

The Die Hards

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



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THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN)

(57th and 77th)

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

"Mysore," "Serlingapatam," "Alubera," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "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," "17, 18," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915, 17, 18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Fresenberg," "Bellevue," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme," "Albert, 1916," "18," "Bazentin," "Deville Wood," "Porières," "Ginchy," "Fiers-Courcette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916, 18," "Bapaume, 1917, 18," "Arras, 1917, 18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917, 18," "Arleux," "Plickem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcapelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917, 18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrück," "Baillieu," "Kemmel," "Schierpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suva," "Landung at Suva," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell Asur," "Palestine 1917-18," "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murmur, 1910," "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," "Sierro," "Sierro Hills," "Italy, 1944-45: "Anzio," "Carroceto," "Gothic Line," "Monte Grande," "North-West Europe, 1944-45: "Normandy Landing," "Cambes," "Breville," "The Odon," "Caen," "Italy, Orme," "Hill 112," "Bourguibus Ridge," "Troam," "Mont Pincon," "Falaise," "The Seine, 1944," "The Nederrijn," "Le Havre," "The Lower Maas," "Venrai," "Meijel," "Gellenkirchen," "Venlo Pocket," "The Rhineland," "Goch," "The Reichwald," "The Rhine," "Lingen," "Brinkum," "Bremen."

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

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

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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.

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1st Bn. (Amalgamated with 8th Bn. 1948)—B.A.O.R.

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7th Bn. Hornsey, N.3.
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

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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, Toki, Taranaki, New Zealand.

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British Forces Post Office, 1, Hong Kong.

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NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

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

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 "C & 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.

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

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Editor's Comments

THE PASSING OF A FAMILY HOME

It is a sad day, indeed, when a large and scattered family loses its permanent and traditional home; and a much sadder day when its members realise that they will never have the chance of regaining that home.

Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill—better known to us as the Depot—will close early in 1961, having been our home for over half a century. Through its gates have passed thousands of Middlesex "sons," many of them to take their first steps into the world beyond, many to go forth, alas, never to return. Here, safeguarded in time of peace and war, our collection of Regimental trophies and treasures has steadily grown, bearing witness to the enduring tradition of the "Die-Hard" breed on the fields of sport and battle.

To many of us the Depot has been a happy home, with its own particular appeal and charm. Few of us, if any, could hear its mention without being able to bring to mind a firm friendship which started there, a sad departure or a joyful reunion. No matter how far our travels took us or how long we were away, there was always an assured family welcome awaiting us on our return to the Depot.

Soon, it will be no longer; and when the last room is cleared and the last box packed and taken away, the only remnant of our noble heritage will be the Memorial to our fallen. Each year the Remembrance Day service will continue to be held at this, our family shrine. Let us, who were able to return home, not forget our less fortunate brothers on this day, and, in their spiritual

company, once again may we recall the happy days we spent at—the Depot!

"A Full Life"

General Horrocks's memoirs were published in September under this title, and they give, indeed, a fascinating and true picture of this most distinguished member of the Regiment. He vividly relates his experiences as a young officer, later as a Divisional and Corps Commander, and, finally, as a very well-known TV personality. This delightful and readable book contains no recriminations or criticisms of his superiors, which is so typical of "Jorrock's"—a "Die-Hard" of whom we are so very proud and much admire.

Reorganisation of the T.A.

Announcements have already appeared in the National Press about proposals to reorganise the T.A. and bring it into line with the present organisation of the Regular Army. No doubt all this is necessary, if regrettable; and how it will affect our own T.A. battalions is still unconfirmed, although we fear that there are bound to be changes. It is possible that we shall see an amalgamation of the 7th and 8th Battalions, both of whom have been doing so well recently; and, though there have been no rumours about the future of our old 9th Battalion, L.A.A. regiments are obviously somewhat dated, and we can only hope that any reorganisation will bring them back to the Regimental fold. However, by the time these comments are published, the decisions reached by

the War Office will have been announced in a Government White Paper.

Mrs. Wharhirst, M.B.E.

Readers, particularly those from Hendon, Mill Hill, will be very sorry to hear of the recent death of Mrs. V. Wharhirst, who for many years had been a very good friend to the Regiment in her capacity as an active member of the S.S.A.F.A. and Forces Help Society. During World War II she was of great assistance to many Regimental families in the Depot married quarters; furthermore, she played a large part in helping to launch the Memorial Appeal in 1946.

OFFICER RETIREMENTS

Brigadier R. A. Gwyn, O.B.E.

Roly Gwyn, who was educated at Haileybury and Sandhurst, retired from the Active List in August, 1960. He joined the 1st Battalion at Colchester in 1931 on first appointment, and served with the 57th in Jerusalem, Egypt and Singapore. In 1937, he was appointed A.D.C. to Sir Shenton Thomas—then Governor and C-in-C Malaya—in which post he remained until 1940. During World War II he held numerous and important staff appointments, culminating as a B.G.S. to H.Q. S.E. Asia Command.

In the post-war period he was a teacher at the Staff College, Camberley and, later, a G.S.O. 1 at the Ministry of Supply. He returned to Regimental duty in 1951, on being appointed 2IC to the 1st Battalion, who were at that time in Hong Kong; and he fought with the 57th throughout the Korean operations. He assumed command of the 57th in 1952 and took them to Austria. It was under his command that new Colours were presented to them by Field-Marshal Lord Harding. After a successful period in command, he was appointed a Colonel G.S. on the British Army Staff in Washington, where he was awarded the O.B.E. In 1956 he returned to U.K. to assume command of a T.A. Brigade in Sheffield.

Roly, apart from his military ability, is a very talented and artistic person. He is a gifted caricaturist, and prior to World War II he illustrated several books by Jervis Bey, notably, "Oriental Spotlight" and "The Garden of Allah." We wish Roly and Dorothy good fortune and happiness in their new home overlooking the Lake of Menteith, Perthshire.

Major C. A. Tre stain, M.B.E.

Charles Tre stain retired from the Active List in October, 1960, after completing 37 years' service with the Regiment. He enlisted at Mill Hill in 1923, when the Depot was under the command of the late Brigadier "Porker" Pearson. He later joined the 1st Battalion at Aldershot and served in the M.G. Platoon, which was then commanded by the late Col. "Monkey" Stewart and later by Lt.-General Sir Brian Horrocks. In 1926, Charles joined the 2nd Battalion at Ahmednager, and he remained with this Battalion until 1936, reaching the rank of W.O.2 (C.S.M.). It was during this time that he instructed your Editor in the machine gun, and he was instrumental in ensuring that the latter passed into Netheravon. It was also whilst serving as an N.C.O. with the 2nd Battalion that he obtained "D.s" at both Netheravon and Hythe, which was no mean achievement. In 1937, he served as a P.S.I. with the 8th Battalion, and two years later he was commissioned as a temporary Q.M. before being posted to the 17th Battalion, with whom he remained until 1946. It was in 1949 that Charles Tre stain was given a Regular Q.M. commission. He was then posted to the newly-formed 7th Battalion but left the following year to join the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong. Owing to a severe illness, however, he had to return to U.K. in 1953, rejoining the 7th Battalion on recovery as Percy Newman's relief. He then finished his long Army service as Staff Captain at Salisbury Plain District. Many people will recall Charles Tre stain's unflinching equanimity and good humour—his friends knew him as "Smiler"—and we wish him well in his retirement in Wiltshire.

The Regimental Memorial Homes

From time to time we hear of old "Die-Hards" down on their luck, often because of wounds and injuries incurred while serving with the Regiment, and we think then, had we known about them before, they are the sort of people who would benefit most from living in one of our Memorial Homes.

The Homes are full at present, and there is a waiting list to go into them if they do become vacant, but there is no fixed order on the waiting list.

If you know of an ex-member of the Regiment who deserves consideration and would like the chance of living in one of the Homes, send his particulars to the Secretary, Regimental Association, at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill. The two main requirements are that he must have served with the Regiment and he must be in receipt of a disability pension. Priority is given to those whose disability is due to war.

1st Battalion Notes

HAMELN, OCTOBER 1960

This has been perhaps the quietest period of a most hectic year, or is it because the editor has been on leave, or may be we have been more concerned with where the powers that be will want the Battalion to serve next. The suggestions from this end are many and varied, from Warminster to the Congo.

We can look back, however, with satisfaction over the period covered by these notes. The Battalion has never been fitter, the standard of training and sports is the highest for many years and the spirit is unquenchable. The Commanding Officer has taken a keen interest in all activities and has gone flat out to find interests for everyone, his enthusiasm and efforts have been inexhaustible. This, coupled with some active and interesting exercises set by Major Pearce Gould, marred only by the weather, have made the three months fly by and left us in high spirits for anything that lies ahead.

We must retrace our steps to July, and the Colonel of the Regiment's visit. We always enjoy his visits; we believe he did not return empty handed this time.

Early in August the much-awaited exercise against the Germans took place. "August Agony" incorporated almost all the phases of war, with a live enemy in the form of troops of Panzergrenadierbataillon 12, commanded by Oberstleutnant Tappe.

The rifle companies each planned and executed their own Company Weeks during July and August. "A" Company spent their time at the Baldene See, a lovely lake in the Ruhr, to use their own words. They returned looking very bronzed and sorry to be back. "B" Company took to the woods about Grohnde and finished up the other side of Bodenwerder, using the river Weser as a guide. "C" Company went to Haltern, where they were able to carry out a certain amount of field firing. Each Company will, I am sure, have enlarged on their activities during their weeks in their Company Notes.

It is interesting to note that Major Pearce Gould, between exercises and other numerous training activities, took himself off on a wining and walking holiday in the Moselle. I am told he had a thoroughly enjoyable time, but was regretting the fact that his car was to suffer the indignity of having a road-worthy test as it is two years old. He is driving at 45 m.p.h. until further notice.

We forgot to record in our last editorial the success of our swimming team. They again won the Divisional Swimming Competition. It is interesting to record our successes in the sporting world over the year.

Boxing—Army B.A.O.R. semi-finalists.

Basketball—Runners-up, Divisional Competition.

Hockey—Army B.A.O.R. semi-finalists.

Swimming—Divisional Champions.

Athletics—Runners-up, Brigade Competition.

Rugby football and association football were not our strong points, but much time was spent in team-building for next year. We have already reaped the benefits of this.

A most enjoyable and well-organised seven-a-side tournament, open to the Garrison, was held on September 14. The Brigadier spent the afternoon watching. The standard was quite good. "A" Company were beaten in the final by 125 Company R.A.S.C.

Exercise "Skeleton Key" concerned only Battalion H.Q. and Company Commandos. It was an exercise to test the wireless communications on the command net. I hope that those interested were satisfied with the results, as so often in these sort of exercises the lower controls never really know whether the outcome was favourable or not.

September, and all eyes were focused on Exercise "Holdfast," September 17-25. This is fully written up elsewhere in these notes. We would just like to say here how nice it was to have fine, sunny weather, and to have lived in different surroundings and, moreover, in country which reminded one so much of England. Finally, congratulations to the exercise setters for a thoroughly instructive, enjoyable, and well-thought-out exercise. I should have hated to have been an umpire on "Holdfast."

Maj.-Gen. D. S. Gordon, C.B.E., D.S.O., commanding 4th Division, visited us on September 15. He landed by helicopter to give us a pre-"Holdfast" briefing. He said that as our Commander he wanted us to have a look at him, and to hear from his lips what he proposed to do on Exercise "Holdfast."

We are glad to report that all troops were safely back in Hameln by Sunday last light on September 25, with no fatal casualties.

Exercise "Holdfast" over, our thoughts and actions were focused on the administrative inspection on November 2, 1960, and it is difficult to know just what everybody is doing, and if everybody is here that should be here. Between changing battle dresses, painting lockers, cutting grass, and holding one's breath, the inter-Company hockey and novices' boxing is taking place.

I feel "D" Company should have a special mention here for their arduous duties in training the new drafts and the potential N.C.O.s. The courses they have run have been quite excellent. The standard reached by these students is very high, so, too, has been their enthusiasm. "D" Company have now embarked on their second potential N.C.O. Cadre. It is fully appreciated what an important task they have and how well they are carrying it out.

The highlight of this period was perhaps the Beating of Retreat by the Regimental Band and Corps of Drums on October 15. Some 170 official guests were asked

from B.A.O.R. to the Retreat and to cocktails afterwards in the Mess. A large crowd of local Germans were allowed into the barracks to watch the Retreat. This was Mr. McShane's first retreat with us, and he can be well pleased with the result. Gen. E. A. W. Williams, C.B.E., M.C., and Brigadier J. A. Hunter, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., were among the guests. This is probably the last time we shall see Brigadier Hunter. Although our associations have been short, we are extremely sorry to see him go and will, indeed, miss him. We do, however, envy him in his new job with Union Castle Shipping Line and hope that one day we might have the money and the pleasure of travelling on one of his ships.

We also say good-bye with much regret to Capt. Norton and Major Jeffcoat. Capt. Norton commanded "A" Company for the greater part of his time and he will be greatly missed, in particular, by the Battalion shooting team. We would like to remind him that those tanks are still grinding away. We hope he and his family will enjoy themselves in Nigeria. Major Jeffcoat has left with his family for Hong Kong, where he will be D.A.Q.M.G. (Quarters). We understand his quarter is in Repulse Bay, is air conditioned, and only a stone's throw from the golf course. "C" Company I know will greatly miss him, as will the Battalion. His soundness and quiet manner had a sobering effect on the rather more belligerent Company Commanders!

Our latest arrivals are the Padre, the Rev. W. R. Crawte, and 2/Lt. P. Monypenny. They are, or should be by now, broken in. The Padre seemed to spend much of his time on a tank during Exercise "Holdfast." We hope they are enjoying life with the Battalion in Hameln.

The ranks of the Battalion continue to swell. I have to report the following:—

Capt. and Mrs. Durtinnall, a daughter. Lt. and Mrs. Waite, a son. R.S.M. and Mrs. McMillan, a daughter. Sgt. and Mrs. Handford, a son. Cpl. and Mrs. Sheffield, a daughter.

Our heartiest congratulations and we can report all are doing well.

THE CHURCH

The present Chaplain finds himself in the awkward position of having to comment on the "Church" in Hameln after having only been in residence for two months. But one thing is certainly evident—and that is, that the friendliness of the parishioners, promised by the former Chaplain, has lived up to that promise. One can do no better than wish him equally congenial company where he labours now.

Nothing of note has taken place in the life of the church except the tentative formation of a male voice choir to help lead the congregational singing. Few in number as yet, we hope to see many more offer their voices, whether classified or not, to help in such a noble work.

We also hope to branch out soon on "Company Sponsored Services"—a voluntary arrangement whereby each company in turn is asked to support in strength on a particular Sunday and to take over the various responsibilities open to the laity.

This is a common practice in many units throughout the Army and has the blessing of the Army Council. The object is to encourage the "fringers" to feel they belong, and perhaps to break the ice for more regular attendance.

Before we attempt this, we have the annual Remembrance Day Service, which, as usual, we share with the other Garrison units. This year the prospective number promises to tax our seating capacity to the limit, so that even our huge gym. will be hard put to swallow them all. This is a problem which most clergy would like to have every Sunday of the year—provided they had the support which will be forthcoming here to help to solve it. Here's hoping that the service will be worthy of the occasion.

EXERCISE "HOLDFAST"

As a result of his report of the 1959 manoeuvres, your correspondent has been criticised for his lack of security. This account has been written with the active co-operation of MI5 and P.R.

During September, an exercise took place in Germany. The aim was to exercise the troops who took part. This aim was accomplished.

Those who know their Table VI to Chapter 2 of Staff Duties in the Field, please turn over and see what happened. All others skip two pages.

AUTUMN MANOEUVRES, 1960

Some 50,000 troops took part in exercise "Holdfast," which was held from September 21-23, 1960, in the Schleswig-Holstein area. A great deal of careful preparation had gone in to this exercise and your correspondent was much struck by the number of civilians in blazers, caps and flannels who had decided to take their leave in this area and who were content to stomp the countryside in every type of weather.

The battle was between "Blueland" and "Orangeland" and the border between these two countries was the Hamburg-Lubeck autobahn, which represented a canal. The Battalion formed part of the "Orange" forces.

The "Orange" plan for the invasion of "Blueland" was for a Parachute Brigade to land to the north of the Kiel Canal. At the same time an Infantry Battalion was to land in the Eckernförde Bay and the rest of the "Orange" forces were to cross the "canal" and try to seize a bridgehead over the Kiel Canal by D+3. The "Orange" forces were to advance on as broad a front as possible and to keep on going for as long as possible.

Within 11 Infantry Brigade Group boundaries, there were three routes forward (marked on the sketch map) and they were allotted as follows:

Red ... 1st Cameronians Group.

Orange ... 1st S.W.B. Group.

Black ... 4th Royal Tanks/1st Middlesex Group.

There were also four bridges over the "canal" and the first task was to capture these and the bridges over the River Trave. 1st Middlesex was allotted the easternmost bridge.

On September 18, the Battalion arrived in its concentration area south-west of Siebenbaumen. "D" Day was to be September 21 and the intervening period was



Drawn by: Lt. R. Stanborough 25th Oct 60.

taken up in careful reconnaissance of the border, with special reference to the bridge that had to be captured. The enemy engineers were observed laying their charges and the covering position was noted. At the same time steps were taken to prevent the enemy from sabotaging the bridges that were needed to get the tanks up to the border—the mortar and anti-tank platoons were each responsible for one bridge.

At 0602 hrs. "Zulu" on September 21, battle commenced. Lt. P. Mallalieu, driving a German tractor with a trailer full of Assault Pioneers drove over the bridge and up to the enemy covering position. The enemy were quite unsuspecting—this was the third tractor to pass that way that morning—and surprise was complete. Meanwhile Sgt. Pritchard of the Assault Pioneer Section, had nipped over the bridge and cut the wires leading to the charges. A few moments later No. 8 Platoon of "C" Company, led by Lt. G. Bulloch, was over the canal and the bridge was ours. Great credit is due to all concerned in this *coup de main*, the result of much thought, planning and rehearsal. (The tractor normally spends its life at Hameln towing the mowers. For this occasion it was suitably camouflaged and provided with false number plates.)

"C" Squadron, with Lt. Goring's platoon up, was pushed across as quickly as possible and was soon in contact with the enemy around Ratzbek and it was not long before the whole of "B" Company joined up with that Squadron.

"B" Squadron, with "A" Company, followed up behind but soon the two squadrons were on separate axes—"B" Squadron Group on the left of "Black" route and "C" Squadron on the route itself.

By last light (September 21), "B" Squadron Group was on the high ground west of Zarpen, "C" Company was in Heilshoop with "B" Company and "A" Squadron was advancing up "Black" route in the neighbourhood of Langen Niendorf and against stiffening opposition.

During the afternoon a nuclear strike had been made on the enemy opposite "B" Squadron Group and, in order to press on during the night, it was decided to go left-handed through Pohls. A successful and difficult night move was accomplished and at dawn our forces were astride the Bad Segeberg-Lubeck road. "C" Company were sent on foot through the marshes west of Gnissau in a vain attempt to capture in tact the bridge over the second River Trave but on their way in did stir up a sleepy and startled enemy H.Q. This night advance had results beyond all expectation, the enemy being thrown into complete confusion.

In the early morning of September 22, the enemy put down a nuclear on Strenglin, about half an hour after joint Tactical H.Q. had left. Half an hour earlier the village was a seething mass of men and vehicles, when the strike came it hit one broken down truck belonging to the Drums.

In order to press on it was decided to airlift "C" Company and Lt. G. Goring's platoon by helicopter, some five miles forward. It was unfortunate that the pilots only had maps of scale 1/1,000,000 and it was unfortunate, too, that part of "C" Company was landed

in the middle of an enemy Battalion area. It suffered accordingly.

During the morning Battalion H.Q. had had quite an exciting engagement with two enemy tanks which drove at high speed through the village of Pronstorf. The first time the tanks went through Battalion H.Q. was not quite ready but when they returned there was such an efficient system of road blocks that the tanks were forced into a marsh and nearly came to a watery end. Pte. Braime and the Adj. distinguished themselves. The former by leaping on to one tank with a grenade and the latter by organising and controlling the defence by means of a megaphone.

The day of September 22 was spent in a slow but steady advance against increasing pressure from umpires, who were doing their utmost to rally and reorganise the enemy. By nightfall "B" Squadron Group was in the triangle of roads S.E. of Damsdorf, "C" Company was guarding the crossing at Tensfelderau and "A" Squadron Group was held up before the causeway at Tensfeld. Everyone was very tired and, as the Brigade plan was for the Group to rest prior to continuing the advance, the order to advance to Tarbek as soon as possible came as a nasty shock. This advance took some arranging but was accomplished safely by "B" Squadron Group. The enemy had either withdrawn or gone to bed.

During the night of September 22-23, 1st S.W.B. Group pushed forward and at daybreak had reached Alt Bokhorst. The 4th Royal Tanks/1st Middlesex Group followed up behind and then took over as the spearhead. For this purpose "A" Squadron reverted to the command of 4th Royal Tanks and was used with "C" Company on the left flank. All three Squadron Groups made slow progress—Tactical H.Q. was overrun but, to the chagrin of certain persons in the rear, was allowed to continue. There were numerous engagements with enemy tanks and at about midday a large nuclear strike was made. The location and time were well chosen for a great part of the enemy's armoured reserve was destroyed.

In the afternoon three Companies of 1st Cameronians were carried forward in helicopters to Schonhorst. Just as the enemy were launching their first counter-attack "A" Squadron with "C" Company arrived, and as the second counter-attack formed up "C" Squadron and "B" Company arrived. As evening was approaching the Squadron Groups "formed up"—a perfect nuclear target—but fortunately the enemy either had no observation or no nuclears—possibly both.

It was in this position that the exercise came to an end at 2200 hrs. During the three days the Battalion had advanced 60 miles through difficult, close country and few in the Companies had been able to snatch more than a couple of hours sleep. Rations were almost entirely carried and cooked in the section. An experiment was made with portable gas cookers; these, with hexamine cookers, proved a great success. For the first time this year the weather remained fine throughout and, in spite of the inevitable damage caused by a Regiment of tanks with whom we operated throughout, the local population were delighted to see us.

The exercise was a fitting culmination to the years'

training and showed that that training had been on the right lines. The Battalion is now extremely fit, competent in co-operating with tanks and in possession of good communications. It demonstrated once again that, with those, allied to determination, nothing in training or war is impossible.

"A" COMPANY

Once again we are letting the sub-divisions of the Company have their respective say in reporting the last quarter's activities—needless to say, the contributions had to be heavily censored because of the old law of libel.

Perhaps it would be appropriate, by way of introduction, to state briefly that "A" Company did get up during the summer months.

First, there was a most successful and enjoyable Company week spent on the shores of the Baldene Sea, a lovely lake in the heart of the Ruhr. Many friends were made, mostly of the opposite or fair sex and there were many sad faces and even tears to be seen on the last day. A lot of training was done there, too (as can be seen from the photograph of our Sergeant-Major)—some Companies, it is rumoured, take life far more seriously.

Second, there was "August Agony." The only comment is that the exercise lived up to its name.

Lastly, "Holdfast." Expecting to march anything up to 60 miles on the last and biggest exercise of the year, we experienced two delightful surprises: our beloved Sergeant-Major lost his voice; and there was no marching, owing to a treaty successfully negotiated with the tank commander, which cost the Company five crates of beer. It saved us the disgrace of being helicoptered smack into the middle of a Panzer Division, and also the humiliation of being placed in reserve. It should be recorded that seven crates were finally consumed by our own boys as guests of the Tanks a week later. Net gain—two crates and a lot of goodwill.

All in all, a happy quarter during which the Battalion's leading Company prospered.

Come in then, Landberger, and tell the people what she wore.

STOP PRESS.—We are delighted to announce that on October 20 we won the Novices' Boxing Cup, a cup which we last won in 1957.

Company H.Q.

Alpha House,
Hameln Academy for Young Gentlemen.

House Master de Gaye has swapped his Bull for Old Mother Hubbard, who is recognised more from his hind quarters than his face as he cycles out of the gate most evenings. One day we will find out just where his journeys end. The wheel of the House Champ has been given over to silent Ashman.

Pupil McDowell has been made keeper of the House wine cellar, but seeing how he drinks most of the profits, it won't be long before another vacancy occurs.

Our kitchen staff, under the leadership of Serf Abrey, has two new learner chefs in Mitchell and Evans. While Stubbs and Fitzpatrick have been returned to the classrooms having failed to poison half the house (no doubt not enough pepper).



C.S.M. Beale (who else?)

Art student Rogers has a new pupil in Morris, and both—after a security check—have now given up flogging the weapons.

Assistant House Master Kitchener has come back to give a few lessons in short story writing; or has he perhaps come back to get more material?

During August the Head Master had the whole school out on "August Agony" and as an agony it was a complete success.

The Alpha House week camp at Essen was really enjoyable. Prefect No. 1 will cover the hours of darkness events, while class masters report on the honest studies.

End of summer term saw many of the staff going away for holidays: the House Master to enjoy home life with Mrs. de Gaye, others to the U.K. and "Landberger" Steward to his annual wine bath in Vienna while the rest of the House just enjoyed their absence.

The new teacher for the second form has arrived and for them, it's now "roses, roses all the way."

The September outdoor study period started with a joyful ride (10 m.p.h.) of two days finishing in a wood in Schleswig Holstein, where once again we met those tinned horror of Bravo House, Hohn.

As an innovation the Padre was put (with many crossed fingers) with class prefect Parnell. Who converted who is still under discussion. After the rigours of the concentration areas the House Master has gone for a very quiet weekend in Hamburg.

On the exercise, serfs Abrey and McDowell were busy flogging introductions to such Hameln beauties as "Boots and Gaiters," "Small Pack and Pouches," "Tug Boat Anne," "Mess tin and Mug," etc. It was noted that the third form master was most interested.

All you ex-students, peasants and serfs remember that a few lines direct, or, via our school magazine are most welcome. Should you have friends wishing to take studies with us, or should even you wish to come

back for a further three-year course, there will always be a warm reception. The school secretary at Mill Hill or here will quickly furnish you with the required forms.

To finish with we record the following dialogue recently overheard: Assistant House Master: "Rogers! why isn't everyone in school uniform this morning?" Rogers: "But Sir, don't you know, it's an easy weekend for the house." Exit the absent-minded gentleman.

Hard luck professor, robbed again.

Should "scribe" Waller get these notes out in time and the Editor give his approval, you might even read them.

The Master.

No. 1 Platoon

No. 1 Platoon has continued to remain to the fore in Company activities, apart from a short relapse in August, when we were disbanded, owing to the lack of a Platoon Commander and Sergeant.

At Essen the Platoon, thanks to Sgt. Barr and Cpl. Brumwell, got itself an extremely good chit from the Company Commander. We learnt assault river crossing by day and night, and also did about 30 miles of route and compass marching. Allen showed that the "hard stuff" has no effect on him and it is debatable whether he is made of blood or sawdust. Norman tried to find out by going it with him, with the result that he was on Coca Cola for the rest of the week.

Thanks to fairly good weather we also did a lot of swimming, though try as we might, we could not get Fred Long to go in above his waist.

We made many friends during the week, particularly female, and the Platoon Commander has strong suspicions of Stockley on one afternoon. At the end of the week everyone was sorry to leave.

At the beginning of August, the Battalion had a two-day exercise with the Germans. It rained of course all the time. Shining No. 1 Platoon was chosen to demonstrate the British Fighting Platoon ready for battle which went down well, though we were wearing so much kit we could hardly stand up. Bowers was back with us for this exercise and could hardly be restrained from having a go at our enemy.

Mr. Everard, Cleasby and L/Cpl. Cosgrave, played rugby for the Company when we got through to the final of the Garrison sevens, although Cosgrave finished up with a very sore head.

In September the culmination of the training season took place with exercise "Holdfast." At this stage we welcomed Ryan to the Platoon from "D" Company. Though the exercise was very tiring, most of us enjoyed it, even Murray and Thompson. There was, moreover, talk of Brown signing on. No. 1 Platoon was soon thrust up the sharp end, where we remained all the time. Once again we were mounted up on the tanks of our friends from 4th Royal Tanks. Eckford will long be known as the scourge of the Germans. The umpires once declared him dead, shot from a helicopter, though Harry reckons he got it first. Perhaps our greatest feat was capturing a German 3-in. mortar detachment intact by night. However, we did not quite reach the Kiel canal. The only person to be really disappointed by this was Mr. Everard. He had been promised 12 hours off by the C.O. (if we got there) to visit a girl friend.

However, she obviously had friends in high places on the enemy side.

No. 2 Platoon

Having survived the Agony of August and having "held fast," once again we give you some scintillating reports.

On July 17 we went to Essen for our Company Week. Here we proved that not only could we drink more than No. 1 or No. 3 Platoon, but also row faster, much further and read far more complicated maps. The beer drinking was by far the most interesting.

Welcome to L/Cpl. Parker and Ptes. "Hutch" and Hughes, who joined us from "D" Company. Pte. Birch came to us from the "Master" and is now nurse hunting in B.M.H. It's the strain on his eyes after the Kellar.

Mr. O'Regan left us for the mysteries of Motor Transport. We don't expect to walk far in future.

Congratulations to Pte. O'Keefe on his appointment to Lance-Corporal, and we miss the sight of "Knees" Hubbard leaping on to his cycle. He now looks after "Sunray," or as Bennett says, and he should know, "Charles Charles."

With Williamson happily polishing his silver, we must once again prepare the seats of our trousers for the Winter Warfare School.

Finally we wish all our readers a Merry Christmas from the "Oaf" and all the rest of No. 2 Platoon.

No. 3 Platoon

Having just sold all his allocation of the last edition, the Platoon Scribe has to start thinking again. That's the second time this year.

After Soltau, Essen was the big name on the map. The Platoon had a good time and also did do some training! The Platoon Commander had harder work looking after the Platoon's young ladies than the Platoon, but it was much more enjoyable.



No. 3 PLATOON AND OTHERS AT ESSEN
Cpl. Quinn (right) leads his band against Sgt. Barr. Others in the picture are Pte. Marshall, L/Cpl. Rockall, L/Cpl. Booth and L/Cpl. Parker

Ptes. Stubbs and Mercer had romance on the doorstep, but the Platoon benefited by this, even if the cooking did not. "Jock" Forbes had the offer of a lifetime, but wisely saved himself for better things. The lady, having been rejected, then started to slang the Platoon Commander.

Pte. Edge had slightly harder training than most, but he seems to be better for it!

We welcome Ptes. Goodall and Stephenson (an old face!) and others. Also we have to report that "Lew" no longer commands the Platoon.

No. 3 Platoon have been to the front in the sporting line. L/Cpls. Peak, Lynch and Moore did their bit in the Company cricket, and most of the Platoon seemed to be in the Company hockey team; this may or may not be a fiddle. We all wonder now and again if Cpls. Quinn and Peak are on the same side when we play.

We have just returned from Exercise "Holdfast" in one body. Pte. Murphy has notches all over his 3.5-in. R.L. and his partnership with O'Brien accounted for many Panzers. At one stage Pte. Skelton let out the cry "I am going to sign on"; everything stopped dead. When asked the reason, he said he had just got some blank for his S.L.R. The Platoon had one really good battle and the Germans eventually surrendered when Pte. O'Brien started hurling rocks after the ammo gave out. No. 3 Platoon seemed to be the ace mine-finders in the Company. Pte. Jolly could often be seen with his nose to the ground scratching around in the dust. At one stage an umpire thought we were the Assault Pioneer Platoon. He fled pretty quickly when he found out that we were not.

Most of the Platoon went to the "B" Squadron 4 R.T.R. party, and by the look of them they levelled up the debt of beer we had to pay. We are now preparing for the Administrative Inspection, but it seems a losing battle as Ptes. Lewis, Marshall and Harris lose kit just as quickly as they get issued with it.

"B" COMPANY

Company Commander	.. ..	Major Clayden
2IC	.. ..	Capt. McManus
C.S.M.	.. ..	W.O.2 Jessup
C.Q.M.S.	.. ..	C/Sgt. Eldridge
Company Clerk	.. ..	L/Cpl. Pickett
Company Storeman	.. ..	Pte. Priest
<i>No. 4 Platoon</i>	<i>No. 5 Platoon</i>	<i>No. 6 Platoon</i>
Lt. Legg	2/Lt. Rayner	Lt. Goring
Lt. Julian	Sgt. Clements	Sgt. Smith
Sgt. Scott	Cpl. Pollard	Sgt. Raffael
Cpl. Fisher	Cpl. DaCosta	Cpl. O'Rawe
Cpl. MacFarlane	L/Cpl. Fleet	Cpl. Shave
Cpl. Miles	L/Cpl. Jolliffe	Cpl. Sheffield
L/Cpl. Hills		L/Cpl. Smith
L/Cpl. Turner		L/Cpl. Wilkinson

"B" Company have done it at last. If you have lived for nine months above the champion Company and heard how they had reached that dizzy height, day in and out, it has some effect on you. It was decided about April time that we would attempt to out "A" Company from their elated position, and we hoped to quieten the racket downstairs.

Thanks to a great and sustained effort on every

man's part and the required amount of luck we won the Albuhera Shield handsomely. This result was decided before the final competition, which was the hockey. Is it possible to single out any individual whose efforts alone did much to win this coveted shield for us? Looking through the names of the soldiers on the roll the first one that comes to mind is Cpl. O'Rawe. He trained without assistance both the boxing and swimming teams, and both events we won. I am sure that if water polo had been included we would have won that as well. What really counts is the enthusiasm you can work up at the bottom, and if you start early enough fitness always wins. Cpl. O'Rawe did just that. Pte. Gilham is another who has more than done his share. A very sound footballer, probably the most reliable performer in the Battalion XI. A first-class all-round cricketer, medium fast bowler, a very sound fielder and an aggressive bat. He was reserve in both the Rugby and athletic teams, and a participant in the tug-of-war. He is all one could desire—a good, hard-playing, hard-working, and thoroughly reliable man, who never gives up. Others who greatly assisted are Cpl. Shave, L/Cpl. Jolliffe, and Ptes. O'Halloran, Beedle, Payne (04), and Seatony. One must not forget Lt. Goring and 2/Lt. Rayner, who represented the Company in most sporting activities. We must also remember the critical eye and loyal support of Sgts. Clements and Smith, and how they in particular exploded the myth which surrounded "A" Company tug-of-war teams.

Exercise "August Agony"

This was indeed an agonising exercise, notable for the success of the C.O.'s training aims of exercising us firstly, in the rain and, secondly, in steel helmets. However, we demonstrated our hardness by carrying out all the phases of war in 48 hours despite all obstacles.



Pte. Seatony, L/Cpl. Jolliffe, Cpl. Shaw, Pte. O'Walleran, Pte. Beedle
Sgt. Smith, 2/Lt. Rayner, Lt. Goring, Sgt. Clements

including an attempt by Battalion H.Q. to starve us out. For the exercise we welcomed C.S.M. Thorogood once again as O.C. No. 4 Platoon in the absence of its several commanders. However, when we have all had our little grouse it was a particularly interesting exercise, and our first chance to see the Bundeswehr in action.

Exercise "August Moon"

Better known as the Company Week, Exercise "August Moon" was an attempt by Nos. 4 and 5 Platoons to find and liquidate a bandit gang on the upper reaches of the Weser. No. 6 Platoon needed no training in their bandit role and were even more convincing than usual. No. 4 Platoon showed a marked disinclination for each other's company, and No. 5 Platoon attempted to lighten their loads in rather an unorthodox fashion. Fortunately, Company H.Q. was at hand, disguised as a travelling motor show, to sort out things. The value of the exercise was that it got platoons out on their feet, self-contained with a set objective for the first time in years. A number of sore feet developed with the exception of some of the Signal Platoon, who joined us for the exercise with man packs 62 sets after too long in the Signal Office. It was encouraging, however, to us all that every one completed the course.

The Company Commander took his leave in August so that he could get fit for Exercise "Holdfast,"—by doing so he avoided the Company week and Exercise "August Agony."

Rugby Sevens

The opening of the rugby season was heralded by a Garrison seven-a-side competition. We entered two teams, our senior team was knocked out in the semi-final by 125 Company, R.A.S.C., who were the eventual winners, beating "A" Company in the final. Our rugby prospects look bright and we hope to have a fifteen operating the whole season.

Exercise "Hold fast"

Exercise "Holdfast" then occupied our whole attention. We were given a briefing by the Commander of 4 Division and our task was made quite clear to us. We were all prepared for the move to a concentration area on September 17. At 1400 hrs. the wheels rolled and we were away. First stop was at Rheinselen camp after a smooth run, thanks to the Drums guiding us through Hannover. The weather to date had been miserable. It rained as we moved off on Sunday morning and got worse as we approached Hamburg where the German Police assembled us into manageable convoys and rushed us through the grey back streets of the city. We reached our concentration area at about 1500 hrs. where we settled down in a large wood for three days to equip ourselves physically and mentally for the battle ahead.

We married up with "C" Squadron, 4th Tanks, and familiarised ourselves with the Centurion once again. We had a short but instructive talk on mines and mine lifting from our Sappers. We tested our ability to use the compass both by day and night. We were not sure whether we had increased or diminished

our confidence in the use of the compass. We all, without any doubt, familiarised ourselves with the local countryside of small fields, banks and thick hedges. It was pleasant to think we were going to be the aggressors for a change.

The exercise started with No. 6 Platoon joining "C" Squadron, 4th Royal Tanks, late on Tuesday night, and spearheading the advance on Wednesday. We lost touch with No. 6 Platoon; all we heard were wild rumours of their location which altered every ten minutes. No. 4 Platoon, less their Platoon Commander, was despatched to hold the bridge at Zarpfen. A lively battle ensued which necessitated a fighting withdrawal on to the bridge itself, because a German Company suddenly appeared out of the blue. No. 5 Platoon had broken down in their T.C.V. so we were very thin on the ground. We settled down after this, and there followed a quick Company action which resulted in Nos. 4 and 5 Platoons capturing some high ground and in the ensuing counter-attack knocking out seven enemy tanks. No. 6 Platoon had by now rejoined us with "C" Squadron so we were at full strength. This meant action. The Company set off on tanks across country to the village of Strukdorf. We arrived at dusk where No. 4 Platoon put in a spirited attack on a road junction and the Company with "C" Squadron consolidated their gain. After an excellent hot meal we decided to push on in darkness when the Company successfully traversed a minefield, avoiding enemy defences, and took the village of Pronsdorf. This first day's operations, although starting slowly, developed into one of continuous action and steady progress throughout the day and night. Every man in the



Front to rear: Pte. Payne (04), Pte. Payne (22), Pte. MacFarlane, Pte. Seatony, Pte. Ridley, L/Cpl. Jolliffe

Company had gone hard and well; no quarter was given. There was the soldier, however, who cut the top two strands of a barbed wire fence; he and his mate stepped over the bottom strand. The blokes following were not amused, particularly as they were crossing at the double—there was quite a pile up.

Thursday was an equally busy day of platoon and Company actions. By this time we had forgotten how many times we had got on and off tanks, which day it was, or what the time was. The main thing was that we seemed to be winning, judging by the direction in which we were progressing.

By the end of the day we finished up in the village of Tensfelde. This was a very interesting village and a merry battle took place before we got a foothold and, in spite of continued aggression by Nos. 4 and 5 Platoons, we were prevented from seizing the whole of the village. No. 6 Platoon had again left us for certain airborne operations and they did not rejoin us, except for Sgt. Raffael and one section, until late on that night. One hour before dusk, Cpls. Miles and O'Rawe, each with a reconnaissance patrol, had a very thorough look at the village and, as a result of these patrols, we were able to find out quite a lot about the enemy dispositions and strength. At 2330 hrs. that night we sent a strong fighting patrol out to live up to the Germans. This it certainly did. Fireworks on November 5 had nothing on the display of the next hour. Sgt. Raffael commanded the patrol and, from all accounts, it was most successful, and the Germans lost another night's sleep. Our chief grouse was we could not match the firework display produced. They were still firing at each other 30 minutes after our patrol returned.

So far this exercise we had had our one hot meal a day, which C.Q.M.S. Eldridge and his cooks never failed to get up to us, through the night, enemy lines and over uncharted roads. Fortunately, we avoided the many large lakes and waterways which are common in this part of the country.

The Friday started disastrously for us. We tried to find a way across country using tracks through a peat bog. All went well until we had about 400 yds. to go, when first the leading tank, followed quickly by the second tank, had half a track off the road and were bogged. Standing on the road as the second tank approached, one felt the ground move horizontally and vertically. But even this failed to get No. 5 Platoon off its tank. They, by this time, were resolved to getting off only when absolutely necessary. These two tanks remained firmly in the bog until late that same day. "B" Company and "C" Squadron pushed on, what was really only a motor-up country with very light opposition.

The exercise ended on Friday night. The Company had covered over 70 miles. The men at the most might have snatched one hour's sleep in three days and, apart from a good evening meal, had snatched a meal when they could.

We were back in Hameln by Sunday night, having motored 204 miles on Sunday via Lubbeck and Luneburg.

Hockey

There followed an interesting period of hockey in

which the Company did extremely well, winning four out of five games. Our greatest achievement was in beating "A" Company 6—2. The whole forward line scored: Cpl. Miles, Cpl. Shave, Pte. Morgan, Pte. Pash and 2/Lt. Rayner—the latter got two goals. Congratulations to Bassett, who has kept goal very well in this his first season. Our two backs Tucker and Merritt, played some stirring games and combined splendidly together. The team shows great promise and, what is important, rely on team work for their success.

Our thoughts are now focused on Christmas and beyond, with that big query in every one's mind: where do we go from here, and when?

Courses

Our congratulations to L/Cpls. Turner, Smith (800), Wilkinson, Renton and Jolliffe on a successful N.C.O.s' Cadre. Cpl. DaCosta is away on a Platoon Weapon Course and leave until the end of December. Ptes. Bassett (667) and Quartermaine are on a Regimental Cooks' Course. Pte. Mounsey is away on a Clerks' Course. That reminds me, L/Cpl. Pickett says he is a Beatnik. Well, I have heard it called a lot of other things but never a B—k. I don't think L/Cpl. Pickett has had quite enough to do; his thoughts have been allowed to Wander.

Arrivals

Cpl. Miles comes from "S" Company and Pte. Wilkins from "H.Q." Company. The following have joined us from the Depot: Mounsey, Gillham, Desmond, Warnock, Coles, Hedges, Pettifer, Hill, Martin, Wrightson, Whiley and Betts. We wish all new arrivals a happy and interesting stay in "B" Company.

Departures

L/Cpl. Renton to H.Q., 2 Division.
Rivers and Fletcher have been allowed to return to the M.T.

Durham has departed to H.Q., 1 Corps.
Hill has been invalided out of the Army, and Pte. Johnson has gone to "H.Q." Company, where I hope he will look after our interest in the Battalion Sports Stores.

Bowen, Daniels and Searle (630) have been released. We wish all the departed peace of mind, physical relaxation and a maximum wage.

The mad season is now upon us. Everybody madly checks this and that, not once, but a dozen times, each time some new horror is unearthed. Somebody has no foot to his socks or somebody's titles are on upside down. Everything is marked and a year's supply of blanco is used up. All this for November 2. Then follows a period of cadres, P.E. tests, and Winterburg. We are due for a four-week spell at Winterburg to administer the ski centre, and we hope to get a bit of ski-ing ourselves.

Once more many congratulations to you all in "B" Company for winning the Albuhera Shield without any fuss or trumpet-blowing.

You may well be asking where are those articles we were promised. They are still in the writing drawer in embryo (work that one out) and until I have a week

or more it is impossible to make them publishable. But don't let that stop anyone from submitting an article at any time.

"C" COMPANY

Arrivals and Departures

It is with regret that we said good-bye to Major ("15 miles as the crow flies") Jeffcoat. Having spent two very active training seasons with us, he earned the respect and co-operation of all by his example and energy. Many of the Company shudder when they remember nights of misery "flogging" through the snow, and wished at times that, like the crow, they could fly—or go as fast as the man who devised these devilish nights out. It has been whispered in the Q.M.'s Stores that they won't have to indent any more for the "chin straps" the Company normally marches on. We wish him luck in Hong Kong, and hope he is wise enough to avoid the places the older members of the Sergeants' Mess mentioned.

After a long stay in the Company, C.S.M. DaCosta will be posted to "Delta" after the Administration Inspection so that he can spend more time with the Battalion shooting team. We wish him success in the coming rifle meetings, and are determined with the team he left behind, to keep our shooting trophies. We welcome into the Company Capt. Durtnell and C.S.M. Michell, hoping their stay will make things a little easier for us, but knowing it won't! During the past three months we have lost three Platoon Commanders: Lt. Bulloch to "Delta," 2/Lt. Dudson to "H.Q." Company, and 2/Lt. Luck, who has donned the golden bowler. Meanwhile we have only received one, 2/Lt. Monypenny for No. 7 Platoon. We were sorry to lose Pte. Gowers from No. 9 Platoon and Pte. Edwards, the Company driver (sigh of relief from the R.S.M.). Good luck to them in Civvy Street. We welcome to the Company Ptes. Beall, Bateman, Hodges, Smith, Roylance, Walsley, Wiles and Ticehurst. Congratulations go to the following on their promotion, L/Cpl. Brooks, L/Cpl. Cocks, L/Cpl. Foster and L/Cpl. Short.

Sport

The Company's sporting achievements can by no means be considered outstanding. In sport, however, we feel that the great motive is not to excel, but to enjoy, and we have certainly done that.

We produced what we considered to be a host of stars for the Albuhera Novices' Boxing Competition, none of whom quite managed to reach the final. However, they all tried very hard. Ptes. Hurrell, Bousquet and Vaughan deserve special mention for reaching the second round, and Ptes. Lucas, Hill, Grant and Peterson are to be congratulated on reaching the semi-finals in their weights. Many thanks to the trainers and seconds for the hard work they put into the competition.

The Company was knocked out of the rugby seven-a-side in the first round, so we won't dwell upon that. One consolation is that our opponents eventually won the competition.

The Albuhera hockey provided much interest and excitement. After an initial narrow defeat by "A" Company, the team settled down and welded together

quite well and proved a match for any opponents. The team was particularly well generally by the C.S.M. on the field and the Colour-Sergeant on the touch-line, and produced several Battalion trilists, including Pte. Hill, who made the Battalion 1st team (bravo), and C.S.M. DaCosta, Cpl. Stopp and Pte. Brett. The C.S.M. is also a regular member of the Battalion basketball team and his posting to "D" Company will cause a sad loss to our sporting world.

Ptes. Ticehurst and Kimber, two "new boys," have already made a mark by representing the Battalion at cross-country running, and our globe-trotting corporal, Cpl. Finnis, is back in the fold, representing everybody at everything. He is to be highly praised for being selected as reserve for Britain's pentathlon team.

Our soccer season has not really started yet, but we are hoping for great things in that sport. L/Cpl. Short and Pte. Hurrell are in the Battalion 2nd team and many more are coming on. The last word deserves to be given to the spectators. Charlie Company is always well represented on the touch-line, so let us hope that this enthusiasm and spirit inspires our sportsmen on to greater things. Anyway, if we can't outplay them we can always shout them.

Training through the Eyes of No. 8 Platoon

Exercise "August Agony" was the first exercise where we "fought" our NATO comrades of the Bundeswehr. We found their defence tactics rather a surprise, and their allocation of training ammo, fantastic! This they generously gave away to the attacking forces. We don't know what their motive was; perhaps they wanted to lighten their load a little, but whatever it was, without it we would have been a silent Army. It was also noted that in the rain and mud we are not alone in getting wet and dispirited. Our "enemy" also loses his enthusiasm for movement in these conditions. During this scheme, No. 8 Platoon are to be congratulated on their spirited attack on No. 7 Platoon. The writer of these notes was *not guilty* as he was "up front" with the leaders, so we must draw a veil over this unfortunate incident.

Our next sojourn into the U.L.U. was a small foot-fraying expedition known as "Charlie's Jaunt," which consisted of a river crossing and overloaded marching for some four days, during which we proved that the large pack is designed to paralyse the wearer, and that 4½ gallons of water in a jerry can is an out-and-out ****!!! (these symbols are used with the kind permission of the Pt. II Orders clerk). Doubtless No. 9 Platoon will not say anything about the return river crossing, for reasons highly secret!

All this training was leading up to Exercise "Hold-fast," for which we received a length of rope (needless to say, many uses were suggested for this), designed to help the human body in crossing a wet obstacle; happily, our rope only succeeded in half garroting one L/Cpl. Wrake, who made many an uncomplimentary remark on its parentage. Our other gift was four butane gas cookers (praised be their inventor) and all through the dark hours a little blue glow was seen from all four corners of the Platoon position. This was put down to a large variety of glow worm, native of

Schleswig Holstein, and peculiar to Exercise "Holdfast" (but I have's me doubts).

The exercise began with the two-day trek north, punctured by a one-night stand on the airfields at Rheinselen, the longest part of the journey being the tour of the airfield looking for the Company location. No comment from me.

We all remember an irate subaltern ranting at a tank commander who had just fired a large blank into his left ear; what a pity he stood 6 inches from the exhaust pipe! Oh, well, we all get a little black sometimes! I wonder if a certain driver of a D.K.W. recoilless rifle vehicle paid much for his thoughtless advance on the last night of the exercise; he and his car were last seen running away from a large red ball of fire which had somehow got stuck underneath his vehicle. Tut-tut, needless to say, he had to be recovered. On the whole we all enjoyed the exercise, and all of us found the local civilians very friendly indeed.

Now at last we are back to normal, with the Admin. looming over us. The Company is swimming in marking ink and boot polish, the only recreation being our efforts in the Albuhera Hockey punch-up, in which we are well represented by Messrs. Harvey, J. Rappoport and "Knocker" Lovesey (why don't they move like that all the time?). We welcome to the Platoon Cpl. "Shameless" Shaffner, snatched from No. 7 platoon in exchange for the General, and Pte. Murray from the Battalion Orderly Room via the Corner House.

"BRUCE"

There must still be serving with "C" Company some who remember "Bruce" joining the Company in Austria in 1953. Since then he served with every other Company except "S"—he obviously drew the line somewhere!

He saw the full tour in B.T.A., including a spell at Schmeltz and Vienna and a jolly good bone-burying session at Warmbad. It was at Warmbad that he displayed his contempt for "B" Company's marksmanship by strolling along the butts mantle during an L.M.G. rapid shoot. During his tour in Austria he was unfortunately run over by the ration truck, but although severely injured he survived and finally departed from B.T.A. to serve his first spell in quarantine prior to emplaning for Cyprus.

He very soon became well known in Larnaca and it soon became customary for Cypriots to cross the street when passing 41 Artemidos Street. He decimated the fowl and feline population, and few Cyps. were sorry to see him move into quarters in Dhekalia. He panted through three hot summers and was often to be seen having a cooling dip in Fisherman's Cove.

Whilst his master suffered ten days on H.M.T. *Dunera*, Bruce enjoyed the luxury of a Viscount airliner to London, where he once more went into "the nick." He was collected on December 8, 1958, and proceeded to Hameln. It took him but a few hours to locate his usual places of call, namely, the three Messes and the NAAFI. He displayed an intelligent interest in Germany, particularly German cats. He knew his way about Sennelager and Wittloge and attended most Battalion exercises. He distinguished



himself during Exercise "Battleaxe II" by disrobing an inquisitive local youth who foolishly disturbed him whilst he was guarding "B" Company's rum ration. He returned to U.K. with the family to which he was so attached in November, 1959. He completed his final spell in quarantine and rejoined the Regiment at Mill Hill, where he once again solved the local cat problem.

On the death of his mistress, to whom he was so attached, he returned to his native Cheshire with the children over whom he had watched faithfully for nine years. On the evening of October 11, 1960, for no apparent reason, he died very peacefully. He has earned a jolly good rest.

"S" COMPANY

Company Commander	Capt. J. I. D. Pike, M.C.
C.S.M.	W.O.2 Dodkins
C.Q.M.S.	C/Sgt. Dive
O.C. Mortar Platoon	Lt. P. Mallalieu
O.C. Anti-Tank Platoon	Lt. M. G. Waite
N.C.O. IC Assault Pioneer	
Section	Sgt. Pritchard

Progress never remains dormant we know, but nevertheless, a few of the old Company stalwarts regret the "wind of change" that has been blowing through the British Army these last few years. One such change has necessitated a very much reduced "S" Company compared to its previous strength not so very long ago, and the loss of the M.M.G. Platoon, and the reduction of the Assault Pioneers from a Platoon to a Section, proves the point. However, this reduction is not mentioned with a view to criticising current peace establishments—such changes were obviously necessary—but only to refer to the fact that such loss of strength has made it difficult for "S" Company to compete on equal basis in sport with the much stronger Rifle Companies—and not forgetting that gigantic conglomeration "H.Q." Company of course! But excuses aside, our sporting record this year has been

less than mediocre and there is a crying need for improvement in 1961, whatever our strength. We may not train together in the field, but all of us must learn to play together back in barracks.

The Company will very shortly be saying goodbye to C.S.M. Dodkins on his posting to "H.Q." Company. He may be only "moving across the street"—as one wag was heard to exclaim—but his cheerful personality and sound common sense will be lost to the Company. All ranks wish him the best of luck. In his place we extend a warm welcome to C/Sgt. Simmons.

Mortar Platoon

At the time of writing we are all busily preparing for the Annual Administration Inspection, and every morning some of the difficulties of "vertical take off" are being overcome. A notice perceived on the door of "H.Q." Company Stores one morning which read, "Closed for panic!" pretty well sums up the present feverish activity.

During August, the Battalion had a very amusing exercise fittingly called "August Agony." The Panzer Grenadier Battalion at Hoxter provided the enemy, which gave us a very good idea of our allies' potential.

During a phase of this exercise, Cpl. Shearing and his section became surrounded by the enemy. When an umpire asked him what he was going to do, he replied "Give 'em hell, Sir!" He is now known as "give 'em hell" Shearing, plus all the other names he has collected at various times during his service.

Exercise "Holdfast"

This extensive exercise involving 50,000 troops of N.A.T.O. proved very interesting.

Prior to this exercise General Gordon who was to command "Orange" force, which included the Battalion, told us that if we saw any German field telephone cable then it was to be cut. So when the Mortar Platoon arrived in a village and found a thick black cable, obviously of German origin, it was promptly cut! The sequel came a couple of hours later when a German vehicle covered in white umpire crosses and festooned with soldiers all wearing white arm bands, commenced to recover the cable. At the junction where it had been cut they expressed annoyance and after proceeding a further 20 yards and finding it cut again, relations, to say the least, became strained! When carrying on a little further and finding it had been cut yet again they hurriedly departed having convinced us in no uncertain manner that we were not "playing the game"!

After the first day of this exercise, when a vital bridge over the border between "Blueland" and "Orangeland," was secured with the aid of Lt. "Fritz" Mallalieu and his tractor (not forgetting Sgt. Pritchard and the Assault Pioneer Section of course!). The two sections were split and the Platoon Commander and the Platoon Sergeant did not see each other again until the exercise was over.

After "Holdfast" we once again provided mortar fire for 94 Locating Regiment at Hohne. The weather was very kind and the exercise ("Counter Bombard VI") went well.

On the Saturday evening after our arrival at Hohne, Sgt. Partridge produced barbecued pork chops which went down quite well. In fact no one complained.

Sgt. Argent has returned from leave and has purchased a scooter which should arrive shortly.

Pte. Wilson will be going on the Battalion Driving Cadre in November, so we hope the instructors will be able to find room in the cab for his interpreter, remembering his brogue.

Pte. O'Shaughnessy had never seen a mortar fired until he went to Hohne, and as No. 3 he was assisting in the "bedding in," by carrying our spring drill. He says that he was watching the bottom of the barrel, expecting to see an "empty case" come out, when there was an almighty bang and flash; the base plate disappeared from under his feet, he let go of the spring, staggered back 3 yards, and sat in the First Aid Box!

We extend a welcome to Ptes. O'Shaughnessy, Hayes, Austin, Gordon, Grenfell, Rochester, Russell and Whittington. We hope they will enjoy their stay in the best Platoon in the Battalion.

We also extend belated congratulations to L/Cpl. Forde on his marriage; we forgot to mention it in the last issue. We extend a separate welcome to Mrs. Forde and hope she will enjoy her stay in Germany.

Cpl. Shearing tried hard to work his leave during the administration inspection, but we managed to persuade him to take it earlier.

Cpl. Flanagan has been wearing two black eyes and a bent nose as a result of L/Cpl. Howe taking the "Knock Out" part of the hockey competition too literally!

Cpl. Flanagan, Ptes. Johns and Hayes are at present representing the Battalion in cross country running and are doing very well.

L/Cpl. McKenzie also plays hockey for the Company, and is at the moment attending the N.C.O.'s Upgrading cadre with L/Cpl. Forde.

We congratulate L/Cpls. Walsh and Young on their promotion.

Pte. Russell appears to find a kit bag too heavy to carry, and so when on the way to Germany, left his on the train. It has now finally arrived here much to his relief.

For the benefit of those who have been wondering what happened to L/Cpl. Forde's motor cycle, the answer is that the powers that be have decided it is cheaper to let Sgt. Partridge ride it!

The "scribe" has once again exhausted the news for this issue, so here's our usual entreaty to past members to drop us a line and let us know about that terrible place Civvy Street. Don't forget, we have a few vacancies!

P.S.—A bearded gnome has been observed swinging on the end of a rope, taking swipes at the barrack clock with a paint brush, as he goes past. We suggest that he tie the rope round his neck instead of his waist!

Anti-Tank Platoon

"Time for Journal Notes again Sir!" said Sgt. Lagden, placing some hastily scribbled notes and photographs on my table. So with the assistance of these "Aide Memoires" plus last quarter's copy of the "Die-Hard" notes, let us go back and see what the Anti-Tank Platoon has been up to just recently.

Only a few changes have taken place. That old stal-



WHERE ARE WE GOING, SARGE ?
Sgt. Lagden, Cpl. Barnes, Cpl. Mullender

wart Dinning has left us after three years, but as he always remarked, he was worth six newcomers! So sure enough six new arrivals have recently joined the Platoon from "D" Company, namely Ptes. Aystyn, Vass, Issacs, Harvey (another Percy), Armstrong and Jones. One good result of these recent arrivals is that Pte. Toner now smiles every time he walks into his barrack room. Why? The reason is the names on the kit bags above the beds, which reading from left to right read "Toner Armstrong Jones"!

Congratulations to L/Cpls. Atkinson and Hilton on their promotion. "Well, that's one way of getting off the M.T." says L/Cpl. Hilton (hopefully). And finally, we welcome back Cpl. Mullender from his course at Netheravon (read any good maps lately, Corporal).

In the previous notes we were left looking forward to "Holdfast," which turned out to be a useful exercise because at last our true worth was realised and the Platoon was used in an anti-tank role in the advance (although for most of the exercise it was guarding Tactical H.Q.!). "Did someone say a certain senior member of the Platoon needed A.F.V. Recognition instruction?"

Our first task was to guard a small bridge in the village of Hökfeld. The Platoon was split up into two sections under Cpl. Reynolds and Cpl. Mullender, ably supported by L/Cpls. Haffner and Atkinson. The villagers were exceptionally hospitable giving the two sections a barn to sleep in, and food, milk, etc. Platoon H.Q. managed to scrounge an old garage but unfortunately the roof leaked when it rained the first night. All was well until Sgt. Lagden started to snore just as the heavens decided to open, resulting in coughs and splutters and a fountain of bad language. . . . The Platoon Commander slept on. . . . Cpl. Mullender has been briefed as to the action required when told by a local villager that a bed and a room is available for the officer!

When we left Hökfeld the Platoon Commander, Wells, and Jones, the Platoon D.R., decided it was time to find comfort and shelter in either Battalion H.Q. or "A" Echelon, leaving Sgt. Lagden once again to wrestle with the problems of command. "Oh, my poor feet!" he was heard to cry out after the first day. During this exercise we managed to provide four complete detachments with our own drivers. The organisation was as follows:

No. 1 Detachment;—Cpl. Mullender; No. 1: Pte. Clift; No. 2: Pte. Bennis; Driver, Pte. Budd.

No. 2 Detachment;—Cpl. Reynolds; No. 1: Pte. Patmore; No. 2: Pte. Toner; Driver: Pte. Webb.

No. 3 Detachment;—L/Cpl. Haffner; No. 1: Pte. Hession; No. 2: Pte. Harris; Driver: Pte. Heale.

No. 4 Detachment; L/Cpl. Atkinson; No. 1: Pte. Sharp; No. 2: Pte. Stewart; Driver: L/Cpl. Hilton.

Platoon H.Q.;—Lt. Waite/Sgt. Lagden; Driver: Pte. Wells; Despatch Rider: Pte. Jones.

During the nuclear strike L/Cpl. Atkinson dived for cover, leaving his Sterling on the tail-board of the 1-ton vehicle. When he subsequently emerged he was heard to remark: "Blimey, me gun's contaminated. It's now a Ray Gun!"

Valuable lessons were learnt, especially coming into and out of action in very quick time.

Since returning there have been many things to accomplish. In the world of sport, Albuhera hockey and boxing are going ahead in full flourish, but all this is rather overshadowed by the arduous preparation for this year's Administration Inspection.

When we can get away from administrative checks many members of the Platoon play sport. Cpl. Mullender, L/Cpl. Atkinson, Ptes. Patmore, Hession and Jones play hockey for the Company, and Lt. Waite, Cpl. Mullender, L/Cpl. Atkinson and Pte. Clift play rugby for the Battalion.



Sgt. Butler, Lt. Mallalieu, Capt. Hayward, Lt. Waite



READY FOR GUARD

Left to right: Pte. Atkinson, Pte. Budd, Pte. Webb, Pte. Wells, Pte. Sharpe and Pte. Hession

Training has stopped for the moment, but from November 7 we hold our yearly cadre. So go to it, lads, and keep up the good work that you have done already during this training season.

ASSAULT PIONEER

On September 17 the Battalion moved off to take part in Exercise "Holdfast," where we were pitted against the German and Danish Armies in Schleswig-Holstein.

The Battalion's aim at the start of the exercise was to capture a bridge on the exercise frontier before it could be blown. The task of cutting the wires was given to the Assault Pioneers, not forgetting Lt. Mallalieu, who was the leader of the group. To achieve surprise a "Trojan Horse" was used—an army tractor painted green and red, plus local number plates, with a double trailer piled high with hay, concealing the intrepid pioneers. At H-hour the tractor and trailer passed under the bridge; stopped in the middle of the unsuspecting German bridge guard, and the gallant Pioneers debussed from their hide and attacked. Whilst the attention of the Germans was taken up, Sgt. Pritchard—who had been hiding behind the bridge since first light—raced through and cut the wires. "C" Company following up, brought the exciting affair to a successful conclusion.

We welcome L/Cpl. Pryor to the section. Smith (82) is away on leave and we hope he is enjoying himself. Pte. Milburn has returned to us after a long period of leave and has now settled down again. He is very pleased to have been given a quarter in Hameln after living at Hannover for some time. Coles is at the moment working in the stables as relief groom, but should be back with us soon. Let's hope he does not come back "neighing" on how to ride a horse.

Another task for the section has been to "paint the

clock." The Colonel noticed how dejected the clock face that graces the clock tower had become, and after consultation with Sgt. Pritchard, decided this should be remedied.

This proved no simple matter! That it resides some 80 feet above ground level is a factor that would deter the less resolved, but, with ropes, trolleys and other scaffolding impedimenta, this was achieved.

Credit should be accorded to Pte. Hardman for his effort in this venture, suspended perilously above the Orderly Room Block and, with autumn weather to contend with. He transformed the clock from its drab white and black colouring, to a royal blue face with silver hands. Sgt. Pritchard, who was naturally responsible for this undertaking, had some anxious moments watching Hardman, firstly for his safety, and secondly that it should get finished at the appointed time.

Now, pleased to relate, the clock in its new raiment, beams benevolently upon those paraded on the square, a monumental reminder of the versatility for which the "Chunkies" are renowned.

N.B.—For the uninitiated, "Chunkies" is the war-time nickname for the Assault Pioneers.

Sgt. Pritchard has had a number of letters from ex-members of "S" Company, namely, Johnny Parmenter, Roger Frith, Gary Church, Sully, Don Shaw, Rita Rees and Arthur Willetts. They all send very best wishes to their old "muckers."

P.S.—By the way, there is a high-flying "Partridge" circling about somewhere. If you see it, shoot it down as it is of no use to anyone—including the Mortar Platoon!

CYCLE TOUR

After a lot of thought as to what would be a good break from training, the section decided it would be ideal to go on a cycle tour around Germany. So with



PAINTING THE CLOCK
Sgt. Pritchard and Pte. Hardman



Left to right—at Rheinstein: Pte. Moloney, Pte. Hardman, Pte. Berg, Pte. Pollard, Pte. Smith (82), Sgt. Pritchard, L/Cpl. Bartlett

the approval of the Commanding Officer, we started to work out the details.

After a great deal of discussion and changing of plans, a route was agreed. Six members of the section bought their own cycles, and another two borrowed from Cpl. Fisher, "B" Company, and Pte. Jones, "A" Company.

Approval was given for the first part of the tour to be accomplished with a 3-ton vehicle. So on Wednesday, August 10, 1960, Sgt. Pritchard, Cpl. Beavis, L/Cpl. Bartlett, Ptes. Hardman, Smith (82), Pollard, Moloney and Berg climbed aboard the 3-tonner with cycles, camping kit, etc., and started off down Route 83. We passed Kassel, and then Frankfurt, where we spent our first evening. Next morning we continued by truck to Heidelberg, where we had our lunch and looked around the delightful old town which lies on the River Neckar, surrounded by hills. We then continued on to Kaiserlautern and in the evening we arrived at the village of Rockenhausen, from where our cycle trip proper would start.

On Friday morning we started off on our cycles, heading north for Bingen and the Rhine. At Bingen we had our first view of the Rhine valley, which is one of the biggest tourist attractions in Germany. For about 100 miles the Rhine cuts its way through steep hills covered by vineyards, and magnificent castles perched high above the water, with picturesque villages tucked away underneath them.

We spent our first night on the Rhine near Boppard. After supper we watched the long strings of barges pulled by massive tugs plying up and down the river, which was of considerable interest to Pte. Hardman.

We continued on towards Koblenz which, we had been informed, was one of the most interesting places to see. We spent two days looking round here, and L/Cpl. Bartlett did some climbing in the surrounding hills.

One of the most difficult tasks for us was to find anywhere to pitch our four tents, and it was usually only

after a lot of searching that we found any flat ground. The reason being that on both sides of the Rhine the space between the hills and the river is generally taken up by a road or railway, or both.

On we went through the capital of West Germany, Bonn, and then to Cologne. We stayed in Cologne for several enjoyable days. The place of outstanding interest here being, of course, the cathedral. Due to its fantastic size, Cpl. Beavis had to take a photograph in three parts before he could record the complete cathedral.

Beyond Cologne we went to Wuppertal, famed for its overhead railway. On the other side of Wuppertal we had our only accident. Sgt. Pritchard, taking advantage of a steep hill, went down it at full speed. Near the bottom of the slope was a sharp left bend, and unable to make the turn, he crashed into a wall alongside the road, damaging his front wheel. An amusing incident followed. Pte. Pollard, intent on what was happening to his section Sergeant, forgot about the turn, hit the wall, sailed through the air and ended up on top of a table! Fortunately neither the table occupants nor Pte. Pollard was hurt.

Having straightened out wheels, etc., we proceeded onwards through Munster, Osnabruck, Minden and back to Hameln, having covered by cycle about 380 miles.

So ended a glorious holiday, which none of the section will ever forget.

HEADQUARTER COMPANY

"H.Q." Company, having survived the many trials and tribulations of the summer are now in the throes of the "dreaded Admin."—a fearful hardy annual, which involves the Q.M. Staff in feverish trade, the M.T. earning time and a half, the Band and Drums busy



Sgt. Pritchard after his accident outside Wuppertal

blowing, and one and all taking fresh air on the square. The only interesting spectacle has been the sight of certain officers slow marching round the square, under the guidance of the R.S.M.! We hope it will be alright on the day.

We are shortly saying farewell to C.S.M. Wright, who is leaving for 8th Battalion Middlesex (T.A.) after coping with H.Q.'s many problems all this year. We hope he enjoys the T.A. and doesn't find them quite as elusive as "H.Q." Company.

We must congratulate C/Sgt. Simmons on (1) promotion and appointment shortly to C.S.M., "Sp" Company; (2) remaining sane (and cheerful) after a harassing year as C.Q.M.S., "H.Q." Company; (3) still having most of his stores intact or accounted for.

We fear that he will be glad to leave us and happy to throw off the cares of "quarter-mastering" for a while. He has been very ably and loyally assisted in his tasks this year by a good team of storemen who deserve a special mention: Ptes. Elliott (04), Stone, Mortimer and Booker. They have had some hectic times and have managed to remain cheerful.

We must not forget to congratulate L/Cpls. O'Riordan, Jones (94), Stanborough, Robins, Flynn, Tuvey and King on the success of their cadre, and we hope it will not be long before they take the next step up the long ladder.

We welcome L/Cpl. Green of the R.A.P.C. and all other newcomers to the Company, not forgetting C/Sgt. Garrety, whom we welcome back. To all we wish the best of luck and hope everyone enjoys their stay with the "cream" of the Battalion!

Q.M. Staff

Another hectic quarter has gone by and all seem to have survived to live another day. The married quarters staff, under the able care of C/Sgt. Nicholson, have by some strange means managed to keep the wives quiet and content. Our armourer, S/Sgt. Girling—we seem to have had him for years—continues to keep all the arms in first-class condition. Exercise "Holdfast" went off very well. The Battalion got an issue of rum on paper only on the last night. The four jars of surplus have been tucked away for a suitable occasion. The Q.M. of 1 S.W.B. left for U.K. after the exercise, and the following signal was sent to cheer him on his way: "The Q.M. and staff of 1 Middlesex wish you luck on your posting. May your fiddle never break and your crystal ball never grow dim." We regret to say the reply was not acceptable for publication. We congratulate Pte. Tuvey on his promotion to Lance-Corporal—he still does not know how he passed the cadre. We welcome Pte. Allen to the carpenters' shop and say farewell to Cfmn. Morgan, who worked always in the Battalion's interests. The shoemaker, Pte. Kelly, R.A.O.C., is on the present cadre. He has been seen trying to get tips from Tuvey. Brickel and Hammond have started to pack their kits. Hammond is the R.S.M.'s nightmare but always comes through with a grin. A belated congratulation to "Big" Ward on being awarded his Battalion colours for athletics. "Little" Ward and Carter belong to the

heavy gang and continue to do all the odd jobs. Harron, who rides the motor-cycle on exercises, keeps up the record of our previous D.R. by always coming home with his motor-cycle "on truck."

Signal Platoon

Although the training season is nearly over and things have quietened down a certain degree, the Signal Platoon have by no means finished their training.

Since the last notes were published we have welcomed 12 new members into the Platoon and expect a few more volunteers from the companies. We wish the new arrivals the best of Signallers' luck as their cadre is going to be the most interesting one for some time. Starting on November 7 it covers 10 action-packed weeks interposed by numerous periods of morse.

Looking back over the last few months something stands out in our minds—"Holdfast." Most of us saw quite a lot of "action," with the exception, of course, the members of control, who were lucky enough to see a couple of "enemy" tanks and a very worried-looking champ driver.

Three members of the Platoon who accompanied "C" Company were given a whirl in a "chopper" and dropped into the "enemy" stronghold.

The next time Pte. Lewis has to manpack a 12-volt 22 we have reason to believe he will strap it to its frame himself. We also think Pte. Clayton will make sure his tent is properly erected before he beds down for the night.

Previous to "Holdfast" we had a "quiet" dinner in a "noisy" guest house in Bad Munder, and although it is possible we will not be having it in the same place, we are looking forward to the next one on November 11, which will be a joint farewell and welcome to Capt. Pollard and Lt. Cheesman respectively. We take this opportunity in congratulating and wishing both Capt. Pollard and Lt. Cheesman the best of luck in their newly-appointed roles. Capt. Pollard presented us with a most useful gift which we fully appreciate and thank him gratefully. "It's funny, sir, since you have left there are no 'Nigs' left in the Platoon, only 'Big sloppy'..."

Before we forget, congratulations to the Signallers who took part in Exercise "Kings Move," especially Cpl. Haggerty, who came back highly recommended. "Is that a new beret you have there, Corporal? You had to get a new one for the Administration Inspection. Oh!"

At the moment C/Sgt. Walters is "in the chair." This, of course, is only an expression as he does not literally sit on the chair. He is rather worried some one might come in and "bung one up."

We celebrated Pte. Brett's 22nd birthday in the usual manner. We remind him that a bed is the most comfortable thing to drop off to sleep on.

We are not going to say much about the coming Admin., except what is already in The Ode for Admin. Also that a few more verses have been added and put to music; which we hope to reveal on the night of the big party.

Now that winter is drawing near we are preparing

our combat kit for the hard months ahead in our winter warfare training area, though this year we have been supplied curtains, for the drawing of. These, we are certain, will keep out the wintry winds.

Of course we are all looking forward to another Christmas in Hameln and feel sorry for those who have to spend theirs at home. Chin up, lads, we all cannot stay back here. Oh, yes, we are pleased to report that Pte. Heslin managed to escape from the clutches of the little people and has joined our ranks once again. He says they tried to make him sign on but he prefers The Middlesex.

M.T. Platoon

To start the ball rolling this time I must make it quite clear to Pte. Russell, that to be in my Black Book is not quite so bad a thing, therefore, I will say on behalf of the M.T. Platoon a very big Hello, as in fact we once again say to Ptes. Fletcher and Rivers, who are starting their second tour of duty with the Platoon. We also welcome from "D" Company (Training) Ptes. Childs, Goulding, Castle, Thomas, Browning and "Gonker" Holland, to all of whom we say how sorry we are that they should have arrived at the pre-C.I.V. period, but that will be over by the time these notes appear.

Cpl. Puckey tells me that after the last notes he has put the Journal out of bounds to Mrs. Puckey, because of the disclosing nature of the remarks, however, one finds the tune has changed and it is now a matter of buying the kids a bar of chocolate, "O boy, how that man thinks them up."

While your scribe remembers, we welcome the A/M.T.O., 2/Lt. O'Regan, to the family. Welcome also of a different kind to our new L/Cpls. Robins and King, but as a note to O.C. Training Company, don't be taken in by the cross country ability of some, for the M.T. drivers serve as very good pathfinders.

In the field of sport we are still a little short of time to devote to any form of determined effort, but we are still able to run the socks off the Signal Platoon at football.

We would like to say that we hope that the M.T.O. enjoyed his leave as much as we did, if so, he had quite a time, and as a reminder we would point out the unavailability of leaving one's car parked in reverse gear.

Back now to a sport of a different nature—Go-Karts—of which the Platoon now have four, and it is hoped that by the time these notes appear we shall have entered our first meeting, that is if Pte. Rivers hasn't managed to perform another of his very famous push starts, a most expensive pastime.

The M.T. have also received a "well done" for the accident rate in the last quarter, but would like to point out that the three reported to our credit were in fact the handiwork of the detached vehicles.

Cpl. Minett has gladdened the hearts of many with the news that he is leaving for the U.K. for a couple of months, but we expect that like a bad penny he will turn up again. Pte. Whitmore we hear, has decided to make the B.M.H. his second home, and has developed a flair for model aircraft, still the M.T. are game for anything.

Exercise "Holdfast" was the next big event, and the first credit should go to the drivers for an almost faultless performance, however, Percy (mention no names)

managed to get a good side view of his water truck, and it is we feel only by the grace of God that we did not have to replace a champ detailed by another nameless person to perform the duty of a tank trap. Pte. Upton will I am sure remember returning the empty bottles, and it was in the field that we saw the real Pte. Lay at work, the expression "Kiss Me" should hold some meaning for him. Sgt. Pritchard it appeared was a "Jack of all Trades," for one never knew what guise he would turn up in next; rations, pol or just plain old tractor driver. On an earlier exercise we hear that Sgt. Peppercorn became an ardent dog lover, never mind there weren't any rabies in that area.

Pte. Lindon we hear is still not sure what a red round sign with a white line through it means, come to think of it, even a double white line is apt to catch him out, and Pte. McDougal would be well advised that next time he smells something burning to look at his gaiters first this would spare the M.T. much merriment. It is not true that Cpl. Brennen has taken up a position as barman in the "Boot," even if Cpls. Minett and Puckey were his best customers. Ptes. Jones and Cheffings became friendly with Sgt. Briggs for a while, but it all counts towards experience they say.

Pte. Jamieson (Elvis to his friends) has acquired a guitar to pass away the dreary hours, but one wonders if he is passing or simply making them. Pte. McIntyre we hear has now drawn a high-altitude parachute, and Mike Brown's nylons still ladder it seems, and Pte. Chillingworth has subscribed to singing lessons. Pte. Pearce we are told will return unto the fold (note—poetry at no extra cost).

Pte. Hopkins proves to be the only man in the Battalion who can't be checked for a haircut, still I expect it happened at Butlin's and it is with that, that I feel your scribe should finish and wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and New Year.

BAND

Our last Band notes took us to the date of Mr. Jackson's handing over the baton to Mr. McShane; now we continue from there to the first engagement under the new Band-Master's aegis—the Massed Bands Parade, which took place this year in Munster. This occupied fully the period before our eagerly-awaited leave, even though several of our number had their doubts as to the charm of the town itself, but the Parade was a success in all respects—marred only by the fact that Bds. Andrews lost his *signet* ring. He has not been the same since.

Massed Bands over, we returned to Hameln for a couple of days before our departure for England.

Concerning the adventures and misadventures of our members on leave, nothing shall be said, and instead we move on to the sudden departure of "Professor" Bds. Gathercole, who went to take up again his old career; the devious ways of his release, however, remain devious. The Band's National Service men, returning two weeks early, helped in running the half-empty camp, while the Battalion schemed in northern parts.

Now the Band is here once more, except that, in addition to Bds. Cox and Eldred, Bds. Louis has also gone to the course at Kneller Hall. We will all

miss one of the Band's chief laughter-makers, especially the present writer, who will be "out" when "Lou" returns to the fold.

Newcomers are Sgt. Day, another voice in the trombone section, and Bds. McNaughton, who plays piano and clarinet, to whom we extend a very hearty welcome.

Shortly to return (at the time of writing) from Kneller Hall, are the four members mentioned in our last notes, "Pug," "Wip," Bill and Ash, all of whom we remember to be sure: unbelievably it is 12 months since they left us.

We have all been working hard recently—with a Retreat just over (October 15), and the many preparations for the Administration Inspection due to take place on November 2. Working doubly hard is the dance band, and it seems it will be, until Christmas and the New Year, with we hope, our trip to Winterberg being the high-spot of the season.

Congratulations will soon be due to Cpl. Torrie and Bds. Cooper, the former to be married next month, the latter early next year. Soon there will be no one living in, to write the Band notes.

Stop Press—Mr. Abburrow has, we hear, left for the Union of South Africa; we all wish him and his wife Mary, a very happy future, in that sadly-troubled land of promise.

DRUM NOTES

Massed band shows are normally delightful to both the ears and eyes, and so we say with pride, this year's display was no exception. A great deal of hard work was put in during July to make the massed band show a real success. The most important work was done after we arrived in Munster on July 24. Daily we travelled, with other bands, either to the Stadium, or to one of the many barracks in town for our rehearsals. We found quite a few unexpected alterations had to be made, especially in the Drums Section. This was after our meeting with our tall friend from The Loyals. Still, everything sorted itself out in the end and the whole display went off very well. Here we must mention that once again D/M Lewis was chosen to lead the parade.

Whilst in Munster we managed to fit in four games of football. Two were against our hosts, 40 Field Regiment, R.A., which we lost 6—2 and 6—5. However, they were a very, very strong side, fielding no less than two professionals. Of the other two games one was against our old friends the S.W.B.s, and we cannot help but crow a little over our 8—2 victory. The other was against our new friends The Loyals, which finished as a 5—5 draw.

We were also lucky in receiving an invitation from a talkative member of the W.V.S. to go to Amsterdam for the weekend by coach. A number of drummers accepted this invitation, but the stories they told on return from this respectable headquarters of the jewellery trade would make Tangiers seem like a Vatican city suburb, though we must admit a few of our colourful members could transform even that saintly city into something resembling Aberdeen fishmarket on New Year's Eve.

Altogether, it was an enjoyable stay in Munster, and

we cannot help but feel that some of us are looking forward to another visit. NAAFI staff beware!

Straight from our happy stay at Munster we headed for a happier stay in U.K., and, beginning on August 8, a steady stream of refugees in the form of Drummers of the Middlesex Regiment, could be seen heading for the Hook, and the various hot spots in England, and the lesser-known colonies of the Far North. Namely Yorkshire. We even have a hardy pioneer from Thirsk!

Back from leave, we had a bare two weeks to recover from the lax activities of civvy life before we were herded into the fray of Exercise "Holdfast." This was the scheme of the season according to the Kremlin, but for Nos. 2 and 3 Sections it was rather a mobile nightguard. We made a number of friends with the locals in various villages, especially female friends, ref. "Romeo" Watts and "Don Juan" Marquiss.

They managed the addresses of two of the local beauties though they were probably only five-minute romances. No. 1 Section was rather more fortunate with the active side of the exercise. If you think A. Murphy and E. Flynn were battle winners you should hear the stories Messrs. Clarke, Mason Parker, Gill, Bright, Amos, Boast, Davidson and Campy have to tell. As soon as they get on to the subject of "Holdfast" you had better start reaching for your helmet. Our own Warrior from Anzio took a back seat this time and let somebody else win for us.

Back from "Holdfast" we find ourselves once more preparing for Retreat beating but more of this next time. We must congratulate Dms. Butler, Mason and Campy on playing football for the Company, and especially Dmr. Butler, who represented the Battalion.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Committee for quarter ending December 31, 1960:			
P.M.C.	..	..	C.S.M. S. Michel
Treasurer	..	..	C/Sgt. P. Garraty
Members	..	..	Sgt. A. Gibbs
			Sgt. J. Raffael

When the last notes were written the departure of the Bandmaster was imminent. We dined out Bandmaster and Mrs. Jackson on Friday, July 22, 1960. Having enjoyed an excellent dinner we got down to the serious business of speech making. Both the R.S.M. and the B.M. brought back many happy memories of the past 10 years. A presentation of a canteen of cutlery and a smoker's tray was made to them. Not to be outdone the B.M. presented the Mess with an inscribed gavel and block. A most novel and treasured gift which we can assure you, sir, will be used at every Mess meeting and Mess dinner.

On the following day a dance and social was held. It was the last appearance of the B.M. and Grace in the Mess. A most enjoyable evening was spent, dancing to the local "Rattenfanger Kapeller." Between dances, cabaret turns were numerous. One, entitled "This Old Coat of Mine," came off very well thanks to Sgt. ("On My Life") Parnell, who was removed by the P.M.C. in the nick of time.

On Tuesday, July 26, Bandmaster and Mrs. Jackson and their daughter Shirley bade a final farewell, and

made their way back to England by car. The Band was present to give them a send-off by playing them out of barracks.

They will be sadly missed by us all. We wish them *bon voyage* and hope that we shall see them from time to time.

We welcome Bandmaster McShane to the fold and, at the same time, congratulate him on his promotion. Welcome also to Sgt. Day, who has come to swell the ranks of the Band.

Talking of new arrivals we congratulate Mrs. McMillan on the birth of a daughter and Mrs. Handford on the birth of a son, a bonny boy weighing 10 lb. 9 oz. at birth.

Back to farewells. Sgt. "Schoolie" Frame, our only N.S. member, departed for the rigours of civilian life in August. Although only attached to us he was a good Mess member and will be missed by us all.

Entertainment during the quarter ending September 30 went with a swing, all functions being well supported. Particularly satisfying have been the attendances at the whist drives, held every other Wednesday. Upwards of seven tables have been in play.

A barbecue and dance held on September 3—Dress: As rough as possible—went down very well. The Mess was transformed to look like "Dirty Dick's." The barbecue of chickens, steaks and sausages were done to a turn, thanks to Johnny Medlock and his staff.

Tombola is very popular on Saturday evenings. Sgt. Bert Probert had the good fortune recently of winning the snowball, which had risen to DM 70.

Several members have won their colours at various sports. Our congratulations go out to C/Sgt. Potter, basketball; Sgt. Scott, swimming.

Finally, to whet your appetite for the next issue of *The Die-Hards*, included in our notes will be a full face portrait of our pride and joy—"Fiddell Castro" Pritchard.

CORPORALS' CLUB

Once again the Corporals' Club has sprung to life, and several enjoyable social evenings have resulted, due in the main to the hard efforts of the P.M.C. and Committee, who only having been elected to office this quarter, have done a remarkable job. The Committee are: P.M.C. Cpl. Minett, with Cpls. Stimpson, Da Costa, Shave and Peek taking care of the eating, entertainment and decoration of the Club.

Some two weeks after the reopening of the Club we held our first social, which was voted by all present to have been a great success, helped along, of course, by Len Fisher's informal sand dance, Cpl. Stimpson's buffet, and those two Johnnies of the bar, John Long and John Gilbert, both of whom put a lot of effort into making the social a success.

At the moment, we are running a snooker and darts tournament, in an effort to find the Club champions, so that we may present them with a pair of tankards that have been purchased solely for that purpose. Whilst on sport, we might mention that we have been challenged to a game of football by the Canadian Black Watch.

A short while ago the P.M.C. had the idea that the introduction of a "boot" would have advantages, and accordingly one was purchased, so changing the life of the Club a little, by helping to welcome newly appointed L/Cpls. Atkinson, Brooks, Browne, Cocks, Flynn, Foster, Hilton, Jones, King, O'Keefe, O'Riordan, Parker, Renton, Robins, Smith, Short, Stanborough, Tuvey, Turner, Walsh, Wilkinson and Young. One night, however, shortly after its arrival a certain L/Cpl. Cosgrave happened to fill it with "orange" and its life ended abruptly. One hopes that in time a new and LARGER "boot" will be acquired to take its place.

Your scribe cannot remember which night it was that he tried to book Cpl. Hart's front door key into the guard room, but a little sorrow must surely be felt for Jack trying to get into his home with the N.A.A.F.I. keys.

Since its reopening the Club has obtained a television set, which arrived in time for the Olympic Games, and played to many a full house, plus a new radiogram, but one expects that by now members are a little tired of listening to the band of the Scots Guards. However, we hope to obtain a larger selection in the near future.

The big event of this quarter was when the Club invited five N.C.O.s from the 12th Panzergrenadier Battalion, who were recently on an exercise with us, to a social evening, and they accepted, therefore giving us pleasure in meeting, and welcoming Unterofficers Kurt Mittendorf, Gerd v. Low, Gerd Walter, Heinrich Schafer and Ekkehard Creutzburg. After lunching with some of the Club members they watched the Battalion football team playing 43 Field Park Squadron, R.E., and afterwards commented on the high standard of play. On their return from the match they toured barracks, visiting "S" Company, the M.T. Platoon (where they showed interest in the Go-Karts), the N.A.A.F.I., Gordon Club, and Battalion H.Q. Later they attended the social, and with two more of our guests from the Sergeants' Mess, i.e. C/Sgt. Stewart and Sgt. Barr, were soon in deep conversation. However, soon all were to be seen taking the floor and we hope they enjoyed themselves as much as we enjoyed having them. We must add a word of thanks to our chief go-between, Cpl. Brennan, and to Cpls. Beavis, Gilbert, Mullender, Hennessy and of course McKenzie, who at one stage lost his bed, but thanks to the prompt attention of W.O.2 Edwards (R.A.P.C.) he was soon found alternative lodgings.

Next on the calendar was an invitation to attend a ball given by our old comrades of the 4th Royal Tanks, but regretfully only a few of our members were able to make it.

The point that now comes to mind is the valuable assistance given to the Club by the married members, and one hopes that in the near future the better-halves will combine to arrange a night for us poor men. Also in need of entertainment is Cpl. Barnes, who has been elected President of the Lonely Hearts Club.

Mick Finnis has reappeared on the scene again, and can anyone explain how Cpl. Stewart came to be drinking Coca-Cola one evening. A visit to Starlight is recommended.

As a final note, due to the fact that Cpls. Minett,

Quinn, Da Costa, Holland and Dickens are course bound to the U.K., Cpl. O'Rawe has been elected to the chair, with L/Cpl. Jarvis, R.E., assisting him. We extend a hearty welcome to the Royal Engineers who have accepted our invitation to Club membership. Before closing we would like to wish all readers a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

SPORT

For Battalion sport this has been a quiet period of preparation for the winter season. The cricket season, in spite of the efforts of cricket officers (past and present), was relatively little more successful than last year, and now even the most talented cricketers admit that the season is largely ruined by summer training.

"A" and "B" Companies shared the Albuhera Cricket League, though there has since been some discussion as to whether the former really played all their matches. In any event, this gave "B" Company a commanding lead in the shield, and with the hockey results still to be announced they are already worthy winners. Well done, Bravo!

The Battalion football XI, after a most successful start to the season, are licking their wounds after a Rugby-size defeat by the Argylls. The team has profited from the greater interest shown by all ranks and should at least win their first round Army Cup tie against the Queen's Dragoon Guards.

Not so the Rugby team which, with everything on their side in comparison with last year's constant search for players, has proved disappointing. They in turn have just suffered a cricket-size defeat, and with the first round of the Army Cup only three days away must look to their laurels. However, the spirit prevails and 2nd XV are through the first round of the Brigade Cup.

The hockey team, though not playing many fixtures as yet, seem our brightest hope if the standard of the inter-Company competition can be taken as a guide. It would be a fine end to our stay in Germany if, after all our various successes at Divisional level, we could win the B.A.O.R. hockey.

CRICKET

In the last *Die-Hard* notes I reported that we were looking forward to the second half of the season, because we had completed most of our training and could feel more certain of being able to play the remaining eleven fixtures.

In fact we played only three more. Cancellations, training, and weather taking their toll. However, we did manage to take an active part in the Brigade Command XI.

Our fourth match, and second win of the season, was against H.Q. 1 (B.R.) Corps Troops Column, R.A.S.C., who defeated us in the cup last year.

Lt. Goring opened the attack, taking 7 wickets for 49 runs, and the Battalion was set 133 runs to win. With new blood in the side we achieved this, scoring 135 for 5. Cpl. Bustin scoring 46 and Pte. Hill 39.

August Bank Holiday saw the Battalion playing a new fixture against 2nd Division.

With a gay Bank Holiday side we took the field, and

were set 170 to win, our opponents losing 7 wickets. Major Shearburn scored an undefeated century, though the standard of fielding may have helped him!

Cpl. Bustin again scored freely, making 32 and, supported by Sgt. Raffel (31) and Cpl. Williams (28), we eventually drew the game, being 128 for 7 at close of play.

Our last Battalion match was against the Brigade Command's XI. Here with some excellent bowling by Capt. Pike, until injury to his finger forced him to retire, we attacked the Brigade Command's XI. After his efforts, 4/33, it was perhaps amazing that Lt. Cowing should take 4 wickets for 9 runs in three overs. However, we were left with 144 runs to achieve victory.

Unfortunately we failed and lost the game scoring 106 for 9. Pte. Hill scored a gallant 39 and L/Cpl. Phillips an attacking 23.

This was to be our last match of the season. A disappointing season in that we only managed to play six matches but encouraging in the performances of some of our new players, who will be with us next year.

In conclusion, the following are the names and performances of those who were asked to play in the Brigade Commander's XI.

Major Pearce Gould	..	21
Lt. Waite	..	45 not out and 26
Lt. Cowing	..	53 and 29
Cpl. Bustin	..	22 and 15

Although an afterthought it would be unfair not to mention that "A" and "B" Companies tied for first place, in the hotly contested Albuhera competition.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Although it is not yet November as these notes are written we are already bedevilled with waterlogged pitches. It only requires a light shower for the S.S.O. to place all pitches out of bounds. He is determined to be awarded the title of the most cursed officer of 1960—and he is bound to get it.

As soon as we had staggered back from exercise "Holdfast," we had a couple of Battalion trials. A number of the stalwarts of last season returned to try again. Most of them seem to have picked up a stripe in the off season.

We are trying to work on a system of having 25 players on hand at any one time, but the calls of hockey, rugby, boxing, cross-country, etc., have whittled the number down rather drastically.

The season was started with a match versus 43rd Field Park Squadron R.E. They are a minor unit who beat us last season. It proved to be a very encouraging start. At last we seemed to have a forward line that could work together and shoot straight. We won 7—1 in a good game which was not as one-sided as the score suggests. Ptes. Booker ("H.Q.") and Payne (24) ("B") both scored two goals, and Pte. Farenden ("H.Q.") was responsible for many of the opening moves. He also scored one himself.

But oh, how the might are fallen! The following week we could only draw with 156 Loc. Battery R.A.

The second XI had its first outing against 1st S.W.B. and drew 2—2, which was an encouraging start. The

first XI played well against 1st S.W.B. but were beaten by the odd goal, the score being 2-1.

Then followed a disaster. L/Cpl. Phillips ("H.Q."), who was deputising for L/Cpl. Peak ("A"), saw the 1st A. and S.H. put the ball past him 16 times in one match. It should be added that L/Cpl. Phillips was not to blame—the Argylls have a very good team who should go far in the cup this year. They consider anything less than an 8-0 win as a defeat.

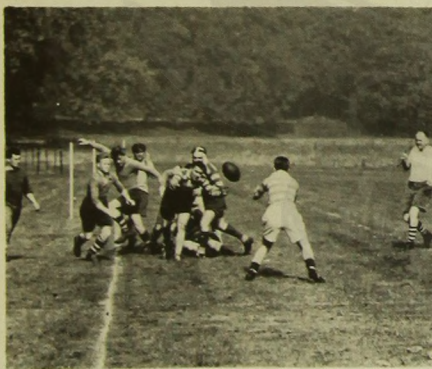
Next week we meet the 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards in the first round of the Army Cup. Unfortunately we have lost both Pte. Gilham ("B"), our captain, and Pte. Payne (04) ("B"), our centre forward. But we have great hopes of being on form that day and of reaching the dizzy heights of the second round.

The usual line up of the first XI so far this season, has been: L/Cpl. Peak ("A"); L/Cpl. O'Riordan ("H.Q."); Pte. Bruniges ("H.Q."); L/Cpl. Oakes ("H.Q."); Pte. Gilham ("B"), L/Cpl. Stanborough ("H.Q."); Dmr. Butler ("H.Q."); Pte. Booker ("H.Q."); Pte. Payne (04) ("B"), Pte. Pash ("B"), Pte. Farenden ("H.Q.").

RUGBY

The season this year was started with an inter-garrison seven-a-side competition at the beginning of September. A very strong seven from 125 Company, R.A.S.C., were victorious in the final, defeating "A" Company.

Problems have confronted the selection of the Battalion team right from the beginning. Virtually a new team has had to be selected and, unlike last year, when our pack was strong, this year we have found ourselves with strong outsiders and a very weak pack. With various Albuhera competitions taking place it has been difficult getting players, and of course our rugby pitch, which is now at Ohr Park, is even further away than last year. However, we have a nucleus of very keen players and if we can either find a pack which can feed the



RUGBY SEVENS

"B" Company (B team) v. H.Q. 2nd

outsides or learn to make use of our opponents' mistakes we will win our matches. At the moment our second team has got through in the first round of the Brigade units Minor Cup and we hope the 1st XV will achieve some success in the Army Cup.

Results:

1st XV—Played 4, won 1, lost 3, points for 27, points against 64.
2nd XV—Played 1, won 1, points for 6, points against 5.

BASKETBALL

The basketball season is still young, but we are gradually getting a team together after many initial interruptions.

Our first match of the season was against 1 S.W.B., which we managed to win by the narrow margin of 23 pts.—22 pts. Two weeks later we beat 87 Spec. Tels. Workshops, R.E.M.E., by the convincing margin of 70 pts.—16 pts., thus getting away to a good start.

The team consists of the "faithful retainers" in the form of C.S.M. DaCosta, Sgt. Edey, Sgt. Young, Cpl. Torrie, Pte. O'Brien with newcomers L/Cpl. Cosgrave, Ptes. Morgan and Gibbons.

During the forthcoming inter-company and platoon competitions, there should be ample opportunity for talent-spotting. I feel that there is plenty of enthusiasm within the Battalion for basketball, and with hard training we have the makings of a very good team.

On our fixture list, the standard of competition gets higher and higher, leading up to the B.A.O.R. championship in February. We hope to play a couple of Canadian teams before the championships.

As the season has only just started, these notes are rather short, but it is hoped, and believed, that in the next edition of the *Die-Hards Journal* the notes will be longer and full of stories of success. We shall see.

BOXING

The boxing season has only just started and for the past months companies have been training their novices' boxing teams. This competition is the first Albuhera sport for the year 1960-61 and to mark the occasion there was a record entry—114 boxers. The preliminary rounds were boxed Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons on October 18-19, starting at 1400 hrs. and continuing until 2000 hrs. The semi-finals and finals were held on Thursday, October 20, and the following boxers emerged the winners in each weight.

Bantamweight	Pte. Harris ("A" Company)
Featherweight	Pte. Hedges ("B" Company)
Lightweight	Pte. These ("A" Company)
Light Welterweight	Pte. Warnock ("B" Company)
Welterweight	Pte. Johns ("S" Company)
Light Middleweight	Pte. Hardman ("S" Company)
Middleweight	Pte. Clarke ("B" Company)
Light Heavyweight	Pte. Goodall ("A" Company)
Heavyweight	Pte. Pettitt ("A" Company)
The best loser	L/Cpl. Peak ("A" Company)

There was also an interesting exhibition bout between Cpl. O'Rawe (Army middleweight champion 1960) and Cpl. Shave (Battalion boxing team 1959-60), both of "B" Company. "Never again," says Cpl. Shave!

The positions with points towards the Albuhera Shield are as follows:

- 1st: "A" Company (170 pts.).
- 2nd: "B" Company (112 pts.).
- 3rd: "S" Company (76 pts.).
- 4th: "C" Company (41 pts.).
- 5th: "H.Q.2" Company (7 pts.).
- 6th: "H.Q.1" Company (0 pts.).

We now have the task of finding a battalion team ready to box in the first round of the Army Cup in December. Two friendly fixtures have been arranged. On October 28 we go to Nienburg to box 24 Medium Regiment, R.A., and on November 8 the 1st Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders come to us.

We still have a few stalwarts from last year's team remaining, namely:—

- Cpl. Shave ("B" Company)
- Pte. Heale ("S" Company)
- Pte. Clift ("S" Company)
- Pte. Kelly ("H.Q." Company)

plus the following "known experts":

- Pte. Fitzsimmons ("B" Company)
- Pte. Lewis ("H.Q." Company)
- Pte. Ward ("H.Q." Company)
- Pte. Jones ("S" Company)

We hope that with the remaining old colours and the latest novices we will produce quiet a good team.

HOCKEY

The Battalion has just started its hockey season. It has won its first two matches without having its strongest side out. The gaps left in last year's team look as though they can be well filled, and, providing we can keep our team together, we should do well.

The Albuhera hockey competition has produced a very high standard in Company teams and at the moment "A" Company and "B" Company are fighting for supremacy.

Considerable emphasis has been put on strict and accurate umpiring. This is an endeavour to stop rough play, to prevent persistent obstruction, and reduce dangerous play, thereby raising the standard of play.

Results:

- 1 Middlesex 5; 19th Field Regiment, R.A. 4.
- 1 Middlesex 4; H.Q. 11th Infantry Brigade 1.

Depot Notes

It is always difficult to remember the notable events at the Depot, they all come and go as they always have done and for some reason never appear out of the ordinary. "There weren't no wrecks, nobody drowned, in fact nothing to laugh at all."

The Depot cricket team deserves mention for its unbeaten season and very good win in the London District Cup. People who complain that cricket is a dying game would have had ample evidence to the contrary if they had left Lords for Mill Hill. The team was not a dedicated one and allowed all sorts of unethical considerations to affect their play. When three members of the side had to leave early for the theatre, the side responded nobly by scoring 148 in an hour, rushing tea, bowling out the opponents for 55 in another hour, and sportingly leaving the theatre-goers with time for a drink as well. Let no one say "it's not cricket."

The many summer annual events were somewhat dampened by rain, but were nevertheless well attended and enjoyable. Included in this category is the Annual Inspection, which so displeased Jove, if not the inspecting officer, that he cast a very considerable thunderbolt on the parade. Perhaps we should have insisted on the Padre being on parade after all.

The last National Service intake is undergoing training at present. This is, of course, little comfort to them, but it does add a certain amount of importance to the occasion. For many years now the Depot has trained about 500 National Servicemen a year; probably about 5,000 recruits in all. The last 70 are to this Depot the conclusion of a long and successful era, and it is with pride that we can look back on this achievement. May the proverb "Better is the end of a thing

than the beginning thereof" apply equally to the training as to conscription.

Closing down is a concept which strikes every member of the staff differently, and until we experience the process we shall not know who is right. The Q.M. expects the process to be backloading and off-loading, the Adjutant feels it is an excuse for a destructive orgy, and the R.S.M. expects to have ample time to conduct resettlement courses in bar billiards. No one expects to have to do any serious work and this is a possible flaw in our reasoning.

Everyone does expect, with good cause, to have a most enjoyable Christmas and we wish all our readers the same.

TRAINING COMPANY

The wind of change has been blowing steadily through Training Company as we come towards the end of our existence. Intake 65, containing the last Middlesex recruits to be trained here as an intake, has passed through. The passing-out parade, taken by the Brigade Colonel, Col. Grace, was very well done and notable for the presentation of prizes, as will be seen below:

Best All-round Recruit	Pte. Chapman
Best Rifle Shot	Pte. Gapp
Best L.M.G. Shot	Pte. Chapman
Highest Physical Efficiency	Pte. Chapman

With the passing of the last Middlesex intake we received an intake of 80 from the East Anglian Brigade for training. This has been organised into three Platoons under Lt. Drummond and 2/Lts. Pitman and Freeborn. Lt. Drummond has joined us from the 2nd East Anglian Regiment whilst the intake is here.

His purpose in life is to fight the recruiting ambitions of C.S.M. Burgess and others who view the intake as fair game. The training is being done under the "Wing" system, with Sgt. Blackwell in charge of the Drill Wing, Sgt. Kerr the Weapon Training Wing and Sgt. Horder the Fieldcraft Wing.

The change of intake is not the only change in the Company. Capt. Gilham has left the chair of Company Commander to become Adjutant of the 8th Middlesex (D.C.O.). On a one-for-one exchange we received Capt. Flavell from them as Company Commander. He is not new to the job at all since he occupied the same chair five years ago. In the last "Die-Hard" notes C/Sgt. Martin earned a mention by arriving. He now earns a second mention by getting married. We offer him our congratulations.

The remainder of the Company have been hard at it, the job in hand at the moment being battening down the barracks, for the windy season up on the hill is now with us.

OFFICERS' MESS

As all are aware now, these will be our last notes written from Mill Hill. The feeling exists that one ought to produce something out of the ordinary before our departure for Canterbury, but on glancing through a rough draft, these notes are just as uninteresting as ever, and, owing to some hitch they are already overdue, so there is no time to rewrite them.

Our farewells really take place in November, December and January, and as this contribution had to be in at the end of October, one is unable to report on any of those functions.

However, looking back through the summer—if such it can be called—we find quite a formidable list of visitors.

On July 22 Col. Adrian Howell, from Chester, looked us up: it is ages since we have seen him.

On August 1 Chris Mievile, from the Outward Bound School at Towyn, stayed the night here. John Ormiston, now at H.Q. A.F.C.E.N.T., spent the day with us on August 11.

In the middle of the month Peter Clarke lived in the Mess prior to his wedding at Bedford. The Depot was represented on that occasion by Roy Hutchings and Roger Pitman. Our best wishes to Peter and his wife.

Later in August "Stumps" Green came and stayed for a few days. On August 25 the G.O.C. Eastern Command, Gen. Sir Gerald Lathbury, paid us a visit.

Peter Cheesman looked in on September 2. We hope his operation will be a complete success. We have seen him in hospital since he had it, and he seemed very cheerful.

On September 4 the Middlesex T.A. ran a tough training exercise which, after a night of compass marching, a river crossing, and many miles of foot slogging, brought teams over the assault course here before heading for the finishing post. Many spectators came to lunch, and afterwards watched the teams go over the assault course, and then, after a quick cup of tea, went off to see the finish. We congratulate the 8th Battalion on again providing the winners.

On September 9 Col. Browne, Major Clark and Mrs. Brooks attended the funeral of Mrs. Wharhirst, who, as the S.S.A.F.A. representative in this district, did so much for us.

The next day a S.S.A.F.A. fete was held at Stanmore, when Gordon Crumley, with numerous assistants, did sterling work, and were very justly complimented. It was at this time that Lts. Monypenny, Collins, Armitage and Thomas, who had all recently been commissioned, left us for 1st Middlesex, Ghana, Kenya and Uganda respectively. Armitage and Collins, incidentally, were two who got roped in for the S.S.A.F.A. fete.

Ffolliott Powell, complete with two dogs—one under instruction—lunched here on September 14. Looking back in the records I see that he won the Army 220 yds. in 1930, and the 100 yds. the following year. He represented the Army in athletics in the years 1929-31, and also played rugger for the Army in 1931-32.

A Regimental Council Meeting on September 14 brought the Colonel of the Regiment here as well as Gen. Bucknall, Cols. Allen and Clayton, and Lt.-Cols. Simpson and Brotherton.

On September 16 the 7th Battalion gave a most enjoyable cocktail party in the Depot Mess. Ian Burrows came to lunch on September 20 before returning to Moscow by road. We congratulate him on his substantive promotion.

Pat Donovan visited us on September 24 prior to rejoining 1st Middlesex, and on September 27 we were very glad to see Bill Clayden here once again—Norman's father.

In recent weeks, that is to say in October, we have had with us Major Jeffcoat from 1st Middlesex, now en route for Hong Kong; Ronnie Fisher from Ghana, who, having completed his tour, rejoins 1st Middlesex; Ernie Moir, who has returned from Hong Kong and Paul Dubbery from the Battalion.

Lt. Drummond of the East Anglian Regiment is with us, as the recruits training here now are in that Brigade. Col. Heal, Brigade Colonel East Anglian Brigade, came on October 27 just to see how they were progressing. We are sorry to have seen the last of Capt. Fakley, who has been P.S.O. with each intake of late. Major J. G. T. Polley, the War Office, is living here whilst awaiting a quarter.

On October 30 there was a pleasing ceremony when relatives of the late Lt. (Q.M.) M. G. Rice, D.C.M., came to the Mess where the eldest son, on behalf of the family, presented his father's medals and badges to the Regiment. Major Hutchings expressed the Regiment's most grateful thanks and assured the relatives that the collection would be housed in the Regimental Museum. (Lt. Rice served with the Regiment from 1898 until 1920, and was awarded the D.C.M. in November, 1917.)

More silver and plate has recently become surplus. Details of items available for sale are being circulated. The intention is to use the money obtained, either for the maintenance of silver retained or to purchase some suitable piece for the 1st Battalion.

We finally hand over the Officers' Mess to the Home Postal Dept., R.E., in February, 1961.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Up to the time of writing, the quarter has been exceptionally quiet. There is an air of leisure about the Mess, not to say lethargy and torpor, which people are inclined to attribute to the fact that the Depot's mighty wheels are slowly grinding to a halt. To the ones who know, however, it is obvious that the Mess is quietly girding its loins and preparing for the savage onslaught on our sensibilities which we still naïvely call "Merry" Christmas. This one promises to be really worth while since the closing down functions and the normal festive events will merge to form what promises to be the most shattering blitz on the British Army since 1940.

As a warm-up to more serious stuff the R.S.M. took a small sightseeing party to the Continent. Besides himself the cultural excursion comprised the following well-known art-lovers and Francophiles: Charles Banks, gastronomic and alcoholic adviser; Basil Lemaitre, late valet to J. Cronin, Esq.; Ernest Colebeck, interpreter and beverage depository; Cyril Orme, recruiter extraordinary and part-time ballast man; and George Markham, postal adviser to the Mill Hill O.C.A.

The party set out in a hired Consul car and its objective, apart from drinking anything and everything they could lay their hands on, was to reach Hamelin and 1st Middlesex. A day or two after their departure a rumour went round that they had embarked at Dover but when they reached Calais were incapable of disembarking and thus were being shuttled to and fro across the Channel. This rumour was discovered to be malicious in character, circulated to put off certain foreign spies by the S.I.B., who were keeping a very close watch on the whole excursion. On their return the whole party was, of course, very reluctant to speak about the great things they had achieved; however, they did reach the Battalion and stayed there five days, and they say the one solid meal they had was delicious.

On October 29 C/Sgt. John Martin was married at St. Paul's, Harringay. Congratulations to Brenda and him, we hope they will be very happy. Our Special Correspondent writes: The crowd gasped in amazement at the lovely vision which confronted them, a glowing picture of rapturous beauty floated down the aisle—it was Reg Diamond, the best-looking best man in the business.

The really sensational occurrence of the period was when Sgt. Agness, in a last despairing effort to save his reputation, accidentally set fire to the Pay Office. However, the fire brigade caught it in time and very little damage was done. The fire inspector was very impressed with Sgt. Agness's effort and said that although it was not in the same class as a professional fire, for an amateur it was a noble effort. The week before, Sgt. Agness lost all the paybooks and received notice that his quarter was no longer available. Funnily enough the S.I.B. has not yet been called in, but we all feel that it can only be a matter of time.

The Mess itself is now heated to suffocation point with central heating and the fires. These fires are the focal point of one or two very eminent members of the Mess who sit on the sofa or armchair, leaning forward and staring with a preoccupied gaze into the fire. They

stay in this posture for hours at a time and occasionally gently murmur to themselves about redundancy, the terrors of civvy street, the strain of overwork, etc. We try not to disturb their reverie, but it is very difficult sometimes when they turn their big appealing eyes on one and ask, "But how do they expect me to start work at my age?"

CORPORALS' CLUB

Cpl. Rogers has taken over the guard room and extends a warm hand of friendship to all who enter "Jack's drum." Lately Cpl. Rogers has been drinking lots of milk and it seems to have improved his boxing ability and has earned him a place in the Army Boxing Team.

A very sorry sight here is Cpl. Burrows, who hobbles about on a large piece of plaster and a walking stick. It seems that whilst carrying out a training period with recruits and wishing to spur them on down a small slope by crying "Follow me men," he slipped, fell and ended up with a broken ankle.

L/Cpl. Allum is the newest member of the Club (not the one your thinking of), and although not an energetic type he does quite well on the billiard table, besides being the Training Company Storeman. He also operates the camp projector which keeps him busy until sometimes 1100 hrs.

We say a very quick hello and good-bye to Cpl. Pearce, who, after being away for some time on a course, shortly goes to Millom in Cumberland to continue with the Civil Defence. All the best John.

L/Cpl. ("Mighty Moose") McAllister slid away to the 1st Battalion just in time for Admin. (he always did like "bull"), and from letters received he seems to be enjoying it (even if his best boots are rather poor!).

CRICKET

As a fitting end to a triumphant season, in which the Depot cricket team remained unbeaten, the last game of all was the final of the London District Challenge Cup. Our opponents were Provost Company, R.M.P., commanded, oddly enough, by Major Leonard, who formally served with the Battalion. Winning the toss, the Depot batted first and at one stage had lost 5 wickets for 56 runs. However, a splendidly aggressive display by L/Cpl. Philp and a very determined knock by Sgt. Horder put on over 100 runs before Sgt. Horder was finally bowled for 46. At the end of 33 overs L/Cpl. Philp was still at the wicket and he had scored 69 of the Depot's final score of 177 for 7 wickets.

With such a comfortable score to lean on caution was thrown to the winds, Pte. Toole and Capt. Gilham both opening the bowling to an attacking field. There was a spirited response from Provost Company and they scored 80 runs very quickly for the loss of 3 wickets, keeping well up with the "clock." With a more defensive field, however, the R.M.P. batsmen were tied down, and as runs became more hard to get they began to lose their wickets through trying to force the pace. The "tail-enders" quickly collapsed and Provost Company were all out for 115. Pte. Toole took 5 wickets for 60 and Capt. Gilham 5 wickets for 50. The Depot therefore won by 62 runs, with the following



Photographs by Courtesy of The Hendon Times and Post

team: Cpts. Crumley and Gilham, 2/Lt. Pitman, Rev. Milliner, Sgts. Horder and Redmond, L/Cpls. Ashbolt, Evans and Philp, and Ptes. Duke and Toole.

The cheapest medal belongs to Sgt. Redmond. It was his first game for the Depot, coming in in place of S.S.I. Bristow who was away on a course, and not only did he neither bat nor bowl but, it is rumoured, also that he didn't touch the ball in the field either! But he stood very elegantly.

SOCCER

The Depot soccer team has made a very promising start to the season and so far heads the London District League with maximum points. A great deal of spare-time training has resulted in a very strong side and there is every reason to anticipate a successful season. Two inside forwards, Ptes. Barber and Duke, have proved a clever combination with Sgt. Redmond and Pte. Gooday providing the thrust. The defence has generally been very firm with L/Cpl. Philp, S.S.I. Bristow and Pte. Smith all standing out.

The best win so far has been in the first round of the Army Cup in which we defeated 12th Company, R.A.M.C., at Woolwich. The Welsh under-23 international Oritt, of 12th Company, was successfully subdued and the Depot were worthy winners by 2-1 in extra time.

The following have represented the Depot regularly: Capt. Gilham, S.S.I. Bristow, Sgt. Redmond, L/Cpls. Ashbolt and Philp, and Ptes. Sawyer, Smith, McLaren, Barber, Duke, Gooday and Toole.

Results:

v. Provost Company, R.M.P.	..	..	..	Won	4-1
v. Home Postal Depot, R.E.	..	..	..	Won	3-1
v. Household Cavalry	..	..	..	Won	20-1
v. King's Troop, R.H.A.	..	..	..	Won	9-0
v. R.A.F., Uxbridge	..	..	..	Won	8-4
v. R.P.O., Footscray	..	..	..	Won	4-1
v. Guards Depot, Pirbright	Won	2-0
v. Winchmore Hill	Lost	2-3

ARMY CUP, 1ST ROUND

v. 12th Company, R.A.M.C.	Won	2-1*
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* After extra time.

SITUATIONS VACANT

With effect from February 1, 1961, vacancies will exist for:

- A Chief Clerk (Clerical Officer Civil Service).
- Typist.

At Regimental Headquarters, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.). Full particulars can be obtained from O.C. Depot, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

REGIMENTAL HOME

I loved the Depot's ancient things,
Guardroom's gong with hourly rings,
Cannon on the square.

I loved the history of our Home
Museum where I used to roam,
The War Memorial.
I loved to see the Christmas Ball,
Portraits gazing from the wall,
The candlelighted Mess.

I remember well the Mayfair jaunts,
Returning late to kindly taunts . . .
"Bill," the P.M.C.

I remember, too, those sunlit days,
Cricket as it should be played,
The Regimental Week.

I remember now the view at night,
Panoramic blaze of light . . .
Our Regimental Home.

D. PIKE.

KOREA, 1950-51

On Sunday, November 13, Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall unveiled a new inscription on the Regimental War Memorial, to commemorate the "Die-Hards" who were killed in Korea in 1950-51.

In a short but moving address, Gen. Bucknall said that he was certain that those who died would have denied that they were doing more than their duty. "The campaign", he said, "was arduous and fought in the severest weather conditions. They maintained the highest standards and traditions of our Regiment".

A number of the next of kin of the casualties, apart from Gen. Bucknall himself, whose son was the first officer of the Regiment killed in Korea, were present at the ceremony, which formed part of the normal Remembrance Day service. Wreaths were laid by Brigadier Willoughby, Col. Browne, Lt.-Col. Batty, Major Newman, Pte. Osbourne, Capt. Stocken and Lt. Henshaw.

THE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE, 1960

On November 12, a large gathering of the Regiment and representatives of the civic authorities throughout the County of Middlesex assembled at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey.

The serving contingent was headed by the Colonel of the Regiment and the C.O.s of all Battalions and the Regimental Depot were present. Col. Maurice Browne was foremost among the distinguished past "Die-Hards" present, while the county was represented by the Lord Lieutenant, Sir Frederick Handley Page, the Chairman of the County Council, Councillor Mrs. Forbes, and 24 mayors and leaders of Urban District Councils. The two mayors unable to attend were unable to do so because of previous engagements in their own boroughs.

Sir Frederick Handley Page read the Act of Remembrance and laid a wreath on the Regimental Plot. He also planted the first cross in the plot and was followed by many of those present.

The Colonel of the Regiment and the officers, together with the mayors, were entertained afterwards in the Guildhall by the Chairman of the Council while many of the other past and serving members adjourned to the Clarence Hotel in Whitehall.

THE REGIMENTAL REUNION

The Regimental Reunion was held at the Seymour Hall on October 28, 1960.

It is sad to note that the numbers attending this year dropped to 560, some 200 less than last year.

Those attending had a most enjoyable evening. As usual, for those who wished to meet old friends and talk of old times over a glass or two of ale, the three bars provided suitable opportunity, while for those who came to dance, the main hall, where Harry Temple and his Band were playing, supplied the answer.

Unfortunately, this year, Sir Brian Horrocks was unable to attend. He sent his apologies through the Colonel of the Regiment and expressed the hope that he will be able to be at next year's Reunion.

Let us hope that a few more "Die-Hards", past and present, will follow his example.

FAREWELL DINNER TO SIR FREDERICK HANDLEY PAGE, LORD LIEUTENANT OF THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX

On November 10, members of the Officers' Club entertained Sir Frederick Handley Page to dinner in the Officers' Mess at Mill Hill, to mark his retirement from the office of Lord Lieutenant of the County.

His term of office has been a very happy one for the Regiment and it is with regret that we see him leave on reaching the age for retirement.

Mr. Kenneth Goodacre, the Clerk of the Lieutenancy, was also a guest, and the members of the club attending were: Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks, Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, Maj.-Gen. G. P. L. Weston, Brigadier B. B.

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

GENERAL

By the time these Notes appear in print there will probably be more details known about the re-organisation.

That it is going to affect the Battalion is well known; we will lose our identity in amalgamating with the 8th Battalion and the old 9th Battalion, now 571 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. With over 100

years as a volunteer unit and continuous service since 1900 in the Territorial Force and Territorial Army, this is a hard blow.

To keep up with modern military thinking, these changes, however, are necessary. The object is of course to produce a more streamlined T.A. and we must therefore ensure that the new Battalion is the finest in the T.A.



Rackham, Brigadier, E. E. F. Baker, Brigadier E. W. C. Flavell, Brigadier J. E. F. Willoughby, Col. M. Browne, Col. F. Walden, Col. A. M. Man, Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton, Major E. L. Heywood, Major H. K. Hardcastle, Major R. D. Hutchings, and Capt. W. G. A. Crumley.

HONG KONG, 1941

Hong Kong will bring back many memories to "Die-Hards" of two generations: those who fought there in 1941 and those who, ten years later, sailed from the colony to Korea.

In a recently published book ("The Fall of Hong Kong," Anthony Blond, 21s.) Mr. Tim Cardew pays full tribute to those of the earlier generation. Against a background of incompetence, civil disinterest and military unpreparedness, the record of our 1st Battalion in those dreadful days of battle in 1941 shines bright, untarnished and untarnishable.

From Col. Stewart, commanding the Battalion, to Pte. Stutz, who like Captain Oates before him disappeared into the night to die rather than be a burden to his comrades, the indomitable spirits of the men of the Battalion earn nothing but praise from the author.

This book is very readable, and one which all "Die-Hards" will be proud to read.

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Commanding Officer	..	Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson
Adjutant	..	Capt. B. K. Clayden
Q.M.	..	Lt. (Q.M.) E. J. Pike
R.S.M.	..	W.O. 1 J. Thom
R.Q.M.S.	..	W.O. 2 N. J. Howes
O.R.Q.M.S.	..	W.O. 2 C. J. Munds

In September, the Battalion team competed in the London and Middlesex Rifle Association meeting. The results were by far the best for many years. We gained three firsts, including the M.M.G. Challenge Cup. In fact 2/Lt. J. A. Van de Pol's machine gunners were the only team to complete the practice. In addition we had three seconds, two thirds and two fifth places.

Lt. Spencer Richards won the Tyro's competition and Lt.-Col. Simpson won the Bronze Medal for the T.A. Service Rifle Championships.

It was therefore all the more disappointing that the team did so badly in the T. and A.F. Association meeting when we could only come second to the 8th Battalion in all the main events.

In early October our annual R.E.M.E. inspection was finally completed. Lt. (Q.M.) Ernest Pike is to be congratulated on all his hard work, the results, which were quite excellent, were his just reward.

Later in the month nine senior officers attended the Brigade Withdrawal T.E.W.T. in the Winchester area. This was a very well run exercise and not only did we enjoy it but most of us learnt many valuable lessons.

Whilst the officers were away in Winchester, the R.S.M. was back at Hornsey running a senior W.O. and N.C.O.s cadre. The turnout was disappointing but those who did attend thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

We congratulate 2/Lts. J. A. Van de Pol, M. Doran and D. O. M. Thomas for passing their Young Officers' course at Mons O.C.S. Mike Lanyon attended a Company Commanders' course at Warminster and rejoined us with many fresh ideas. Capt. Peter Stocken was prevented from attending at the last moment.

The Band and Drums continue to flourish and we get many complimentary letters back from the Boroughs. Bandmaster Whitewood and C.S.M. Holdford—our temporary Drum-Major—are to be congratulated on their fine efforts.

Recruiting continues to do well though the large number of non-effectives who were discharged in early October has made a nasty hole in our numbers. Our best recruiters are our soldiers and certainly "H.Q." and "C" Companies are bringing in recruits at a good rate. What is more important, the quality is high.

"HQ" COMPANY

Company Commander	..	Major R. G. Garrett
M.T.O.	..	Capt. S. le M. Enthoven
R.S.O.	..	Lt. P. J. Ottino
C.S.M.	..	W.O. 2 Holdford
C.Q.M.S.	..	C/Sgt. Conroy
Provost Sergeant	..	Sgt. Gibbons
Medical Sergeant	..	Sgt. Stansall
Cook Sergeant	..	Sgt. Moore
Intelligence Sergeant	..	Sgt. Hore
Sniper Corporal	..	L/Cpl. Halsey
P.S.I.	..	W.O. 2 Moysse

Since camp the platoons and sections have been busy with their own basic training in specialist subjects. We have had the assistance of an N.C.O. instructor from the Depot on a number of occasions. Instruction on the Sterling has been given, the first time many of the Company have ever seen one. Towards the end of the month the Company was preparing for "Ex-Corporal III," a street-fighting exercise.

Prior to September 10 and 11, when the exercise was to have taken place, the Company Commander had been roaming the bomb sites and demolished houses in North London in order to find a site suitable for such an exercise. After approaching nearly 30 authorities, four only were prepared to help. A site was chosen in Shoreditch, consisting of a very battered pub, four shops and six houses. The L.C.C. very kindly held up final demolition until we had used them. Plans were then laid, and everything was fine until a Police Commissioner from Scotland Yard warned us that should a disturbance occur, the Company Commander would certainly be on the mat at Bow Street the following morning. He further suggested that should the Company want to do street fighting they should do it out in the country. It was with the greatest regret therefore that the exercise had to be cancelled. If anyone should know of a built-up area in the middle of the country, perhaps they would let O.C. "H.Q." Company know.

"Ex-Corporal III" was then reduced to some very intense bayonet training at the Depot on the Saturday

and advanced specialist training on the Sunday, but it was all rather an anti-climax.

A general re-shuffle of recruits is now going on, the bad attenders have gone and they are being replaced with new recruits fairly successfully. These are now nearly all on the personal recommendation of volunteers within the Company. The Company is still over 100 strong.

Some much awaited equipment has at last been obtained by the Company Commander, 100 tactical signs for the Provost Section and a stretcher frame for the Medical Section (Sgt. Stansall has already had the stretchers in use much to the astonishment of the local citizens). It is hoped to use these during the Battalion exercise at the end of October.

At the end of October, 211 Field Squadron, R.E., will give a series of films and demonstrations on mine laying, and later on in the year a small exercise will be held.

"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

This quarter has been a very active one for the Company. As with the rest of the Battalion the emphasis has been on training for the Tough Training Competition, for which the team finally chosen consisted of 2/Lt. P. R. Sedley, Sgt. Warren, Cpl. Hill, L/Cpl. Harwood and Ptes. Cox and Drage. The team put in a great deal of work marching and practising for the assault course, whilst much use was made of the River Lea for assault boat training.

The team came 13th in the competition and undoubtedly a great deal was learnt from this very worthwhile training. One of the high spots of the competition was L/Cpl. Harwood's cowboy-style leap over the assault course ramp and arrival on the other side with his Bren muzzle stuck fast in the mud, which drama was caught in full by the television cameras and presented to the world.

For its first full training weekend after the tough training, the Company went to Stanford P.T.A. at Norfolk. Although not particularly strenuous it was a most interesting weekend. Platoon weapons, grenades, mortars and energia grenades were fired.

Once again the company provided a stand at the Enfield Show where, amongst a full display of weapons, Cpl. Warren cooked sausages and tea on a field cooker for the public. Although we were not allowed as much scope as last year, our stand was a success and brought in two new recruits. The show was concluded by the Regimental Band which Beat Retreat before the Mayor of Enfield.

Our social activities for the quarter were concluded by the Company holding its first winter dance in the Drill Hall at Enfield. Although for the first time a modest admission fee was charged, a large crowd attended and danced in the well-decorated hall to the Registry Band.

Among those present were the Commanding Officer and members of the Enfield Old Comrades Association who ran the raffle.

"C" COMPANY

Company Commander	Major R. J. Leighton
2IC	Capt. B. B. Pollecoff
P.S.I.	Sgt. Turner
C.S.M.	W.O.2 Curry
C.Q.M.S.	C/Sgt. Moran

This last quarter has seen numerous changes in the Company. Major Reed has been forced to retire "owing to pressure of business" and after a short time Major Leighton took over command in August. Major Reed commanded "C" Company from the autumn of 1957 and we sincerely hope that he will keep in touch with us in the future. Capt. Lanyon spent a few months in the Company as 2IC but has now been posted to "A" Company. Capt. Pollecoff has succeeded him and, with reluctance, he has removed his black flash.

Since annual camp the numbers in the Company have been reduced by the removal of a number of non-effectives. But more and better type recruits are now coming in. This is due mainly to an enlistment test which eliminates the "come - and - see - and - disappear" type of recruit.

Ptes. Broughton, Giddings, Graham, Loomes, Marshall and Williams have enlisted and we welcome them to the Company. Pte. Graham served with the 1st Battalion in Austria and the removal of his beard was a necessity before enlistment.

In the last quarter L/Cpl. Sattar has been promoted to corporal. He won a prize for the season's fastest 100 in the L.T.E. Cricket League. Ptes. Ford and Twilley have been promoted to lance-corporals.

It is with regret that we learn that one of the younger members of the Company was killed by a falling girder whilst at his civilian job. The Company was represented at the funeral by Sgt. Stack who placed a Company wreath on the grave.

Early in September a team was entered for the Tough Training Competition. The course was difficult and Lt. Hurst did his best to damage his face permanently on the assault course. The team, consisting of Lt. Hurst, Sgt. Stack, L/Cpl. Ford, Ptes. Askew, Loomes and Wood, came 9th, beating "B" Company (13th) and "A" Company (15th). It is hoped that the team will be in the first three next year.

Lt. Richards won the Tyros Prize at the London and Middlesex Rifle Association Meeting and Cpl. Giblin won a Bronze Medal and two pool balls at the T. & A.F.A. Meeting. A keen basketball and football team is developing and we are prepared to take on all-comers this next winter season.

OFFICERS' MESS

Once again we held our cocktail party at the Depot and as before it was described as a "last-ever chance of a party there." It was very successful, with most of the credit due to the Depot for their organisation. Brigadier Glennie, our new Brigade Commander, attended, as did the Mayors and Mayoresses of Hornsey, Wood Green, Enfield, Tottenham, Southgate and Edmonton. We were glad to see so many officers of the 8th Battalion with us.

Some of us later had another opportunity to meet the

Mayor of Hornsey when he came to supper before visiting "A" and "H.Q." Companies. What may be the last dinner at Hornsey is due to take place on Saturday when we dine out Barry Reed who, due to business commitments has had to give up the T.A. To Mike and Barry we wish all the very best for the future.

Several officers, due to business reasons, are now on extended leave, among them John Bannister who is hunting whales in the Antarctic. Lt. Young, from the Sherwood Foresters, is the only new face and we hope his stay will be long and happy.

Capt. Malcolm Gilham came to supper before going off to join the 8th Battalion early in September.

**16 (HORNSEY) CADET COMPANY,
MIDDLESEX REGIMENT**

October, 1960.

The last time we wrote to you, we were looking forward to camp. We have had so many adventures since then that if I were to list them all I should be in trouble with the Editor. Nevertheless, let's start with camp, which, this year was held at Fingringhoe in Essex. Though it was a tented camp there was plenty of accommodation for the lads, and to have beds in the tents was quite a luxury. Twenty-four N.C.O.s and Cadets attended camp and all had a good time; it was even whispered that one boy (no name) said he enjoyed the P.T. at 6.30 in the morning. I must point out that this was the idea of Col. Ellis, the County Commandant—not mine.

There were the usual 24-hour and 48-hour exercises in the first of which the O.C. 16 Company found himself in charge of the "enemy" force against his own Company. Who won? That point is best forgotten.

The Company has not been idle since camp. 16 Company, supported by 13 Company, were able to spend a week-end at Purfleet Musketry Training Camp, and tried their skill at the new figure targets. On another Sunday it was arranged for the Company to fire the rifle and Bren at Rainham Ranges, and a 40-seater coach was ordered. The O.C. Company was horrified that morning to see the rain pouring down and had visions of himself travelling in solitary splendour in the coach. But the A.C.F. are not just fine weather soldiers. Nearly 30 chaps paraded and enjoyed themselves despite the weather. Cpl. Murphy and L/Cpl. Andrews were able to fire their classification shoot, and have since been presented with their marksman badges.

I must find space to tell you about our Company exercise which took place in the Bayford Cuffley area. No. 1 and No. 2 Platoons, under their respective commanders 2/Lt. Mike Brennan and 2/Lt. Ron Boys, complete with 88 sets, advanced to clear Wormley Woods, which was lightly held by an enemy force composed of S.M.I. Hoy, S.M.I. Kelly, Sgt. Garrity and other odds and ends. Though lessons had been given by the Signals Officer of the 7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment, it would not be strictly accurate to say that wireless procedure was correct down to the last

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

C.O.	Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton
2IC	Major G. W. Webber
Adjt.	Capt. M. C. D. L. Gilham
R.M.O.	Major D. P. Winstanley, R.A.M.C.
Padre	Rev. S. P. H. Stubbs, R.A.Ch.D.
R.S.M.	W.O.1 F. Webb
R.Q.M.S.	W.O.2 R. G. Roberts
O.R.Q.M.S.	W.O.2 I. F. G. Smeeton

Just as the last *Die-Hards* notes were going to press it was announced that there would be a reorganisation within the T.A. As yet nothing has been definitely decided but our hope is that we will find ourselves part of the Middlesex T.A. Battalion in company with the 7th and 9th Battalions. We have tried to make this year worth recording in the 8th Battalion History, not least because it is also our Centenary Year, and there is no doubt that it has been a resounding success. From our low ebb of 100 all ranks (including the Band) in 1957 our strength has now risen to over 300. We sent a team to take part in the Nijmegen Marches, won the Middlesex T. and A.F.A. "Tough Training" Competition, and made a "clean sweep" of all the team trophies at the T. and A.F.A. rifle meeting.

Over 500 members of the Regiment and their guests celebrated the Centenary Year at an all ranks' ball held at the "King's Head," Harrow, on October 21, and the officers will hold their centenary ball at the Cafe de Paris, Bray, on November 12.

Nijmegen Marches, 1960

For the third consecutive year the 8th Battalion entered a team for the Nijmegen Marches, but this year the team was entirely provided by "B" Company from Ealing. Thus "B" Company had the unique distinction of being the only British Territorial Unit ever to enter as a company team.

Training, which commenced during April and continued throughout the summer months, included a 60-mile march at annual camp in the Lake District, and a week-end march from Kew Bridge to Shoreham-by-Sea. Finally, after a number of last-minute alterations, the following team sailed for Holland on July 23, 1960: Capt. H. E. Couch, Sgts. Hainsbury and Wheeler, Cpls. Farnes and Tomkins, L/Cpl. King, Ptes. Bowler, Hearne, Lonergan, McNab and Ratchford. Sgt. Burt and Pte. Robinson travelled with the team to act as bicycle orderlies. The programme in Holland followed closely that of previous years and, after the colourful opening ceremony on the Monday evening, marching commenced at 04.50 hrs. on the Tuesday. During the course of the next four days there were the inevitable cases of blisters, cramp and perhaps the occasional hangover, but the team as a whole acquitted themselves well and, while the event is in no sense a race, they were justifiably proud of the fact that they completed the course on the last day ahead of all other T.A. entries.

detail. For all that, the gallant attackers fought the gallant defenders, and after both sides had won dinner was served in the area of St. Lawrence's Farm. For a change we decided to have stew; only the finest, of course!

Company Centenary Dinner and Prizegiving

We now come to the Company Centenary Dinner and Prizegiving. The O.C. Company approached Sgt.-Major Holford and his wife to see if they could arrange the Dinner, which they agreed to do. The success of the evening was in no small measure due to their efforts. Permission was obtained for the Dinner to be held in the O.R.'s canteen of the 7th Battalion Middlesex, who also showed their kind co-operation in other ways. The Adjutant gave permission for the 7th Battalion silver to be used. All sorts of people helped, including the Pioneer Sergeant and N.C.O.s of the Q.M.S. Department. All members of the 16th Company would like to place on record their gratitude for the help and co-operation received from their affiliated T.A. Battalion.

Among the guests at the Dinner were His Worship the Mayor of Hornsey, Lt.-Col. Cave (County Commandant), Col. Ellis (North Group Commander), Lt.-Col. Knights (North Group H.Q.), Major Warren, Major Williams (O.C. 4th Squadron Middlesex Yeomanry), Capt. Lardner (O.C. 10th Squadron R.E.s), Lt. Davies (O.C. 13 Company Middlesex), S.M.I. Robinson (representing 31 Battery R.A., Finchley), and Mr. Hutchins (Churchwarden St. George's, Cranley Gardens, representing Rev. Catt, unfortunately ill, at whose church the church parade was held). Fifty-one of all ranks were on parade when His Worship the Mayor inspected the Company.

Sgt. Blunden won the cup for the best shot in the Company, as well as the silver spoon for the best shot in No. 1 Platoon. Cadet E. Watkins received the silver spoon for the best shot in No. 2 Platoon, and L/Cpl. Hagger won the tankard for the best N.C.O. in the Cadet N.C.O.s' cadre under R.S.M. Thom of the 7th Battalion Middlesex, to whom thanks are due for keeping the N.C.O.s of the Company up to a high standard. Space unfortunately precludes my listing the other prizes and certificates awarded, and details of the Army Certificates, Parts I and II, and swimming certificates, etc.

After a brief visit to the Sergeants' Mess, the V.I.P.s made their way to the dining hall, where the tables looked a complete picture with the silver and Colours of the Regiment displayed on the centre table. After an enjoyable dinner the Company toasted the Queen in the proper manner, and then the guests. The toast was answered by His Worship the Mayor, who told the Company that he, too, had been a Cadet in the Middlesex. Once again the Company rose to drink a toast to the Regiment, to which the County Commandant, Col. Ellis, replied, congratulating the Company on their turnout and bearing.

We now look forward to finding what the New Year has in store for us, and will let you know how we progress in due course.

V.W.

It would be unfair to mention any individuals, as all showed their merits in their various ways, but it is, however, worth recording that only four of the team of eleven had ever experienced Regular or National Service. This surely is a clear indication of the healthy state of the T.A. today. No mention has been made of how the team occupied their evenings but it is perhaps sufficient to say that the Dutch as always provide a wonderful hospitality, whilst Nijmegen was once again enveloped in an international atmosphere of gaiety, friendship and *esprit-de-corps*. Thus it was with memories of that that "B" Company returned, rather than with thoughts of endless hours of marching on the cobblestones of Holland.

Middlesex T. and A.F.A. "Tough Training" Competition

This event, which took place during the week-end September 3-4, was generally voted enjoyable but "no picnic" by those taking part. Twenty-four unit teams competed—six of them (one per Company) from 8 Middlesex. Apart from marches against the clock, the teams tackled an assault course, an assault river-crossing, and were exercised in bivouacking, night compass marching, and firing on open ranges. "B" Company, who had won the event in 1959, "chalked up" a second success and were well supported—and harassed—by "Sp" Company, who tied for second place, with the team from 44 Signals Regiment, T.A. The remaining Battalion teams finished as follows: "C" Company 6th, "H.Q." Company 11th, "A" Company 17th, "D" Company 18th.

Middlesex T. and A.F.A. Rifle Meeting

At this meeting the Battalion entered a team for every competition open to a major unit and won each and every one. They were as follows: Inter-Unit Rifle Competition, Individual Rifle Competition, Inter-Unit L.M.G. Competition, Individual Pairs L.M.G. Challenge Cup, Inter-Unit M.M.G. Competition for the Perring Trophy, Champion Unit (The de Salis Trophy).

Other achievements were Pte. J. C. Kelly, "H.Q." Company, finished sixth out of 150 individual riders at the Division/District Motor Cycle Trials at Shorncliffe on July 23-24.

The Commanding Officer was chosen for the second year in succession to represent the Division in the team entered for the Kolar Cup. Others selected to fire were Major G. W. Webber and Cpl. G. Young.

It was with regret that the Battalion said good-bye to Capt. Flavell on completion of his tour as Adjutant, though we welcome, of course, his successor, Capt. M. C. D. L. Gilham. During a small informal gathering in the Officers' Mess the Commanding Officer paid tribute to the hard work, useful advice and constant support that Capt. Flavell had given him.

It is hoped to re-form the Hounslow branch of the Middlesex O.C.A. and to this end a meeting is being held at the T.A. Centre, Hounslow, on Friday, November 18 next.

"H.Q." COMPANY

Company Commander	..	Major D. L. James, T.D.
M.T.O.	..	Capt. W. P. John
Signals Officer	..	Lt. D. E. D. Wright
A/C.S.M.	..	Sgt. H. Carlier
C.Q.M.S.	..	C/Sgt. P. Fullman
P.S.I.	..	W.O.2 H. D. Davis

This quarter of our year has been rather quiet with the normal run of holidays, so attendance has not been up to its usual high standard. We have played "B" Company at basketball and have still to win a game. The "Tough Training" Competition has again been contested and won by "B" Company, but our team of Lt. Wright, Sgt. Wicks, L/Cpl. Gasson, Ptes. Beech, Quinn and Dalton put up a fine performance to finish 11th. At the moment the Company is hard at work on the Weapon Training Competition in the hope that we will emulate our .22 shooting team, who have again won the .22 competition. The entertainments committee are busy with arrangements for the annual Christmas party and dance, which we trust will be as successful as last year.

That favourite saying about "the wind of change blowing through Africa" brings to mind the fact that at the moment it is roaring through "H.Q." Company with gale force, for there have been rumours and half-truths about amalgamation and what our fate will be. At one time it was even rumoured that we were going to become an R.N.V.R. establishment called H.M.S. *Die-Hard*, but, as usual, the rumours have proved wrong, and we are to become that dread of old soldiers—a rifle company!

"A" COMPANY

Company Commander	..	Capt. H. S. H. Venour
Platoon Commander	..	Lt. D. C. V. Farrant
Platoon Commander	..	Lt. J. C. Pollock
C.S.M.	..	W.O.2 D. Saunders
A/C.Q.M.S.	..	Sgt. C. Wagner
P.S.I.	..	Sgt. B. Callaghan

The highlight of our training this quarter was the Middlesex "Tough Training" competition. "A" Company very much held their own in this event, and had we not been a man short from the start, would have come out very much nearer the top. Congratulations to Lt. Farrant, Sgt. Hones, Cpl. Farnes, Ptes. Craig and Pepper on their excellent efforts in this competition.

Sgt. Wagner had his cine-camera out that week-end and has put on a number of showings to this and other companies. Shots were taken of an unfortunate (not a member of this Battalion!) scraping mud off his Bren after the assault course, but unfortunately a close-up was not taken of Cpl. Farnes beating his chest in frustration after missing the boat in the river-crossing. Hardly was "tough training" over when the Sergeant-Major, Sgt. Wagner and Sgt. Nuthall were firing for the Battalion rifle team at Henlay Park and helping to mop up all the shooting prizes. Congratulations to them on a successful week-end shoot.

Our training at present is concentrated on the Battalion Weapon Training Competition in which we hope for good results. We look forward to a dance and



Four members of "A" Company tough training team before the start: Lt. Farrant, Pte. Pepper, Pte. Craig and Sgt. Howes

social before Christmas and also some time in the New Year. We will be affected by reorganisation and will probably form part of a Company based at Ealing.

"B" COMPANY

Company Commander	..	Capt. H. E. Couch
Platoon Commander	..	Lt. D. H. Mant
Platoon Commander	..	2/Lt. R. G. Tett
A/C.Q.M.S.	..	Sgt. L. Salter
P.S.I.	..	Sgt. S. Speakman

As we sent to press at the end of the last quarter, so "B" Company Nijmegen Marches team were setting forth on their expedition to the Netherlands. We have to report that theirs was a most successful trip and that once again "B" Company worthily represented the Battalion on this truly international occasion. The team, under Capt. Harold Couch, returned from their marches both fit and well—having celebrated their departure true to form!

As soon as Nijmegen was finished the Company concentrated on the Middlesex "Tough Training" competition. The team and reserves comprised Capt. Couch, Sgt. Gainsbury, Cpl. Tomkins, Ptes. Lonergan, McNab and Robinson and were out in all weathers preparing for the occasion. Training included clandestine reconnoitring of the Assault Course at Mill Hill, and experiments with the British Army's latest secret weapon, namely, large plastic bags, which when worn on the feet enable canal crossings to be accomplished dryshod. For this piece of original thinking our thanks are due to L/Cpl. King who, we are told, hit upon the idea whilst having a bath. When the week-end September 3-4 arrived, the team's careful preparations paid dividends, and in spite of dubious weather "B" Com-

pany triumphed for the second year running. Press coverage for the event was quite magnificent. Our success was featured in the national dailies, London evening papers as well as the local Press. Even the Milk Marketing Board joined the bandwagon, and we now hold in our Company archives several photographs of the "tough training" team each drinking his "Pinta Milka Day." Try as he might, however, Cpl. Tomkins could not conceal his expression of distaste at being photographed drinking this unaccustomed beverage. He was able to remedy this, however, at the celebration party at the Company's Drill Hall on Monday, September 12, which was attended by the C.O., Adjutant, R.S.M., as well as several other guests. Our week-end training has been well-supported, particularly at field-firing at Hangmoor and our annual classification at Caesar's Camp. The Company weapon-training team is now in full swing preparing for the competition, and there has been a successful films evening, as well as some very interesting .22 shooting. Generally speaking, evening attendances at training have been very satisfactory.

We note in passing that our P.S.I., Sgt. Speakman, has started painting his car at last, and that Pte. Bowler is showing all the symptoms of being in love. We wish them both every success in their various endeavours.

In closing we should like to express our farewell to Capt. Flavell, who has been a constant source of help to us during his tour of duty as Adjutant, and we wish him every success in his new appointment. To those members of "B" Company who have left during the last three months we express our thanks for their loyal support. At the same time we welcome our new recruits, Ptes. Milne, Bound, Miller, Etherington and Hannaford,



The "B" Company team which represented the Battalion in the Nijmegen Marches



8th Middlesex "B" Company wins Middlesex "Tough Training" Trophy

and are sure that they will soon settle down as full and active members of the Company.

"C" COMPANY

Company Commander ..	Capt. D. E. Lobb
Platoon Commander ..	Lt. P. N. Ashton
Platoon Commander ..	Lt. D. B. Powell
Platoon Commander ..	2/Lt. J. S. E. Wood
C.S.M. ..	W.O.2 J. Phelan
P.S.I. ..	Sgt. R. G. Ford

The accent on training within "C" Company during recent months was for the Middlesex T. and A.F.A. "Tough Training" competition. Six members of the Company volunteered to take part in the contest—one of the most spectacular, if not the most popular of events in the training year! They were Lt. Peter Ashton, Cpl. Moran (since transferred to "D" Company), L/Cpl. Eric Willis and Ptes. Atkins, House and Bowell—all stout men and true and with an obvious healthy respect for the state of their feet, and an equally healthy contempt for the sixty-odd miles they had to cover. They went into preliminary training during the weeks before the event—on August 13—building up bouts of marching from two to ten miles, with a spell on the Assault Course at Mill Hill for familiarisation. The results certainly proved their fitness for they tied for sixth place with 842 points. In all a good effort.

A placing in the "tough training" competition was not the only success signalled by the Company in the period under review. Three men, Sgt. Michael Thomas, L/Cpl. Eric Willis and Pte. Clifford Johnson, were part of the Battalion team which won the "China" Cup and the main event in the Divisional Shooting Meeting at Folkestone in the spring. Once again, congratulations.

"D" COMPANY

Company Commander ..	Capt. A. A. Holmes
Platoon Commander ..	Lt. S. L. J. Henshaw
Platoon Commander ..	Lt. L. S. R. McDonald
Platoon Commander ..	Lt. G. L. B. Taylor
C.S.M. ..	W.O.2 T. Dunne
P.S.I. ..	W.O.2 L. Shrubbs

Despite all the hard training that was put in, our Tough Training team did not do so well as we had hoped in the Middlesex T. and A.F.A. competition which was held in early September. Unfortunate accidents to Sgt. Jones and Pte. Donald on the first day reduced our team to four on the second day and therefore made it impossible for us to be in amongst the leaders. However, all credit must go to Lt. Taylor, L/Cpl. Havant, Ptes. Newnham and Macalonan for putting in such a splendid effort on the second day, knowing they could not possibly win, and in being first team home at Alexandra Park, fully 15 minutes ahead of the next team.

The emphasis is now on weapon training and the Drill Hall rings to the Irish tone of C.S.M. "Tommy Dunne" getting the Company organised. His long years of experience have been of enormous benefit to the Company and he can take full responsibility for our success at the Battalion Rifle meeting and for "D"

Company providing so many members of the Battalion Rifle team. He has been suggesting recently that he is now too old for the T.A. but everyone hopes that he can be persuaded to change his mind about leaving as he would indeed be a sad loss to the Company.

This Company is unique in having two C.S.M.s and no notes would be complete without reference to C.S.M. Shrubbs our P.S.I. So far as we are concerned his ability to "get things done" is as amazing as it is welcome but the Depot Staff must have serious misgivings when they see him appear on the skyline. Unfortunately we will be losing him soon when he returns to Civvy Street after 22 years in the Army, but, as he knows, all members of "D" Company will always be pleased to see him, Mrs. Shrubbs and their daughters any time at our social functions.

A final word of thanks is due to Mr. Jolly, our caretaker, and of course to Mrs. Jolly, who has taken over the canteen for us in addition to her role of Florence Nightingale after particularly hectic week-ends.

"S" COMPANY

Company Commander ..	Major P. J. Hall
Assault Pioneer Platoon Cmdr.	Capt. D. W. Hogg
M.M.G. Platoon Commander ..	Lt. K. D. Murray
Mortar Platoon Commander ..	2/Lt. J. C. Parkinson
C.S.M. ..	W.O.2 H. Rea
A/C.Q.M.S. ..	Sgt. D. Turland
P.S.I. ..	Sgt. B. Tarry

In the period covered by these notes "S" Company carried out two weekends on the Hangmoor Field Firing ranges. On the first weekend, Lt. Murray, making good use of the element of surprise, led a successful night fighting patrol on an enemy commanded by C.S.M. Rea, only to be shot up on his return route in an ambush laid by Sgt. Topper Brown. The M.M.G. Platoon made good use of the second weekend by practising for the Perring Trophy.

Morale shot very high in the Company when our Tough Training team came second in the 1960 competition. The team consisted of Capt. Hogg, Gordon Young, Mick Taylor, John Dillon, Tony Ratcliffe and Peter Tabrar, and needless to say they were joined in their celebration by the whole of "S" Company. The gleam in the eyes of the M.M.G. Platoon became more purposeful as time went on and sound training by Lt. Murray enabled them to win this year's M.M.G. match and return the Perring Trophy to its regular place. The team consisted of Sgt. Burt, L/Cpl. Holmes, Ptes. Dillon, Fuller, Gould, Laws and Walker. Displaying his usual prowess on both L.M.G. and rifle Gordon Young made his annual collection of "pots" at the Middlesex rifle meetings.

Congratulations and good wishes to Gordon Light and Derek Hunt who both entered for the "Marriage Stakes" in September.

W.O.s AND SERGEANTS' MESS

It would seem that the Journal did not receive our contribution for its last edition and we must hasten to assure our readers that it wasn't caused through a hangover due to excessive bar sales at camp!



8th Middlesex "S" Company team with Perring Trophy

Our congratulations to C.S.M. Saunders, Sgts. Wagner, Nuthall, Lloyd and Thomas for their selection for the very successful Battalion Shooting team, and a special one to Sgt. Thomas for winning with his partner the best L.M.G. pair in the London and Middlesex competition and the Middlesex Territorial Army and Auxiliary Forces Association competition on consecutive week-ends.

Sgt. Gainsbury helped the "B" Company team to become once again the toughest of them all in the Middlesex T. and A.A.A. Tough Training competition. Well done! Our monthly socials are still improving. Sgt. Light will no doubt remember his last evening as a bachelor spent at the September one. May we take this opportunity to wish him and Mrs. Light a most happy and successful marriage and hope to see both of them at future socials. It is hoped that at next year's Annual Camp we will be housed in buildings to save the necessity of having to tie the ropes of a certain Mess tent to Battalion M.T. vehicles to stop it from blowing away. Sgt. ("Timber") Woods has pointed out that indents for use of Battalion transport must be submitted at least 48 hours in advance! The Christmas Draw is filling up and we must ask, before closing, that "toffee-noses" who may bring barrows to take away their prizes on December 17, should park them at the rear of the Drill Hall.

BATTALION SHOOTING TEAM

The Battalion M.M.G. team consisting of L/Cpl. Holmes, Ptes. Walker, Gould, Fuller, Laws and Dillon, fired for the Perring Trophy at Bisley on September 10. Their score of 147 was enough to bring this trophy back to 8th Middlesex.

The Battalion sent a strong team to the Middlesex T. and A.F.A. Rifle Meeting at Henley Park on September 25. The 8th Middlesex enjoyed considerable success at this meeting and won all the major unit awards. The Rifle team of Lt.-Col. Brotherton, Major Webber, Lt. K. D. Murray, Sgt. Thomas, Cpl. Young and Pte. Donald won the Cheylesmore Challenge Cup with a score of 464. Cpl. Young, the highest scoring rifle shot of the meeting won the De Salis Trophy with a score of 464. Cpl. Young, the highest scoring rifle Col. Brotherton and Major Webber, Sgt. Thomas and Cpl. Young, Sgt. Nuthall and Cpl. Ashcroft, took home the Middlesex Justices Shield, with a total score of 193, of these three pairs Sgt. Thomas and Cpl. Young earned the Middlesex T. and A.A.A. L.M.G. Challenge Cup for the highest scoring L.M.G. pairs, their score of 73 out of a possible 80 being hard to beat.

The Middlesex Challenge Shield, awarded to the highest scoring unit on the basis of combined Rifle and L.M.G. team scores was also delivered to 8th Middlesex to complete the picture of well-earned success.

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

We ended our notes three months ago with a reference to the welter of activity into which we were about to plunge. It may well be, therefore, that some readers may have been looking forward to a "next thrilling instalment," but, if so, they will be disappointed, as, in the event, we have had a comparatively quiet quarter.

The reason, of course, has been the Government's decision to indulge in yet another re-organisation of the T.A., which has led the powers-that-be to cancel various functions they had arranged for us. In particular, two Brigade exercises, and our annual administration inspection, went overboard, the latter at least, being accompanied by three hearty cheers.

Not all our plans were cancelled, however. Late July and August saw batteries engaging in various forms of para-military activity, both ashore and afloat, while on August 14 a range day was held at Rainham, during which the last 30 or so members of the Regiment who had not done so fired their range course.

A good deal of effort was also expended during August by potential members of "Q" Battery's tough training team, who were to be seen each week-end, training for all they were worth. The reward of their efforts and the leadership of their captain—Lt. Derrick Herriott—came in early September, when they finished well up in the final placings of the County Association competition. It was particularly satisfying for them to know that they had beaten all but three of the nine teams entered by our Infantry cousins.

September also brought Battle of Britain Week,

and with it various parades in which we participated, and at the end of the month the County Association Rifle Meeting. The results of this latter event were a great disappointment to us, as the form displayed by our gladiators in training—to which, incidentally, they had devoted a good deal of time—should have brought us at least into the running for the rifle competition. However, on the day things did not go as we had hoped, and we finished half-way down the list. A little light relief was provided though, when what was supposed to be our second team outshot their betters; a circumstance which doubtless led to much flowing of beer at the latter's expense! Our reputation was perhaps retrieved somewhat by the Bren team, who came 5th in their competition.

At the end of October we said *au revoir* to Col. John Doyle, who has commanded the Regiment so very ably for the past three years. He has been succeeded by his erstwhile Second-in-Command, Lt.-Col. Harry Hansen, whom we congratulate on his accession and promotion.

On Sunday, the 30th, we held a farewell parade for Col. Doyle at Kingsbury, which was blessed with fine weather and attended by a goodly gathering of spectators. It must have been a moving moment for the C.O. as he took his final salute and watched the Regiment march off parade. Afterwards, together with all other officers and their ladies, Col. and Mrs. Doyle were entertained to pre-prandial drinks by the W.O.s and Sergeants in their Mess at Kingsbury.

The following evening the officers of the Regiment made their private farewells to the Colonel at a regimental dinner, at which he was ceremonially presented with a bowler hat in the colours of the Middlesex Regi-



The Commanding Officer addressing the Regiment from the Saluting Base during his Farewell Parade on October 30, 1960



Lt.-Col. J. R. Doyle, T.D., R.A. (T.A.), inspecting "R" Battery during the parade on October 30

ment. The dinner also marked the departure of two other officers: Brian Wyles, who is bound for darkest Africa, and Major Don Dond, who will remain a near neighbour in darkest Hertfordshire.

And so to the future. Reorganisation and amalgamation are both in the air and in our thoughts, but it is not yet certain what the future holds for us. Long before this appears in print, however, the War Office will have produced its final plan, and we shall know whether we are to remain Gunners or to entwine ourselves yet more closely with other "Diehards." Whatever may be the outcome, we do not intend to let it spoil our Christmas festivities.

"P" BATTERY

We have had a quiet quarter enjoying ourselves after our activities of the previous half-year, which included mastering the L 70 gun and proving our knowledge at camp.

The highlight of our three months was our Battery Weekend at Bourne End, on the Thames. Our Battery dinner was held at the "George and Dragon" at Marlow, where we were well wined and dined. The following morning we were up bright and early and boarded hired launches at Bourne End under the direction of Capt. Skinner. As can be imagined his guidance to land-loving "Pongos," was most necessary, and we were fortunate in having the services of an ex-Cambridge trial cox and Leander steersman to initiate us. Three of the boats managed to navigate beyond Hurley with no mishap, but one seemed to have engine trouble, quite fortuitously, by the Quarry Inn!!

The final boat came alongside, with its crew singing the "Eton Boating Song." To such a dedicated rowing man as Capt. Skinner, this was too much, and he moved off, blushing furiously. However, we were glad to note that he rapidly recovered when it was pointed out that they were only singing Kipling's "Screw Gun," from which, of course, Eton have misapplied the melody!

"Q" BATTERY

In spite of the uncertainty which now shrouds our future, and indeed the future of the Territorial Army as a whole, the Battery has maintained a remarkable spirit of enthusiasm over the past few months. Training and attendances have picked up well since Camp and the recruits we obtained earlier in the year have, we are glad to say, "stuck to it."

The great highlight since Camp has undoubtedly been the tremendous (and dare we say unexpected?) success of our Battery team—which, incidentally included one noble last minute volunteer from "R" Battery—in the Middlesex T.A. Tough Training contest. They came eighth out of a total of 28 teams, with only three teams of our P.B.I. contemporaries (all from the 8th Battalion) leading them. Names of these rugged part-time soldiers, who suffered so much and marched so far, must be put on record with the congratulations of us all: Lt. Herriott, Sgt. Godleman, Bdr. Purchase, Gnrs. Claydon, Speer and Roper of "R" Battery. Their success was all the more remarkable since, on the one hand, Purchase and Roper came into the team at the last moment—without any training—to replace a couple

who unfortunately had to drop out, and on the other hand, the team had to lose a great deal of time, sacrificing many valuable points, in rescuing their leader, Lt. Herriott when he disappeared, completely immersed, in the Basingstoke canal. He was dredged up from the bottom, still clutching the Bren, and was going strong at the finish. Altogether a fine effort!

A Battery T.E.W.T. in the Cookham area during the summer was a great success, serving to refresh the minds of both officers and N.C.O.'s of the fundamentals of siting a gun, reading a map and then using a pair of binoculars properly—a little appreciated skill.

Battle of Britain Sunday was celebrated in the usual way with a local municipal parade, and the B.C., Major Davidson, headed a well-turned-out Battery detachment which marched impeccably in step with the Boys Brigade to its front and the Girl Guides to its rear—one of those rare never-to-be-forgotten sights!

Lt. Ford can proudly claim to be the first of our officers who, unable to attend Camp with the Regiment, has been attached to an Infantry Regiment—the 2nd Monmouthshire—for a fortnight's Civil Defence course. Mr. Ford has described the course as "realistic, intensive and valuable," and we understand that his own contribution was so unmistakable that the C.O. of the 2nd Mons has said, "I've never had an officer like this under my command before." Mr. Ford took the course so seriously that during the second week he succeeded, with the aid of another casually passing vehicle, in simulating in the streets of Barrow an example of how a brand new Wolsey 1500 will look after a good-sized hydrogen bomb has landed in the immediate vicinity! He is, fortunately, unhurt himself except for a slight shoulder injury which has made it exceedingly difficult for him to lift a pint mug comfortably.

2/Lt. Peattie, now well known to both the local police and the War Office as one of our unluckier learner-drivers, has added to the experience of the Battery by attending a Cadet Camp. He has returned with an enthusiasm for 2-in. mortars, slit trenches and platoon attacks; perhaps it will be useful—these days one never knows.

A last paragraph of farewell—to Sgt.-Major Biddlecombe who joined 595 way back in June, 1951. We shall miss him!

"R" BATTERY

Attendance for training has remained steady during the summer months and the continued keenness of the most recent recruits has been very satisfactory.

We are pleased to record that Gnr. Roper acquitted himself well in making up the Regimental Tough-Training team at the eleventh hour. A good effort considering his lack of special training for this gruelling weekend.

After the success of last year's Ladies' Night, the Battery arranged a similar event this October, which was again excellently organised by a committee under Lt. Hunt's convenermanship. A most enjoyable meal was served, dancing and games completing the entertainment. We were happy to number among our guests Mrs. Doyle, wife of our Commanding Officer, escorted by her son (Col. Doyle was unfortunately unable to

come), Majors Bond and Hansen (both past commanders of the Battery), Capt. Gibbs and our P.S.I.s. The Battery Commander, Major C. W. Davies, welcomed the ladies and expressed the Battery's thanks for being allowed so much time off for T.A. purposes. In an amusing response, Mrs. Vaisey assured the Company that B.S.M. Vaisey's bandaged arm had nothing to do with his devotion to matters military. In thanking all who had contributed to the success of the evening Major Davies mentioned Cpl. Ashby in particular for all his work, both culinary and as Master of Ceremonies.

THE HONG KONG REGIMENT

Yet again the quarter has been crowded with events despite the traditional stand-down during August. In particular ceremonial has predominated and the Band and Drums have been very active in keeping the name of the Regiment in the public eye.

As part of a general policy of strengthening the ties between the old members of the H.K.V.D.C. and the Regiment the Commanding Officer decided that on the occasion of Liberation Day the Colours would be displayed to the public outside the Hong Kong Club. As a result it was a record crowd which gathered to hear six buglers, flanked by drummers, sound the Last Post and Reveille from the Club steps before the wreath was laid on behalf of the Prisoners-of-War Association. Several old "Die-Hards" were present as members of the Association.

On September 22 the Band and Drums Beat Retreat at the Hong Kong Cricket Club before an audience which included H.E. The Governor, the Service Commanders, members of the Executive Council, and Commanding Officers of all major units. The guests were afterwards entertained to cocktails by the officers. The Director of Music, Major Quah, was personally congratulated by His Excellency on the standard of drill and musical proficiency achieved by the Band and Drums.

The Band and Drums took their traditional part in the celebration of both Battle of Britain Day and Trafalgar Day, being selected to lead both parades. The opening of the Festival of Arts by Lady Black saw the buglers sounding a fanfare as the festival was declared open and the Band playing incidental music before the ceremony.

As a result of the increased efficiency and morale of the Band and Drums an appeal has been launched to equip them with silver drums, bugles and fanfare trumpets. To date, six bugles and one fanfare trumpet have been donated and it is hoped that further sponsors will come forward before the Annual Review, which for the first time this year will be centred around the ceremony of Beating Retreat.

The Regimental Water Polo and Swimming Team has again had a successful year. They won the Colony Water Polo League in the senior division, and because they were the only entrants for the knock-out competitions, retained the championship unopposed.

On September 23 the Regiment decisively defeated

the Regular Army and retained the Terry Trophy for the fifth year in succession. The match was watched by Lt.-Gen. Sir Roderick McLeod, Commander British Forces, and the Hon. C. E. M. Terry.

Training has continued steadily throughout the quarter and the Regiment took part in the Colony Exercises "Last Test" and "Blue Lamp II," using V.H.F. wireless sets for the first time.

OLD COMRADES' NEWS

MILL HILL BRANCH

It is time for the latest news in respect of the branch, but it will be rather stale by the time it has gone to print and the journal is received by you. That, of course, cannot be avoided in spite of the many efforts made to do so.

The monthly meetings are still very popular; new members arrive each month, some of whom have not seen the inside of the depot for many years. One of these is ex-C.S.M. Last, who also served with the Cheshires for the latter years of the war but is still remembered by a number of our serving members, including R.S.M. Bartle. Another who joined is Bill Mealyer. To both of you "Die-Hards" welcome to the fold.

It would appear from various reports that our vice-chairman began quite a friendly argument when he helped ex-2nd Battalion members to swap yarns about the visit of the Prince of Wales, which was published in the last issue.

Ex-Sgt. Cox of the 4th Battalion took the vice-chairman, Major Dick Smith, on one side and said: "Young man (Dick has about 40 years' service), I met the Prince long before he 'took a look' at the 2nd Battalion when you young chaps were just starting service abroad. It was at Pilkem Ridge, in 1918, and he gave me a packet of cigarettes and we both recalled the incident when we shook hands at Gib. four years later." Yes, Old-soldier Cox, as he is affectionately known to us, made quite sure that he and his Battalion were in the news before the Pot Hooks in 1921. I also received a letter from another member of the 2nd Battalion who was actually detailed as bugler of the guard. He apparently was severely knocked about in the ring the previous evening and could not mount guard. His place was taken by George Pocock, who, I am told, was a bugler second only to the renowned "Spud" Murphy. You may read the letter about this if the Editor has sufficient space. I have been fortunate to find two of the three men who formed the guard; they are "Mash" Lincoln and "Jimmy" Dack. Who was the other one? Do let me know if you can.

It was nice to see Sid and Mrs. Buckle again. They brought their son to "look us over." He looked very smart in his naval uniform, but then, he has an example to look up to as his father was the acme of smartness. Another father and son were present, Charlie Escudier brought his son, who is our youngest member—but

We look forward to welcoming Major Jeffcoat on November 1, 1960, and hope that he and his family will enjoy their tour in Hong Kong. We expect to hear first-hand information of our affiliated Regiment from him. It is understood that the Adjutant has already nominated Major Jeffcoat to lay the Middlesex Regiment wreath on Remembrance Day and that a meeting of the O.C.A. is planned for November.

our dear old Ted Crouch brought his two daughters and sons-in-law to swell the gathering—no wonder we are known as the branch with the happy families.

Two people who last met nearly 35 years ago in Singapore were together last Saturday. They were Mrs. "Tug" Wilson and Mrs. "Bill" Bratby, you can imagine how delighted they were to see each other. How did it become about? Well, Bill Bratby visited "Tug" Wilson at the hospital and arranged for the ladies to meet. How nice it would be if more meetings could be arranged between ex-"Die-Hards."

Major E. L. Heywood paid us a visit, we were delighted to see him, to make sure he will come again he was allowed to win a raffle prize.

Johnny Firth (a member) is the secretary of the new Edgware Branch of the British Legion. The members entertained a number of men from the Star and Garter Home on October 8. It was then that Dick Smart arranged a meeting between Patsy Edwards, v.c. and Bill Mealyer, these two served together in the Great War, were separated by wounds in 1916, and had not seen each other since (44 years ago). What a meeting for them. Unfortunately Patsy has lost the power of speech through a stroke, but he certainly showed in other ways that he recognised Bill Mealyer.

Ex-Bandmaster Trowt who was originally with the 2nd Battalion Band in the Channel Islands, has had a spell in hospital, where he was operated on for hernia. He is well again and will no doubt be with us next month.

Bob "Tug" Wilson is in hospital, having undergone a major operation. He has been visited by a representative of the Club to show he is not forgotten. Perhaps he will be remembered as being a useful chap behind the "stumps" at a cricket match. I am sure many 2nd Battalion members have watched him many times.

Hurry up and get well Tug, we are waiting to see you at the Club again.

OBITUARY

It is with deep sorrow I have to report the passing of Mr. Robert Henry Harman, M.B.E., who died suddenly at Margate on October 5, at the age of 75.

Robert Harman began his military career at the age of 13, when he joined the old Royal Garrison Artillery Volunteers. On the outbreak of the 1914-18 war he found himself in the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs, and subsequently as C.S.M. of "A" Company, 32nd

Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, under the command of Capt. Tomlinson.

He was gassed and severely wounded in Belgium in 1915 which left him practically disabled, so much in fact that he vowed to do all he could for ex-servicemen.

After hostilities he returned to his home town Margate where, with the help of other ex-servicemen, became a founder member of Margate British Legion Branch and eventually became its Chairman. For 20 years he was Chairman of the Isle of Thanet, Dover and District War Pensions Committee, for such work he was in 1951, made a life member of the British Legion and presented with the Gold Badge, the highest award the Legion can give, and in 1959 was awarded the M.B.E.

The funeral took place at Margate and wreaths were sent on behalf of the Regimental Association and "Die-Hards" Club, Mill Hill Branch, of which he was a member, and a letter of sympathy has been sent to Mrs. Harman.

Having had the privilege of knowing him, I can say he had a deep sense of duty to his country and loyalty to his fellow men, especially the disabled, which made him a most popular and respected man. Such qualities make "Die-Hards" of which Robert Harman was one. P.F.N.

NOTES FROM THE SCRAP-BOOK

First.—The first British Guard at Constantinople after the Armistice in 1918 was found by 3rd Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.

Last.—The last squad of recruits for the Middlesex Regiment to pass out at Inglis Barracks was Albuhera Squad under the command of 2/Lt. R. C. Pitman, on September 30, 1960. Future squads will be trained at Home Counties Brigade Depot at Canterbury.

Standing Orders, 77th Regiment, 1823

Section II, para. 26.—Every Officer, although not on duty, is expected to visit his company's rooms at least twice in the week, and the men of his company who are in hospital once; he must also visit the quarters of such of his men as are permitted to sleep out of barracks, at least once a week.

Routine Orders, 57th Regiment, December 6, 1823

At a Regimental Court Martial held by order of Lieut. Col. Carey, C.B., Commanding the 57 Regiment of Foot at Kinsale the 6th day of December 1823 and of which Captain Chambers was President was tried Pte. Thomas Pivatt of Captain Chambers Company upon the following Charges:

(Viz) For being absent from the Regiment without leave from 8 o'clock on the morning of the 4th Instant till 8 o'clock on the evening of the same day.

Upon which charge the Court came to the following decision.

The Court having taken into consideration the evidence laid before them in Support of the prosecution as also the prisoner's acknowledgement of the charge are of the opinion that the prisoner Thomas Pivatt is guilty and do therefore adjudge him to be placed in

Solitary Confinement for thirty-one days and to be subsisted upon bread and water during that time.

(SIGNED) COURTNEY CHAMBERS,
Captain 57th Regt. & President.

Which Sentence has been approved by the Commanding Officer.

DEAR PERCY,

I read your remarks in *The Die-Hards* on the guard provided for the Prince of Wales on his visit to Singapore in 1922, with great interest and considerable pleasure. Singapore was, in those days, a wonderful place for soldiering and sport. I was 17 and really enjoy life. Though I cannot tell you the names of those who formed the guard, I can throw an interesting sidelight on it. I was the bugler originally detailed for that guard.

The night before, March 31, the Regimental boxing team, of which I was a member, took on a team from H.M.S. *Renown*. By what was afterwards explained to me by the Boxing Officer, Lt. Bailey, as an "amazing oversight," I was matched with a man two weights above mine. Before getting in the ring I was assured that the weight shown in the programme (which I still possess) was a misprint. On getting into the ring I found it to be only too true. My opponent hit me with everything in sight and, or so it seemed to me, a number of things I didn't see. The next morning, sporting a black eye and a thick lip, I was ruled unfit for the Prince's guard. George Pocock, who was a very fine bugler, probably second only to the famous "Spud" Murphy, was detailed in my place. On the same night Pte. Myland, a tremendous hitter, fought a terrific fight with Marine Trinder which was talked about for years after. The second string middleweight, Myland was first, was none other than our old friend Sgt. "Townie" Hart! If my memory serves me correctly he won after a hard fight, collecting some "ring trophies" in the form of a beautiful eye which was duly commented upon by the Prince.

I am only sorry I do not live near enough to come and see you—I try to attend the reunion each year and will certainly do so next month.

Please give my kindest regards to all—the best of good wishes to yourself—I shall look forward to seeing you on October 28.

Sincerely yours,

CHARLES DONALDSON.

The Swan Inn,
Lampport, Northants.
September 27, 1960.

HORNSEY BRANCH O.C.A.

Most of us are looking forward to a very active season now the holidays are over, to renew acquaintances and revive a few memories. The next few months and well into the New Year will include many pleasant interesting events which are now being organised and hope you will be with us.

During the past months, in spite of the holiday season our attendances were fairly good, the darts and crib matches, in most of which we were successful, gave us great encouragement; our other social functions in-

cluded an invitation to the Sergeants' Mess where we all had a great time. Our friends the Royal Corps of Signals O.C.A. invited us to their socials, which we greatly enjoyed. A very successful dance run by the club was well attended and we are hoping for a repeat in the near future. Another of our specials was held on September 28. A chicken barbecue was organised and greatly enjoyed by the thirty members who were present; a vote of thanks to Mr. A. Sills was proposed for the evening's enjoyment.

The two next outstanding events are the Reunion at Seymour Hall, October 28, and also Remembrance Sunday parade. We hope to give a detailed report of these in the next issue of *The Die-Hards*.

Looking ahead to Easter 1961, we note some of our members have already booked up for another visit to France and Belgium. This pilgrimage is organised by the British Legion, Islington N. and W. Branch, at a very reasonable cost. One whole day will be spent at Ypres and wreaths will be laid at the Menin Gate memorial. The writer visited Ypres this August, and at the Menin Gate memorial the names of over 600 of the Middlesex Regiment of "not known" graves are on five panels; at Tyne Cot a similar number are shown. May I suggest we place a poppy wreath at the foot of the Middlesex Regiment's panels during our visit to these memorials.

On a closing note we would welcome to the branch ex-members of the Regiment, together with their wives, to our socials and meetings every Wednesday evening, where you will no doubt meet many old friends. To all members, past and present of the Middlesex Regiment, we wish you all a Happy Christmas.

R.H.F.

SECRETARY'S REPORT ON BENEVOLENT WORK

During the three months ended October 31, 42 grants have been made totalling £347 19s. 9d., and during this period several visits have been made direct to the Secretary's office by ex-members of the Regiment, and small grants have been made in three cases to help these men on their way—one to go to another area to take up work, and another to enable a man to return to his wife and children in Scotland; he had come South in an unsuccessful endeavour to find work.

An application was received from the Far East Prisoners of War Association in Manchester on behalf of a man who had had a lung removed and who had been unable to work for a long period. He had a wife and two small children to support. A grant of £20 os. od. was authorised in this case, and later a letter was received from F.E.P.O.W. Association telling us that as a result of the co-operation received from various funds, all debts had been cleared and the family had been given a fresh start and had been made very happy. Assistance was given to another ex-P.O.W. of the Far East, whose wife had a mental breakdown and had to enter hospital for treatment. Until arrangements could be made for the care of their baby of a few months, the man had to stay at home to care for it himself, and had consequently got into arrears with rent, etc. This man has been

helped from time to time as he has found it very difficult to settle down to a normal life since his return from captivity.

On the application of an Almoner of a Chest Clinic help was given in the cost of furnishing a home which had been allocated to a man and his wife, both of whom had been in-patients of the Clinic, the man for over a year. A grant was also made in another case where a man and his wife both suffered from T.B. and who were unable themselves to afford the extra nourishments they required.

A substantial grant was made in the case of an ex-W.O.2 of the Regiment who is unable to work regularly due to a severe form of neurosis. The 51st H.D. and our own fund co-operated in a grant to clear the debts of another ex-member of the Regiment who had been unable to work for four years due to illness and had a wife and three school children to support.

Grants were made to two tenants of the Enfield Memorial homes who due to the fact that they are incapacitated are unable to carry out their own interior decorations, and the grants were made to help them meet the extra costs so involved.

A wife, whose husband had been sentenced to prison and who was left with seven children to care for, was assisted to clear H.P. arrears and small debts so that her outgoings could be reduced and so enable her to manage on the small income she would receive through the National Assistance Board.

Several grants have been made to enable couples and widows living on pensions to purchase fuel at summer prices, and also to assist them in purchasing warm underclothing, etc., for the coming winter.

A grant of £20 was authorised towards nursing home expenses for a man who was critically ill. Both he and his wife had been in-patients of the home, both suffering from cancer, and their house had been mortgaged to meet the costs of the home, and on the death of the wife in April, a young daughter, their only child, was left with the full responsibility. As the man's expectancy of life was very short it was felt that he should not be removed from this nursing home, and the co-operation of various funds raised the substantial sum required. We have since been informed that the man has now died.

Arrears of rent were met in co-operation with other funds for a widow left with three small children. She wished to move to another area to cheaper accommodation, but until the arrears were cleared, negotiations for such a move could not be considered.

Grants were made in several cases for convalescent holidays, in co-operation with the British Legion, Forces Help Society, etc. One case was for a widow to be sent away, so that the daughter who cared for her could have a holiday, another was for a wife who is totally disabled to go away to a special home, and so enable the husband who had himself to care for her completely to have a well-earned rest himself. A holiday was arranged in a home for the paralysed for a man who has been very ill for a long time, and we co-operated in the cost of a holiday in a special home for a man of over 80 years of age who has both legs amputated above the knees and so needs special attention.

A grant was also made in the case of a man who, after a long period in hospital, has been admitted to a special rest home for the remainder of his life as he is unable to return to his previous lodgings due to his disability. His income from the Retirement Pension and the National Assistance Allowance is entirely swallowed up by the costs of the rest home, and small grants are being made from various associations from time to time to help him.

A substantial grant was made to an ex-Corporal of the Regiment, who found on discharge from hospital his small business left in the care of others had been allowed to run into debt, and the assistance was given to him to enable him to carry on and so straighten things out.

The British Legion asked us to co-operate, and we agreed, in the cost of repairing the hot water system in the home of an ex-member of the Regiment, who was only in receipt of the Retirement pension for himself and his wife. The work was being done at a very low cost by a member of the Legion.

As usual various grants have been made for arrears of rent and H.P. payments, clothing for children and help towards household accounts in cases where men have been ill and unable to work, unemployed, etc., or for widows living on small pensions.

ENGAGEMENTS

BAKER—JONES.—The engagement is announced between Lionel Francis, eldest son of Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and Mrs. Baker, of Stanbridge House, Oakfield Corner, Amersham, Bucks., and Doris Whipple, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. St. Clair Jones, of 5500 Burling Court, Bethesda, Maryland, U.S.A.

HARDCASTLE—PINKER.—The engagement is announced between Antony Hardcastle, of 6 Osten Mews, London, S.W.7, only son of Mr. H. Kenyon Hardcastle and Mrs. M. M. H. Booker, and Mary-Ann, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Pinker, of Bernersmede Cottage, Gaudick Road, Eastbourne, Sussex.

BIRTHS

WAITE.—On October 12, at B.M.H., Rinteln, to Jane (née Barber) and Lt. Michael Waite, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), a son (Grahame David).

DEATHS

BARNES.—Ex-Cpl. A. W. Barnes died on September 11 at the age of 51. He served throughout the war with our Regiment. An N.C.O. from the Depot attended the cremation at Ruslip on behalf of the Association.

BOOTH.—On September 14, suddenly, at the Red Cross Convalescent Hospital for Officers, Brighton, Capt. Fredk. C. Booth, V.C., D.C.M., who served with our Regiment and also the British South Africa Police. Capt. Booth was aged 70.

HARMAN.—Robert Henry Harman, who served with our Regiment in the First World War, died suddenly at his home in Margate on September 28.

TAYLOR.—It is with deep regret that we announce the death on October 29 of Mr. J. K. Taylor, who had been for some years the very active Secretary of the 9th Battalion Branch of the Association.

DODGE.—Lt.-Col. J. B. Dodge, D.S.O., D.S.C., M.C., died suddenly on November 2. The funeral was private and we were not therefore represented, but a letter of condolence has been sent to the widow.

LIEUT.-COL. J. B. DODGE

Determined Escaper

Extract from *The Times*, November 11, 1960.

Group Capt. H. M. A. Day writes: It was typical of "Johnnie" Dodge that he, an Army officer, should have been sent to an air force prisoner-of-war camp. At St. Valery he swam out to bring in some ships to take off the survivors of the 51st Division, but, before he could reach them, the ships moved off and he eventually landed, naked, about seven miles down the French coast where he was taken prisoner. A few days later, with many others, he was herded into a barge and towed up the Scheldt. On the way he tried to stir up a mutiny to take the vessel over—it was probably lucky for him it failed. Undefeated, he dived over the side in the face of the armed guards and made his getaway in the swiftly flowing waters. With great difficulty he gained the Dutch shore only to be handed over by the frightened local inhabitants to a German air force officer who passed him on to a Luftwaffe prisoner-of-war camp. He was one of those who took part in the great escape from Sagan in March, 1944, when 50 officers were shot after being recaptured. Dodge himself was imprisoned in an S.S. concentration camp from which he also escaped and this time narrowly missed execution. In the last month of the war, when conditions in Germany became chaotic, he found his unconventional way to Switzerland.

Johnnie was 46 years old when he was captured and until the end of the war only one Air Force prisoner-of-war was older. The average age was in the early twenties. In this youthful and ebullient company Johnnie was a tower of strength. On one side he identified himself with all escaping activities and did most daring things—such as jumping out of a fast-moving train in broad daylight in view of a lot of trigger-happy guards. On the other he used his great gifts of a powerful personality, charm of manner, charitableness, and kindness to bring to those around him a balanced way of thought and action.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lavender Cottage,
Hermanus,
Cape Province.
October 2, 1960.

SIR,

I enclose three photos which may be of interest to your readers.

They are photos taken by me with a vest pocket Kodak. I was commanding No. 16 Platoon in "D" Company of the 3rd Battalion The Middlesex Regiment. The C.O. was Col. Stephenson and my Company Com-



mander Capt. R. H. Brodie. These snapshots were taken near Zonnebeke on April 15, 1915. The ground was very low-lying and wet so instead of trenches we had ramparts of sand-bags.

On our relief we returned to billets at St. Jean, which was quite undamaged.

On Thursday, April 22, the Battalion paraded on the main road at dusk to return to Zonnebeke to relieve the 2nd Battalion East Surrey Regiment.

O'Reilly, an officer in another company, and I were chatting whilst the men were falling in. He remarked to me that the French must have had considerable casualties as they had been using a lot of chlorate of lime and could not smell it. There was a lot of shell fire—though not in St. Jean—and Ypres was on fire. A staff officer arrived with orders and the relief was cancelled. This was the opening of the first gas attack.

Yours, etc.,
S. F. W. M. DEL COURT.

35 Woodcock Dell Avenue,
Kenton, Middx.

November 2, 1960.

MAJOR CLARK,

It is with regret that I have to report the death of one of our Old Comrades of the Middlesex Regiment, 9th Battalion Branch, Honeyput Lane. Mr. J. Taylor, who served with the 9th Battalion in the First World War saw service in India and Mesopotamia. After hostilities ceased he became a member of the O.C.A., serving on the committee, finally becoming joint Secretary with Mr. Fisher. The service was held at the Golders Green Crematorium, attended by many members of his family. Sgt. Blackwell represented the Middlesex Regiment, Major H. Sherwood represented the Middlesex O.C.A., also as President of the 9th

Battalion Branch. Other O.C.A. members present were: Major K. Hardcastle, Mr. Fisher (Sec.), Mr. T. Bennett (Treasurer), Mr. Cooper and Mr. Fitzgerald (Committee).

It is placed on record that he will be missed, having at all times given much of his spare time to the encouragement of O.C.A.

Membership of the Branch all wish him peace in the most high.

Yours truly,
W. D. FITZGERALD.

MR. R. H. HARMAN, M.B.E.

Extract from "Isle of Thanet Gazette," dated 30/9/60

A man who last year was awarded the M.B.E. for his work for disabled ex-service men and women died suddenly on Wednesday.

He was Mr. Robert Henry Harman, aged 75, of 35 Tivoli Road, Margate, a founder member of Margate branch of the British Legion and Margate United Services Club.

Holder of the coveted gold badge of the British Legion, Mr. Harman was chairman of the Isle of Thanet, Dover and District War Pensions Committee—a post he held for more than 20 years.

Before the first world war he worked at Margate gas works and was a member of the old Royal Garrison Artillery Volunteers, which he joined when he was 13.

During the war he served with the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs, and subsequently the Middlesex Regiment. He was wounded in Belgium in 1915 and was a gassing victim. He came out of the service with the rank of C.S.M.

His war wounds left him disabled and he vowed to do all he could for the ex-serviceman.

After hostilities Mr. Harman returned to Margate, the town in which he was born, and, with other ex-servicemen, became a founder member of Margate British Legion branch and the United Services Club.

Mr. Harman was a former chairman of Margate branch of the British Legion and was one time president of Margate branch of the Royal Artillery Association.

For a number of years he was chairman of Margate branch of the Past and Present Association of the Buffs and was a life-long member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

His trojan work for the disabled began after the first war, when he joined the Discharged Soldiers' and Sailors' Federation.

In December 1921 he was appointed to the Amalgamated Organisation of Ex-Servicemen's War Pensions Committees, and in 1922 he began his long service with the local district committee of this work.

For a number of years Mr. Harman was pensions adviser to Margate British Legion branch until he had to give up owing to ill-health in 1953.

In 1951 he was made a life member of the legion, and the gold badge, the highest award the legion can give, was presented to him in 1953.

Mr. Harman was an inspector with the East Kent Road Car Company for 27 years before retiring 12 years ago.

On October 7, he and his wife would have celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary.

His widow told an *Isle of Thanet Gazette* reporter yesterday (Thursday): "The house was always open for him to give advice to anybody. No end of fellows were put right on their pensions problems."

Mr. Harman also leaves one son and three daughters. A service will take place at Margate Parish Church on Monday. This will be followed by burial at Margate Cemetery.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT OFFICERS' CLUB HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1960, at 4.10 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. S. F. Hedgecoe, Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, T.D., Major R. D. Hutchings, Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., 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. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D.

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.

The Secretary was instructed to send out a circular letter to all members drawing their attention to the general lack of response from members to functions arranged, and in particular for the last Cocktail Party to be held at Mill Hill and the Autumn Golf Meeting. The letter should call for suggestions and observations which might assist the Committee in meeting the wishes of members.

3. *Journal.* After a short discussion the Committee approved of a grant of £50 towards the cost of production of the Journal for 1961.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.40 p.m.

November 15, 1960.

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

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 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. S. F. Hedgecoe, Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, T.D., Major R. D. Hutchings, Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major E. L. Heywood, Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E., Mr. R. Ferguson, Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary). Apologies were received from: Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., R.S.M. S. Bartle, R.S.M. J. A. Thom, C.S.M. C. Burgess.

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

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

3. *Finance Committee's Report.* The Chairman reported that the Finance Committee met on October 10 and examined the cash statements. The Committee decided that the liquid position was satisfactory and that there was no cause to disturb the investments.

They recommend that the following grants to other Associations be made for 1960:—

	£	s.	d.
Regular Forces Employment Association	25	0	0
Family Welfare Association	5	0	0
Royal Soldiers' Daughters' Homes	8	8	0
S.S.A.F.A.	10	10	0
Forces' Help Society	10	10	0
Gordon Boys' School	5	0	0
B.L.E.S.M.A.	5	0	0
Royal Cambridge Homes for Soldiers' Widows	5	0	0
Embankment Fellowship Society	5	0	0
Total	80	3	0

In addition the Finance Committee also recommended a grant of £15 15s. to the Middlesex County Branch of S.S.A.F.A. in response to their Jubilee Appeal.

It was proposed by Lt.-Col. Roberts, seconded by Col. Browne and approved by the Committee, that the Finance Committee's report be adopted.

4. *The Regimental Memorial Homes.* Brigadier Rackham submitted the following report of the Regimental Homes Committee:—

- The Homes at Enfield previously occupied by Mr. Kendall and Mrs. Govey have now been vacated and have been re-allocated to Mr. Hurlock and Mr. Stokes.
- It was found that the interior decoration of these two houses on vacation was in a bad state and redecoration was in hand at an approximate cost of £200 per home.
- The waiting list was in process of revision and O.C. Depot would arrange for further publicity with a view to obtaining the names of the most deserving cases in the Regiment.
- O.C. Depot had arranged for suitable signs to be put up at the entrance to Albuhera Close forbidding parking in the Close.

The Chairman stated that he had at last received information from the Ministry of Health that a firm decision on the future use of the land at the end of Albuhera Close on which it is intended to build the single units could be expected at the end of October. In the meantime no action would be taken on an alternative suggestion that efforts be made to obtain land in the Mill Hill area.

The Committee adopted the report and it was decided that in order to avoid excessive expenditure on interior decoration in future, each cottage should be inspected annually and a report on its condition should be submitted to the Committee.

It was decided that as soon as the site for the new flatlets was declared available the Memorial Homes Committee should ask the Architect to obtain prices based on the existing specifications and working drawings, and ascertain from the Enfield County Council to what extent they would advance money on loan and whether we should be eligible for a Housing Grant. The Chairman should then be consulted in the matter of calling a special meeting of the Executive Committee.

5. *The Regimental Journal.* O.C. Depot stated that it was the wish of the Colonel of the Regiment that further steps should be taken to reduce the deficit on the sales of the Journal. His proposal was:

- The Journal should be published half-yearly.
- The cost should be increased to 2s. 6d. per copy.
- Officers should be invited to contribute an additional 5s. per year, making 10s. in all.
- Contributing Units should pay £5 per annum for a specified number of pages and on a *pro rata* basis for any additional pages required.

After discussion it was agreed that:

- The Journal should be published half-yearly, in April and October.
- The cost could be increased to 2s. 6d. per copy.
- In view of the decreased expenditure in the Officers' Club due to the cancellation of Cricket Week, that the Club should be approached with a view to contributing towards the cost of production.

It was not agreed that:

- Individual Officers should be invited to contribute an additional 5s. per year.
- Contributing Units should pay for space used.
- But it was further agreed that:
- Units wishing to publish more pictures should pay for the cost of the block; and
- The Association should continue to subsidise the Journal for a further period of three years, and that the position should then be reviewed.

6. *Memorial Tablet*—St. Paul's Church, Mill Hill. The Committee considered an estimate from Messrs. Kelly & Co. for renovating the Brass Memorial Tablet to incorporate 1939-45 War and Korea 1950-51, and it was approved that their estimate of £26 16s. 6d. be accepted, subject to a comma being added after 1914-18 and before 1939-45.

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

NOT ON THE REGIMENTAL LIST

Rank	Name	Appointment and Location
Maj.-Gen.	G. P. L. Weston, C.B.E., D.S.O.	Director Land Air Warfare, The War Office
Col.	A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E.	Commander, 4 (Scottish) Port Task Force (T.A.), Glasgow
T/Brig.	J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E.	Commander, 168 Brigade (T.A.)
T/Brig.	C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C., M.A.	Commander, 125 Infantry Brigade (T.A.)
T/Col.	J. W. G. Ormiston	Colonel, G.S., H.Q., A.F.C.E.
Lt.-Col.	A. G. Hewitt, M.B.E., M.C.	A.Q.M.G., H.Q. 42, Infantry Division (T.A.)
T/Col.	W. P. M. Allen, O.B.E., M.C.	A.A.G., Recruiting H.Q., Western Command
Lt.-Col.	D. C. L. Nolda, O.B.E., B.A.	G.S.O.1 (Trg.), Western Command
Lt.-Col.	A. R. Waller, M.B.E., M.C.	A.Q.M.G. (M.), H.Q., B.A.O.R.
Lt.-Col. (T/Col.)	I. R. Burrows, O.B.E., M.A.	Military Attaché, Moscow

REGULAR OFFICERS

Lt.-Col.	I. H. Battye, M.B.E., B.A.	Commander, 1st Middlesex
Major	G. C. Dawson	2IC Admin. Wing, Mons O.C.S.
Major	F. J. Bennett	D.A.A.Q.M.G., H.Q., Cheshire Area
Major	E. F. Thompson, M.C., T.D.	G.S.O.2, H.Q. Northern Ireland District
Major	P. L. Crutchfield	D.A.Q.M.G. (Works), East Anglian District
Major	P. L. Pearce Gould, M.B.E., M.A.	2IC, 1st Middlesex
Major	R. D. Hutchings	Commander, Depot Middlesex
Lt.-Col.	D. Sax	Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham
Major	C. N. Clayden	1st Middlesex
Major	E. A. H. Jeffcoat	D.A.Q.M.G. (Q.T.R.), H.Q. Land Forces, Hong Kong
Major	P. W. Galvin	B.M., 160 Infantry Brigade (T.A.)
Major	J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.	1st Middlesex
Major	C. H. Mievill, M.C.	Army Outward Bound School
Major	P. G. V. Bellers	1st Middlesex
Major	J. de Gaye	1st Middlesex
Major	K. J. Carter	G.S.O.2 (Strategic Reserve), Southern Command
T/Major	B. A. M. Pielow	G.S.O.2 (I.S.), H.Q., B.F.A.P.
Capt.	J. S. C. Flavell	O.C. Training Company, Depot Middlesex
Capt.	H. J. A. Moore	Adjutant, 23rd London Regiment (T.A.)
Capt.	J. I. D. Pike, M.C.	1st Middlesex
Capt.	R. M. Cain, B.A.	Adjutant, Hong Kong Regiment
Capt.	G. G. Norton	Q.O., Nigeria Regiment
Capt.	B. K. Clayden	Adjutant, 7th Middlesex
Capt.	B. H. Marciandi	Staff College, Camberley
Capt.	C. L. Lawrence, M.C.	Adjutant, Home Counties Brigade Depot
Capt.	P. A. S. Wollocombe	Staff Captain (Q.), H.Q., B.F.A.P.
Capt.	I. S. Rutherford	1st Middlesex
Capt.	G. Kitchener	1st Middlesex

7. *Report of Branches Committee.* The strength of the Enfield Branch is now 52, which is most encouraging bearing in mind how recently it was formed under the able guidance of Major A. T. Jones, M.B.E., T.D.

The Committee Chairman was unable to report any actual progress on the formation of a branch at Hounslow. Major L. Honeybun had agreed to find out reactions to the idea from ex-members of the Regiment resident in the area, and it is hoped that he will be able to report on this very shortly.

The Committee Chairman asked whether he could be authorised to proceed with the formation of a new branch at Hounslow on the same basis as at Enfield if the report was favourable.

This would mean that the formation of the branch need not be delayed until after the next Executive Committee Meeting to be held in March, 1961.

This proposal was agreed.

8. *Other Business.* There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.10 p.m.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, March 16, 1961.

A. W. CLARK, Major,
Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association.
November 15, 1960

Rank	Name	Appointment and Location
Capt.	J. S. B. Pollard	Adjutant, 1st Middlesex
Capt.	R. D. Fisher	Depot Middlesex (H.S.) to 1st Middlesex, March 1961
Capt.	M. V. Hayward	Instructor, R.M.A., Sandhurst
Capt.	A. E. McManus	1st Middlesex
Capt.	J. M. Hewson, M.C.	Airborne Forces Depot
Capt.	I. M. E. Lloyd	1st Middlesex
Capt.	W. G. A. Crumley	Adjutant, Depot Middlesex
Lt.	H. M. du V. Lohan	1st Middlesex
T/Capt.	M. C. D. L. Gilham	Adjutant, 8th Middlesex
Lt.	P. Mallalieu	1st Middlesex
Lt.	M. G. Waite	1st Middlesex
Lt.	M. F. Deakin	Home Counties Brigade Depot
Lt.	P. V. Cheesman	1st Middlesex
Lt.	M. Legg	1st Middlesex
Lt.	P. D. J. Clarke	Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion
Lt.	M. Julian	1st Middlesex
Lt.	G. Bulloch	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	A. B. Cowing	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	G. Goring	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	R. C. Pitman	Depot Middlesex
2/Lt.	J. Lofting	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	P. Monypenny	1st Middlesex

REGULAR QUARTERMASTERS

Capt.	S. C. W. Weller, M.M.	Depot Middlesex
Capt.	A. E. F. Waldron, M.B.E.	1st Middlesex
Capt.	P. Donovan	1st Middlesex
Capt.	F. L. Griffiths	8th Middlesex

SHORT-SERVICE OFFICERS

Major	L. G. Lohan, T.D.	Ministry of Defence
Major	H. E. Peasley	Adjutant, Home Postal Depot, R.E.
Major	G. W. P. Hodding, T.D.	S.O.P.T., Aldershot District
Major	C. E. Rome, M.B.E.	G.S.O.2, Ministry of Supply
Major	E. L. Ellisdon	War Office
Capt.	A. R. Cowan	1st Middlesex
Capt.	A. R. F. Smith	S.O.P.T., H.Q. Aden Protectorate Levies
Lt.	M. H. Rose	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	P. M. Dubbery	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	D. M. Everard	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	G. N. Freeborn	Depot Middlesex
2/Lt.	G. R. Dudson	1st Middlesex

SHORT-SERVICE QUARTERMASTERS

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

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICERS

2/Lt.	E. J. Rayner	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	N. J. Chandler	West India Regiment
2/Lt.	G. B. Johnson	5th Q.O.N.R.
2/Lt.	B. M. O'Regan	1st Middlesex
2/Lt.	P. B. Armitage	K.A.R.
2/Lt.	C. M. Bateman	Q.O.N.R.
2/Lt.	M. N. Collins	Ghana Regiment
2/Lt.	J. A. Cockburn	Ghana Regiment
2/Lt.	R. K. W. Thomas	Q.O.N.R.

RECENT RETIREMENTS

Brigadier R. A. Gwyn, O.B.E. Major C. A. Trestain, M.B.E.

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