see him go. We have grown accustomed to his measured and dignified services, and to his excellent sermons. He possessed an invaluable ability to talk in the 20th century, without in any way departing from the tradi-

tional concepts of Church teaching. He is going to a parish in Canterbury, and we wish him very well in his new ministry.

However, we welcome 2/Lts. Dudson, Rose and O'Regan, who have newly joined us, and also Major J. N. Shipster who many will know already. He has returned to us from N.A.T.O.

In conclusion, we congratulate Major and Mrs. Bellers on the birth of a son. Also Capt. and Mrs. Lloyd on the birth of a daughter, Capt. and Mrs. Cowan on the birth of a son, and Capt. and Mrs. Kitchener on the birth of a son also.

CHURCH NOTES

When the Chaplain is challenged by the sentry on entering his own barracks, and asked what his business is, it is either a sign that he does not enter it often enough or that the soldier concerned obviously makes only occasional appearances in church, and has not yet visualised what his padre looks like. Having had this experience on the day these notes are written, it is clear that too many days have been spent in hospital by the present Chaplain to the Battalion, and not enough by the soldier in attending church on a Sunday! Which is only another proof of the conclusion the writer has come to believe, and that is, that it is generally six of one and half a dozen of the other in any disagreement, whether matrimonial or otherwise.

Albuhera Day was observed once again by a Service of Remembrance conducted by the Revd. W. B. Haynes, S.C.F., of 11th Brigade Group. Rev. Haynes has now left B.A.O.R. and has been replaced by the Rev. A. K. James, whom some members of the Battalion knew in Cyprus. The present Chaplain to the 1st Battalion leaves on August 3 on release, and is being replaced by the Rev. W. Crawte, who arrives on August 18. Mr. Crawte will be in B.A.O.R. for a three-year tour, so it is hoped that he will remain with the Battalion for the rest of its time in Germany. As he is an Irishman, and still on the right side of thirty, a certain interest in his potentiality on the rugged field has been displayed by one officer at least. Mr. Crawte is married and has two young children. He will certainly find a very friendly parish, whether he is the athletic type or not.

ADVENTURE TRAINING Norway, May 3-27, 1960

In order to encourage initiative and self-reliance in junior ranks in the Army, the 1st (Br.) Corps have organised an "Outward Bound" type of adventure training camp in Isefjaer, Norway. Parties of 20 from each Division and command in B.A.O.R. go up to the camp each week for training, after which they practice what they have learnt for a fortnight in the mountains.

It all started for our party when, on May 3, we (2Lt. Pitman, L/Cpl. Green ("A" Company), L/Cpl. Niles ("C" Company), and L/Cpl. Forde ("S" Company)) slung our Bergen rucksacks on the 1-tonner and set off for Minden. At Minden we met two others of our party, all from 2nd Division. The first part of the journey was to get to Hirtals in North Denmark, to get the ferry to Kristiansand in South Norway. This

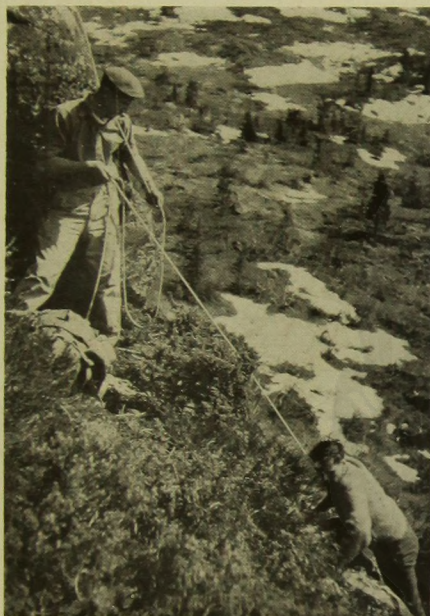
was accomplished in an Army bus which took two and a half days for the trip. On the way we stayed one night in Kiel and one at a Danish barracks at Aalsberg. This part of the journey, though being uncomfortable, was interesting for seeing the change in the countryside and people.

On the ferry we came into contact with the Scandinavian breakfast and smørbrød. It was a pleasant change to the English egg at breakfast and roast beef for lunch. We arrived in Kristiansand on the evening of Thursday, May 5, and were at once bundled into an ancient U.S. Army Chevrolet 2½-tonner and driven at terrifying speed along the loose stone roads through the mountains to Isefjaer. From the back of the vehicle we got our first view of Norway, one which is impressed in our memory for ever. The country has a gaunt but warm mixture of hard grey rocks and softer green trees and brown fern.

Isefjaer, like most of the small villages, is no more than half a dozen houses perched on flattish ridges of land at the head of a fjord. Here at the camp we moved into four-man tents and got busy with the camp rations and No. 3 burners on which we cooked. The morning dawned bright and sunny, as it was to do so for every day of our stay. After breakfast we sorted ourselves out into training parties. The groups for instruction were made up of those who wanted to do mountaineering—the choice was ours. L/Cpls. Niles and Forde chose sailing, while L/Cpl. Green and I chose mountaineering.

Even today L/Cpl. Green and I cannot really believe that we had time and again put our lives at stake on little ledges of rock no more than an inch wide and 3 inches long. During the five days' instruction on various rock faces around the camp, we had to force ourselves to trust these holds, stand out from the rock instead of hugging it, walk down vertical faces with the aid of ropes, and ignore drops of 100 feet or more. But, by the end of the five days, we had achieved this and gained a lot of self-confidence. From the rocks we could see the sailing parties tacking about in the fjords, or better still for us, rowing when the wind died. During the afternoons we canoed about the fjord in fibre-glass Indian-type canoes.

The following Wednesday the time came for us to leave the camp and live on our own to practise what we had learnt. The mountaineering parties—four groups of three men each—went to a place named Treungen at the bottom end of a 50-mile lake with some excellent rock faces around it. The parties were left on their own to organise their own routine and carry out their climbs. A lot of hard work and good climbing was achieved here. In the evenings we went into the village and met the local people, who were very friendly and extremely interested in us—even publishing an article in the local paper about us. We were in Norway for their National Day, May 17, and joined in the local celebrations. However, at the dance we could not quite get the rhythm of the cross between a Viennese waltz and a quickstep, which is very popular there. In spite of this, with plenty of Coca-Cola Lagerol and home-brewed Norwegian hooch, a merry time was had by all. Indeed, I had the experience of



Pte. Hagfi on way to the Radar Station

being a local hero with the other two members of my party. We had moved to some new climbs at Amli, south of Treungen, and climbed the face overlooking the village. The villagers watched our progress, and when we came down, clapped and cheered us, and one Norwegian bought us lunch at a local cafe, whilst the rest of the village looked in at these "mad" Englishmen. The following day, in the evening, we turned out for the village soccer side, playing on a dusty piece of flattened earth. All through our stay we met nothing but friendly and spontaneous hospitality from the Norwegians.

After ten days we all concentrated at Amli and canoes were brought up to us. Three members decided to walk back to Isefjaer 50 miles away and set off, the remaining nine loaded their gear into canoes and set off down river to make for Landrick, about 50 miles south. We had four days to get there. L/Cpl. Green was one of the walkers, and considering the poor quality of the maps he had, did very well to get back. I set off down river with my two friends. We had an uneventful time paddling down the serene river in warm sunshine. We shot a couple of rapids, but usually carried the canoes round the hydro-electric stations and rapids. Though we had an easy passage, the two other parties travelling behind us showed a lot of determination in carrying on in spite of capsizing twice and losing nearly all their food on the first day.



Roger on Treungen face

Very reluctantly, on May 26, we were picked up and returned to Isefjaer. There the four of us met up. The sailors had had an enjoyable but rough time sailing down the fjord and out to sea. Canoes on the sea were even harder work, but they managed not to capsize and returned safely.

It was with very many regrets that we left Norway, a land which we had come to like very much. Having experienced this hard, exciting, dangerous but very enjoyable training, we all felt we had achieved a lot and had overcome a lot of fears. Apart from this, we had seen two new countries and met some very interesting and friendly people. What more can one want from training?

2/Lt. R. PITMAN.

"A" COMPANY

This time "A" Company notes have been produced separately by Company H.Q. and the three platoons. This is an experiment which, while received with mixed feelings by Molar and the platoon commanders, who must do a bit of writing for a change, may be worth continuing in the future.

Company H.Q.

Alpha House-Master has just dropped his bombshell, to wit, Molar must write notes about his serfs' happenings during the last three months.

After the three weeks rest at Sennelager, with the help of McDowell, Rogers and Birch, plus much fiddling of books, the House managed to lose nothing. House-Prefect Beal went on leave and with him the hope of keeping the Albuhera Shield.

Leading Scribe Booth will have departed by the time these notes are printed, along with Tuck-Shop Manager Trimmer and House-Driver Bridge. All have failed their exams, and have been sent down to Civvy Street.

During various school outings Company H.Q. has found itself (bewilderingly) leaping joyfully over the beautiful countryside in the wake of House-Master de Gaye. Showers laid on, all day and night. Molar's humble efforts to brighten the dark hours with friendly words over the ether were not really fully appreciated.

During the Soltau school outing all went well, thanks to the tender care and guidance of the Prefects Beale

and Steward. Trimmer and O'Brien looked after the bottles of "pop" (some of which were quite potent), and Abrey, Stubbs and Fitzpatrick ran a well-stocked tuck shop.

There has been a competition in corpulence between the two larger members, "Fatso" Bridge and "Tubbs" Bull, to see who could produce the largest corporation. We all agree that "Fatso" is leading, although "Tubbs" claims that he only needs another couple of months, but by this time Bridge will be soldiering no more, as he is due for release in a few day's time. We are all very sorry that he is leaving us, but for one chap, O'Brien (he is taking over as Company driver), who is at present doing his hardest to have yet another Champ off the road. He is very fond of backing into anything!

Many other houses of the school complained of our nightly choral society singing, especially when our beloved Sergeant-Major contributed his own powerful voice.

Of our storemen, Rogers, McDowell and Birch, Rogers, our artist, is still producing some very lifelike, if not always very complimentary, impressions of certain members of the Company. McDowell, having returned from leave, whilst we were at Soltau, was so lost in relating his eight hours' experience in Paris, collecting three tourists (or so they thought) from the Gendarmierie, that if you had handed him a piece of wood with a number on the bottom he would have accepted it. Not much is seen of Birch these days as he seems to be spending more and more time locked away in his cellar. We begin to wonder what the attraction is.

To close these few lines there is one person who has been on our House roll for months but has never appeared for lessons. Can you hear us, Capt. Kitchener. Sorry, Sir.

THE MASTER.

P.S.—A new boy has joined us from prep. school, namely Waller, no relation to the American family.

No. 1 Platoon

As usual the Platoon has been well to the fore in all Company activities, with the exception of these notes, which the author is finding some considerably difficulty in composing.

2/Lt. Everard managed to wangle his leave at a time when his presence was most required. Namely, the two weeks we have just spent at Soltau playing with our "Big Brothers." Nevertheless, under the experienced wing of Sgt. Barr we put up a very good showing.

Whilst at Soltau "Old Fred" celebrated his 21st birthday in an unaccustomed way for him. Not normally a heavy drinker, he did on this occasion over-indulge and put on a show worthy of a music-hall comedian. Next day he wished he had never been born!

We now have a fully trained assault pioneer in the Platoon—"Wee One Norman" has come out tops on a recent course and is seriously thinking of celebrating by trying to grow a beard.

Recently we recruited twelve new men into the Platoon. We bid them welcome and hope their stay will be a pleasant one.

"Noshier Mishkin" was seen talking to all the "rookies," no doubt asking when they were expecting a food parcel to arrive.

One of the new 'uns, Pte. Brown (83), has been carrying on a recruiting drive of his own. His object in life being to swell the ranks of the Printers' Union. He tried his line of patter on the C.S.M., but unfortunately got the book thrown back at him. Never mind, try again at Christmas—the C.S.M.'s benevolent period.

Finally, we wish to dispel all rumours that the inspecting general who visited us at Soltau is related to our own Pte. Jones!

No. 2 Platoon

Friday, June 24, was a big day for No. 2 Platoon. Having had a paper strength of only two, it suddenly increased overnight more than twelvefold when "D" Company, with a great heave and a parting sigh, gave birth to her newly-trained soldiers.

One day later we were 100 miles away at Soltau. Twenty-four men barely out of England and mostly new to the Army were suddenly put face to face with 56 tons of moving metal—tank co-operation they called it! But like most Infantry of the Line we enjoyed the ride and showed our approval by getting on the tanks in almost as quick time as we had to dismount. Clutching grimly to anything we could on those great beasts we would plunge forward through mud and water like some great rumbling rhinoceros, snorting loudly as it wrenched itself along.

No. 2 Platoon has a very sporting future. For "D" Company have sent us Pte. O'Keefe, a Great Britain international canoeist, and Pte. Hubbard, who apparently in the evenings throws off his Cold Wet Weathers and dons a very continental rig and sets off on his racing bicycle. According to him every infantryman should carry a spare cycle in his small pack.

From Mons and from the Depot respectively we welcome the Platoon Commander, 2/Lt. O'Regan, and also Sgt. Parnell—quite a pair!

No. 3 Platoon

No. 3 Platoon is still fighting all aggressors, and looking around it is obvious why the Eastern Enemy have not been near us yet.

We have lost many old faces, some to "H.Q." Company (the Wasters!), others to civilian life, Ptes. Rahmatullah (63) and Barratt amongst them. Pte. Trimmer is now the only one from Cyprus left and he leaves soon.

We have, however, gained many new faces. We welcome all the latest "nigs" and hope they do not follow some of the old hands, who have not been seeing eye to eye with Cpl. Quinn lately.

No. 3 Platoon went to Sennelager with "A" Army Group and worked as hard as anybody. Shooting was not our strong point, only Pte. Murphy (who was training on Coca-Cola and standing on an ammunition box) shot anything like straight. Ptes. Trimmer and Collier (old soldiers!) won the Battalion 3.5 R.L. competition. During a spare moment on one of the ranges the Platoon Commander was trying to train Ptes. Murphy and Forbes on the A40 wireless set, having painted a grim tactical picture about being surrounded by tanks. He then told Pte. Forbes to send a

sit-rep and ask for help. The following was sent:

Forbes: "Hello 1 for 2. I am surrounded by Iron-sides, what shall I do?"

Murphy: "2 for 1. Say after me: 'Our Father which art in Heaven...'"

After Sennelager we practically drowned on Exercise "May Madness." At the height of the deluge, when a party of the Kremlin arrived in their enclosed Champ and left as quickly as they had arrived, Pte. Temple was heard to remark: "I wonder if they know it is raining." The Platoon Commander and Sergeant deserted the Platoon for Exercise "June Joy."

We have just arrived back from Soltau, having survived all the elements. Pte. Lewis took over as the Platoon Commander's batman as Pte. Temple was on leave. The Platoon Commander and Sgt. Young were not sure who was commanding the Platoon when "Lew" barked out his orders. We did not see much of Pte. Trimmer, who was running the Beer Bar and is now sporting some pretty slick clothes.

To end, we are soon losing Cpl. Moore and Pte. Trimmer to civilian life and we wish them all the best, and hope when they make their future they will think of us.

"B" COMPANY

Sennelager seems a long way away. Most of us did survive the weather and the arduous training, Nos. 5 and 6 Platoons were well placed in the firing reckoning, being fourth and third respectively.

The training at Sennelager was excellent and, in spite of the weather conditions, this period of training was enjoyed. Everybody without exception learnt to make every round tell. As a result we managed to maintain an average of 50 per cent. hits out of shots fired. A record was kept of the various Section and Platoon competitions and they are published below.

Exercise	Percentage of Hits	
	No. 5 Platoon	No. 6 Platoon

Day Attack	27	34
Night Defence	56	61
Day Attack	44	55
Day Attack	28	67
Final Placing	41	58

The final Section placings were as follows:

1st .. Cpl. O'Rawe	59%
2nd .. Cpl. DaCosta	56%
3rd .. Cpl. Fisher	55%
4th .. Cpl. Shave	54%
5th .. Cpl. Sheffield	53%
6th .. L/Cpl. Hills	41%

Cpl. MacFarlane only took part in two competition shoots and got 65% hits.

The highlights of Sennelager were Cpl. O'Rawe's reaction when the third target had appeared and disappeared in quick succession on the Defence Exercise on Wellington Range, and he was still unable to get out a fire order. He was seen to raise his hands and shout help.

One Section's L.M.G. on the night Platoon exercise was busily putting shot after shot into the chimney of



"A" COMPANY CORPORALS' MESS, SOLTAU
Typical training scene

the bunker. Their shots did not count. L/Cpl. Murphy with some uncanny shooting with the L.M.G. at night put 14 rounds into the face of the target at a range of 70 yards, and lastly, Pte. Clarke (Sunbeam), who when the enemy appeared on his flank at a range of 25 yards hit the deck, fired one round, got one hit, then charged. The Company Commander was standing a target's width away.

Athletics

Company athletic training started before we went to Sennelager and this early start to training paid dividends in the Albuhera meeting where we gained first place. Quite a change from last year! In fact we came first in only three events: the 4 x 100 m. relay (Lt. Julian,* Capt. McManus,* Ptes. Chandler and Renton*), 200 m. relay (Lt. Julian,* Capt. McManus,* Ptes. Jolliffe* and Clarke*), and discus (2/Lt. Goring* and Sgt. Smith). However, the loss of Pte. Thatcher on compassionate leave between the heats and finals dropped us to good second places in the 110 m. hurdles (Cpl. Sheffield,* Pte. Clarke*) and 400 m. (Ptes. O'Halloran, Jolliffe*, Clarke* and 2/Lt. Goring*). Although less obviously successful, it was the skill and enthusiasm of the other members of the team who, by good placings, helped amass a total of 91 out of a highest possible score of 132. The following whose names have not been mentioned above represented the Company: Ptes. Escariot, Moore, Quartermain, Knight,* Seatory, Manning* and Dolan, L/Cpl. Stephenson, and Cpl. DaCosta, and, of course, our gallant Company Commander, who laid aside his blazer for three quick swings of the hammer. Those who later represented the Battalion are marked with an asterisk.

Swimming

With great enthusiasm, and despite competition from every known alternative activity, Cpl. O'Rawe managed to select and train a swimming team. We journeyed to Sennelager with some confidence, but were dis-

mayed to find ourselves a convincing last at the halfway mark. However, we pulled up rapidly to a convincing first place to bring home a companion for the Athletics Shield. The following represented the Company (those marked with an asterisk later represented the Battalion): Cpl. O'Rawe* (captain), Ptes. Johnson,* Seatory, Zorlu and Pike,* L/Cpls. Hills, MacFarlane* and Fleet,* 2/Lt. Goring and Capt. McManus. Cpl. O'Rawe is particularly to be congratulated, not only for organising the team and swimming in three relays, but also for winning the diving trophy for the second year running.

Whilst we are on sport, we congratulate our tug-of-war teams, especially the 100-stone team, which, after one pull all in the final against H.Q.1, succeeded in hanging on and, in spite of being within 2 ft. of losing, regained the last 10 ft., and pulled another 12 ft. to win. This was the most exciting final seen for many years. This, with the position of our 88-stone team, gave us an overall position as runners-up.

The Company as a result of these tremendous sporting achievements now lead in the Albuhera Shield by 13 points from "A" Company.

The period of this quarter has been varied in its activities. The Company has been extremely active the whole time. In between training and sport we have tried to maintain our standard of turn-out so that we do not suffer the mad upheaval for five weeks before the Administration Inspection, which we had to go through last year.

Pte. Clifford, we are pleased to see, has improved his turn-out since he has returned from leave. Pte. Silverman has been conspicuous by his absence. At Sennelager he developed a bad knee, he then went on leave and has since been reclining in hospital. We are all very sorry to see Pte. Thatcher leave the Army. We are really sorry, for his sake, that it was for reasons of ill health of his father. We in the Company extend our sympathy to him at this time.

It was a new team which took the field for Soltau. We had three platoons for the first time this year. Soltau proved a testing ground for many aspects of Company life. Apart from the rain we had quite a lot of trouble with menus, compo and cooking, tempers were short and stomachs empty for more than a day. The cooks, Bassett, Thomas, Moore and Naylor, did well by the second week of Soltau and most people were satisfied.

Well, I hope the cooks of "B" Company have learnt as a result of their toils at Soltau. I suppose the two things that will remain in the minds of most will be the rain and the hot showers, and possibly to a few, the money they won at "A" Company tombola. Let us not forget, however, that we were able to mount and dismount from tanks with comparative ease and the co-operation between the two arms was intimate by the end of two weeks.

"Blind Mouse," for some of us, meant taking to the fields again, but in a rather more gentlemanly manner. We either were observing, or acting as guinea-pigs. I trust this year all 20 guinea-pigs return to us before the exercise is due to end.

The cricket season is upon us. Unfortunately for

cricketers it is all too short a season. We started by playing "C" Company, and after a most thrilling game we won by 7 runs. Major Clayden got a useful 20, whilst Mr. Rayner and Chandler shared the wickets. We had two attempts at playing "A" Company. In the first match torrential rain made "A" Company give up. In the second match we found them too strong for us, and we lost by 50 runs. Our next match was against H.Q. 1, which is the Band. Some very good bowling by 2/Lt. Rayner and 2/Lt. Goring had our opponents out for 44 runs. The good bowling was backed by some good fielding by Gilham who caught two good catches, and Beedle, in spite of receiving a very nasty knock on the head, kept wicket very well, taking one very nice catch. These games can be lost so easily, but we confidently had 20 runs on the board before our first wicket fell. Beedle and Gilham then knocked off the runs. This was a satisfying win.

The following have played cricket for the Battalion: 2/Lts. Goring and Rayner, Ptes. Beedle and Gilham.

A new draft of about 15 soldiers has just joined us, having completed their continuation training in "D" Company. They have been pretty active since they joined the Battalion. We hope they will now be able to settle down, and we welcome them all to "B" Company.

Sgt. Clements has been borrowed by "D" Company to instruct the next N.C.O.s' Cadre. This will give him a rest from boots, socks, tidy lockers and the like. We remind him, however, that a ladder is not much use to him in his new job. Experiments are, however, being carried out in constructing a light alloy ladder (preferably folding), which can take up to 15 stone.

We congratulate Pte. Renton on his marriage and we heard that he had a smashing reception, but we cannot get out of him whether he was capable (physically) of making a speech. Just another who has fallen by the wayside.

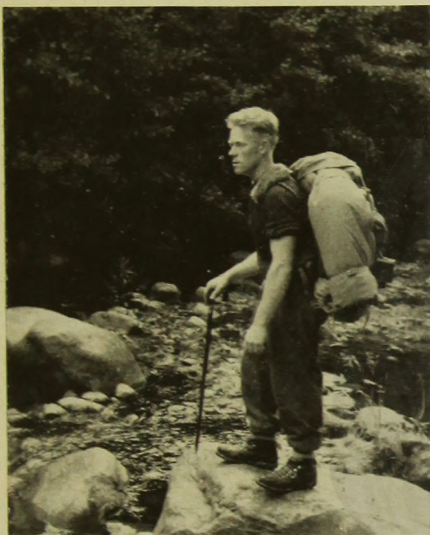
Congratulations to L/Cpls. Manning and Jolliffe on their promotion, and we wish them and Ptes. Renton, Gilham, Smith (800), Covill, Wilkinson, Merritt and Turner the best of luck on their six weeks' N.C.O. Cadre which starts on July 25. They are reminded that they should feel very much at home, because they will have Sgts. Smith and Clements instructing them.

L/Cpl. Fleet has also been attached to "D" Company for the duration of the cadre.

Lt. Legg, Cpl. MacFarlane and L/Cpl. Stephenson have now been in Norway ten days, outward bound. I wonder where they are and what they are doing. Their programme includes mountaineering, sailing and canoeing. Norway I believe is a very friendly country, at the same time pretty rugged, and the people are very hospitable.

Cpl. Da Costa has taken his first party into the Harz Mountains. They left on a Friday and returned on a Monday. The object was to have a look at the country, camp and cook for themselves, and practise moving through the mountains and forests. I believe those who went thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Sgt. Smith, a stalwart for many years with the Company, has, or is about to depart for less arduous but nevertheless equally important duties in "D" Com-



Cpl. Da Costa, leader of the expedition

pany. He is first of all having a well-earned rest of at least 42 days. We are sad to see him go and wish him the best of luck in "D" Company.

There have been many changes in the Company over the last quarter, such as new arrivals, departures on release, and posting to other companies. These are given below.

Arrivals

From "H.Q." Company: Ptes. Dowdell, Clutten, Renton, Naylor, Peck, Goodheart and Rivers. From "A" Company: Pte. MacFarland. From "C" Company: Sgt. Scott. From "S" Company: Pte. Smith (33). From the Depot: Ptes. Pike, Bassett, Ridley, Durham, Basham, Colbourn, Godfrey, Bear, Jones (61), Salisbury, Smith (65), Tucker, L/Cpl. Fleet, Sgt. Rafael, Ptes. Bassett (89), Foord, Jervis, Jones (86), Marlow, Morgan, O'Connell, Pash, Ramadan, Smoker, Turner, Wilkinson, Usher and Parker.

Departures

The following have left us: L/Cpl. Lewis, Ptes. Thatcher and Hurst. We send them our best wishes in their civilian environment. L/Cpl. Clarke has gone to the Corps of Drums, and Pte. Lincoln now drives a Volkswagen very competently. Pte. Pike is driving with "C" Company.

Sgt. Dickie was only with us a few weeks before he was released to take over the Medical Room.

We congratulate C.Q.M.S. Eldridge on his promotion to C.Q.M.S. I am afraid he will find it a little more difficult dealing with 5 officers and 100 men than

caring for technical stores. Congratulations to Cpl. MacFarlane on his promotion to Corporal.

What lies ahead for us? The Company, after taking part in the Battalion Exercise spends a week out in the Bodenwerder—Karlsarfen area. It is hoped that an inter-platoon athletic and swimming competition will be held. Finally, in September a rugby seven-a-side competition will be held.

It was hoped to include an article written by a member of the Company in this issue, but owing to shortage of time this is not possible. However, this will be included in the next quarter.

"C" COMPANY

Having tried our best to get leave over the Sennelager period, most of "C" Company found themselves down there with the rest of the Battalion and split into two Platoons. We had no Brigadiers shot this year, although on some occasions, as L/Cpl. Wrake will recount, bullets got uncomfortably close. 2/Lt. Luck found he was not now dealing with plots of land, but with an Americanism known as "enemy real estate"! However, he will not be dealing with this much longer, as he is always ready to tell us!

The Battalion Assault-at-Arms Competition came out very well for "C" Company with No. 8 Platoons first and No. 7 Platoon second. We also took first three places in the Xanton Competition—to the Commanding Officer's personal expense. Herr Clause also "got in on the act" with 80 Dm. worth of photographs of the winning teams. Thus from there we were able to train for the Battalion Shooting Competition. This duly took place at Wittloge, and the Company again came out on top. Thanks are due to C.S.M. Da Costa for training the team so well, and praise goes to Sgt. Plumb for the best rifle shot. No doubt Capt. Pike got weary of stooping his way around the butts down there, and certainly had reason to curse 2/Lt. Dubbery for several re-shoots! (last seen heading towards the beer tent).

Exercise "May Madness" came somewhere about here, digging and marching at dawn seemed to be the main theme. Lt. Bulloch and No. 8 Platoon H.Q. will remember watching a small hut in front of their position all night, the reason being that six men and women had gone in there early in the evening and had not yet reappeared—is this the answer to what was behind the green door? L/Cpl. Barnard will, for financial reasons, remember "May Madness" for at least eight weeks!

"C" Company at athletics ranged from the uproariously funny incident of Capt. Pike racing along for 200 yards with various sprinters, Pte. Saul amongst them, and then dropping out (it's my heart you know, got hit with a cricket ball), to the serious work that C/Sgt. Potter did to organise the team, and the final result does not reflect his efforts.

Now we cover that large period of time spent dodging raindrops at Soltau. This period, despite what anyone may think, is no holiday. Apart from training comments, which could fill a book, Pte. Rappoport returned from leave, and there were a few more comments. Drink was the great leveller—in no uncertain fashion, and parties often took place in the canteen. Pte.



No. 8 Platoon, "C" Company, on Ironside

McShannon provided entertainment on various evenings, and even from the bottom of a deep refuse trench one night! Ptes. Laflin and Lawson kept the stewpots full, and Major Jeffcoat saw to it that the bar tent was likewise full. All three subalterns are glad of the wireless, if only because a rocket does not seem as bad on the phone. Sgt. Power disappeared upwards one day when asked about Infantry/Tank co-operation kit, and we all got a laugh when one of our tanks hit somebody else's scout car, with the subsequent scene.

Pte. Fenny is the only person who has left us recently. Cpl. Scott was promoted and we sadly wish him well in "B" Company. L/Cpl. Hall joined us from the Signals, and L/Cpl. White from Canterbury. A large new draft arrived from "D" Company, and we welcome them all—2/Lt. Dudson, who has seen that Army life makes a change from the Navy, and finally Sgt. Power whom many will know from Depot days.

"D" COMPANY

It is always a problem to know quite what to include in these Journal notes when writing about the activities of a Company. Some say include as much information as possible about as many individuals as possible for this will encourage sales, others say just the reverse and hint that to recount the individual exploits of Pte. Boggins, unless he be of the calibre of, say, a character found in one of Anthony Armstrong's amusing stories, is probably the best deterrent to selling the Journal that we could have. Anyway, the problem for the writer of these notes is solved, for "D" Company continues to be a "Bastard" Company and has a permanent staff of only five ranks, and anyway they will be politely asked to buy this copy of the Journal even though their names may not appear in magic print.

Briefly, this has been a busy period for in the latter half of May approximately 90 reinforcements arrived and were posted to us to carry out continuation training before being posted to Rifle Companies. The Company strength, including officers and N.C.O.s posted in, swelled rapidly to 100 plus, and to all intents and purposes we became more active than all the three Rifle Companies put together. At least so it seemed to us.

Now all is quiet again, which is a pity. Our next

job is to run the next potential N.C.O.s' cadre, which is due to begin at the end of July.

Before closing it may be of interest to note that in April a large group of Cadets from the Stock Exchange Company arrived out here on a visit to Germany and were billeted on us. Their visit seemed to be more educational than military, for C.S.M. Michel spent most of his time conducting a general "Cook's" tour. Visits were made to the Black Forest and also to the Volkswagen works at Hannover.

In case comings and goings may interest anyone, C.S.M. Jessup was replaced by C.S.M. Michel in April, the former going to "B" Company as C.S.M. Major Shipster arrived to take over command, having come from the fleshpots of Fontainebleu, and lastly, 40 per cent. of our staff have just left on demobilisation, Ptes. Stock and Wilcock, to whom we wish all success.

"S" COMPANY

Anti-Tank Platoon

Since our last notes, written during a lull in the Sennelager campaign, much has happened. First of all, training:—We went up to Hohne at the end of May to fire our guns. The detachment commanders were Cpls. Reynolds and Mullender, L/Cpls. Creaser and Haffner. The guns were zeroed and then we fired at static and moving targets. "Who, may we be so bold to ask, is the best shot in the Platoon?" Without a doubt it was "Percy." Rumour has it, though, that he was so cold (he wasn't wearing his "long-johns") that he kept swinging his gun round aiming at tanks to keep himself warm!

From Hohne we travelled straight through Munster Lager training area and joined 19 Field Regiment R.A. for a week at their practice camp at Trauen. Here we spent an enjoyable time learning artillery gun drill—this does seem the same as our drill, though the rounds are much lighter! At both Hohne and Trauen we had our regular drivers, Ptes. Hilton, Heale and Webb, but needed a fourth from the M.T. We would like to thank Pte. Cruickshank for his work with us and for "volunteering" to stay behind for the last scheme.

No sooner were we back from these two weeks than we were off again on a Battalion exercise. It was during this exercise that the Platoon started to improve their camouflage. However, after Pte. Heale had camouflaged his vehicle he passed out. Whether it was through ecstasy or agony is still uncertain!

After this exercise the dreaded word "Soltau" was on everyone's lips and, naturally, many preparations were being made. Finally, on June 25, the Battalion moved off for two weeks infantry tank co-operation.

At last we could sit in our gun pits, see a tank approaching, track it and then fire at it!

Most of the time we acted as enemy to the rifle companies, and I'm sure the companies now realise just how useful an anti-tank gun is when tanks are around. During Soltau the Platoon trained very hard and learnt a great deal. Camouflaging of the guns reached a very high standard, as proved by the number of tanks who came as close as 10 yards without spotting us.

The detachments at Soltau were as follows:—



THE ANTI-TANK PLATOON

Standing (left to right); Cpl. Mullender, Ptes. Creaser (now "A" Company), Hilton, Sharp, Clift, Atkinson, Patmore and Budd.

Sitting (left to right); Ptes. Toner, Stewart, Heale, Webb, Dinning, Kattermole (M.T.), Hession, and Cpl. Reynolds.

No. 1: Cpl. Reynolds, Ptes. Sharp and Toner; driver, Pte. Webb.

No. 2: L/Cpl. Haffner, Ptes. Patmore and Stewart; driver, Pte. Heale.

No. 3: Ptes. Clift, Dinning and Jones (also the Platoon D.R.); driver, Pte. Whitmore.

Batman/cookhouse operator: Pte. Harris.
Quarter-ton driver: Pte. Wells.

At last Pte. Dinning passed his driving test and, to prove it was no fluke, proceeded to drive straight into a ditch. Once again we relied on the M.T., and Pte. Whitmore gave us a very willing hand. Never mind, Dinning, you did get us up to Soltau!

Various map-reading exercises were held. From these there was no doubt in anyone's mind (not even the Mortars) that the Anti-Tank Platoon emerged victors with Cpl. Reynolds' detachment winning both the morning and afternoon sessions. In answer to the Mortars' kind invitation for map-reading lessons, we do thank them for their concern but suggest that they learn the use of their protractors and compasses first. In the last journal notes we denied we were collecting for a guide dog for Cpl. Mullender. Now, however, could it be that a guide is needed for Pte. Patmore? You must remember, Patmore, that, in Germany, left is still left and right still right!

The Platoon would like to thank "Charlie" for the way he ran the bar and canteen. To see his smiling face (no, not yours, Grizelda) when serving up beer and eats was indeed a tonic to all. (Tonic's off dear!) Also many thanks to our singing minstrel, Pte. Clift, for taking on the arduous task of cooking sausage and egg

rolls. After seeing these two at work the Platoon is contemplating taking over the NAAFI. Well done both of you.

Thank you, also, C/Sgt. Dive for the very good meals that were served up. We all appreciated the difficulties with compo and thought it was well disguised.

In order to keep four detachments working we must have our own drivers and N.C.O.s. Whilst at Soltau, Ptes. Budd and Hession were under the expert tuition of Pte. Young who ran the driving cadre. Budd was searched to see if he was carrying a spare steering wheel with him, whereas Hession was only screened. Clift has had a short spell as D.C., which will help him on the next N.C.O.'s cadre. With him will be his partners in crime, Ptes. Atkinson and Hilton. "What was that Stewart? Feeling browned off again? Never mind, you'll soon be back at Hameln," though we often wonder if Harris will ever want to leave those potatoes, but only another 365 days to do, Harris!

It was a great pity the weather was so bad, as it made driving on the muddy tracks a very sticky proposition. It did, however, give most useful practice to Pte. "Surtees" Jones when he was allowed to use his motor-cycle.

So we arrived back at Hameln feeling very tired but having had a most enjoyable exercise, and now Holdfast in September!

Our congratulations go to Pte. Clift and his wife on the birth of a daughter, Sharon Anne. Pte. Jones and his wife on a son, Anthony Kenneth, and Pte. Atkinson and his wife on a son, Mark Anthony. Rumour has it that Hilton has married! "Welcome to the club," retort Atkinson and Clift. As this goes to print, we have had confirmation, our congratulations and best wishes for the future, Hilton.

In the world of sport, Lt. Waite plays cricket and athletics and, because of this, Sgt. Lagden has decided to take up judo in order to wrestle with the problems of command that much easier. Pte. Clift is reserve pole



ON BISMARCK SUB-CALIBRE RANGE, SENNELAGER

Sgt. Lagden (standing), Pte. Patmore (with round), L/Cpl. Haffner (behind Venturi)

vaulter, and Dinning, Atkinson and Patmore represented the Company at athletics. "Now, who's without a mention?" Why, it's our friend, "Jim." Checked any good stores lately?

Finally we still have another 16 rounds to fire at Hohne, so "Tony Curtis" Sharp at last has the opportunity to prove that he is the only member of the team who can continuously track instead of laying ahead.

So "Auf Wiedersehn" until next quarter from the Anti-Tank Platoon.

3-in. MORTAR PLATOON

Sennelager: The latter period at Sennelager gave us plenty of scope for live firing, with the result that platoon and section drills improved considerably. All union N.C.O.s were able to practise at M.F.C.s and given opportunities to improve their map-reading.

There is no doubt that the time spent at Sennelager was of the utmost value to all ranks.

Munster Lager: At the end of Sennelager we moved to the ranges at Munster Lager to provide 94 Locating Regiment R.A. with mortar fire so that they could practise the location of mortar positions by sound and radar. The weather was extremely good and everyone had a pleasant time.

Hameln: Our return from Sennelager and Munster Lager saw many of the Platoon engrossed in numerous sporting events, such as Battalion athletics, shooting, swimming and tug-of-war. All these events seemed to follow each other with great rapidity which kept everyone on their toes. As usual the Platoon was well represented in all events.

On May 16 the Battalion celebrated Albuhera Day in the traditional manner. On this particular morning everyone was extremely surprised to see that not only had Sgts. Partridge and Argent got out of bed at reveille for a change but had also appeared in the barrack rooms with hot tea suitably laced with "Tom Thumb"! However, several of the Platoon decided that it was all a dream and went back to sleep again, murmuring something about "blasted mirage."

On June 11 we took part in the Queen's Birthday Parade and hope, in our small way, that the Platoon played their part in making a success of such a memorable occasion. At any rate we all worked hard brushing-up our drill (and not forgetting best boots!).

Soltau: The period at Soltau was not conducive for mortar training. The main emphasis was on infantry/tank co-operation, and so for most of the time we had to be content to act as enemy for rifle companies. The weather was extremely unkind, but in spite of it all everyone worked hard and did their best.

Personalities

Congratulations to the following: Cpl. Flanagan on his promotion—well done. Sgt. Miles on his motor-cycle achievement. Sgt. Partridge on winning the Battalion Individual Sterling Cup and on winning the 11th Brigade L.M.G. pairs (with Sgt. Davis of "H.Q." Company). Also to Sgt. Miles, Cpl. Flanagan, L/Cpl. Mackenzie, Ptes. Johns, Blackburn, Wright and Kerrison, on their extremely good showing in the Battalion athletics meeting.



SOLTU—TAKING A BREATHER!

Left to right; Pte. Walsh, Cpl. Flanagan, Pte. Sheppard, Pte. McMinn, Pte. Kerrison, Pte. Robinson, L/Cpl. McKenzie

We say farewell to Ptes. "Tart" Tomlinson and Wright "Ugly"; when these notes appear they will both have left us on transfer to the "1st Battalion Labour Exchange Layabouts!" Seriously though, we shall miss them both, and remind them that there are always vacancies for two good No. 1's on the mortar. Also to Pte. Clayton who has, through no fault of his own, been posted to the Signal Platoon.

We extend a welcome to Capt. Pike (an old member of "S" Company, by the way), who had taken over command of the Company. We are wondering how long he will stay, however, as "S" Company seem to keep a Company Commander only for about a month. We hope anyway, Capt. Pike's stay will be an enjoyable one. Welcome also to Ptes. McGee, Chance, Gibbs and Shepherd. We hope their stay in the platoon will be a long and happy one. McGee apparently was born in Ireland, but lived most of his life in Wales; this probably accounts for his "Scotch" accent.



3-in. MORTAR PLATOON

Left to right; Nihil, Tomlinson, Maloney, Wright, Robinson, Walsh, Johns

Sgt. Miles and Cpl. Flanagan "escaped" to "D" Company for a short cadre holiday, but as soon as they were "recaptured" Sgt. Miles went on leave. "Baron" Miles, by the way, has sold his Mercedes and now has a converted aircraft hanger called a Buick Roadmaster. The Q.M. says if his cars get any larger he will have to get the main gate widened!

Sgt. Partridge, who left for six weeks to occupy the C.S.M.'s chair in the Company office and afterwards shot off on four weeks' leave, has at last returned. We noticed a large dent in the front of his car. His story is that someone backed into him! Cpl. Shearing also managed to dodge the Soltau trip, so that the sales of beer in the Company canteen were well below normal. However, Neilson, Wright, Robinson and Co. managed reasonably well, and did their best to offset Cpl. Shearing's absence. Pte. Walsh has escaped into the Company office as temporary company clerk, whilst "Hop-along" Greening is on leave. Pte. Young has returned from his hideout in Minden, and is now busy training some more 1-ton "pilots."

Pte. Robinson on his return from leave brought back a suit-case full of shamrock. He managed to pass the customs by saying it was a salad. Ptes. Wilson and McMinn are now on leave. McMinn has gone to "Haggisland." We hope the natives are friendly, and allow him to return to us. Wilson insists that it is a gross untruth about his needing an interpreter.

The C.S.M. and Sgt. Miles managed to do a bit of motor-cycling at Soltau. One of the 'erbs was heard to remark: "If they spend any more time in the saddle we'll have to buy 'em spurs!"

The Platoon would like to thank C/Sgt. Dive for his hard work at Soltau in laying on the excellent food, especially considering the difficulties he worked under (i.e. Bainbridge and Wright "Ugly").

Sgt. Argent became "tracked" and has now gone on leave.

Neilson, Robinson and Kerrison, our drivers, are all in good form and are doing well on the exercises.

Now the weather is warmer, Pte. Sach can be found most evenings at the local swimming bath. We often suspect him of having webbed feet! Walsh and Clift (Anti-Tank) set up a hot-dog stand at Soltau and are now contemplating buying a restaurant in Hameln, and competing with the NAAFL.

We would also like to thank Sgt. Pritchard and his Assault/Pioneer section for the excellent showers they erected at Soltau. Talking about the Assault/Pioneer section, we noticed on our return to Hameln that they have acquired a bearded midget who looks like a refugee from Snow White. The Mortar Platoon suggest they give him a shower. He looks as if he could do with it.

L/Cpl. Forde has not yet been given another go at the motor-cycle as it is still in the workshops. L/Cpl. Howe is still with us, having also been on leave recently. Pte. McGee is rumoured to have acquired a taste in music!

We take this opportunity to welcome Mrs. Walsh and hope her stay in Germany is a pleasant one.

Finally, the best platoon in the Battalion send all best wishes to all past members now in Civvy Street (poor



RAFT TRIP

Left to right: Sgt. Pritchard, Pte. Hardman, Cpl. Beavis and Smith (82)

chaps!) and remind them that we are always pleased to hear from them.

P.S.—There are still a few vacancies here!

ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

The Section has had plenty to occupy their minds and hands the last two months. Fresh recruits have answered the call of "assault-pioneering" and training has continued better than ever.

Latest arrivals have been Pte. Hardman from "D" Company (a river expert by all accounts!) and Pte. Malhoney from "A" Company—also Capt. Norton's batman by the way! The remainder of the Section consists of Cpl. Beavis, L/Cpl. Bartlett, and Ptes. Coles, Burg, Smith (82), Pollard and Milburn. All are now old hands and Section stalwarts. Pte. Burg should be specially mentioned on passing his R.E. Assault Pioneer course, and also not forgetting Cpl. Beavis and L/Cpl. Bartlett on their recent promotions.

Other Section personalities must be mentioned in addition. Smith (82) is still full of cheek, but the Section would really be a little lost without him. Pollard seems to be getting better every day and is a tower of strength, while Milburn has been selected to attend the next Battalion N.C.O.s' cadre.

Exercises which the Section has taken part have been many. One of the most interesting was a 100-mile raft trip down the Weser River. Two rafts were made of logs, 40-gallon petrol drums and rope. One raft measured 18 ft. long by 8 ft. wide which was used for stores, while the smaller, measuring 10 ft. long by 7 ft. wide, carried mostly personnel. Both rafts stood up well to the rigours of the journey. But towards the end the smaller one suffered a mishap with her drums and both rafts had to be joined together. However, in spite of the size and canals the vast raft proved navigable and lasted out the remainder of the journey. Other members of the Battalion accompanied the Section on the trip, including Sgt. Frame and L/Cpl. Hubbard of the R.A.E.C. and Signals respectively, and no doubt they enjoyed themselves.

Shortly after the rafting episode, the Section took part in several Battalion exercises, and whilst acting as enemy on one occasion managed the distinction of bombing Battalion H.Q. during a most important "O" group. All ranks hope that afterwards at least the funny side of the situation was seen by the officers!

The Section was mainly occupied acting as enemy during the training at Soltau, but the Assault Pioneers did have the responsibility of erecting and maintaining improvised hot showers for the camp. Improvised or not, the showers worked well and proved a great boon to the remainder of the Battalion. A camp drying tent was also erected at Soltau for the three Rifle Companies, which from all reports was much appreciated. Perhaps, now, the Assault Pioneer Section will be esteemed even better than before!

Finally, all ranks of the Section are to be congratulated on working so hard these last few months. But remember, be "booby-trap"-minded and stay alert (alive)!

"H.Q." COMPANY

As usual during the summer season we find the various departments of "H.Q." Company deployed in all directions, ably doing a variety of different things at once. So far we seem to have kept pace with events, though not always with individuals.

At sports the Company has managed to put up good performances in spite of lack of time for training. "H.Q.2" came a close second to "B" Company in both the athletics and the swimming. "H.Q.1" (represented by the Band teams) won the tug-of-war. We would like to congratulate the following for their outstanding performances for the Company and for the Battalion: Ptes. Ward (84) and O'Riordan (for their brilliant runs in the Battalion and Brigade Sports meetings), Cpls. Puckey and Rand, L/Cpls. Taylor, Dowsett, Adkin and Penny, Ptes. Robins, Davey and Scott, Bds. Coleman, Louis and Eldred, and Cfmn. McMann. It seems a pity that L/Cpl. Penny was not available for the Company in the swimming meeting due to a damaged hand, but nevertheless we say to all, "Very well done."

Having returned from two weeks' summer camp at Soltau, we must not forget to congratulate C/Sgt. Simmons and his able cooks, Cpl. Coleman and Pte. "Harry" Parry, on the high standard of the messing there. This was paid for out of the canteen profits, so we must be duly grateful to those who supported the canteen so well (did we hear some M.T. in there one night?) and to L/Cpl. Chaney who ran the canteen so efficiently.

The Company Commander was impressed with the speed with which the camp was finally packed up, in fact his office tent was collapsed during the night, but whether this was to aid the packing the next day or in the hopes of trapping the O.C. inside is not quite known!

We welcome Sgt. Overton back to the Company and congratulate Sgt. Weston on his promotion, Cpl. Manser on his appointment as Provost Corporal, Cpl. Torrie, L/Cpl. Chaney and Ptes. Page and Stone on their recent marriages.

We welcome Pte. Booker to the Accommodation Stores and say, "Watch the sheets but please hide the

polish." Ptes. O'Riordan, Flynn, King, Jones (94), Tuvey, Robins and Stanborough have been nominated to attend the next potential N.C.O.s' cadre, and we all wish them the greatest success. We are pleased to see that Cpls. Minett and Stewart have discovered that their true home is with the Regiment and have decided to spend another term in "H.Q." Company.

As a final note we regretfully say goodbye to B/M. Jackson, and welcome in his place B/M. McShane. One should not be surprised to hear a lot of Irish airs in the near future.

THE Q.M. STAFF

This is a letter you must publish!

It has been brought to our notice that the Q.M. Staff have not been mentioned in the *Die-Hard* Journal for quite a considerable amount of time. We don't think that it is fair that such a small and such a very active, hard-working, sober Platoon as this should be left unmentioned. After all where would the Battalion be without us? Better off we expect, but that is beside the point. What do you do when you have scorched your B.D., baked your hat or when your studded socks black with sweat need replacing? Yes, you take the morning off and come to the Q.M.'s for help. And do you get it? NO! After spending the greater part of the day looking for the duty storeman you return to your Company and continue to live in the same old state until the next exchange day.

Now, to learn a little more about this remarkable detachment and the people who run it. First, we have Capt. Waldron (Q.M.), our firm but reliable taskmaster (of piano fame) and his co-pilot R.Q.M.S. Cooper, better known to his men as "Uncle George," who thought us to be too illiterate to write these notes. By the looks of this letter we "fink" he may be "rite." Then we have Sgt. Langford, who ensures that we are up at 0600 hrs. every morning. Next we have "Flight" Cpl. Stubbings, who keeps the C.S.M. well informed of the whereabouts of his "layabouts." We congratulate Cpl. Kirkpatrick on his swift promotion. However, the rest of our detachment comprises of the "buck-shees" who are the men responsible for getting the work done!

We regret having to say goodbye to "Jamo" and Pte. Farley, who will be leaving us shortly. The former will be greatly missed by his fellow storemen as a staunch figure in protecting the rights of duty storemen. "I'm not doing a Guard." The latter will be mourned by C.S.M. Wright. We don't envy Pte. "Derby" Sheehan his difficult task of keeping his flying partner down to earth. Pte. Nowell should be a prominent member in next season's football team, and to Pte. "Flapper" Partridge, better known as the virgin storeman, we say "Come down." We congratulate Pte. Tuvey (whom we catch glimpses of during the year) on the birth of his daughter and upon his nomination to attend the next potential N.C.O.s' cadre. Not forgetting Ptes. Brickel and "Flash" Hammond, who have not long to do, or so they tell us. We say a big hello to our newly delivered "nigs," namely, Ptes. McSweeney, Harron and "Where's my

mail" Lewin. To these we say good luck. They need it!

BAND

Once again another three months has slipped by almost unnoticed; in fact, if it wasn't for the Regimental Journal notes becoming due four times a year, half the Band would still be in 1959! Quite seriously, though, the time does seem to fly by, probably due to the fact that we have had so many band engagements this past quarter. More about that later though.

Firstly we must welcome Bdsman Bird and Hayes to the Band. Bdsman Bird is another ex-Junior Bandsman from Canterbury, while Bdsman Hayes is a nine-year Regular and hails from Margate. Bdsman Bird strengthens our French horn section, while Bdsman Hayes assists on the saxophone stand.

Fortunately there have been no departures this past quarter, but it has, however, been overshadowed by the impending departure of the Bandmaster, Mr. Jackson. I'm sure I can speak for all members of the Band, past and present, who have known Mr. Jackson, when I say that we must all have benefited from his seemingly unending knowledge of music in one way or another, and all regard his departure as a great loss both to us and the Battalion. Mention must be made, too, of Mrs. Jackson. She has somehow contrived to fit admirably into the life of the Band (remember those "after Retreat" cakes), and it is sad to think that "Our Gracie" is leaving us. However, we wish them both the best of luck, and send them on their way with our most heartfelt thanks.

Our new Bandmaster, Mr. McShane, arrived on July 14 and we take this opportunity of welcoming him to the Band.

Now for a mention of some of the main Band engagements during the past quarter. We have played at five of the "Spa" towns in the district; Bad Herzberg, Bad Lauterberg, Bad Salzungen, Karshafen and, like last year, Bad Pyrmont. There are still two engagements to be completed, one at Bodewerder, and the other a further appearance at Bad Pyrmont. These engagements have been interspersed with parades, sports meetings and other military commitments, so you can see we have been kept quite busy. We also gave two massed bands concerts in aid of the World Refugee Year, and by doing so raised £130 for the refugee fund. Three bands took part in the concerts, the 1st Battalion The South Wales Borderers, the 1st Battalion The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, and our own.

In a fortnight's time we move to Munster to take part in the 2 Division massed bands parade, and on return from there we entrain for England and six weeks' leave. On return from England we leave Bdsman Cox and Eldred behind for a pupils' course at Kneller Hall, but welcome to our midst again Bdsman French, Wornes, Ashby and Green.

By the way, for those of you who remember "Lush" Rose, he's now reached fame and fortune by recording, with his jazz group, a 15-minute tape for the B.B.C. He informs me that it should be broadcast sometime in August, so perhaps we will be able to hear our protégé's work while we are on leave in England.

There doesn't seem to be much mention made in these notes to the realm of sport. Unfortunately, though, we

haven't taken part in much sport during the past two or three months, but the Band cricket team did defeat the Corps of Drums by seven wickets! The Band also represented "H.Q." Company tug o' war team, both lightweight and heavyweight teams, and defeated all-comers to win the Battalion Tug o' War Shield.

Finally, if any of you can find the time, you can drop in at the White Hart Inn, Tottenham, and either listen or play with the jazz fiends of the band!

"Signaller's Lament"

A young man stood at the Pearly Gate,
His face was scarred and old,
He stood before the man of fate
For welcome to the fold.
"What have you done," St. Peter said,
"To gain your entrance here?"
"I've been a Signaller, Sir," he said,
"With the 'Die-Hards' many a year."
The Pearly Gate swung open wide;
St. Peter rang the bell—
"Come inside and choose your harp
You've served your time in hell!"

(Anon—PERCY?)

Another quarter has passed showering us with its gifts. After various Albuhera parades Pte. Coles is now relaxing, but no doubt he will soon once again be burning the midnight oil working on his boots for the "Admin"! Pte. Bowden could well take a leaf out of his book.

Exercise May Madness was memorable if only for the weather and Pte. Jones' soirée in the chicken run—much to the annoyance of the R.S.M. and C/Sgt. Walters. Jones is now the C.O.'s operator! Our return to camp was enlivened by numerous drill parades in preparation for the Queen's birthday parade, though Cpl. Rand thought the parade was for him—his 21st! Congratulations to him and to Ptes. Connell and Johnson who are now men.

Cpl. Haggerty is quickly learning the morale effect of controls "All Stations nothing heard out" now that he has joined the sharp end—however, he seemed to enjoy June Joy. Pte. Bowden survived his first experience of driving the R.S.O., but Pte. Heslin has been less fortunate since failing his test—he went home to Ireland on leave and has not been seen since—either the little people or the Guinness have got a grip.

The R.S.O., Cpl. Stewart and Ptes. Lloyd and Jones were shrewd enough to work their way into the Battalion shooting team which won the Brigade competition, and the R.S.O. went one better and got bottom rifle score! Lloyd appeared again in the athletics team which came second in the Brigade competition, but the star of the team proved to be Pte. O'Riordan who ran very well in the long-distance events—last year he was the 800-metres "king"! Pte. Connell also trained but pulled something, though he enjoyed his trips to B.M.H. Rinteln! In the inter-Company swimming we supplied most of "H.Q." II team which came second to "B" Company. Cpl. Rand led the contingent assisted by L/Cpl. Dowsett and Ptes. "Cannonball" Bryant, Challenor, Davey, "Muscles" Gibbons and "Gloom" Scott. Cpl. Rand, L/Cpl. Dowsett, Ptes. Davey and Scott then fiddled their way into the Battalion team

which won the 2 Division swimming. Pte. Scott's butterfly got him a mention in "Keynotes" and won us the match. His opponent gave up. Some say "Gloom" would get an Olympic trial if his stomach didn't scrape on the bottom at the shallow end! L/Cpl. Hubbard and Pte. Lewis we expected to see in the team after their rafting week on the Weser with the Assault Pioneers—they certainly didn't do any signalling in spite of a sky wave aerial the length of the Forth Bridge.

Soltau is now behind us and proved the C42 superior to the carrier pigeon and—in mud anyway—to the D.R. The weather was foul but suited some members, and pink elephants abounded, especially in the L/Cpl. Hubbard, Ptes. Challenor and O'Riordan tent. Challenor is a new arrival from the "bearded weirdie" class and is a "virtuoso of the accordion"—he also plays the squeeze box. He and Pte. Connell are quite a combination. Pte. Short deserves something for keeping his charging engines going night and day—may we suggest some silencers! He also firmly denies drinking electrolyte when the cider ran out—he always looks like that! Ptes. Thomas and Johnson were in the Battalion motor-cycle team which competed in the Brigade meeting—places were not announced but both gained valuable experience in mountaineering, tree climbing and parachuting. In fact, the latter broke Pte. Burnett's record for tree climbing whilst in charge of a W.D. vehicle. However, Sunray seemed pleased enough and, in fact, throughout the training season D.R.s have done the stirring work. Pte. Crook has done equally well in the many cycling events he has entered.

We are sorry to lose Sgt. Briggs to the guardroom—as Provost Sergeant—and Pte. Bryant on a temporary visit! The latter was done for speeding—must have been watching his rev. counter! With Sgt. Briggs' departure we can now return to buying cigarettes, not rolling them! We welcome back to the Platoon Sgt. Overton from the rigours of 7 Platoon, "C" Company, and congratulate both him and Sgt. Weston on their well-deserved promotion. The R.S.O. is obviously building quite an empire—he's after a majority!

Congratulations to Lt. Cheesman on his 75 per cent. "pass in" result at Hythe—Cpl. Roper is there too—just! Cpl. Stewart has signed on and hopes to go to Hythe in January with L/Cpl. Dowsett, a re-enlistment from the Royal Fusiliers, where he was a wireless sergeant after only three years' service. We welcome him to the Platoon and also Ptes. Lambourne, an ex-T.A. signaller, and Clayton, the next R.S.O.'s batman.

New Recruit: "Why's that bloke got crossed flags on his arm?"

Old Soldier: "One for dusting, the other for polishing."

Signaller (at Albuhera lunch): "That was a nice, young, tender spring chicken." (Wipes egg yolk from mouth)

Now that Sunray wants "Hullo," "Say again," "How d'you hear me" and "Over" used only when vital, all we're left with is "Help."

CORPS OF DRUMS

Since these notes were last compiled our various activities, despite what certain of the "Drums! a load



Albuhera Day

of wasters" fraternity say, have been multitudinous.

To start off this quarter we had the trials for the Company and eventually Battalion shooting teams. This involved a number of drummers, and the countryside around Holtensen echoed with rifle fire, until there emerged from all this practising two Drums representatives for the Company and Battalion teams, in the form of Cpl. Hart and Drm. Elliot.

Then, after a short period of "nose grinding," we started sorting out our athletes in preparation for the Battalion sports meeting. Cpl. Hart, Drms. Mason, Marquiss and Butler were our stars of the track, though Drm. Watts put up a fine show in practice when he ran the 2,000 metres. At the next practice session, however, he retired after a very good try and was heard to remark "never again." The "H.Q." 2 team were classified second at the finish of the sports, and the drummers concerned put on a very good showing.

May 16 heralded yet another celebration of Albuhera Day and, at the crack of dawn, the Drums were to be seen, yawning and bleary-eyed after a pre-Albuhera Day drink, beating Reveille. This went off quite well and was appreciated by the Officers' Mess to the extent of an offer of "the hair of the dog," very much appreciated by members of the above-mentioned party. Later in the day the Battalion was treated to a very inspiring exhibition of drill and music by a special "Corps of Drums" led by "Drum-Major" Butler and watched over by the lofty eye of "Drill Sergeant" White. Royal Tournament stuff, of course. Drum-Major Lewis had better look to his laurels.

We made an early start in June when we did Retreat beatings on the 11th and 12th. The first one in camp, which was neat and orderly, and the second in the stadium in town. It was a close thing as to who would have the field as the children were there in force. It seemed as if the Pied Piper had been saving his collection of children especially for the occasion.

Finally, we welcome Drms. Lake, Boast and Catherine along with Amos and Bright, both having previous bugle experience with the cadets, and Drms. Benton and Marsh from the production line at Canterbury. Last,

but not least, from "B" Company, L/Cpl. Clarke, a bugler of vast experience from way back.

M.T. Platoon

Since last notes there have been very few changes, and to start the ball rolling we extend the hand of welcome to Ptes. Boltwood, Beale (as in C.S.M.), "Patchy" Desombre, Lincoln, Lay, Ross, Thurston, Whitmore, and to the R.E.M.E. attached Cfmn. McCann. Apologies to anyone left out, but they happen to be in your scribe's black book. And we must add that Cpl. Minett found at the last moment that he could not run away from home.

The Battalion, however, left home to spend a couple of weeks at the Soltau training areas, and once again the M.T. Platoon proved that it is the hardest-worked Platoon in the Battalion. Many good lessons were, we believe, learnt, for I am sure that Pte. Hird no longer has any misgivings about towing water trailers and Ptes. Jones and Bryant will, in future, we feel, pay more attention to correct mirror adjustment, for failure in this matter might result in another leave of absence!

We hope that all drivers now know the meaning of convoy distance, even if some drivers felt that green and amber lights encountered upon a night drive meant speed up. At this the M.T.O.'s hair turned a gentle shade of grey, to complete a most colourful scene. All returned safe save for Cpl. Brennen's party who returned a "little" late. Next time guide dogs will be provided.

Pte. Clarke, we found, could make a very good "cuppa," that was until Pte. McIntyre discovered a pair of pliers, and that was the end of that. Still, he is a most efficient worker, for he manages to get the M.T.O. to sign indents twice. And long will we remember that private camp site of one, Pte. McDougal. (Yes, Sgt. Briggs, that one.)

Upon return to barracks, operation "clean up" started, and in a remarkably short time the drivers had the vehicles up to standard. Also, at this time, Cpl. Minett found his way to the R.E.M.E. sheds to stand in for Sgt. Peppercorn, who was having a couple of weeks' rest, as in the case of Cfmn. Truesdale, who also needed a short rest, from what, we cannot say, however!

We must also thank Pte. Williams for the valuable service he rendered to the Battalion motor-cycle trials team, and much to everyone's surprise all our machines managed to stay the course. In fact, as Sgt. Miles won his class, we are considering presenting the machine concerned to the Regimental Museum (the bike only, not Sgt. Miles).

Ptes. Robins and King should have finished their N.C.O.'s cadre by the time these notes appear, and we would point out that T.W.T.s need not be completed for a duty journey to the square.

Cpl. Puckey still comes in each evening to read detail. Dare we tell him that it is displayed on the M.T. notice board and not in the NAAFI beer bar. Pte. Jarrett has left on leave, and we expect that the usual spicy stories will result.

Pte. Boltwood recently celebrated his 21st, to which the whole Platoon gave a helping hand, the hands, of course, supporting him on blankets. The result, however, was that Cpl. Minett was forced to have a bath

(cold). However, at the time, Pte. Augtherlony was remembering a certain incident on the Soltau road, and may well have been justified in his actions. It was around this time that Cpls. Puckey and Brown appeared to develop a keen horticultural outlook on German night life.

Pte. Hopkins, we hear, has found a new pastime, that of having a mud bath somewhere along the Hannover road, ably abetted by Pte. Cattermole. Hopkins, however, declares that it was the fault of the D.R. This, however, is not quite the story he told to a certain N.C.O. at first.

We take this opportunity to congratulate Pte. Page upon his recent marriage in the U.K. and remind him there are splendid married quarters available to Regular soldiers; the M.T.O. and L/Cpl. Brown for the "Rogues' Gallery" they have started (but we wonder why a photograph of a certain Ford Prefect has failed to appear); Pte. Sumpter upon his appointment as driving instructor to the M.I. Room Sunray, and to whom we wish the best of British luck.

Sgt. Pritchard of late has taken to two wheels only. When tackled on this subject, he replied: "With the shower I've got, mate, what can a man do?" Cpl. Chillingworth, we are glad to report, has now reached the "days to do" stage, and recently we were sorry to say our farewells to Pte. Kingham who has left for a U.K. posting. Never mind, Mick, it will be a boy!

And, in conclusion, we would remind Pte. Clark that it really isn't necessary to have an early call 24 hours in advance of a detail. We hear that Pte. Flack was caught in bed the other morning. What this means only you know. And to Pte. Rowland we pose this question: "Are you doing too little or too much?"

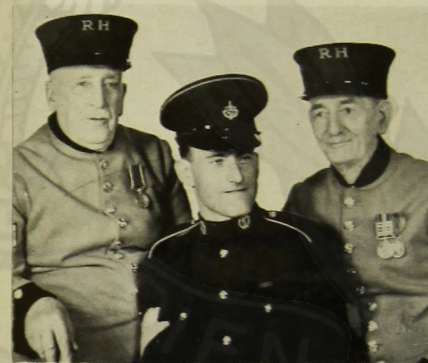
WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Committee for quarter ending September 30, 1960: P.M.C., C.S.M. K. Beale; Treasurer, C/Sgt. J. Eldridge; Members, Sgt. R. Power and Sgt. T. Parnell.

The quarter ended June 30, 1960, as always, proved to be the liveliest. The focus of all Mess life has been centred on the Albuhera celebrations which will be the main topic of these pre-planned, recorded on the spot, notes. (Battalion Editor please note!)

After the last notes many people must be wondering if we did get back safely from Sennelager, and what sort of reception we had from our better halves. News reached the "Sharp End" that our kennels were being made ready for us and that we would be required to account for our lost three weeks, missing none of the lurid details. From all reports members managed to give a good account of themselves and the kennels were quickly stored away. Needless to say, many of them have since been in use, particularly over the Albuhera period. All right "Sid" (never mind which one), you can come out now!

Our eight plush bar stools, reported on in the last issue, have been reduced in number. "Dickie" Butler fell the full four feet from one and broke his arm, and more important, one of the legs of the stool. Still we wish him a speedy recovery, and give him a gentle reminder to get a move on and have our stool repaired.



"Bill" Meachen, 1st Middlesex Sgt. Pritchard, 1st Middlesex Jock Cameron

All problems relating to the bar have now been solved. As well as our stools we have a new top to the bar, a black ivory-looking material; I'm told it is Formica. Members will no longer be able to blame the bar-top for making their elbows shiny. We are in the near future purchasing the latest in spirit measures, thus bringing our bar right up to date.

Now to the main topic, "The Albuhera Celebrations." A week or so before the big day we were a rather worried bunch. We had not received an answer to our invitation sent to the Royal Chelsea Hospital inviting two ex-Die-Hards to spend the Albuhera period with us. We heaved a sigh of relief when on May 11 the long-awaited answer came. Unfortunately only one ex-member of the Regiment was able to make the journey, namely, Bill Meachen, a young soldier, 87 years old. He brought his friend along, Jock Cameron, an ex-Cameronian, and a sprightly 78-year-old. Both gentlemen had a wonderful week with us, and took part in many activities.

On Saturday, May 14, we held our Albuhera Ball. The officers and their ladies were invited and a most enjoyable evening was had. Special thanks must again go to Johnny Medlock for producing a splendid buffet.

A moving ceremony marked the entrance of the Chelsea Pensioners. They were played into the ballroom to the strains of "Soldiers of the Queen." The entire company was upstanding and there was an air of emotion and pride.

Sunday passed quietly. Amen. Albuhera Day was celebrated in more or less traditional style. The officers had not yet recovered from Saturday and declined our offer to do battle on the parade ground. They were, however, out in force to welcome us to their Mess at lunch time, where we received the usual generous hospitality. In the evening the officers visited us and joined by Bill and Jock we drank the "Silent Toast." Col. Battye afterwards presented our two old friends with an ashtray each, the first of many gifts given them to commemorate their visit to Hameln. Later, after the officers had left, the

wives joined us and we saw out Albuhera Day, 1960, in the true spirit.

Alas, the time came when we had to bid farewell to our new-found friends. They were indeed sorry to have to leave and expressed a wish for a return visit in the not too distant future. They were given the old soldiers' traditional send-off by the Band and Drums, who played them from the Sergeants' Mess to the Main Gate, and, finally, as they were driven off to the station by Sgt. Girling, the Band took up the strains of "Auld Lang Syne"—a tune which has no doubt caused them both a certain mistiness of vision in their many, many years of loyal service, and was more than effective on this occasion. May we have the pleasure of meeting them again one day. Jock said he was going to apply for a transfer to the "Die-Hards" on his return to Chelsea. Why not—we need recruits!

We have a "Weirdie" amongst us. That big-hearted character, Sid "Pioneer" Pritchard, is growing a beard. Needless to say he has become the centre of attraction and the subject of many a rude remark. Don't let it worry you "Fungus Face," and remember next time you sleep in the P.M.C.'s bed to remove those tell-tale whiskers from the pillow.

A major catastrophe occurred late in May. Drummy Lewis reported the loss of his pet poodle. After a search lasting several hours he found it locked in his own pantry. How forgetful can you get?

The past two weeks have been spent at Soltau playing with tanks. Our opposite numbers, "B" Squadron, 4th R.Tks., were clearly sympathetic towards us having to ride on the outside of their "Ironside." The Soltau terrain didn't help towards a comfortable ride. Still many lessons were learnt and new friendships made. To our new-found friends we would like to say "Tanks a lot," and we are looking forward to marrying up with you again soon.

Promotions have been numerous this quarter. Our congratulations go out to C.S.M. Michell, C/Sgts. Nicholson, Eldridge and Garraty, and to Sgts. Scott, Overton, Weston and Parnell.

Shortly, we shall be bidding farewell to Bandmaster Jackson, who is nearing the completion of his service. We are preparing to give him a send-off that we hope will be worthy of him. We shall be giving a full account of this in the next issue. Till then, we bid you Au Revoir.

CORPORALS' CLUB

At last the need has been recognised to start again the Corporals' Club notes and your reporter finds it a very hard task, as for many weeks past we have been without a meeting place of our own, due in the first place to a shortage of NAAFI staff, and also to the fact that the Club has been redecorated, as it was felt that if you could not use the place, you might as well have the place looking nice.

In the past quarter many new faces have appeared, namely, L/Cpls. Forder, Bartlett, Hennessy, Cooper, Jolliffe, Manning, Dowsett, and, of course, Daniels (R.A.P.C.). May we remind them of the custom of buying the drinks. Congratulations also to Cpls. Gutteridge, Flanagan, Beavis, McFarland, O'Gorman,

Rand, Haggerty, Puckey, Reynolds, Kirkpatrick, Chillingworth, Roper and, of course again, Luke of the R.A.P.C., upon their second. We are very sorry to say goodbye to Sgts. Scott, Overton and Weston, all of whom have moved to the higher income bracket.

Also by the time that these notes appear our P.M.C. of long standing will have at long last been caught. By this, of course, we mean his forthcoming marriage. All members of the Club have generously donated a gift to mark this memorable occasion, and we wish Cpl. and Mrs. Torrie all the best for the future.

We have recently been honoured by a visit from ex-Cpl. Heath, and one is inclined to think that he may follow the splendid example set by ex-Cpl. Healy, and rejoice the happy family.

Following the Soltau training period, some of the members travelled up to spend a night with our old friends, the 4th R.T.R., at Hohne. A most enjoyable night was had by all, even though Cpls. Minett, Weston and Overton finished eating ice cream.

We must welcome back to the Battalion Cpl. ("General") Stopp, who for the past few months lent his services to the Regimental Depot, and Cpl. Meacock who, we believe, returned to have driving lessons at Soltau. Cpls. Stewart and Minett have decided to stay on with us. Cpls. Hennessy, Stevenson and Knapp are, we feel, trying their best to have Gordon Barracks renamed the Isle of Man, that is if one is to judge from the motor-cycle type noises that we hear.

But we are glad to report that L/Cpl. Hall has given up his battle with the B.F.G. Licensing Authorities and has started life again, and that Cpls. Brennen, Barnes and Coleman (A.C.C.) are still on a liquid diet at lunch times, and all doing well.

We see very little of Cpl. ("Dutch") Holland these days since he developed all those mighty muscles. Cpl. ("Chippy") Kirkpatrick is still overworked, as always, but we wonder if the Q.M. is aware of this fact!

The terrors of "A" Company, Cpls. Brumwell and Quinn, seem happy at their work, despite Cpl. Quinn's vast consumption of a certain well-known hair-restorer. Cpl. Flanagan has ended his tour of duty with "D" Company, having, we hear, exercised his voice more than the recruits entrusted to his care.

Cpl. Shearing is happy to report that at long last he has performed a regimental duty on a night devoid of social functions.

Your reporter and his scribe feel that they must now bring these notes to an end, due to the fact that the amount of libel contained above exceeds the amount held in their credits, and hoping that by the next time these notes appear the front doors will be open.

STOP PRESS.—It has just come to our notice that L/Cpls. Mitchell and Cousins, accompanied by C/Sgt. Garraty ("Black Patch" to his friends) and escorted by Pres. O'Brien and McDowell, were privileged to go to Paris to help along the way some travel-minded drummers. On arrival via Köln (Cologne, as in perfume) they explored the city, finding no difficulty with the language due to ex-Légionnaire—flags flying, drums beating, bayonets fixed—Cousins, whose expert knowledge of the language all but *Bastilled* them. Upon their return to Hameln these globe-trotters had an extra passenger,

this taking the form of a tortoise which Sheriff Garraty and his posse rounded up in one of the boulevards (red light area, of course), supposedly a souvenir, but of what, we don't know. The identity of the guilty party is not known, but we would point out to readers that this tortoise, named Butch, had only one eye as well! All have now recovered and are busily engaged in building up their credits once again.

SPORTS NOTES

Pride of place this quarter must go to the athletics team who trained exceptionally hard and were unlucky to be beaten into second place in the Brigade athletics by a very strong S.W.B. team. We held the upper hand in the track events but were weak in the field.

The Battalion swimming team retained the 2nd Division Swimming Cup against very spirited opposition but their season was a short one, this being the only meeting within the Division and only one other team competing. Training prevented our going forward to the B.A.O.R. finals.

Very little cricket has been played since our unlucky defeat by 4th Royal Tanks in the first round of the Army Cup. However, we have an excellent team on paper and during August we should be able to turn out our best side for a very full fixture list.

In the Albuhera Shield Competition "B" Company have a 12-point lead, and with only hockey and cricket to be played off seem sure to win.

All Company sports stores are in the process of being centralised in the Battalion sports store, which will then be able to provide sports kit, less clothing of Company colours, for all the varied sporting activities of the Battalion. This should also reduce the vast amount of money at present spent on sports kit.

In the realm of individual sporting achievements Cpl. Finnis continues to do well in the pentathlon, though we are sorry not to see him in the Olympics team. He has been away some time now, but we hope to see him back in time for the rugby season. Within the Battalion, Pres. Crook ("H.Q."), Hubbard ("A") and Turner ("C") have been having some success in both civilian and service cycling events. In a local event Pte. Crook finished 22nd out of 90-odd starters—a creditable performance with no training!

CRICKET NOTES

Although we have played only three matches and it is now half-way through the season, we are looking forward to the second half mainly because we have completed most of our training and can feel more certain of being able to play the remaining eleven matches.

We started our season with a visit to 1st R.H.A. at Hildersheim. Fielding first we soon found out our chief weakness—lack of practice. However, after using some seven bowlers we were eventually set 111 runs to win, having taken nine opponents' wickets.

We batted after tea, and soon Hamson for the opposition, who had scored a useful 14 not out, began to play havoc with our batting. Taking 7 for 30, we were all out for 56. A disappointing start to the season.

Our next match, the first round of the major units

competition, was played on May 28 at Hameln against the 4th Royal Tanks.

Batting first we started reasonably, scoring 42 for the loss of two wickets. Then three quick wickets fell and we were placed in the not too happy position of 60 for 5 wickets. A stand by L/Cpl. Bustin and Pte. Vaughan took us to 88 before the next wicket fell, and a resolute 17 not out by 2/Lt. Cowing took us to 121 for 9 when the 25 overs were finished. Capt. Pike, opening the innings, was top scorer with 19.

With our known bowling strength we went into the field confident that with good fielding we might achieve success. It had rained heavily during tea and the grass was slippery and the outfield slow. This was both an advantage and disadvantage to us and, as it turned out, more of a disadvantage.

2/Lts. Lofting and Rayner opened the bowling, and Lofting especially bowled well, conceding only 8 runs in 6 overs. Capt. Pike then relieved 2/Lt. Lofting, and also bowled well to take 3 for 35.

However, a firm resistance by Weeks (their opening bat who scored 54) took their score to 93 for 4. Three more wickets fell, two being run-outs from good fielding, before they eventually passed our total at 123 for 7, with 2 overs to spare. We wish them well in the rest of the competition.

Our third match took place on June 18 when five of the team were away in England playing in the Regimental Cricket Week.

This was our first win of the season, due mainly to some fine bowling by L/Cpls. Bustin and Peak, who has just returned from the Depot. Setting our opponents, 19th Field Regiment, 78 for victory, L/Cpl. Bustin took 6 for 27 and L/Cpl. Peak 4 for 25, seven of the batsmen being bowled. They finally made 52.

L/Cpl. Williams opening for the Battalion scored a useful 22, and Pte. Whyte going in at No. 5 also played impressively to be not out 19 at the end of the innings. Pte. Vaughan again scored freely before being caught for 17.

In conclusion we would like to congratulate 2/Lt.



Battalion Swimming Team which retained the 2nd Division Swimming Cup



Cpl. Scott receiving the 2nd Division Swimming Championship Cup

Lofting and L/Cpl. Bustin on representing 2nd Division, and also Capt. Pike, Lt. Cheesman, 2/Lts. Cowing, Lofting and Rayner on playing in the Regimental Cricket Week held at the Depot between June 18 and 23.

Special mention must be given to Capt. Pike's polished bowling performances throughout and to 2/Lt. Lofting's aggressive, if not polished scores of 151 and 73. Both bowling and batting helped much towards victory.

SWIMMING

A file appeared in my room early in April bearing the title "Swimming File." Out of idle curiosity I flipped through the pages, and then put it away. I returned to this file late in May, dusted it, and again flipped through the pages, only this time with a slight air of desperation, as I was trying to find out how last year's swimming competition had been run. After various all-change periods, which the athletics officer will know about, the day finally chosen was June 10 and the venue was Sennelager.

On a cloudy day things finally got to a start, and the competitors raced through various relays. Apart from the usual large crowd of "B" Company spectators, the standard of swimming was generally high, and certainly nobody drowned.

Cpls. O'Rawe and Scott, Pte. Scott, Bds. Eldred, Cfn. McCann and L/Cpl. Cosgrave showed up well, and looked promising for the Battalion team.

"B" Company eventually won the competition with 53 points, and Cpl. O'Rawe won the individual diving competition. Mrs. Battye kindly presented the prizes.

Five days before the 2 Division swimming championships took place, I, greatly assisted by Sgt. Edey, got together enough good swimmers for one Battalion team. Sgt. Edey picked the final team, and we all motored off to Osnabruck to compete against 40th Field Regiment R.A., the only other entrant. After some early success in the breast stroke event, we tailed behind, and depression took a hold when we worked out we could not win unless the other team were disqualified in the final event,



1st BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.) ATHLETIC TEAM, 1960

L/Cpl. McKenzie ("S"), Pte. O'Brian ("H.Q."), Bds. Coleman ("H.Q."), Pte. Ward ("H.Q."), 2/Lt. Everard, Lt. Waite, Pte. Lloyd ("H.Q."), Pte. O'Riordan
Pte. Parker ("A"), Pte. Knight ("B"), Sgt. Young ("A"), Sgt. Scott ("B"), 2/Lt. Goring, Pte. Clarke ("B")
Lt. Julian, L/Cpl. Jolliffe ("B"), Pte. Rice ("D"), Pte. Johns ("S"), L/Cpl. Flanagan ("S"), L/Cpl. Taylor ("H.Q."),
Sgt. Miles ("S"), L/Cpl. Stephenson ("B")
Pte. Chandler ("B"), L/Cpl. Lynch ("A"), Cpl. Sheffield ("B"), Capt. McManus, Commanding Officer, C.S.M.
Wright, Cpl. Meehan ("A"), L/Cpl. Puckey ("H.Q."), Cpl. Pollard ("B")
Pte. Tucker ("D"), Pte. Vaughan ("C"), Pte. Harron ("H.Q."), Pte. O'Keefe ("A"), Bds. Louis ("H.Q."),
Pte. Renton ("B")

the medley relay. They were, and we retained the 2 Division swimming cup. All swimmers immediately congratulated themselves on this achievement, and certainly Pte. Scott, Cpl. Scott and the breast stroke team excelled themselves. Sgt. Edey was duly thrown in, and I was only spared this ducking because I had everybody's watches and wallets. A game of water polo, or something fairly near it, then took place for 10 minutes each way, which was good value for a laugh. Only two teams competed, and so, because we joined forces with 40th Field Regiment R.A., Pte. Johnson, Cpl. O'Rawe and Pte. McCann were given runners-up medals.

Swimming has gone to no higher level this year, as Soltau training interrupted, but the team can claim to be unbeaten.

ATHLETICS

Inter-Company Meeting

The season opened with the inter-Company championships in the Albuhera Shield Competition. Due to certain disagreements as to who should be using the track and some very heavy rain, the meeting stretched from May 14 to 22, surely a record. However, when the points were added up "B" Company, who had taken the precaution of starting training in March, emerged as the winners with 91 points, closely followed by

"H.Q." 2 with 87. Other results were: "S" Company, 74, 3rd; "A" Company, 71, 4th; "C" Company, 70, 5th; "H.Q." 1, 64, 6th. This year, the events were largely modelled on the Army inter-unit championships. This meant having relays in most track events and a more interesting meeting.

2 Division Individual Championships

A large contingent from the Battalion were entered in this meeting and some good results were achieved:—Hop, step and jump, Cpl. Scott, 38 ft. 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ in., 3rd; discus, Lt. Cheeseman, 115 ft. 5 in., 1st; 110-metres hurdles, Cpl. Sheffield, 20.6 sec., 1st; Pte. Holton, 20.8 sec., 2nd; 800 metres, 2/Lt. Everard, 2 min. 3.2 sec., 1st; weight, Lt. Cheeseman, 42 ft. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ in., 1st; 2/Lt. Goring, 37 ft. 9 in., 3rd; 400 metres, Pte. Ward, 1st; Lt. Waite, 2nd.

B.A.O.R. Individual Championships

Although only 2/Lt. Everard (800 metres) and Goring (shot) reached the finals, coming 4th and 6th respectively, valuable experience was gained. The value of good competition was demonstrated amongst others by Cpl. Scott who improved his triple jump from 36 ft. in the inter-Company meeting to over 38 ft. in the Divisional meeting to over 40 ft. in the B.A.O.R. meeting.

R.A.F. Scharfoldendorf

In this interesting meeting the R.A.F. produced a good team to win by four points. The afternoon was remarkable for fine sprinting by Chetley of the R.A.F. side, and a cleverly run race in the 5,000 metres by Pte. Johns, who was able to leave his opposition standing in a strong finish.

V.F.L. Hameln

This was an evening match against the local civilian athletic club. Unfortunately the Battalion side was outclassed in many events and beaten in all. However, everyone benefited from this further experience of high-class competition. The occasion was enhanced by the participation of 1st Argylls, who entered teams and individuals in some of the track events.

11 Brigade Inter-Unit Team Championships

The final scores of this meeting, in which the 1st Battalion The South Wales Borderers came first with 69 points, followed by ourselves (59 points), and the 4th Royal Tank Regiment (49 points), gives some indication of the keen competition. In general, our field events are weak, but with winter training and coaching could be good. Unfortunately for us, in the South Wales Borderers we found a well-balanced team. From our point of view the highlights of the meeting were the 4 x 200 metres, 800 metres and 400 metres relays. In the 200 metres Sgt. Miles got away to a good start, the baton passing to L/Cpl. McKenzie and Lt. Julian. The last runner, Capt. McManus, took over lying second to 4 R.T.R. but managed to catch up and win in an exciting finish. In the 800 metres, Pte. Harron started but tried to set too fast a pace, and handed over about 75 yards behind the field. Pte. Ward and O'Riordan both ran very strongly to give only a few yards handicap to 2/Lt. Everard who ran a fine race to clinch a convincing win.

The 4 x 400 metres relay (Pte. Vaughan, 2/Lt. Everard, Lt. Waite and Pte. Ward) was less tense, but impressive as a piece of strong, confident running to gain a well-deserved first place.

WHAT'S IN A NICKNAME

Perhaps one of the most lasting traditions of the Army has been its unchanging spirit of fraternity. It is a known fact that once soldiers have served together there forever exists a spirit of comradeship amongst them. What keeps to preserve this comradeship is the fact that practically all soldiers of the British Army know one another by a nickname, a nickname that sticks to each man throughout his Service days, and indeed perhaps to the end of his life.

A loving mother may decide to have her son baptised Horace Cuthbert Augustus Miller, but should he join the Army, it is inevitable that he will only be accepted as "Dusty." The young recruit may feel justifiably proud of being called Graham Lloyd Clive Clarke, but the remainder of his squad will only know him as "Nobby"; the Army Council may legally include the name of General Sir Felix St. Crutchly Groin de Sales Murphy, but all ranks will privately acknowledge him as General "Spud"—simply that and nothing more.

Officers of equal or near equal rank usually address each other by their Christian names. Tommy Atkins rarely lives now. The private soldier clings loyally to the fraternal and spurns the conventional. He will invariably address his neighbour by his nickname, or if a nickname has not yet been established, will quickly convert the surname into a nickname by flavouring it with a vesture of intimacy. For instance, if Tommy notes that Brown, Jones, Robinson or Harper is not conspicuously tall enough to be dubbed Lofty, diminutive enough to be styled Shorty, red-haired enough to be called Ginger, slim enough to be called Snakey, dark skinned enough to be called Blackie, he would just hail them enthusiastically as Browny, Joney, Robbie and Harpie. In like circumstances names like Thompson, Johnson, Lawrence, Ferguson, Clements and West are more intimately interjected as Tomo, Johnno, Lawrie, Fergy, Clemo and Westo; again names like Connor, Nichols, Davies, Donovan and Cooper are generally abbreviated to Conn, Nick, Dave, Dun and Coops—unless, of course, nationality asserts its stronger claims in which case Mick Connor, Taff Nichols, Jim Donovan and Scowse Davies will probably be hailed simply as Mick, Taff, Jim and Scowse.

A large number of nicknames are of the double-barrelled type, such as "Nobby" Clarke, "Wiggie" Bennett, "Shiver" Wright, etc., but, in the main, nicknames are derived from public figures—normally brazenly irrespective of gender. Murphy does not mind the "Spud," or Brooks the "Rajah," or Burns the honourable appellation of "Robbie," but it is certain that when they first join the Army Messrs. Matthews, Lewis, Attlee and Steele must find it not a little embarrassing on soon being hailed as Stanley, Joe, Clem and Tommy; again, the most hairy he-man in the Regiment whose name happens to be Dors must prepare himself to be considered as nothing more masculine than "Diana."

In his carefree partiality to nicknames the soldier does not bother to discriminate between celebrities and notoriety. Billy Fisher, a determined agnostic, will cheerfully answer to "Bishop" without a twinge of conscience, while Jimmy Moss—proud of his accident-free and safe driving in the M.T.—must be stoically prepared to accept "Stirling" without so much as a blush. Conversely, an ardent Salvationist called Todd, be he ever so saintly, must meekly accept the shady correlative of "Sweeney."

Soldiers, however, whose surnames bear no affinity with the Great Ones and whose appearance or physical peculiarities cannot easily be symbolised, do not go free. Failing all else they are hailed by a friendly and familiar variation of their Christian names. John invariably becomes "Johnnie," and Montgomery "Monty." Again, they may fall into a class for which a fashionable patronymic is always found. Surnames of the baptismal type are usually duplicative. Phillips is always "Phil," Samuels is always "Sammy," and Andrews is always "Andy." In the third person this class is repetitious as, for instance, "Tommy" Thomas, "Billy" Williams, "Robbie" Roberts, "Jackie" Johns and "Jimmy" James. Again, there is the onomatopoeic and collateral types of nicknames which

are leisurely adopted without respect either for modesty or eponymy. Thus we have "Bogey" Knight, "Windy" Gale, "Boozey" Beer, "Donkey" Bray, "Jim" Gowe, "Dickie" Bird, "Chimpy" Monk, "Bagsey" Baker, "Conger" Eale, "Jack" Frost, "Trader" Horne, "Ding-dong" Bell, and so on.

The up-to-date sports reader does not need to know why every Matthews is a "Stanley" nor every May a "Peter." There are, however, a few stereotyped nicknames, the etymology of which may be interesting to trace:

"Bogie" Knight is derived from a pantomimic character; Bogie (Bogiemán) being associated with the night.

"Dusty" Miller has two significations: (a) The trade of a miller being associated with flour dust; (b) when soft bread made its debut many, many years ago, the first contractor to supply it was the firm of Andrew Miller. The dust caused by the bread being stowed in the barrack rooms gave rise to "Dusty."

"Nobby" Clarke, the most immutable of all Army nicknames. Clarke was confused with "clerk" and the clerks of the early part of the last century were indigent, shabby genteel lads who did much work and were expected to keep up a high standard of appearance on a high starvation wage. They tried, however, to raise their social prestige in those days by putting on airs and graces, and when successful in the illusion were regarded as "nobs" (i.e. toffs) and referred to as "nobby clerks."

"Buck" Ryan originated in much the same way. The smart tailors were patronised by "bucks" whose social upkeep was a display of finery in apparel rather like Beau Brummel.

"Spud" Murphy is, of course, essentially Irish. The potato was a staple food of the Irish poor during past years of want and distress, and so devoted were they to the "spud" that it grew to be appellation of many Irish names—Murphy, Maloney, Muldowney, Hannigan, Callaghan and Brannigan. Of these names Murphy is the commonest, and so "spud" became associated more with Murphy than any other name. Indeed, potatoes are still called "Murphies" to this day.

"Chalky" White appears to be of Chinese origin on the grounds that a Chinese washerman soliciting patronage for his laundry service in a military camp, was famed for his frank avowal that he could "chalkie 'em white," i.e. wash the clothes white. White is also sometimes inferred to as "Knocker" and whose origination appears to have a naval flavour on the fact that a boxing Jack Tar is called a "Knocker."

"Pony" More (or Moore) was a famous racing celebrity who had a great habit of saying, "I'll bet you a pony!" A pony in the old days was a slang expression for £25, so dubbed because the sum was thus usually assessed as being the price of a pony.

"Spike" Sullivan is reputed to have been a gigantic Irishman who lived in the last century and had no equal in the art of handling a marline-spike.

"Pincher" Martin became well known between the forties and fifties of the last century. A certain Capt. Martin became renowned for his remarkable forensic skill in prosecuting at a court-martial and was promptly

dubbed the "Pincher" both by officers and men.

"Wiggie" Bennett's origin is said to be anecdotal. It is believed to refer to the exploits of a devil-may-care named Bennett which always resulted in his being hauled up before his superiors for a "wiggling." The name was thus handed down to all Bennetts.

Nicknames are really a language of their own. It is a jargon as mystical as the language of Flowers, and as fascinating as the language of Stamps. But it is a closed book to the most erudite civilian and often to the soldier himself. But it is true to say that not one out of a hundred soldiers refer or hail each other by their formal baptismal names. No one is ever Miller, White or Murphy—unless he is extremely unpopular of course!

SOLTAU LAMENT

Lo! Another hope of summer day
Has gone, with rays of sunshine thrust away;
And cloud is scurrying o'er on high
With rain that damps and chills the sky.
Oh! Hasten sun—bring warmth—bring release:
Tarry not from yon windy skies and cease
This clogging slush of heath and sand—
Please dry this wet and muddy land.

J.I.D.P.

BANDMASTER FREDERICK ARTHUR JACKSON An Appreciation

On July 26, and after 10 years' service with us, probably the best-known and certainly one of the most respected members of the Battalion left on the first stage of his retirement—Bandmaster Frederick Arthur Jackson.

It is true to say that his whole life has been spent in the Army. His father, Lt.-Col. J. R. Jackson, was serv-



Bandmaster F. A. Jackson

ing with the Indian Engineers at Mandalay when he was born on February 24, 1921, and it was whilst his father was still serving that Mr. Jackson joined the Band of the 43rd (Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry) as a boy in 1935.

Three years later he went to Kneller Hall as a pupil and rejoined his Band on its return from Dunkirk. It was this Band, with which he was still serving, that was the first to return to liberated Europe, a few weeks after D Day.

Meanwhile, Mr. Jackson had married Grace Waring, "a lassie from Lancashire" on January 15, 1944, and then, just after the war was over, he returned to Kneller Hall as a student bandmaster.

In April 1950 he graduated and was appointed our Bandmaster, and from that moment his life has been that of the Battalion—service in Hong Kong, Japan, on public duties in London, Austria, Cyprus, and finally Germany.

During these years the Band has had its "ups" and "downs" but the "ups" have predominated due to Mr. Jackson's unfailing skill and enthusiasm, and his uncanny knack of making all ends meet. Wherever the Battalion has been, the Band, and especially its Bandmaster, has won golden opinions.

What has been the secret of this success? A personality suave and unruffled—a determination that perfection only is good enough—a deep and thorough understanding of all the instruments—a wide knowledge of music and an unfailing skill in the choice of music suitable to his audience—above all, a charm of manner and an air of certified quiet efficiency.

There have been numerous highlights in these 10 years. There are still many, in and out of the Regiment, who speak of the concerts in Hong Kong. No doubt Mr. Jackson himself recalls with pride the presentation

of Colours by Field Marshal Lord Harding at Zeltweg and the great international parades in Vienna. Then there were those very successful broadcasts on F.B.S. in Cyprus but, in fact, it was in music-loving Germany that Mr. Jackson achieved his greatest triumphs.

Under his baton the Band became the best ambassador that the British Army has had in Lower Saxony, and in Hameln has helped to turn what was a hostile Press into a friendly and helpful one. The Band has played frequently in Hameln, Hannover and the numerous spas in the neighbourhood and have now a considerable following. The Germans appreciate particularly the accuracy of his playing, his skill in the choice of programmes, and his quiet decisive control of his band. It was particularly appropriate that his final appearance should have been at Bad Pyrmont, where a large audience gave the Band a most enthusiastic welcome.

But music was not his only love. His interest covered every activity, but especially it was hockey, where he played a notable part in raising and maintaining the high standard of our teams, being our automatic choice in the forward line to the very end. This interest in hockey (and, indeed, in every sport) he inculcated into his bandmen, and this is one of the reasons for their fine spirit.

In all his work he was splendidly backed up by Mrs. Jackson, who was unfailing in her care for other wives, and for the younger members of the Band. If there was ever an inconvenient job to be done, one could always count on Mrs. Jackson to do it well.

A small attempt was made before they left to express the appreciation of all ranks and all families for what Mr. and Mrs. Jackson had done and had meant to them all. What was done was a mere token of an appreciation that lies deep in every heart. To them both, "God speed" in their travels and life at home.

Depot Notes

EDITORIAL

For the past six months, surveyors and architects, followed by small knots of officers, including representatives of the W.R.A.C., have been a feature of Depot life. At last it seems that their deliberations have borne fruit and the Editor gives the news of the closure of our Depot and the future of Inglis Barracks in his Editorial.

In such times of change it is not always easy to carry on as though nothing were happening and all our activities are tinged with the regret that this is the last occasion—the last Albuhera Day, the last Cricket Week, the last "At Home," and even the last Administrative Inspection. It is, however, business as usual until the end of the year, and as far as possible it is our intention to see that these last occasions are indeed memorable ones.

Albuhera Day was a great success, with seven-a-side competitions in the morning and an all-ranks' dance in the evening. Many past members of the Regiment

turned up to the dance and both they and present members thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Capt. Wollocombe organised a very successful cricket week before departing for Aden, where he will be able to practice his leg breaks all the year round, and Capt. Gilham, who has taken over the Depot XI along with Training Company, has led them undefeated so far through the season. In the winter he hopes to enter our soccer team in the Army Cup Competition.

Lt. Pitman has joined us from the 1st Battalion and will be the last Regular subaltern to have the good fortune to do a tour on the training staff of the Depot.

Our sympathy is extended to R.S.M. Bartle over the sudden death of his wife in the early hours of Whit Sunday morning.

TRAINING COMPANY

The approach of the end of National Service has resulted so far in a speeding up of the tempo in Training Company, with two enormous intakes (62nd and 63rd)

comprising nearly 200 recruits under training at the same time. Since one of the intakes consisted mainly of Royal Sussex personnel a healthy rivalry developed, culminating in an excellent boxing match well organised by S.S.I. Bristow. After a very entertaining evening the Royal Sussex contingent just scraped home by the closest of margins.

Results:—

Intake 62	Intake 63
(1) Pte. Seacroft	lost to Pte. Usher
(2) Pte. Lynch	beat Pte. Walsh
(3) Pte. Boyden	beat Pte. King
(4) Pte. Foster	beat Pte. Leonard
(5) Pte. Hardman	beat Pte. Bennett
(6) Pte. Lake	lost to Pte. Maselin
(7) Pte. Bonner	lost to Pte. Christian
(8) Pte. McAllister	beat Pte. Turner
(9) Pte. Chance	lost to Pte. Cater
(10) Pte. Ross	lost to Pte. Sanders
(11) Pte. Allen	lost to Pte. Grundy
(12) Pte. Reboles	beat Pte. Schierhout
(13) Pte. Gibson	lost to Pte. Cole
(14) Pte. Clarke	lost to Pte. Jones
(15) Pte. Hudson	beat Pte. Beane

A rather unusual sight was an intake consisting most of Regular soldiers which followed Intake 63; 28 out of 32 passed out as Regular soldiers, the remainder being National Servicemen left over from the preceding intakes. The Mayor of Hendon, Alderman J. Hills, took the salute at the Passing-Out Parade and presented prizes to the following:—

Best Rifle Shot: Pte. Hackett.

Best L.M.G. Shot: Pte. Hackett.

Highest Physical Efficiency: Pte. Goodall.

Training commitments allowed us only to send a small team to the London District Rifle Meeting. The results, however, were most encouraging.

In the Rifle Competition Cpl. Willis was placed 5th in Class "B," whilst our three recruits in the team all won prizes in Class "D": Pte. Blowers, 6th; Pte. Dowsett, 26th; Pte. Trudgill, 28th. Sgts. Raffael and Kerr also won prizes in Class "A" of the competition.

C/Sgt. Morgan has eased himself into civilian life and now has a house in Peterborough, and we welcome in his place C/Sgt. Martin.

C.S.M. Burgess has returned after his long spell in hospital, and Sgts. Horder and Kerr have joined Sgt. Blackwell in training.

Training now has added hazards. Keeping track of recruits, always a difficult business, is now even more so, since the invasion of surveyors, architects, builders and builders' mates with a view to rebuilding the Barracks on our disbandment. Even our football pitch is soon to be riddled with boreholes.

CRICKET

The Depot has had an excellent cricket season so far with 10 wins in 10 games. We had a tremendous start to the season with a win over Depot Royal Fusiliers by nearly 200 runs, and from that we haven't looked back.

The highlight was a win over a Lancashire touring side composed of players from Bolton and Southport clubs. Their side included three Lancashire League players, but mercifully they were a few short as well and were made up to strength by recruits.

We have high hopes of further success in the London District Cup, having reached the semi-final so far, and

at one time we had eight players representing London District in a match against the "Millers" at Mill Hill School. The following have represented London District: Capt. Crumley, Capt. Gilham, Sgt. Horder, L/Cpls. Philp, Evans and Ashbolt, and Ptes. Duke and Toole. In addition, Pte. Toole performs regularly for Eastern Command.

CRICKET RESULTS

(1) Depot Middlesex, 224 for 5	Depot Royal Fusiliers, 33
Sgt. Raffael 69	L. Cpl. Addison 4 wickets for 0 runs
Capt. Wollocombe 51	
Capt. Crumley 51	18 Company, R.A.M.C., 113
(2) Depot Middlesex, 154 for 6	War Office, 78
Capt. Wollocombe 49 n.o.	Depot Royal Fusiliers, 59
(3) Depot Middlesex, 123	Pte. Toole 7 for 24
(4) Depot Middlesex, 146 for 3	East Lances, C.C., 119
L. Cpl. Evans 38 n.o.	Pte. Toole 5 for 40
(5) Depot Middlesex, 121 for 7	10 Command Workshops
Capt. Gilham 61	R.E.M.E., 41
(6) Depot Middlesex, 166 for 8	L. Cpl. Addison 3 for 7
Capt. Gilham 67	Hendon Police College, 135
(7) Depot Middlesex, 193 for 9	
Pte. Toole 53	
S.S.I. Bristow 37	H.Q. London District, 88
(8) Depot Middlesex 154	Pte. Toole 4 for 29
Pte. Toole 74	
LONDON DISTRICT CRICKET CHALLENGE CUP (33 Overs)	
2nd Round:	
Depot Middlesex, 95 for 6	Household Cavalry, 92 for 9
Pte. Toole 45	Pte. Toole 5 for 46
Quarter-Final:	
Depot Middlesex, 132	R.P.O., Footscray, 86
L. Cpl. Philp 51	
All games were won.	

OFFICERS' MESS

The credit squeeze goes on: notes must be cut short. As we have had well over 60 visitors this quarter, we are quite unable to publish a list. Suffice it to say that we have been very glad to see them all, and trust that they and others will take the opportunity of visiting this place again before the move to Canterbury.

As far as one can see we shall start "running down" about the end of this year, and move in the spring. The running-down period may mean some considerable disruption of our lives, as it is understood that the existing kitchen is to be scrapped and moved, and the central heating system, not very long ago installed, changed. Don't take this to be "gospel": this is just what seems likely at the moment. It would probably be better, however, to plan a visit *this* year!

In April we were particularly pleased to see Capt. Durnell here before he went off to join the 1st Battalion. Old members of the 2nd Battalion will remember his father with the R.W.K. in Poona.

Lt.-Col. Hewitt looked in that month, as he has done again since, and we were delighted to see that his wife had recovered from her illness. We hope Preston may not be as bad as one might imagine.

At a Guest Night on April 27 we had the headmaster of Highgate School to dinner, also Major Ian Glover, D.A.Q.M.G. 47th Brigade.

John Moore arrived from 1st Middlesex on May 1 to become Adjutant of 23rd London Regiment.

Col. Green has visited us on several occasions and stayed for short periods.

On Albuhera Day we departed from normal custom by holding a mixed buffet supper in the Mess before going on to a dance in the gymnasium. The other

activities of the day proceeded as usual. We were very glad to see Gen. Horrocks here on that occasion: it is not often that he can manage to get up here.

About 54 attended the supper and went on to the dance, which was a most successful all-ranks' gathering ending at midnight, but the Mess continued in operation, and dawn was approaching before some of the stalwarts called it a day.

On June 15 Roger Pitman arrived for duties with Training Company and he was followed up by the Cricket Week contingent whose names may be found in the results of the matches. On the last day of the Week Sandhurst Wanderers stayed to supper. Major-Gen. Weston was here and livened the party up.

On June 25 the Officers' Club annual "At Home" was held at the Depot. It wasn't really very well attended, but it was good value nevertheless, and one renewed a number of old acquaintances: again no names—in these notes, anyway.

The Admin. Inspection on July 5 was taken by the Chief of Staff, London District, and he and his staff lunched with us, as also Col. Grace from Home Counties Brigade. Brigadier Man was here that day and stayed the night; Rex Waller was expected but didn't put in appearance. Maybe the error was ours: Rex doesn't often make mistakes!

On July 14 Gen. Bucknall looked in en route from Scotland where he had been fishing. He put some of his kit out on the lawn to dry. It transpired that he had slipped on the river bank and fallen in, much to the amusement of his companion. Before leaving for home, however, the General had witnessed this same friend fall in himself, not once but TWICE! *Qui rit vult ridi, dimanche pleurera!*

On July 15 Col. Hervey del Court and his wife turned up; they certainly do get around!

Gordon Crumley got married at Fleet on July 16 and, apart from Col. Browne who was unwell, the Mess was empty. It was a delightful service—one could hear every word the Padre said—and the reception afterwards was splendid. Our very best wishes to Gordon and Margaret.

Lt. Rose reported on July 18 and left a few days later for Hameln.

2/Lt. Bryant arrived shortly afterwards and went off to Ghana.

Patrick and Sheila Wollocombe left the Depot on July 2; Pat is now in Aden. We congratulate them on the recent birth of a son: our best wishes go with them and the family. We have been glad to have seen something of Molly Wollocombe, whom some, at least here, know so well.

The Officers' Club Dinner on July 22 will no doubt be dealt with elsewhere—anyhow, we have already taken up too much space.

SERGEANTS' MESS

The quarter has been much more lively than the last one—so much so that although it was originally planned to hold Mess functions every fourth Saturday, by popular request these now occur every week with attendances increasing steadily. In the main the results of these "socials" are undistinguishable from those of

any other common or garden orgy, although most of the harder Mess members creep in at Sunday mid-day to find out what they got up to on the Saturday.

As usual Albuhera Day was the high spot of the high spot of the quarter, culminating in the all-ranks' ball in the evening. The Albuhera Ball was preceded in the morning by the football and basketball competitions in what was laughingly called the Albuhera Sports. The Mess united with the Officers' Mess to form representative teams, winning the football, being losing finalists in the basketball and later being completely overcome by the Albuhera Ball. The bar for the Ball was provided by the Mess and stretched the width of the gym., but even so proved unequal to the task of providing liquid refreshment quickly enough to the assembled multitudes who vented their spleen and frustration in many diverting and original ways. Never at any time did there seem to be less than five ranks of potential customers clamouring for liquor. In the finish, the groans and other indications of suffering showed that the "Die-Hards" were at least trying to live up to their sobriquet.

There have been other noteworthy functions throughout the session. The Finchley Police paid their regular annual "sports" visit, but unfortunately rain stopped play in the cricket match before it began. The afternoon was passed away with lighter entertainments before the more serious business of the evening started. Uckers, darts and crib tournaments were tensely fought out with feeling running high on both sides; honours were about even until unforeseen tragedy struck the Mess team when we were soundly defeated in the nifty pint—this, despite the fact that Sgt. Redmond by an astute piece of gamesmanship managed to pour about two-thirds of his nectar down his chest.

The official trip to the Oaks was cancelled through lack of support, but C/Sgts. Eastap and Diamond, by a smart piece of lobbying, organised a private expedition which was inebriatingly successful. Sgt. Kerr has succumbed to the temptations of marriage (mainly to fill a blank Saturday, he claims). Mrs. Kerr is already a familiar figure in the Mess and we wish them the very best of luck. This sort of thing is rather insidious—congratulations are also due to John Martin on his engagement; he is practising his own brand of evasiveness by becoming engaged but declining to name the day—thus hanging on to the last tenuous threads of freedom. Congratulations are also due to him on his promotion to Colour-Sergeant and commiserations on taking over Training Company Stores.

The bitter truth that sex is procreational rather than recreational has been brought home to Mess members lately. Mrs. Raffael and Mrs. Horder have presented their respective husbands with offsprings (that is to say, children, not spare parts). Husbands and children are all doing well. However, Jim Redmond may fairly be said to be king of this particular castle, not only has he his young daughter Elizabeth but the mighty atom is expecting further additions to his family. There is a question of there being twins this time—twins run in Mrs. Redmond's family but, as Jim said, this time they haven't run far enough.

To the surprise of many, the patter of tiny feet may

also be heard in S.S.I. Bristow's quarter. This has been kept extremely quiet, but the truth emerged when the Mess accepted one of the offsprings as a pet. With the one from the Officers' Mess we now have two kittens. These were thought necessary as the mice have developed of late an attitude bordering on the blase, not to say the contemptuous. But we hope that the kitten will inspire in the rodents a little more humility and even a little persecution complex or two.

Mollie Morgan has been back one or twice from Peterborough to tell us what a good thing we are all on. He seems enthusiastic enough about his job but, as he says, it is a bit difficult to start work at his age.

C.S.M. Burgess has returned to duty with Training Company after his serious burning accident on November 5. Though not quite 100 per cent, yet he is almost his old self again and we are all glad to see him back with us.

The period has been clouded by the death of Mrs. Bartle. The Mess offers its profound sympathy to R.S.M. Bartle who has felt the loss deeply.

CORPORALS' CLUB

Since the last notes were published quite a few events have happened. The main event for the club being a coach outing to Southsea on May 27. An excellent buffet was laid on by Sgt. Banks and with a good stock of liquid refreshment in the back of the coach we set off in sunny weather. Our first stop was a pub just outside Guildford, where we stayed until closing time when we got under way again. After numerous stops on the way for further beverage we arrived, where we broke up to find our own amusement. After a very enjoyable day we arrived back at camp all worn out and a little under the weather.

Our next event was Albuhera Day. In the morning a football and basketball knockout competition was held. Unfortunately we were soon knocked out, the winners of both competitions being the Permanent Staff. By the time all the sport was over it was time for lunch where everyone sat down to an excellent meal put on by Sgt. Banks. The afternoon was a rest period where we recovered from our dinner. In the evening we had our Albuhera dance which was the main event of the day. The gym was decorated from top to bottom with potted plants and flags which set it off for the occasion, and which was very well attended and a very enjoyable and memorable time was had by all.

Throughout June we prepared for Admin. which was on July 5, and slowly but surely the Depot was brought up to standard and we were not sorry to have July 5 behind us.

Last but not least we welcome L/Cpls. James and Jarvie to the club, but we will soon be losing them to the 1st Battalion. Also we were sorry to see Cpl. Barnett leave us for Civvy Street and we wish him luck in his new career.

NEWS LETTER BY M.B.

I had a letter from Mrs. Archie Stewart on June 27. They are searching for a new home after many years at the Old Hall, Clavering, near Saffron Walden, and after so long that is a sad business. Mrs. Archie has

been ill in hospital at Nottingham, but both are now well again. I hope later, with Major Heywood, to visit this family with whom I lived for many years in India and Burma.

I have had meetings and letters from a relative of our loyal and excellent Contractor Shabodeen. This young man served our 1st Battalion in Cyprus. He gave a small brass seated Buddha and a marble copy of the Taj Mahal (which I visited in 1906, crossing Northern India en route from Bombay to join the 57th Foot then stationed at Maymo, Meiktila, and Thayetmyo).

On June 19 I was called to visit St. Mary's Church, Hendon, at a Civic Service where I met many old friends who had been Justices of the Peace with me for some 14 years until the age of 75 took me away from that task.

On June 25 I attended the Regimental Club "At Home" in our Depot Mess. It was a perfect day, the garden with its trees and plants reminded me of my time at the Depot in 1912-14.

I was proud to read of the success of Major-Gen. G. P. L. Weston, Director of Land and Air Warfare. As a young officer he flew in support of our Forces during the Dunkirk retreat, and later commanded our 2nd Battalion with distinction on our return to France.

On June 9 I head from Gwen Appelbe, who was hoping to reach our Regimental Garden Party on June 25, and did so.

On June 10 I visited Mill Hill School prize-giving and heard many excellent speeches (especially that by the Headmaster, Mr. Roy Moore, and from the Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Sellers, who is Chairman of the Court of Governors).

I had intended to go to the Royal Army Chaplains' Department Garden Party at Bagshot Park, but illness stopped me.

On July 16 I hope to attend the wedding of our Adjutant, Capt. Gordon Crumley, to Margaret Jane Craig at All Saints' Church, Fleet. A church the Regiment often attended.

On May 14 I attended as a guest a dinner party of the former 2/10th Battalion of the Regiment. I spoke about our Regiment, and its Association and Officers' Club.

Recently in May last I received from Lilian Anson Army Lists and a Muster Roll of the 57th, which has been placed in our Museum. They were most interesting and many names were well known to me.

On July 14 I attended a lunch in memory of our dearly loved Col. Elgee at the Disraeli Room of the Carlton Club. Those attending were Cavanagh, Rowntree, Pain, Belsham, Willie Pringle, the Right Rev. Marsden, Gordon Parker, and Tom Heather, who was Elgee's Adjutant. (He always assembles and runs these gatherings.)

I was glad to hear from Brigadier Pennycook on May 8, who attended our Regimental "At Home." He was the best Adjutant I ever served with in the 1st Battalion, and I used to weary my officers with his praise. His son David is in Montreal, and I met him years back as a child.

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

Commanding Officer ..	Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, T.D.
Adjutant	Capt. B. K. Clayden
Q.M.	Lt. (Q.M.) E. J. Pike
Paymaster	Capt. B. A. Hennal
R.S.M.	W.O.1 Thom



was interesting all concerned are pleased to have it behind them and to return to a more military form of training.

The Camp itself, which was tented, had been built along the sides of the runways of a disused airfield so that, in spite of heavy rain almost daily, conditions were not as unpleasant as they might otherwise have been. The runways were, however, a mixed blessing and it was necessary at an early stage in camp to curb the enthusiasm of the Battalion's "pocket Fangios."

The special train which had brought the Battalion from London overnight was delayed for more than an hour between Barrow and Millom while the line was cleared of boulders and sleepers. The reports of the incident in the National Press were greatly exaggerated, and in fact the first the Battalion knew of the incident was when they opened their morning papers on the following day. Apparently blocking the railway line is a favourite Saturday evening pastime in that part of the world as there was a repeat performance the following Saturday. We are happy to record, however, that no efforts were made to delay our return from camp.

For the purpose of training, the Battalion was split—Recruits from all Companies partaking in normal military training under Major Reed, who was assisted by the Permanent Staff Instructors, and the remainder of the Battalion were handed over in squads to the School Staff for training in light rescue and first-aid. From then on talk was of 40-ft. lashings, personal cords and whether or not old so-and-so would ever be able to tie a clove hitch. The instructors instituted a system of fines for incorrect knots and it is believed that their haul was quite substantial. It is understood that Major du Parc made history by being the first "casualty" ever lowered from a second-floor window lashed to an improvised stretcher still wearing a monocle.

We were pleased to welcome David Saville, who was attached to us for the period of camp as our Chaplain. During the middle weekend, at the height of a gale, he was heard to comment shortly after the Church Tent had collapsed during the morning service that at least no one could say he was not wrapped up in his church.

During the second week of camp the Battalion was

allowed two days for Regimental training. For this training the Battalion was split into three groups—Battalion H.Q. and "H.Q." Company, "A" and "B" Companies, and "C" and "D" Companies—and everybody moved into the Lake District to carry out their own training. Reports of this operation appear elsewhere.

The Civil Defence Deployment Exercise also held during the second week was carried out well despite difficult communications, and the Rescue Exercise, although not so successful, was carried out thoroughly by those taking part.

On June 18 our Brigade Commander, Brigadier D. R. Wilson, relinquished his command and retired from the Army. In his farewell address Brigadier Wilson said that over the past three years he had seen the Battalions under his command grow from a handful of officers and N.C.O.s to their present strength. He impressed upon us the need for continued efforts at recruiting, but emphasised that while it is comparatively easy to obtain recruits it is much more difficult to hold them.

Since camp our new Brigade Commander, Brigadier J. B. A. Glennie (late Royal Sussex) has visited us on three occasions—twice at the T.A. Centres on drill nights and once when he visited "S" Company who were firing at Lydd.

As we go to press the Secretary of State for War has just made an announcement in the House regarding the reorganisation of the Territorial Army. It is understood that amongst other changes the number of Infantry Battalions is to be reduced by 18, but at this stage it is not known to what extent we shall be affected.

"H.Q." COMPANY

Company Commander ..	Major R. G. Garrett, T.D.
2IC	Capt. P. A. Stocken
P.S.I.	W.O.2 J. Moyse
C.S.M.	W.O.2 C. Holdford, B.E.M.
Colour-Sergeant	C.Q.M.S. M. Conroy

At the beginning of April "H.Q." Company, in conjunction with "C" Company and the Cadets, commenced training in house-to-house fighting and village clearing. There was a short talk to commence with by the O.C. on arms and equipment for the infantry soldier in this type of warfare, followed by two excellent films: "Street Fighting," rather old but very good, and "Village Clearing," very much more up to date. About 90 volunteers attended in all. In May the same group of volunteers did a cloth model exercise on a Sunday, which was laid out as a town and they were also shown demonstrations of room entering and various drills to be adopted. They were also shown a complete section equipped with F.N.s and Sterlings dressed for this type of action. The Company now know that a thunderflash in a confined space will certainly close doors and slam fanlights. It is now hoped to follow up this training with practical house clearing in September.

"H.Q." Company was out in force on the Brigade Signal Exercise in April and very interesting it proved, although off to a slow start things soon picked up and the wireless communications certainly were very good



ANNUAL CAMP, MILLOM, JUNE 14, 1960
Battalion H.Q. move into position near Lake Coniston

indeed. Battalion H.Q. moved into a harbour area on the Saturday night and prepared for attack by the Surreys. O.C. "H.Q." Company was sent out with his mounted Bren on a champ to try and locate the enemy and give prior warning to the Battalion. This he did in 5 minutes—he went straight into them as always, and a real ding-dong battle took place along this "quiet" stretch of country road. Although the Surreys were badly taken by surprise from the fast-moving champ, they reacted quickly and Cpl. Cozzi, the driver, had to negotiate a line of smouldering thunderflashes. On returning to camp the O.C. was again in action, having bumped the enemy during their attack on the area. There was only one complication to all this, there was a motor rally on at the time; the motorists had a hazard they did not anticipate, the chaps in the champ still wonder who the woman was at the check point who threw her arms round a man screaming at the top of her voice when the champ opened up and let the Surreys, check point, car rally and all have a magazine of bulleted blank.

The highlights of the Civil Defence Camp this year was the 36-hour Battalion H.Q. Exercise during the second week—it was a continual round of Battalion H.Q. harbour areas, some seven or eight were done in all, including a night occupation. After each one a discussion took place in which the Company Commander and the Adjutant thrashed out points to improve the drill. During the night we waited to be attacked by the combined forces of "A" and "B" Companies.

The attack scheduled for about 0130 hours did not come in until we had stood down, and to be perfectly fair caught us by surprise, although the snatch party was well and truly knobbled by the Company due to

the alertness of our sentries, Ptes. Bahraim and Hooker. Things then calmed down completely. So much so that we were thinking of packing up and going when the Company Commander and four others surprised the whole fighting patrol of about 18 about 150 yards away in the gorse. A hell of a scrap then took place and the whole lot had to be sorted out by the Adjutant who came up with a relieving force from the area. His remark at the summing up afterwards that "Let's face it, gentlemen, the Company Commander does not go out and fight the enemy" was received with some amusement, so in future he will stay put and let the rest of the Company protect him.

The lessons learnt on this exercise were indeed excellent and we were greatly assisted by the Adjutant who could bring his experience to play.

In the next issue we hope to be able to give you details of the practical street fighting—Exercise "Corporal III."

"A" COMPANY

Company Commander	..	Capt. S. J. Carter
P.S.I.	..	Sgt. Alsopp
C.S.M.	..	W.O.2 G. Hills
Colour-Sergeant	..	C.Q.M.S. Jackson

When the New Year started we were preparing for the Brigade First-Aid Competition, which took place in March. Our team was coached by our P.S.I., Sgt. Alsopp, who was on the staff of the C.D. School at Millom, and the team was very ably led by 2/Lt. M. Doran.

Amid preparations for the Competition we had rehearsals and practices for the Battalion centenary celebrations, which were held in February. These celebrations took the form of a series of marches

through various boroughs in which we have our T.A. Centres. The weather was not so kind to us on this occasion and we all got rather damp, but not dispirited, and succeeded in disrupting the normal Saturday traffic quite successfully. This, we feel, had a certain publicity value.

In April we combined with "B" Company and intended to go out to Buckinghamshire and practise assault river crossing. However, we were not granted permission to travel so far afield, and we settled eventually for Hertfordshire, and practised our crews on a stretch of water which, though not as expansive as the Thames, served the purpose very well. Obviously, we ended the day with a cumbersome version of the Boat Race in which the finalists, the W.O.s and Sergeants, dead-heated with the Rank and File, a fitting end to a very enjoyable and instructive weekend.

In May we invited a party from Highgate School C.C.F. to the Depot at Mill Hill, where we fired both the S.L.R. and the Sterling M.C. which made a change from our normal training.

The last detail demonstrated the rate of fire possible with the S.L.R. and the accuracy obtainable.

By this time we were preparing for Annual Camp which was to be held at the School of Civil Defence, Millom. Unfortunately, the majority of the Company could only manage one week in camp this year. However, the staff at Millom made the course so interesting that at the end of the first week those that were returning home wished that they could continue for the other week.

We rounded off this half-year with a social evening, when we entertained "B" and "C" Companies, which we hope our guests enjoyed as much as we enjoyed having them.

It was with regret that we learned that 2/Lt. P. R. Sedley was being posted to "B" Company in view of his proximity to Enfield. It occurs to us that if he had to leave us he made the next best choice.

"B" COMPANY

Company Commander	..	Major J. D. Gunnell
2IC	..	Capt. M. J. Beaumont
P.S.I.	..	W.O.2 R. Cubitt
C.S.M.	..	W.O.2 J. Webb
Colour-Sergeant	..	C.Q.M.S. M. Leahy

The time for the usual frantic rush to get this quarterly report into print has once again passed, which means, of course, that as usual these notes are late! There is, though, much to report for needless to say we are as active as ever and have had good percentage attendances for all our training and social activities on the usual Tuesday and Thursday evening drill nights and weekends.

A practice classification weekend was held at Pirbright on May 14/15. It is hoped that the night of the flag in the distance on Century range at Bisley will inspire us more when we classify this month! Lt. Beasley was a noted absentee but, no doubt, his rival attraction at another event at St. James's, Piccadilly, held better prospects for him—congratulations on your marriage to Mary.

The Company won both the inter-Company .22

winter competition and received some much-needed cash for the funds as we have recently been rash and purchased a number of things, including a record-player and badminton rackets. We held a .22 competition in May for the first time, which will be held annually for an individual prize between the junior N.C.O.s and Privates. Pte. Bodingfield is to be congratulated for winning it—he was presented with a silver shield and trophy by Capt. F. S. Furness, who had given the shield to the Company. Capt. Furness is a councillor in Southgate and the Mayor's recruiting representative; he is also a keen Territorial in the R.E. and takes a great interest in us, which is much appreciated. He was awarded the M.B.E. in the Birthday Honours this year and we offer him our hearty congratulations.

Camp was, of course, the main event of this period and, no doubt, much will be written of it elsewhere, especially as the Company was split by the Battalion organisations for Civil Defence and recruit training, with the exceptions of the 36-hour exercise in the second week and, of course, the excellent Company party on the last night. The weather and the position of the camps at Millom did not really contribute towards a first-class period of annual training (no mention of C.D. training!). It was a welcome relief to everybody to get together and away from the camps during the second week, when the weather was kinder and we found an excellent quiet and sheltered spot near Lake Windermere to bivvy in. We administered ourselves, and it was a strange sight to see the Colour-Sergeant and 2IC stirring the stew—it tasted very well, especially that subtle flavour that some people called burnt! The members of the Company showed a first-class spirit when they were together, which was shown in full in this exercise and the Company party, a spirit which is peculiar to an all-volunteer force and certainly very refreshing in these days. Many will have few recollections of the Company party that was held with "A" Company for obvious reasons, but perhaps that is a good thing!

It was a shock to hear before camp that "Whit," our caretaker, had decided that after nearly 12 years of serving behind the bar in the canteen he wanted a rest and would like to be relieved when he came back. Mr. Whitcombe has been associated with the Enfield Company since 1937, when he took over the house adjoining the Drill Hall on becoming the Company's P.S.I. He elected to stay with the Battalion on the outbreak of war and served with it throughout as a C.S.M. and was awarded the M.B.E. in 1942. He returned as caretaker after the war, living in the same house, which needless to say is now for the caretaker, where he remains today. When "B" Company returned to Enfield in 1949 "Whit" was asked if he would run the bar for a short while until somebody else could take over—well, reluctantly we have just had to find his successor! "Whit" has always been a popular figure with his fund of stories and reminiscences and the Company presented him with a silver table lighter and ash tray at a Company party on July 7. We hope that we shall see his face as our caretaker for many years to come. We were very lucky in



"C" COMPANY AT THE ANNUAL CAMP, MILLOM, JUNE 14, 1960

Major Reed and the Rev. D. Savill with Sgt. Stack's Platoon move to Eskdale by Miniature Railway

finding such an able successor to "Whit" in the form of another Old Comrade, "Shiny" Sheffield, who lives in Albuhera Close. We would like to welcome you, Mr. Sheffield, and hope you will be happy with the Company.

Recruiting is still not going as fast as it should be, but we would like to welcome Pts. Turner, Dupris, Webster and Watts into the Company and hope that there will soon be many more to follow you.

The tough soldier competition will be upon us in September and we have just started to pick a team which we are confident will do well. The team will be led by 2/Lt. Sedley whom, incidentally, we welcome back to us. Fifteen stalwarts marched to St. Albans last Sunday and will be starting to train in earnest next weekend, so look out those settlers of complasters and elastoplast!

We are happy to record that the Enfield Branch of the Regimental Association is thriving and now meets in our canteen regularly on the first Friday in every month. We are very pleased to have them with us and a number of the younger serving members of the Company have already joined. We hope that more will soon follow them.

"C" COMPANY

Company Commander	Major B. A. Reed, M.C.
2IC	Capt. M. A. H. Lanyon
C.S.M.	W.O.2 Curry
C.Q.M.S.	C/Sgt. Moran
P.S.I.	Sgt. Turner

The past quarter started off in rousing spirits with a Company dance held at Hornsey on Saturday, April 23. We were greatly honoured by the presence of our Honorary Colonel and his lady, and we sincerely

hope they enjoyed themselves. Of those invited, only Major and Mrs. R. J. Leighton were able to support us, as the Brigade's spring exercise intervened.

Our diary notes that one of the highlights of this event was the throaty crooning of Sgt. Stack to a frenzied mass of some 100 rock 'n' rollers! Our thanks go to the social committee for their excellent organisation and, of course, once again to Sgt. and Mrs. Moore for providing a first-class buffet.

There is only one occurrence of significance recorded for May and that was a practice classification weekend at Pirbright. Despite the jibes and rivalry of successive butt parties, the practices went fairly smoothly, and the handling of the L.M.G., after only drill hall training in the winter months, was of a reasonable standard.

And so we departed, in early June, for what, unfortunately, turned out to be a very damp and very windy fortnight at Millom by the sea.

Our numbers at camp even exceeded the figures of 1959 and, once again, we were easily the strongest of the three Rifle Companies. For training we were split fairly evenly between the recruit and Civil Defence courses, not forgetting, of course, our many permanently employed! Amongst the latter, Pte. Ford earned the gratitude of one and all during the second week—we gather that cooking was not so grim as he remembered it in the A.C.C.!

It is rumoured that the rank and file squads did not find C.D. training quite so arduous as they had imagined—for, despite grumbles about too many duties, that notorious trio, Ptes. Butcher, Keith Munro and Hefferman, appeared to spend a very enjoyable holiday amongst the beauties of Millom town!

The opposite sex even seemed to affect recruit training at times, especially when Pte. Leggett nearly went

demented from lack of a 'phone booth. Despite these distracting circumstances, our recruits really began to look quite soldierly by the beginning of the second week, and even anklets appeared on parade the right way round!

The only time the Company really got together was on our 15-mile hike along the old smugglers' route over Hard Knott and Wrynose passes. The day started with a gentle ride up into the hills on the Ravensglass Miniature Railway, with many dramatic poses for the representative of the *Hornsey Journal*.

Despite the mileage and the rugged terrain, all ranks put in a very spirited attack on the defenders of Fell Foot, and the crawling and rolling of Ptes. Morson and Duvigneau had to be seen to be believed.

On this encouraging note your reporter must sign off and await the outcome of the third quarter of the year.

"S" COMPANY

Company Commander	Major J. C. du Parc Braham
2IC	Capt. Murray Fox
3-in. Mortar Pl. Cmdr.	Capt. Gedye
Anti-Tank Pl. Cmdr.	Lt. Gilkes
M.M.G. Pl. Cmdr.	2/Lt. Van de Pol
C.S.M.	W.O.2 Payne
P.S.I.	Sgt. Taylor
Colour-Sergeant	C.Q.M.S. Medcalf

The tempo of training increased to fever pitch which even Camp Millom ceased to complete, for the Company had hardly returned to civilian life when only two weeks after it went for weekend field firing to Lydd. Needless to say, "S" Company missed its weapons at Millom. Somehow specialists are more attached to their larger pieces of armament than are the riflemen. The weekend at Lydd, however, made up for that. A very successful firing took place of all the three weapons. At long last the Anti-Tank Platoon fired the 17-pounder and the aiming was good. Certainly had there been Fantasia tanks they would have had a very high mortality rate.

The 3-in. mortar firing for effect was also excellent and received the praise of the new Brigade Commander.

The Machine Gun Platoon is preparing for bigger and better things, including the retention of the Perring trophy and to improve on the very good results they obtained on the other shoots last year.

Congratulations to Capt. Gedye on his promotion, as well as to Sgt. James and Cpl. West on theirs.

The 3-in. Mortar Platoon certainly hogged the list of promotions in "S" Company.

OFFICERS' MESS

"Where possible, notes should be typed, double spacing, in quadruplicate." Sounds almost as good as the Civil Service. As the P.M.C. typists, civilian and military, are both on leave, these notes will be very untidy and incorrectly spelt, and as for quadruplicate—Well! Do you mind?

"Camp is lovely," said the advance party—wonderful weather, and beach only 10 minutes' walk over the dunes. In the words of a great orator, "Never was so much tripe talked by so few, to so many." If anybody found their way to the beach after the first day it must

have been done by radar and in monsoon capes. Great-coats and oilstoves were both used to keep us warm in the Mess tent, which itself could certainly have done with a "first-aid" course. Compared with most camps the Mess was very quiet, which may have been the weather or may be we are getting old. Or it may have been the "hard" day's work we did on First-Aid and Rescue.

In spite of the weather the usual functions took place with a Regimental Dinner Night on the first Wednesday evening, at which we welcomed the Divisional Commander, the Colonel of the Regiment, and Brigadier Wilson, our retiring Brigadier, together with several guests from the other two Battalions and Brigade staff. It must have been cold as the party games, led by the General, seemed to start much earlier than usual. Or might it have been due to the Brigade Cocktail Party before? The Sergeants' Mess came to us on the Saturday morning and a very good evening was spent in their Mess in the second week.

The P.M.C. managed to slink off to Holland for the second week on business, and as he said he was sailing across the North Sea in a 7-ton yacht we all laughed very much and hoped he was having a "smooth" crossing. (Little did they know that he went across in a 6,000-ton steamer with stabilisers.)

Nobody seems to have come or gone from the Mess, but we would like to welcome our new Commander, Brigadier J. B. A. Glennie, from the 1st Royal Sussex, and hope his stay will be a happy one. He has already paid us three visits since camp; so he must like us! Congratulations to Freddie Beesley on his marriage.



Photo: Lambert Weston & Son, Ltd., Folkestone.

WINNERS FALLING PLATE, 54th INFANTRY DIVISION RIFLE MEETING, APRIL 30-MAY 1, 1960

Left to right; Cpl. Giblin, Capt. Stocken, Lt. Richards, 2/Lt. Van De Pol

SERGEANTS' MESS

The most notable event recently has, of course, been Annual Camp at the Army School of Civil Defence at Millom in Cumberland.

The weather could have been kinder to us, especially as we were in a tented camp, but even so the intermittent downpours and gales did not seem to dampen the Mess spirit too much.

The task of Caterer was very ably performed by Sgt. Graham, and in the kitchen we were well served by Cpl. Beare and Pte. Thurland. Mention should also be made of the excellent services given by our two civilian Mess waiters, Messrs. Colin and Dawson. The social side was notable for four events.

Firstly, we had the honour to be invited to the Officers' Mess at lunchtime on the middle Saturday and were royally entertained by the Commanding Officer and the officers. It was a pity that just prior to us pro-

ceeding to the Officers' Mess the R.S.M. had bad news from home and had to hurry back to London, and so missed a very happy occasion; but we are glad to know that at the time of writing Mrs. Thom and the children are progressing satisfactorily.

The other three events were the Mess evenings thrown in turn by the 6th Queens, the 8th Battalion, and ourselves. We were perhaps fortunate in being the last because the Queens and the 8th set a very high standard, but thanks to the efforts of the P.M.C. (C.S.M. Holdford) and the Mess Committee and staff we think we more than held our own and a very fine evening ensued. We were glad to be able to entertain the Commanding Officer and our officers at this event and so repay their hospitality, and we were also pleased to see so many of our friends from the other Sergeants' Messes of the Brigade, and also the School Mess; and the fact that so many of them stayed to the bitter end is sure testimony to a first-class evening.

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

"H.Q." COMPANY

During the past three months "H.Q." Company has passed through the most important part of the Battalion year, in that we have done our annual training which was held at the Army School of Civil Defence, Millom, Cumberland.

The Civil Defence training was entered into with the customary enthusiasm by all the Company, except the Signals and Drums, who continued to do their conventional training in an endeavour to build these two Sections up to strength again after the year's wastage.

Under the captaincy of Sgt. Kemp and despite strong opposition from the Rifle Companies, we did extremely well at the Battalion Rifle Meeting, coming away with the China Cup, Queen Mary Rapid, and the Shooting Cup.

Our M.T. Section is now beginning to make itself felt within the Company and have recorded their first major victory in the 47 Infantry Brigade Motor Cycle Trials, which was won by Pte. J. C. Kelly.

We extend a warm welcome to Major James who has joined us from the 4th Dorsets, and wish him a happy stay at the head of the Company.

"A" COMPANY

"A" Company finally gained the Battalion Basketball Cup on the Monday before Annual Camp, after a tussle with "B" and "S" Companies, both of whom we had tied with in the final. Congratulations to the team, who comprised Cpls. Farnes and Harvey, L/Cpls. Constant and Marshall, and Ptes. Cowie, Kelly and Miller.

The Civil Defence work at Millom made a pleasant change this year, even though an abortive attempt was made to prevent us arriving there on the train from St. Pancras.

Congratulations to Cpl. Elston on gaining top marks in the final examination of the Light Rescue Leaders' Course (out of the whole Battalion), and to Sgt. Nuthall and Cpl. Farnes for tying for third place.

Blackpool was the mid-fortnight attraction at camp, which everyone managed to visit at some time or another in either gale or downpour.

With camp behind us, "A" Company now have their sights firmly fixed on the Middlesex "Tough Training" weekend in September, and training for our next weekend on July 23/24 will be on the Obstacle Course at Penn Street after a "bash-out" from Cowley.

We had an evening scheme with "D" Company in the Harvil area in May which everyone enjoyed, but due to distance and preparation for camp by the P.S.I.s no time was left for a get-together afterwards. One question that "A" Company were asking themselves, however, was why blankets and ropes were brought out by "D" Company.

There has been little time for socials this last quarter, although L/Cpl. Reynolds continues ably to dispense the drinks. At the time of writing, Sgt. Callaghan is on a well-earned leave, spent we believe somewhere between Germany and Austria.

"B" COMPANY

The last quarter has seen comings and goings in "B" Company on an almost unpredictable scale. We made our sad farewell to our Company Commander, Capt. G. P. B. Heming, who is now living with his wife and family in New Zealand. We shall miss his vigorous presence deeply, and trust that he will make as many good friends there as he had left here. Capt. David Lusty has also left us, due to extreme pressure of work. We welcome Capt. Harold Couch from "C" Company as our new O.C., and wish him every success with his new command. We welcome, too, 2/Lt. Bob Tett from "H.Q." Company and Lt. David Mant from 5th Royal Hamps. Our Company clerk, Pte. C. Kingsyon, has left us to join the Regular Army, where he will, we are sure, make his name. Ptes. Jones and Marling have gone out and our new additions

The Winning Team of the
44th (H.C.) Divisional Rifle
Meeting—"China Cup"

Photo:
Lambert Weston & Son, Ltd.,
Folkestone.



are Ptes. Bowler, Milne, McNab, O'Shaughnessy and Walker. It is encouraging to see several ex-Cadets among the new arrivals.

During this period there has been constant activity in Churchfield Road, especially from the Nijmegen team, who have been marching vast distances in all weathers. They are due to travel to Holland on July 23 and we hear that never before has organisation been so well planned, for with Cpl. Walton and his motor caravan following them how could they want for anything? Incidentally, all the cost has been raised within the Company, thanks to an unofficial beer tax. Contrary to the pessimists' views, this has positively raised bar sales. There has also been some energetic raffling of various bottles of spiritual comfort, an iniquitous system of "fines" imposed upon the less able darts players, and last, personal gifts from Guy Heming and Bert Smith.

Annual Camp came and went. As always, the Company excelled with Pte. Walker winning the Special Recruits Cup and Pte. O'Shaughnessy taking the Best Shot Award with Marksman Standard on both weapons. When the Civil Defence training finished, half the Company went marching around Ullswater and the remainder played enemy on the Battalion Exercise. It was all good clean fun, if possibly a trifle damp.

Now we are working hard for the "Tough Training" Competition, in which we hope to repeat last year's convincing success. There is a busy time ahead of us, with field firing at Hangmoor and assorted weekends. We have adopted the principle of taking senior Cadets with us on these training weekends wherever possible, and the keenness has been quite remarkable. Assault course training, with a view to the "Tough Training," goes on apace, with visits to Mill Hill and the odd craft trip to Pirbright.

We have managed to persuade Pte. King that the policeman's salute, whilst being very smart, is hardly military, and "Nobby" Clarke has tried to persuade

him that he is growing old, but we refuse to take that too seriously. There is a rumour that "Nobby" may be leaving us soon. As he is one of the old sweats of the Company we shall be sorry to lose him.

Things are looking good at the moment. The Company has settled down well under the new management and we anticipate a very active time in the three months ahead of us.

"D" COMPANY

Company Commander	..	Capt. A. A. Holmes
2IC	..	Lt. S. L. J. Henshaw
Platoon Commander	..	Lt. L. S. R. McDonald
Platoon Commander	..	2/Lt. G. L. B. Taylor

We welcome to Hendon 2/Lt. G. Taylor from the Battalion and we have entrusted him with the leadership of the Company "Tough Training" team. Last year this arduous competition was won by one of the 8th Companies and this year we hope that the cup (or rather the barrel of beer) will be delivered to "D" Company at Hendon. It is easier said than done, but Lt. Henshaw, who last year had practical experience of the tests, is guiding the training of our team, and we wish Lt. Taylor in this, and in the years to come, all good luck.

Another welcome addition to our numbers is our new caretaker, ex-P.S.I. Sgt. Jolly of the Royal West Kents, who we hope will rejoin the Company and so renew the happy association of former years. We wish him and Mrs. Jolly a very pleasant life in Hendon.

Recruiting figures are on the up and up. We have returned from our Annual Camp at Millom where we have learned how to tie a bowline and aid the Civil Defence. It was a new experience for most of us and sent us all home with a good deal of very practical knowledge of modern military problems.

We congratulate L/Cpls. Clark and Taylor upon the news of their engagements.

We welcome to "D" Company Recruits Lord, Mahoney, Murphy, Clark and Ginger.

"S" COMPANY

The Company offered its heartiest congratulations to Capt. Hogg on the occasion of his marriage on March 26. With our presentation of a cigarette box we borrowed a phrase from him and wished both bride and groom a life of "absolute bliss."

Elements of all Support Platoons rallied to the Battalion Rifle Meeting on April 2-3, but alas, we were not able to pull off any team events. However, three members of the Company won the following individual awards:—

Lt. Murray . . . Best Officer Shot.
Sgt. Tarry . . . P.S.I. and Sergeants' Mess Cups.
Cpl. Young . . . Best other rank score.

Sgt. "Topper" Brown tooks his Anti-Tank Platoon to Lydd on April 23-24 and was able to put them through their paces without too many interruptions caused by shipping. In response to a last-minute S.O.S., Sgt. Brown paid a subsequent visit to Lydd to instruct 7th Middlesex in the art of gunnery.

Having lost the Perring Trophy for the first time last year, the M.M.G. Platoon have a look of quiet determination as they go about their gun drill.

The recently-formed 3-in. Mortar Section at Staines T.A. Centre are eagerly looking forward to their first live shoot on the Hangmoor Range. Sgt. Bartholomew can now be seen at Staines introducing his new boys to the niceties of mortar gun drill.

With an eye to economy in the use of Battalion transport the "Tough Training" team can be seen every Sunday afternoon heading for the nearest assault course in a variety of motor vehicles. The team this year will consist of Capt. Hogg, Sgt. Lloyd, Cpl. Young, and Ptes. Ratcliffe, Tabrar and Winters.

OFFICERS' MESS

Col. Crawford, who commanded the Battalion during the last World War, was present at our Cocktail Party in May when we celebrated Albuhera. The accompanying photograph shows (left to right) Major Alec Clarke, Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton, Col. Mervyn Crawford, and Capt. W. E. Hughes.



A Centenary Ball has been arranged for October 21 this year (a Friday) at the King's Head Hotel, Harrow-on-the-Hill, from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m. Much work is being done to ensure that this All-Ranks Ball is a success and it would be very pleasing to see as many former members of the Battalion as possible. Tickets can be obtained from the Adjutant at Hanworth Road, Hounslow. Please make a note in your diary and thus ensure the evening's success.

At the 44 (H.C.) Divisional Rifle Meeting in May the Battalion rifle teams won Match 2 of the China Cup, and a photograph of the successful teams shows that both the C.O. and the 2IC helped once again to maintain our traditional high standards. At camp this year the Sergeants beat the Officers at Association football for the first time for many years.

It was with regret that we learned of the death in New York of Capt. Easterbrook of the Royal Marines, who, whilst with us nine years ago before joining the Corps, was one of our ablest boxers, and a most popular officer.

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

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

Our notes in the last issue of *The Die-Hards* were concerned almost exclusively with activities at Bude. Although a few lingering echoes of these will be found in the notes below, on the whole the Regiment has temporarily turned its back on practice camp and the more technical aspects of gunnery, and has moved on to pastures new.

An otherwise uneventful return from the depths of Cornwall was marked by some masterly driving by Craftsman Carey of the Regimental Workshop, who, at the cost of bending his own 3-tonner, prevented what might well have been a very serious accident involving several vehicles. His presence of mind and prompt reaction to an ugly situation, on the main A30 road near Honiton, brought him a letter of congratulation from a passing legal dignitary who happened to witness the incident.

It is doubtful, however, whether anyone can have congratulated the owner-driver of the vintage Bentley, which was subsequently driven at high speed into the stationary Scammel sent to recover Carey's vehicle. The Scammel proved to be remarkably solid!

In mid-May the Regiment held an "Open" Evening, when members were invited to bring along their friends and show them what the Regiment has to offer. Some hard work by the P.S.I.s produced an excellent display of equipment, which, backed up by a number of other attractions—notably the miniature ranges and the Band—impressed a dozen of our visitors sufficiently to make them ask if they could join us. We have been following up with a series of displays at various local events and sundry other recruiting activities, but the resulting flow of recruits still leaves us with a lot of vacancies against establishment. "Die-Hards" with sons, relatives or friends of eligible age, please note! Send them along to us, and we will undertake to keep them busy!



The Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. J. R. Doyle, T.D., R.A. (T.A.), presenting prizes at the Regimental Rifle Meeting on July 10. A number of Old Comrades are among the spectators

A good deal of time has been spent on weapon training in the last few months. Recent recruits have been introduced to the mysteries of T.O.E.T.s and I.A.s and older soldiers have been reminded of them, while, in addition, we have spent two very pleasant days on the ranges. On June 18, a number of people fired their annual range course, returning some truly remarkable results in the process; and on July 10 over two-thirds of the Regiment, plus a number of families and Old Comrades, turned out for our Annual Rifle Meeting which was held this year at Rainham.

The winner of the Hargreaves Challenge Cup for the best shot in the Regiment was Cpl. McHugh of the Workshop, who, in drizzly conditions which were far from ideal, returned a score of 62 out of a possible 65. The Old Comrades' Competition was won by Mr. Wagstaffe, and the results of other individual events were as follows:—

Harris Officers' Challenge Cup . . . Lt. Hunt.
Sergeants' Mess Cup . . . Sgt. Penny.
Rank-and-File Cup . . . Cpl. McHugh.
Harrow Rifles Recruits' Cup . . . Gnr. Towill.
Gen. Wauchope L.M.G. Cup . . . S/Sgt. Howe.

The inter-Battery events, which were held in the afternoon, were both won by "Q" Battery—the Sholl Rifle Cup easily and the Anwyll-Passingham L.M.G. Cup by one point from the Regimental Workshop. Our gladiators are now looking forward to the County Association Rifle Meeting on September 25, when, it is whispered, they hope to show their cousins in the 7th and 8th Battalions (and others) how to shoot!

Other activities in the past three months have included a most interesting but sobering lecture by the Chief Civil Defence Officer of Hendon; and, in the depths of the Regimental Office, the outwitting of a Documentation Inspection team, which was carried out so successfully that they gave us a "Very Good" report. Congratulations, S/Sgt. Howe! We have also been keeping an eye on the Regular Army, both at

Chatham, where we sent some spies to watch a demonstration of military engineering, and in South Wales, whither two of our officers went in early July on attachment to a Regular Gunner Unit. We are pleased to report that both delegations were distinctly impressed by all they saw!

The Band has been much in evidence, as usual, under the vigorous leadership of Mr. Barnes. Notable occasions on which they have played include the Old Comrades' Dinner on May 14, the match against Hampstead Heathens at the Depot on June 19, the Rifle Meeting on July 10, and a Regimental Guest Night at Edgware on July 16. Guests on this last occasion included the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Willoughby, the Commander of 30 A.A. Brigade, Brigadier Hepper, the Chairman of the County Territorial Association, Brigadier Flavell, and the Member for Harrow East, Commander Anthony Courtney.

And so to the future. These notes have been written in mid-July, and ere they appear in print several weeks will have passed. Plans designed to keep our members occupied include Battery, Regimental and Brigade Exercises, and, by way of light relief, training of teams for the County Association Rifle Meeting and "Tough Training" Competition. It is rumoured, too, that certain personnel are to be allowed weekend leave to see their families over the Bank Holiday!

"P" BATTERY

Our modest success in recruiting has given the Battery a change of face. A significant proportion of our numbers have never served with a Regular Unit and have, therefore, to be taught the rudiments of Army life as well as the technicalities of gunnery.

Prior to and during Annual Camp the emphasis was essentially upon technical training, in order that the maximum advantage could be obtained from a firing camp. Recently, training has been more general, covering such basic matters as foot drills, rifle and

Bren. As always, the services of long-serving W.O.s have been invaluable for this instruction.

In July, a weekend exercise was held in the delightful countryside on the outskirts of Hertford. The principle object was to live in the field, relying upon our own resources to secure the maximum comfort. The roast turkey bore striking testimony to the success of the exercise. A gunnery demonstration was given to the local residents in exchange for the use of swimming pool facilities.

It is with great pleasure that we offer our congratulations to Major McDiarmid on the birth of a daughter. This long-awaited event came as a relief to all members of the Battery. Nothing succeeds like success.

"Q" BATTERY

The notes in the March *Die-Hards* promised a "fuller report on our activities next time." Fortunately Battery life has been full and diverse in the interval and the difficulty is keeping to the brevity which the Editor demands.

In spring a young Gunner's fancy often turns to thoughts of training for camp. This year, on Easter Saturday, in perfect weather, we pointed our motor cars, mopeds and bicycles towards the West, with a winter of training behind us.

Training Layers was campers' top priority and the Battery achieved a fair measure of success by classifying six men up to Class III and four to Class II. It was credited with a half-share in two sleeves, although observers were confident that both were ours! Partly, it was said, because of his chagrin at being knocked out of the Football Competition in the first round, B.S.M. Mitchell determined that the Battery would win the Lines Competition, and the cup was duly carried off. This was apparently the reason why the B.S.M. was rarely to be seen on the firing point. He was invariably in "Q" Battery lines whitewashing coal buckets and scraping broom handles!

A fortnight after camp—after a period of recovery which still didn't allow the enthusiasm to fade—an "At Home" was held at Kingsbury, designed to "scent" new recruits rather than frogmarch them through the doors. Recruits did arrive and so far since camp we have succeeded in increasing our strength by over 10 per cent.

With an early camp behind us we have been able to look forward to a summer of mobile training, which will have its climax at weekend exercises on the Aldershot Training Area and in the Norfolk we know so well!

The performance of the Battery at the Regimental Rifle Meeting in July—both team events, Bren and rifle, were won by the Battery, and the Battery provided the Champion Sergeant, Sgt. Penny, and runners-up in the Recruits' Cup, Gnr. Jones, and Individual Bren Competition, Capt. Cooper—suggests that the Battery will be well able to defend its guns against the infiltrations we know so well on mobile exercises.

"R" BATTERY

Firing Camp was as enjoyable as ever, and many Layers gained valuable experience during the fortnight at Bude. An Officers' Detachment drilled with con-

spicuous efficiency—in their opinion at least—on the L70, even managing to clear a stoppage! During camp, Sgt. Berry went up in a Vampire—and came back—whilst Capt. Swann, not to be outdone, piloted an Auster for a few seconds. In the Inter-Battery Six-a-Side Soccer Competition the Battery team made the mistake of conceding a corner, and found when the whistle blew with the score at 1—1 that they had lost.

Since camp, the highlight has been the Regimental Rifle Meeting held at Rainham in testing conditions. Lt. Hunt distinguished himself by winning the Officers' Cup, in the absence of Capt. Sanderson, also of "R" Battery, who was carrying the money before the meeting. Gnr. Towill won the Recruits' Cup by a convincing margin, somehow scoring about twice as many points as his nearest rival. In the meantime, the training of drivers is proceeding rapidly on training nights and at weekends.

We were all very sorry to hear recently of the death of L/Bdr. Steptoe after a sudden attack of pneumonia. He was a very long-standing member of the Regiment and we send our sincere condolences to Mrs. Steptoe.

THE HONG KONG REGIMENT

The main event of the quarter, as far as the affiliation of the two Regiments is concerned, was the celebration of Albuhera Day on May 16. On the Sunday before Albuhera Day the new Dean of St. John's Cathedral was installed and so it was a very large congregation, including H.E. The Officer Administering Government and the Commander, British Forces, which watched past and present members of the Middlesex Regiment process through the Cathedral before Capt. R. M. Cain laid the wreath at the foot of the Regimental War Memorial.

The Bishop was kind enough to open his sermon by quoting the example of service given by men of the Middlesex Regiment and H.K.V.D.C. fighting together in the defence of the Colony in 1942.

After a gathering in the R.H.K.D.F. Sergeants' Mess the party spent the afternoon visiting Sai Wan and Stanley cemeteries, at each of which a short service was held by the Rev. Foster and a wreath laid. R.S.M. Budden laid the wreath at Sai Wan and Mr. Bull at Stanley.

On May 16 a dozen "Die-Hards" met for dinner in the Officers' Mess of the Volunteer Centre, and by all accounts the occasion was very thoroughly celebrated. The only guest this time was the Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. T. A. M. Twaddle.

Training has continued steadily throughout the quarter with the emphasis on Company weekend exercises. As usual, some were fortunate with the weather, while others were not. On July 8 "D" Company took part in the Colony Exercise "Blue Lamp" and were given an independent task supported by air. "B" Company provided the enemy. The A.C.T. worked perfectly and the air strike was most impressive, particularly from the enemy's point of view.

Ceremonial has again occupied a large share of training time. Queen's Birthday was celebrated by the usual march round Kowloon and the Regiment provided the Band and Drums and two Companies. This year

the rain kept off and the parade was voted a success.

"B" Company provided the Government House guard on the occasion of Foundation Day and also the quarter-guard for the visit of Gen. Sir Roderick McLeod to the headquarters on July 21.

Canada Day was marked by the traditional ceremony at Sai Wan on July 1, but this year the firing party reverted to old custom by being dressed in No. 3 Dress. Six Buglers from the Corps of Drums sounded the calls and for the first time played in harmony after a fashion made famous in Hong Kong by the Buglers of our affiliated Regiment.

We were pleased to hear of the nomination of R.S.M. Robertson, Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, as next R.S.M. If we can no longer have a Middlesex R.S.M. then one from the sister Regiment is surely the next best thing.

EXTRACTS FROM BRIGADE NEWSLETTER No. 7

The four items of sartorial news since Letter No. 6 are, first, that the Brigade Mess Kit has been finally approved by the War Office Dress Committee and can now be worn by all officers in the Brigade; three officers on the Brigade Depot staff and the D.A.A.G., Major Snowdon, are due to appear in it at any moment. Secondly, that the Middlesex Regiment, who up to now seem barely to have had a mention in this Letter, are now authorised to wear the scarlet band round the No. 1 Dress cap and the scarlet piping on No. 1 Dress epaulettes. This is in accordance with Her Majesty's recent approval of the proposal that, in Brigades in which the Regiments composing it are predominantly Royal, all Regiments shall wear such Royal insignia and embellishments. Thirdly, that the Royal lanyard will, as soon as it is in production, be worn by W.O.s and below of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (whose officers and W.O.s will continue to wear the Royal Marine lanyard) and by all ranks of the Royal Sussex Regiment. And lastly, that at the next Council of Colonels meeting, to be held on September 16, a decision will be made as to the pattern of Officers' Service Dress which, owing to the introduction in the near future of this type of uniform for wear by other ranks, will shortly be, once again, the daily peace-time dress for officers, just as it was up until 1939. There will be few who will mourn the disappearance of Battle Dress and there can surely be no smarter or more suitable attire for officers than Service Dress which, at one time or another and with but small modifications, has been so slavishly copied by practically every other army in the world.

Finally, and as usual, some remarks about the never-ending problem of recruiting. Although there can be no cause whatever for anything approaching complacency and although the Brigade as a whole is far from being out of the wood, it is obvious that our combined efforts are beginning to bear fruit. The figures for the first five months of this year do show an improvement and are, incidentally, in marked and satisfactory contrast to the figures for a number of the other four-regiment Brigades. This is highly commendable and everyone who has been concerned, actively or passively, with this improvement is to be congratulated

and encouraged. But despite that there is no doubt at all that during the remaining few months of this year (this is written early in July) an exceptional and tremendous effort must be made in order to persuade as many as possible of the right type of National Serviceman that the Regular Army in general, and one or other of the Regiments in the Brigade in particular, is the right and proper place for him. Internal recruiting has improved a great deal over recent months, but the sands are running out and all too soon the last intakes will be upon us and under training.

To all those in any way concerned—and there are a very large number of you—the Brigade Colonel would therefore like to send this message: Make all the last remaining National Servicemen (the good ones, that is to say) feel that there is a place waiting for them in the Brigade and that they will be doing the best thing, for themselves as well as for the Brigade, by filling that place. We professional soldiers all know what Service, with a capital "S," means and what full-blooded value we all get out of a life such as ours. We know all that; they don't. And it is up to us to lead them onto our particular field of play, show them how the game goes and tell them that there's a place in the team which needs filling. If this is done with conviction and sincerity then your efforts can only be crowned with success. So go to it, every one of you, and good luck attend you.

CRICKET WEEK, 1960

Those of us who were fortunate enough to be able to play or watch Cricket Week this year could have very little to complain about regarding the weather, except perhaps, to wish for more frequent iced drinks. As far as memory records the sun was never concealed even by the smallest cloud throughout the five days, and the thermometer soared into the eighties.

Our fortunes were mixed in that we won two games, beating the Hampstead Heathens by 123 runs and the Sandhurst Wanderers also by the fair margin of five wickets. However, we lost the remaining three matches. It can be said at any rate that we never allowed a tame draw, which is always an unsatisfactory state of affairs to develop.

The week opened as usual with the match against the Free Foresters who had brought a very strong batting side down. Much to our surprise (and no doubt to theirs) we managed to bowl them out for 223, which is only a modest score on the Depot ground. Pte. Toole, a clerk on the Depot staff and former Middlesex young amateur player, and Capt. Wollocombe shared the wickets equally. There was one splendid catch in the deep field made by Capt. Pike who was, perhaps, unused to guarding such a great expanse of boundary. He will himself recall this catch for many years, if only because a few minutes earlier he had gallantly allowed an equally hard-hit ball to strike him firmly on the chest, resulting in his being unfit to play in the Sandhurst Wanderers game the following Wednesday. Unfortunately this earlier catch was not held.

Our innings got off to a good and bright start with a stand of 36 very quick runs by Capt. Pike (a self-

nominated opener) and 2/Lt. Lofting. No. 3 was Pte. Toole, who was out to a rather doubtful l.b.w. decision. However, Lt. Pickard and Capt. Wollocombe took the score from 46 for 3 to 107 before Capt. Wollocombe was out.

At this point the batting collapsed, apart from Lt. Pickard who continued to play beautifully until he was out for 53. We were eventually all out still needing 80 runs to win. The irony was that before the fourth wicket fell we were well ahead of the clock.

For the first time for many years we defeated the Hampstead Heathens. This achievement was entirely due to 2/Lt. Lofting, who played the best and most forceful innings seen at Mill Hill certainly within the memory of the writer. Admittedly he was given three chances, but on each occasion the ball was moving so fast that only a Test cricketer of some standing could have been expected to catch it. He made 151 out of our total of 244. Of the other batsmen, only Capt. Crumley offered any real support, but such was the power and domination of 2/Lt. Lofting's batting that it did not seem to matter. He hit eight sixes and 13 fours in an innings that lasted little over 90 minutes.

In the field, however, we showed more team spirit, encouraged no doubt by 2/Lt. Lofting's magnificent effort. All our bowlers claimed at least one wicket, Lt. Highton and Capt. Wollocombe claiming three each, the last falling with 124 still needed for the Heathens to win.

It was thus in a mood of keen anticipation of further victories that we entered the game against the Cryptics and we were very nearly justified. The batting went moderately well with Capt. Legge making a very pleasant 49 and Capt. Gilham and Pte. Toole supporting well with 35 and 23 respectively. 2/Lt. Lofting, suffering from a natural reaction to his triumph of the day before, made only one run. We were eventually all out for 151, a total usually considered to be too slender for Mill Hill.

Capt. Pike then bowled magnificently, even after some determined batting by the Cryptics early batsmen. We were struggling with ever-increasing gloom with this total at 130 and only four wickets down, when Capt. Pike struck three telling blows to make them seven wickets down for only 132. The fielders were stung into feverish activity at the sudden unexpected prospect of victory and their hopes seemed perfectly justified. Unfortunately, thanks to some dogged batting by P. L. Crawford and some firm defensive play by J. E. Toon, the Cryptics gradually regained the initiative and won without further loss.

Against the Incogniti we had the great misfortune of losing the toss, and being forced to bat second on a pitch which completely broke up later in the day. It played quite well during the morning and we did well to dismiss our opponents for 156. Towards the latter part of their innings, however, Cullen was able to make the ball turn sharply with his slow left-arm spinners and this was a sign of things to come. Unfortunately for us the Incogniti were armed with a left-arm spinner called P. Simpkins, who is well known in minor county cricket as a good bowler even on a firm wicket. On this crumbling surface he was almost unplayable.

Only Lofting going in first was able to deal at all effectively with him, and this was the result of superb concentration coupled with considerable skill.

We were beset by the tragedy of a run-out when the wicket was still reasonably firm, when Capt. Crumley was run out after a misunderstanding with Lofting. This mishap started our collapse and, as the wicket broke up, the Incogniti total quickly became more and more unattainable as the ball dug into the sub-soil and twisted away from the outside leg stump to a foot wide of the off. We were all out for only 98, Lt. Perkins being the only other batsmen to offer any resistance.

We again lost the toss against the Sandhurst Wanderers, but this time the wicket had been soundly watered the night before and held together well.

The Wanderers batted competently against some very good medium pace bowling from Pte. Toole, Major P. G. Thompson and Lt.-Col. J. Bennett both making very good 50s. However, the Wanderers had to rely almost entirely on two medium-pace bowlers, both of whom bowled very consistently. Eventually the strain began to tell, and after another good innings of 73 by Lofting and a very useful 53 by Toole, we passed their total of 203 with five wickets in hand. This brought to a fitting end a most entertaining five days of cricket. Cricket is always full of interest and promise with some fine performances from both the home side and our opponents, coupled with the sublime weather and much pleasant company to add to our enjoyment.

It will be a sad thing if, as maybe, this "Week" is to have been the last. It will earnestly be hoped by all cricketers in the Regiment, both past and present, that every effort will be made to find ways and means of continuing this most enjoyable event. One of the very few pre-war activities which has retained its character and charm, amidst all the changes which the post-war Army has had to bear.

P. A. S. W.

CORRESPONDENCE

April House,
43 Lichfield Avenue,
Hereford.
July 30, 1960.

DEAR EDITOR,

I see with sorrow that Sir Vyvan Holt is dead. I knew him well when he was in our 9th (T.A.) Battalion about 1929. Every year, when I served with the 1st Battalion at Caterick, I was detailed for a tour of T.A. Camps, and amongst others landed up with the 9th Battalion in camp at Beaulieu, as a sort of military attaché. Gen. Sir B. G. Horrocks was then Adjutant to the "Shiny 9th." While attached I made great friends with Holt and the late Col. Lamont. We all three explored the neighbourhood and took long walks together. I remember Lamont christened Holt "Dammie," his frequent expletive.

These two on our last day in camp organised what they considered a really original dinner as a farewell gesture. We started with coffee, liqueurs and dessert. Then a savoury, and port. Then sweet, joint, and ended up with soup, pink gins and sherry. Next day I felt awful!

Lamont and I bid farewell to Holt, who was off to Iraq, overland. He promised to write and let us know what his journey was like. We duly received post-cards. They all read alike:

1. Paris—beer rotten, moving on.
 2. Munich—beer first class—staying three days.
 3. Italy—beer undrinkable—moving on.
- Etc., etc.

This went on until he reached Baghdad. He was a most amusing and original subaltern and quite a good, keen soldier.

I'm afraid there are few left to remember him now, but he contributed a lot to our gaiety. It was a grand Battalion and he was a cheery and most likeable soul. R.I.P.

Yours sincerely,

L. F. SLOANE STANLEY.

c/o Barclays Bank D.C.O.,
Adderley Street,
Cape Town,
South Africa.
August 1, 1960.

THE EDITOR.

DEAR SIR,

I have just received the June, 1960, issue of the *Die-Hards* Journal and, as usual, have found it most interesting throughout and particularly the suggestion that the name of the Old Comrades' Association be changed to the "Die-Hards" Association.

Whilst I am in full agreement that a change of title is desirable, the suggested title of "Die-Hards" Association would probably indicate that serving members of the Regiment were eligible to become members as well as ex-members. May I suggest, therefore, that the new title be "Ex-Die-Hards Association," making it quite clear that the Association is one for past members of the Regiment rather than for serving and past members.

It will be interesting to see what other suggestions, if any, are put forward by other members of the Association.

Yours faithfully,
H. G. EDEN,

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

Serving members of the Regiment are eligible to join the Regimental Association and in fact do so.—EDITOR.

NORMANDY 16 YEARS LATER

Along with my wife and daughter, I have been on holiday in France and Belgium. We took our car across and after visiting Dunkirk, Ostend, Brussels and Paris we then made for Normandy, where we made our headquarters at Caen.

We visited all the places that have so many memories. For instance we had a picnic on the beaches at Ouistreham where the 2nd Battalion landed on D Day. It was a most delightful beach of golden sands, and it was hard to realise that this was the same place where so much death and destruction took place in June, 1944, and to compare it with the peace and beauty of today.

We visited Hermanville and saw the small cemetery there, in which we found the graves of C.S.M. Bell and Sgt. L. Horris. Also in Hermanville we saw the old H.Q. of the 3rd British Infantry Division, which has a plaque outside indicating the fact. The building is now used as a children's kindergarten.

We also found the cemetery at Cambes where we saw the graves of Major Passy (my old signal officer), Capt. McDowell, Cpl. "Dodger" Green, L/Cpl. Rees and Pte. Baker. This was a very sad moment as they were killed on June 9, 1944, in Cambes Wood. I was one of the lucky ones, getting away with leg wounds.

The cemeteries are wonderfully maintained and from the visitors' books which are at each cemetery one can see of the visits of many local French people.

I took many colour photographs of the cemeteries and of the villages and countryside, which I am pleased to say have come out very well.

Caen has been rebuilt into a wonderful new city, the main street has been renamed Avenue 6 June.

My only wish was that we could have had more than two days in Caen and surrounding areas, as there was so much of interest to see. Anyhow, there is always another time.

I do hope that these few lines have been of some interest to Old Comrades in the 2nd Bn.

RICHARD A. HARRISON (ex-L/Sgt., Signal Section,
2nd Battalion Middlesex Regiment),
16 St. Aidan Road, Bridlington, East Yorks.

269 (W.R.) Field Regt., R.A. (T.A.),
Fenton Street Barracks,
Leeds, 1.

August 8, 1960.

DEAR SIR,

re 1914-18 War

I was Artillery Liaison Officer to your 12th Battalion at the capture of Thiepval on September 26, 1916, when it was commanded by Col. Maxwell, v.c., who was, I believe, later killed in action.

I have often wondered whether there are any surviving officers who were present on that occasion. If you are able—without any trouble—to send me their name(s) and address(es) I should be most grateful.

Yours faithfully,
J. STUART CHALTON, Col. R.A. (T.A.).

CHRISTMAS CARDS, 1960

The Christmas card this year is one of Col. Egerton in Montreal, a snow scene, not to be confused with the one of him on the ramparts at Portsmouth.

The original painting has been very kindly loaned to us by Sir St. Vincent Troubridge for this purpose, and the card is expected to be ready about the beginning of October.

It is anticipated that the cost in the U.K. will be 1s. per card or 10s. per dozen, plus postage.

If cards of previous years should be required, there are still a few available.

All enquiries should be made to the P.R.I., Depot The Middlesex Regiment, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

OLD COMRADES' NEWS

"DIE-HARDS" CLUB NOTES
MILL HILL BRANCH

How quickly time passes; it was quite a shock to be reminded the Journal notes were again due, but in point of fact it was to me rather a nice shock, because from recent favourable reports I have heard about the previous three issues gives me incentive to put in words the activities of our Branch during the past three months.

In spite of summer holidays, which usually commence in June, our monthly meetings have been well attended. It was a surprise to see 68 at the July meeting, considering it was held on the Saturday before the August Bank Holiday—such a number was not expected, but it shows that the work of the Committee and other helpers is appreciated.

Membership is still increasing, and it is with pleasure we welcome to our Branch the following "Die-Hards": Ex-Sgt. Len Johnson, 2nd Battalion (he was S.I.M. at the Depot back in 1938); ex-Sgt. R. A. Harrison, of the 2nd Battalion Signal Section, 1940-44 (he now lives at Bridlington and will pay us a visit later on); ex-Sgt. "Towney" Hart, who moved from Mill Hill to Bolton, has visited and rejoined us; ex-C.S.M. "Jimmy" Cook, D.C.M., who was an instructor with me at the R.M.A., Sandhurst, 1923-26, and is now enjoying a well-deserved retirement at Walton, Norfolk—keeps in touch.

Tim Bolden and "Fatty" Bartropp are with us and enjoy meeting old friends, as does ex-Sgt. A. C. Squires and ex-C/Sgt. Basil Le-Maitre.

Ex-R.S.M. C. Davis (affectionately known to hundreds as "Jim" Davis), who served the Regiment many years, is with us, as is ex-R.Q.M.S. George Blackman, whose family has about 100 years' connection with the Regiment. He is now a Detective-Sergeant in the W.D. Police.

Ex-R.Q.M.S. "Chick" Etheridge, now on the recruiting staff, and ex-C/Sgt. George Markham are both enjoying civilian life—so much in fact I wonder why they ever joined the Army, but it was great to see them at the Club.

Those mentioned above have joined our Branch during the last nine months; there are others whose names will appear later, but the point I want to make quite clear is: "Die-Hards" will always join a Branch if given a lead—but a lead cannot be given by polishing the seat of one's pants on a chair—So Up and At 'Em.

Ex-Band Sgt. "Badgie" Hazlewood, who was up to a couple of years ago a member of our 1st Battalion Band, has never settled in civilian life, so off he has gone and enlisted into the Band of the Coldstream Guards. By the time these notes are in print he will be touring American with the Band. Good luck "Badgie."

How many readers remember the visit of the Prince of Wales to Singapore in 1922? And do you remember who was on the Quarter Guard? This was the topic of conversation at the Club in June, and the following, who I am proud to say are members of our Branch, formed part of that guard: Sergeant of the Guard,

Sgt. "Towney" Hart; Corporal conducting reliefs, Cpl. "Busty" Hull; and Bugle, Dmr. George Pocock.

I would like to know who the others were, and where are they—do you know? If so, put me in touch.

This is a nice little story, but it must not be forgotten that the Prince of Wales inspected the 4th Battalion at Gibraltar before reaching Singapore. I know, because I was, as Cpl. P. Newman, the Orderly Sergeant of "B" Company and answered the appropriate call 22 times during the morning. So come on you old 4th Battalion chaps, let me know more about this visit; we cannot let the "Pothooks" get away with Singapore, can we?

I received on Albuhera Day a beautiful letter from Mr. Edward W. H. West, of the 20th Battalion, regretting he would be unable to be present to enjoy the pleasant company of esteemed comrades on that great day. He does, however, send his best wishes to every member of the Regiment. Mr. West is not enjoying the best of health, therefore he cannot come to see us, so Bill Bratby has, on behalf of the Branch, visited and conveyed to him our good wishes and to ensure him he is not forgotten by us.

A visit was paid by the Vice-Chairman to the Star and Garter Home, where four of our comrades are looked after. They are: 6206355 Fenton of 2nd/7th Battalion, Oakley of 20th (Service) Battalion, Johnson of 21st (Service) Battalion, and Patsy Edwards, v.c., of 12th (Service) Battalion. They are, taking all things into consideration, keeping pretty well. Unfortunately Patsy Edwards has lost the power of speech since he had a stroke a couple of years ago—even so, he is still a tough old "Die-Hard."

"Busty" Hull has now recovered from a serious illness and we are delighted to see him back again. Bob Overton is well again and holidaying in Devon.

I had at our July meeting a very pleasant duty to perform. It was to present the blazer badge of The Old Boys, The Duke of York's Military School, to Mervyn Smith who, during the last 12 months, has looked after our beer and bar on Club nights faithfully and well. He is now a Police Cadet and it is not known for how much longer he will be able to serve us, therefore it was with great joy I was able, with the approval of the members, to make the presentation in appreciation of his services. Thank you, Mervyn, for all you have done.

Obituary

It is with deep sorrow that I report the passing of an old "Die-Hard" in the person of Lt. (Q.M.) William George Rice, D.C.M., at Edgware on July 12, at the age of 80 years. He was buried at Paddington New Cemetery and a wreath was sent from the Branch. A representative of the Regiment was present.

No. 5433 W. G. Rice joined the Regiment at Hounslow on July 11, 1898, and on Nov. 2, 1899, embarked for South Africa, disembarking on December 31, 1899. He remained in that country until well after the war was over.

Dublin saw him in 1905 and it was there he was

married, but in 1906 he sailed for East Indies, serving in Rangoon 1907, Allahabad 1909 and returned to England 1911.

The Great War took him to France in 1914 when, during November 23-25, 1917, he was awarded the D.C.M.

Promoted Corporal 1902, Sergeant 1905, W.O.2 and W.O.1 1917. Was discharged from the ranks to be commissioned as Lieutenant (Q.M.) on June 4, 1918, and served with the Royal West Kents until discharged January 23, 1920.

His medals, which are being presented to the Regiment, are: D.C.M., Queen's S.A. Medal with six clasps, King's S.A. Medal with two clasps, General Service and Victory Medal, 1914-18, and L.S. and G.C. Medal.

Truly a remarkable record and an example to all "Die-Hards."

WILLIAM GEORGE RICE, A "DIE-HARD"—1898-1960

It now remains for me to remind you that blazer badges at 35s. 9d. are for sale, as is also the Journal, both are "good buys" from the Secretary.

Don't forget to be at the Parade on Remembrance Sunday—we want a bumper attendance as it will be the last one before leaving for Canterbury.

P. F. N.

NOTES FROM THE SCRAP BOOK

First and Lasts

77th Regiment were the last British Regiment to leave the area after the Peninsular War, August 25, 1814.

57th Regiment were the first Regiment to win both V.C. and D.C.M.—C/Sgt. George Gardiner.*

77th Regiment were the first Regiment to pass through the Suez Canal, April, 1870.

1st Battalion were the first British Regiment to arrive in France, August 11, 1914.

4th Battalion were the first British Infantry unit to engage the Germans in 1914, i.e. 6 a.m., August 23, 1914.

1st Battalion were the first British unit to capture guns from the enemy, i.e. Nery, September 1, 1914.

Extracts from Regimental Orders

57th R.O. Kinsale, August 16, 1823.

1. Officers commanding Companies and Detachments are requested to explain to such of their men who are Protestants and who have been married by Catholic Priests that the Ceremony is Invalid and consequently they cannot be considered as married, but that to render the ceremony Valid it must again be performed by the rites of the Protestant Church.

2. The Old Red Jacket is never to be worn except on Fatigue duty. Men dispatched as Orderlies will wear their new Red Jacket.

77th 31st May, 1854.

Regimental Orders Camp near Varna.

Captain for the day tomorrow: Capt. Willis.

Subaltern for the day tomorrow: Lt. Kent.

1. The Muster will be taken as the Troops Disem-

bark and Casualty Lists furnished to the Pay Master.

2. All parades will be the same as at Scutari unless orders to the contrary.

3. A Regimental Court Martial will assemble in the President's Tent at 10 o'clock a.m. Tomorrow, the 1st June, for the trial of No. 1048 Cpl. P. Cinlon, 77th Regiment.

President: Capt. Kennedy

Members: Lt. Chawner

Ens. Alder

Ens. Carden

Ens. Lempriere*

By Order signed T.O. Forster,

1 Lt. & Act. Adjut, 77th.

*Comments by the Editor: Can any reader trace the whereabouts of C/Sgt. Gardiner's medals? Ensign Lempriere (killed in the Crimea) was a forebear of Major Bill Heywood.

9th BATTALION O.C.A.

Our news item this time is not particularly a happy one. First, we suffered the great loss of our President, Col. J. N. Lamont. Much has been written of him in a previous issue of *The Die-Hards* by a more competent person than myself, so I will only add that we particularly shall miss his interest, advice and leadership for a long time to come.

We are indeed fortunate, however, in having as our new President Major H. Sherwood, T.D., whom we know from past experience will be a most fitting successor.

Another blow to us has been the resignation of our Joint Hon. Secretary, Jack Taylor, through illness. He has been a most loyal servant to the cause of the 9th Battalion O.C.A. since taking over from Frank Fenemore and was a great correspondent with the many people who wrote to him as a result of the circulars we send out from time to time.

I am happy to say, however, that Jack is making a good recovery and we look forward to seeing him and having his company at our functions for a long time yet.

Our Annual Dinner in May was its usual success except that we were again reduced in numbers. By vote of a majority at the A.G.M. and in view of modern trends it was decided that the 1961 Dinner should be open to wives and lady friends of members as paying guests. We hope all our membership will support this new departure, and in particular we look forward to seeing many more of the 1939-45 veterans and their wives and/or girl friends at the 1961 Dinner.

HENRY J. FISHER, Hon. Secretary.

O.C.A.—HONG KONG BRANCH

This is the first meeting for a very long time of this Branch. On Tuesday, April 26, a meeting was held in the Volunteer Centre, R.H.K.D.F., under the chairmanship of Capt. R. M. Cain. Those present were Capt. R. M. Cain, R.S.M. R. A. Budden, C.S.M. J. Rodgers, Mr. John Bull, Mr. Jo Jo Lapsky, Mr. Tommy Carr, and Mr. J. Martin.

John Bull, Lapsky and Carr will be well known to our older readers, and young Martin will be remembered as "I" Corporal in the 1st Battalion in Cyprus. A number of other members were unable to attend. Discussions for celebrations on Albuhera Day were put



San Wai Camp taken from the Bailey Bridge

well under way and we hope to have a record turn-out. Many an Old Comrade's ear must have been burning that evening as, with the aid of a chap called "San Miguel," we talked about old times. Jo Jo Lapsky and John Bull took even honours with their stories about the old 1st Battalion in Hong Kong and your correspondent was able to put the meeting up to date about several of the old and well-known characters of the Regiment.

The enclosed photographs, if you consider them suitable, will show all that is left of San Wai camp known to so many of the Regiment. Our cap badge, the real one, still stands proudly on the top of the hill. The camp site is to be used as a new, and the main, station for Gurkha troops and their families.

In conclusion may I say that if any of your readers wish to have photographs of the cemeteries or particular graves at Sai Wan or Stanley I shall be only too happy to oblige.

Wishing good luck to all at home.

R. A. BUDDEN, R.S.M.

16 (HORNSEY) CADET COMPANY, MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

How nice it is when old members of the Company visit us. It is encouraging when they explain how their cadet training has helped them during their National Service. Even in the last month or so we have been visited by ex-Cadet Sgts. Wardley, Dawson and Eagleton. And although ex-Cadet Blackmore deserted us for the Royal Navy, he, too, found his training useful.

Some of these N.C.O.s wish to rejoin the Company as adult instructors. I think we can safely say that we can look with good heart to the future of 16 Company, with all the offers of help that we have received. I am glad to be able to say that the Company will soon be stronger by two new officers—Ron Boyce (late of the Royal Signals) and Mike Brennan. The former, with his added experience as a Scoutmaster, and the latter with his knowledge of map reading, are going to be of great assistance.

This being the centenary year, the Company Commander decided to risk a Church Parade notwithstanding the fact that churchgoing is not a strong point with Cadets. All went well, thanks to the Rev. Catt, the Vicar of St. George's, where the parade was held. We were glad to see so many of the relatives of the Cadets in the congregation, supported by Major Smith and Capt. Daffarn, who used to command this Company. The Company Colour was carried by L/Cpl. Hagger, and the escort was Sgt. Blunden, Cpl. Garrity and L/Cpls. Bell and Grice. These chaps did extremely well. Cpl. Murphy, who was the right marker for the parade, also read the Lesson. We must not forget to mention L/Cpls. Andrews and Grice who took the collection. We should like to record our thanks to Lt. Davis and the member of 13 Company who supported us in this parade.

16 Company had a certain amount of success at the Cadet Sports, at the Duke of York's Headquarters, on Saturday, May 14. Cadet Barnes collected a silver medal by winning the 880 yards, Cpl. Garrity repeated last year's performance and came second in the mile, and Cadet Watkins won the high jump.

A happy weekend was spent at the Regimental Depot from the evening of June 10 to 12. It made all the difference having the assistance of a Depot N.C.O. to take the Cadets on instruction firing of the S.L.R. The N.C.O.s and Cadets cannot speak too highly of the food at the Regimental Depot. In our next article we shall be telling you about camp, which will be held at Fingeringhoe, near Colchester, July 31-August 14, as well as about the Royal Parade at Buckingham Palace on July 22.

Old friends of the Company might like to note that the name of the Company has recently been changed to "16 (Hornsey) Cadet Company, Middlesex Regiment."

BIRTHS

WOLLOCOMBE.—On May 25, to Capt. and Mrs. Wollocombe, a son (John Bidlake).

BELLERS.—On June 7, at B.M.H., Rinteln, to Wendy and Peter Bellers, a son (Robin Nicolas Cranston), brother for Penelope, Caroline and Christopher.

KITCHENER.—On June 27, at Keresley Hospital, Warwickshire, to Jennifer (née Williams) and Geoffrey Kitchener, a son (Roger Charles), a brother for Julie.

DEAKIN.—On July 24, at Shorncliffe Military Hospital, to Diane (née Cooper), wife of Lt. M. Deakin, Middlesex Regiment, a son (Simon Francis).

DEATHS

CARLAN.—In-pensioner Edward T. Carlan of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, died in the Hospital Infirmary on June 16, at the age of 84. He served for nearly 25 years, first enlisting in October, 1891. His funeral was attended by a N.C.O. from the Depot and two comrades from the Royal Hospital.

KENDELL.—Mr. J. Kendell, a resident of one of the Cottages at Enfield, died on June 26 in St. Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, after a long and distressing illness. Representatives from the 7th Battalion attended the funeral.

PENNICK.—Capt. Charles Rupert Campbell Pennick, late Middlesex Regiment, died on June 30 in hospital after a long illness, at the age of 60.

LYON.—We regret to announce the death on July 5 of Mrs. Madeline Lyon, widow of Major N. H. B. Lyon, M.C., of our Regiment, after a long illness.

RICE.—Lt. (Q.M.) W. G. Rice, D.C.M., died on July 8 at the age of 80, and was buried in Paddington New Cemetery at Mill Hill. An N.C.O. of the Depot attended the funeral.

ROWLATT.—On July 27, at Cheltenham General Hospital, Major Henry Napier Rowlatt, late Middlesex Regiment, aged 83. As his funeral was private we were not represented.

HOLT.—Capt. Sir Vyvyan Holt, K.B.E., C.M.G., M.V.O., died on July 29 after a very short illness at the age of 64. The Regiment and Regimental Association were represented at his funeral. An obituary appears elsewhere in this issue.

JAY.—Major S. C. Jay died on August 5 very suddenly and peacefully at his home in Wimbledon. Major Jay was an ardent member of our Golfing Society and will be sadly missed.

MEDDOMS.—Harry Meddoms, a member for many years of the Mill Hill Branch, died on August 6. His funeral was attended by an N.C.O. of the Regiment.

PARTRIDGE.—Cpl. Frederick E. Partridge, M.M., died in North Middlesex Hospital on August 7. He served with the 7th Battalion in the First World War and his funeral was attended by an N.C.O. of that Battalion on behalf of the Association.

OBITUARY

Capt. Sir Vyvyan Holt, K.B.E., C.M.G., M.V.O.

It was a great shock to hear of the sudden death of Vyvyan Holt from a heart attack at Rougham, Norfolk, where he had been living since he retired from the Diplomatic Service.

He was commissioned to the 9th Battalion in March, 1914, and proceeded to India with the Battalion in October of that year. Early in his service in India he was sent to the Army Signal School at Kasauli on an instructor's course and on passing out commanded the Signal Section. As soon as he arrived in India he set about learning the languages and in an incredibly short time had passed both the Urdu and Pushtu higher examinations. Later he became an outstanding linguist, talking Arabic, Persian, Khurdish, Turkish and other languages as need arose throughout his service.

In 1917 he was seconded for service with India Signals and was posted to the command of a Brigade Signal Section on the Frontier. This did not last long for he was transferred to the Indian Political Service on the Frontier and spent some time in disguise as a Pathan, such was his command of Pushtu. In 1919 he was transferred to Khurdistan where he found two Companies of his old Battalion and the Signal Section he previously commanded on operation with a punitive force in the Kirkuk-Sulamania area.

After the Khurdish rising and the Iraq rebellion in 1920 he was appointed A.D.C. to the High Commissioner

in Baghdad later, taking over from Gertrude Bell, the appointment of Oriental Secretary in Iraq, serving in this capacity for 20 years. During this period he attended upon King Feisal when he made his state visit to this country, for which he was appointed a member of the Victorian Order and King Feisal conferred upon him the Order of the Two Rivers.

He was concerned in no small degree with negotiating the Iraq Treaty and was on one occasion called upon to reply to the Foreign Secretary (then Sir Austen Chamberlain) who addressed the Iraq delegates before the Cabinet for three-quarters of an hour. On rising to reply (and not to be outdone by Sir Austen) he placed his own monocle in his eye and replied for three-quarters of an hour in Arabic.

In 1946 he moved to Teheran as Oriental Counsellor to the British Embassy there and three years later was appointed British Minister to Korea. When war broke out in Korea he remained at his post in Seoul with his staff, who were all interned at Phonpyang when the North Koreans entered the city. His captivity lasted almost three years under very trying conditions; he very nearly died of pneumonia and his eyesight was seriously affected. On returning to this country after a period of recuperation he was appointed British Minister in El Salvador. Had his eyesight not been impaired his last appointment would undoubtedly have been one of much greater importance.

During the whole of his political and diplomatic career he remained on the Reserve List of the 9th Battalion, and always contrived to take his home leave when the Battalion was on training so that he could attend. In 1937 he was attached to a Regular Battalion at Colchester when Col. Maurice Browne was commanding. He was serving with the 9th Battalion during the four weeks' coverture prior to the outbreak of World War II, but was recalled to Baghdad shortly after the outbreak of hostilities.

He was a man of high intellect, extremely well read and in addition to his exceptional linguistic qualifications remained a master of the English language, as those who heard him lecture will never forget. He gave a lecture to the 2nd Battalion at Colchester, which will always be remembered by those privileged to attend it.

He was a very popular and efficient officer and intensely loyal to the Regiment, which meant so much to him. His many friends in the Regiment will mourn his loss, but will always be thankful that they had the good fortune to enjoy his friendship and serve with him.

Rev. A. J. Wilcox, C.B.E.

To your account of the life of the Rev. A. J. Wilcox may I be allowed to add a word of tribute? "A.J." was a man of simple, but indomitable faith of an evangelical piety shot through with an intense patriotism.

Among officers in the Brigade of Guards he was fondly and familiarly known as "the Bishop of Birdcage Walk." As Deputy Chaplain-General in the Middle East from 1939 to 1944 he saw the Chaplain's Department grow from a peacetime strength of some 20 chaplains to a wartime maximum over 400, stretching from Eritrea to Persia and from Aden to Tunis.

In his handling of men he was full of understanding

and sympathy, always generous with friendship. He was, and always remembered he was, primarily a priest and endeavoured as such to lead his heterogeneous and far-flung team of chaplains. He put spiritual things a long way first, before administrative considerations. He refused to be tied to his office desk and contrived to know personally a very large number of the chaplains serving in the command. He used to live at Bishop's House in Cairo and used the opportunity to the full to secure the closest co-operation with the civilian and missionary clergy.

He was a wonderful, and very amusing correspondent: in most depressing periods of the war in the Middle East he would find time to write delightful personal letters, full of news, racy humour and apt quotation, and take a message for one's soldier driver. I still use as a bookmark an Easter card he sent to me in the desert in 1942 on which he wrote: "I was captured on Easter Sunday, April 23, 1916, by the jolly old Turks, but the Lord and Giver of Life saw me through, and still does." His judgment if not subtle or profound was always charitable; and he was delightfully ready to laugh at himself.

Enthusiasm and loyalty were the hall-marks of his character. He served nearly 30 years in the Royal Army Chaplains' Department and almost throughout the war in the Middle East: both he longed to complete, but in 1944 he had to have an amputation and was invalided home. From hospital he wrote, characteristically: "This inaction is galling, but I must practise what I preach—patience. I had a fitting of the new leg this morning, a weird and wonderful thing. Thank God that he delights not in any man's legs! I wonder what He thinks, or would think, of this one made by the hand of man."

At length reunited with his family he made a home in London and triumphed over his disability. For four years he was the secretary of the Bishop's Board for the release of Service chaplains.

In the last years of his life he was "tried as gold in the furnace," but was not found wanting. He lost first a leg, then a dearly loved daughter scarce out of her teens, and then the other leg; but he never gave in, one never heard a word of self-pity. In a wheeled chair he still, as he would say, "kept the flag flying," and only a few days before his death he wrote, "I am as usual spending the day here" at his club as he always did on a Wednesday: "everything splendid"—his favourite word, especially when things seemed of the opposite complexion! Truly in A.J. there passes a very gallant gentleman.

(Published by courtesy of *The Times*.)

SECRETARY'S REPORT ON BENEVOLENT WORK

During June and July, 28 grants were made totalling the sum of £312 11s. 6d. Of this sum, the Association, in dealing with a very urgent case, made an advance of £100, through solicitors, to enable the man to raise sufficient money to meet the terms of a Court action in which he was involved, and so prevent his house and home being sold and the man, his wife and four children being rendered homeless. After the advance was made

applications were made to S.S.A.F.A., Forces Help Society, British Legion and Airborne Forces Security Fund requesting them to co-operate with us in this grant, and we are happy to report that all agreed to do so and a substantial sum has been recovered.

During the period under review about a quarter of the requests made were for co-operation in the cost of convalescent holidays for elderly ex-members of the Regiment and widows of late members. Grants were also made to enable couples living on small incomes to purchase coal at summer prices.

The wife of an ex-Sergeant of the Regiment, who has been deserted by her husband and left with six small children to care for, was given financial assistance to reduce hire-purchase commitments. Grants were made in two cases where ex-members of the Regiment had been discharged from mental hospitals, and in one of these cases the grant was for the purchase of overalls and tools to enable the man to take up employment in a trade for which he had been trained.

A recently widowed lady was assisted with the cost of removals, as she wished to return to her own hometown where she could take up work which had been offered her. Grants were made to other widows, some with small children, to meet arrears of rent, etc.

An application was received for assistance with the university education of the son of an ex-member of the Regiment. Other Societies and Regimental Associations had given help for previous years, and we made a grant towards the coming academic year.

The funeral expenses for an ex-member of the Regiment who had no relatives other than a sister-in-law, who had only her own retirement pension to live on, were met in co-operation with the British Legion.

A grant for extra nourishment and clothing was made for a man and his wife, both of whom were suffering from and receiving treatment for T.B. Assistance was given to another ex-member of the Regiment who had been in receipt of a good income, but due to a serious operation he had to take lighter and less remunerative work, which resulted in hire-purchase commitments becoming in arrears. These commitments were reduced and so enabled the man to manage better on his very much reduced income. Underclothing was purchased for a man who was waiting to enter hospital for two major operations, and whose wife was sick and unable to follow her own employment for the time being.

The widow of an ex-member who had died recently was assisted with a grant. She had been left with an insolvent business and no pension, and assistance was requested to help her over the difficult period following the death of the husband and until she could adjust herself.

A grant was made towards clothing for the seven children of a man who through being deaf finds it difficult to get employment and to retain it for any length of time. We were requested and agreed to co-operate with the Buffs Past and Present Association in reducing the debts of a couple which were caused by the prolonged illness of the man. A grant was made in a case where a man had lost a leg in an accident some ten years ago, and had since been unable to work

regularly, and he now had to enter hospital for a further operation on the stump which remained.

We were requested to assist the family of a man who had been ill for some months and heavy rent arrears had accrued. The wife had nine children to care for, none over school age, and she was therefore unable to work herself.

During the past two months we have been fortunate in obtaining generous co-operation from other Societies and Regimental Associations to meet the needs of distressed families.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT OFFICERS' CLUB HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1960, at 4 p.m.

Present: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L. (Chairman), Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major R. D. Hutchings, Major E. L. Heywood, Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E., Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

Apologies were received from: Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. S. F. Hedgecoe, Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., 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 having been circulated with the Agenda was accepted by the Committee.

3. *Cocktail Party.* It was approved by the meeting that a Cocktail Party be held at the Depot early in December, 1960, on a date to be arranged by O.C. Depot.

4. *Dinner to Lord Lieutenant.* It was proposed and carried unanimously that subject to the approval of the Colonel of the Regiment the Lord Lieutenant be invited to dine at the Depot towards the end of November when his tour of office is due to terminate. The Chairman agreed to approach the Colonel of the Regiment and invite the Lord Lieutenant.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.20 p.m.

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

Inglis Barracks,
Mill Hill, N.W.7.
July 25, 1960.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1960, at 2.30 p.m.

Present: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L. (Chairman), Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major R. D. Hutchings, Major E. L. Heywood, Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E., R.S.M. S. Webb, Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

Apologies were received from: Col. S. F. Hedgecoe, Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, T.D., Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton, R.S.M. J. A. Thom, R.S.M. S. Bartle, Mr. R. Ferguson.

Record of Condolence. The Chairman referred to the loss which R.S.M. Bartle had suffered by the sudden death of his wife and informed the Committee that he had written a note of sympathy from the Committee, but he was sure that it would be their wish that we should place on record in these Minutes an expression of our thoughts of sympathy for him at this time.

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

2. *Secretary's Report.* The Secretary's report having been circulated with the Agenda was adopted by the Committee.

The Secretary was instructed to ascertain from applicants for assistance, who were of a disabled nature, if they desired to be placed on the Waiting List for vacancies of the Memorial Cottages.

3. *Finance Committee's Report.* The Chairman informed the Committee that a meeting of the sub-committee was held on Monday, June 27, at which only himself and the Secretary were present. After examining the Statement of Accounts produced by the Secretary and noting the cash position the statements were approved, and it was resolved that the Charity Commission be instructed to make the following investments:—

War Memorial Capital Account: Invest £100 of unexpended income in 5% Defence Bonds.

Mrs. Mabel Renny Legacy: Purchase £150 of 3% Savings Bonds, 1965-75; from the unexpended income when the second half-yearly dividend has been received from the Charity Commissioners.

Report adopted.

4. *War Memorial Committee's Report.* Brigadier Rackham informed the Committee that his sub-committee met on June 24.

It was recommended that a Bantam self-locking working platform be purchased at a cost of £33 for use by tenants when carrying out internal and external decorations and repairs to the Cottages, and that a hiring fee of 5s. per week be charged. The income from this source being used for the purpose of maintenance.

It was reported that Mr. Kendall, who had occupied No. 7 Cottage, had died in Roehampton Hospital on June 26, 1960. It was approved that the son of the late Mr. Kendall be written to by the Housing Manager after a lapse of a couple of weeks to ascertain when it would be convenient for him to hand over the cottage for further occupation by a disabled member of the Regiment.

Brigadier Rackham informed the meeting also that the Cottages at Mill Hill were due for external painting and that tenders for this service had been invited, and it was agreed that tenders be examined and accepted after consultation between O.C. Depot and the Secretary.

Report adopted.

5. *Journal Committee's Report.* Major Hutchings informed the meeting that he had no report to make at this meeting, and the Chairman reminded the meeting that the Colonel of the Regiment had recommended that the Journal be subsidised from Association for two years, which period ends at December 31, 1960.

6. *Branches Sub-Committee's Report.* Col. Clayton informed the meeting that he had received from the Secretary a letter from Major Newman suggesting that a further Branch of the Association be opened at Tottenham. He did not think any action should be taken at present as it is too close to the Enfield Branch which must be given every chance to blossom without nearby competition. He thought the idea of opening a further Branch at Tottenham excellent and he was borne in mind for the future. An effort was being made to form a further Branch at 8th Battalion Headquarters, and he had asked Major Honeybun to investigate the possibilities.

Col. Clayton also informed the meeting that the Enfield Branch has now 43 members.

Report adopted.

7. *Blazer Badges.* The Committee reviewed the price of Blazer Badges and approved of a reduction of 1s., the price now being £1 15s. 0d.

8. *Individual Case.* The Chairman asked Major Hardcastle to report on a case which had been passed to him at very short notice of an ex-member of the Regiment who had been threatened with bankruptcy proceedings. Thanks to the prompt action taken by Major Hardcastle he had been successful in obtaining an adjournment and had been able to negotiate a settlement on terms involving some help from the Association. It was resolved and carried unanimously that the assistance requested should be given and Major Hardcastle was thanked for the great trouble he had taken to protect the man and his family.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4 p.m.

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

Inglis Barracks,
Mill Hill, N.W.7.
July 25, 1960.

THE CAMBRIDGE CLUB

The usual quarterly meeting was held on June 16 at the home of Mrs. Hutchings—our usual meeting place was being redecorated, "we hope in time for our winter sessions."

Considering that the holidays had started we had quite a good attendance, and a pleasant meeting was had by all—a game of tombola, cup of tea and a natter of old times.

In these notes we would like to convey our deepest sympathy to R.S.M. Bartle, on the sudden death of his wife (our Hon. Secretary).

Mrs. Burgess declined to take on this job again; she hopes to be well settled in her own home before our winter meetings start, so we take this opportunity to thank her for all the work she has done in the past and wish her and her family well in the future. Therefore, Mrs. Shrubbs volunteered (?) hoping to complete a successful job.

The next meeting will be on October 13. A reminder will be sent to all whose addresses we have, but please come without our reminder. If you are a wife of a past or present serving member of the Regiment, let us make our efforts worth while with a good gathering.

MRS. SHRUBBS, *Hon. Secretary*.

**SUBSTANTIVE ROLL OF WARRANT OFFICERS,
COLOUR-SERGEANTS AND SERGEANTS AS AT**
JULY 1, 1960
WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS I

Bde. Pos.	Appt. or A/Rank	Name	Last Known Station
4	W.O.1	T. McMillan	1 Mx.
11	W.O.1	J. Thom	7 Mx.
15	W.O.1	R. Budden	Hong Kong

WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS II

6	W.O.2	F. Firman	5 Queens
7	W.O.2	A. Cooper	1 Mx.
11	A/W.O.1	S. Bartle	Depot Mx.
19	W.O.2	R. Dodkins	1 Mx.
21	W.O.2	W. Thorogood	1 Mx.
24	W.O.2	C. Burgess	Depot Mx.
47	W.O.2	K. Beale	1 Mx.
48	W.O.2	W. Wright	1 Mx.
53	W.O.2	A. Da Costa	1 Mx.

COLOUR-SERGEANTS

4	A/W.O.2	L. Shrubbs, M.M.	8 Mx.
10	A/W.O.2	H. Davis	8 Mx.
12	C/Sgt.	J. Morgan	Depot Mx.
22	C/Sgt.	J. Potter	1 Mx.
24	A/W.O.2	R. Cubitt	7 Mx.
26	C/Sgt.	P. Dive	1 Mx.
27	A/W.O.2	J. Moyse	7 Mx.
43	A/W.O.2	S. Michel	1 Mx.

SERGEANTS

4	A/W.O.2	E. Thompson	22 S.A.S.
10	Sgt.	E. Weller	1 Mx.
(Aro Acton)			
12	Sgt.	G. Palmer	Depot Mx.
25	A/C/Sgt.	E. Steward	1 Mx.
33	A/C/Sgt.	M. Eastap	Depot Mx.
35	Sgt.	D. Bailey	A.S.C.D.
38	A/C/Sgt.	G. Simmons	1 Mx.
41	Sgt.	J. Preston	Inf. Jnr. Leaders Bn.
44	A/C/Sgt.	D. Walters	1 Mx.
48	Sgt.	J. Dickie	1 Mx.
55	A/C/Sgt.	A. Nicholson	1 Mx.
56	Sgt.	B. Warner	H.Q., 11 Inf. Bde. Gp.
57	Sgt.	M. Butler	1 Mx.
60	Sgt.	A. Gibbs	1 Mx.
61	Sgt.	W. Smith	1 Mx.
69	Sgt.	J. Martin, M.M.	Depot Mx.
77	Sgt.	R. Davies	1 Mx.
90	A/W.O.2	P. Amor	22 S.A.S.
96	Sgt.	R. Clements	1 Mx.
105	Sgt.	R. Power	1 Mx.
107	Sgt.	K. Lloyd	Depot H.C.B.
108	Sgt.	C. Partridge	1 Mx.
111	Sgt.	D. Lagden	1 Mx.
112	Sgt.	E. Langford	1 Mx.
118	Sgt.	C. Orme	1 Mx. (Aro Kentish Town)
123	Sgt.	M. Elston	M.T. School
133	Sgt.	H. Horder	Depot Mx.

Bde. Pos.	Appt. or A/Rank	Name	Last Known Station
140	Sgt.	R. Ford	8 Mx.
141	Sgt.	C. Shinn	Inf. Jnr. Leaders Bn.
146	Sgt.	N. Taylor	7 Mx.
147	Sgt.	B. Callaghan	8 Mx.
153	Sgt.	H. Males	G.H.Q. M.E.L.F.
154	Sgt.	C. Blackwell	Depot Mx.
184	Sgt.	J. Patterson	Depot H.C.B.
186	Sgt.	B. Tarry	8 Mx.

ORDERLY ROOM SERGEANTS

4	O.R.Q.M.S.	E. Colebeck	Depot Mx.
6	O.R.Q.M.S.	P. Soper, B.E.M.	1 Mx.
10	O.R.C/Sgt.	G. Cripps	Depot H.C.B.

BANDMASTER

4	B.M.	F. Jackson	1 Mx.
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BAND SERGEANTS

5	Sgt.	A. Probert	1 Mx.
5	Sgt.	D. Carson	1 Mx. (Student, B.M. Course, R.M.S.M.)

DRUM MAJOR

3	C/Sgt. (D.M.)	J. Lewis	1 Mx.
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