

# The Die Hards

## THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)

VOL. XIV No. 7

MARCH 1961

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### THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN)

(57th and 77th)

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

"Mysore," "Serinapatam," "Alubhera," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nive," "Peninsula," "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa 1900-02."

World War I—46 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "La Bassée, 1914," "Messines, 1914," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "17, 18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Bellevue," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme," 1916, "18," "Albert, 1916," "18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozieres," "Ginchy," "Flers-Courcelette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "18," "Bapaume, 1917," "18," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "18," "Arleux," "Pileckem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "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," "Suvla," "Landing at Suvla," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell Asur," "Palestine 1917-18," "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murmur, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

World War II—7 Battalions—North-West Europe, 1940: "The Dyle," "Defence of the Escaut," "Ypres-Comines Canal," "Dunkirk, 1940," "South-East Asia, 1941: "Hong Kong, 1941-43," "El Alamein," "Advance on Tripoli," "Mareth," "Akari," "Djebel Rounana," "Sietly, 1943," "Francofonte," "Sferro," "Sferro Hills," "Italy, 1944-45," "Anzio," "Caracoto," "Gothic Line," "Monte Grande," "North-West Europe, 1944-45: "Normandy Landing," "Cambes," "Breville," "The Odon," "Caen," "The Orne," "Hill 112," "Bourgeois Ridge," "Troarn," "Mont Pincon," "Falaise," "The Seine, 1944," "The Nederrijn," "Le Havre," "The Lower Maas," "Venrai," "Meijel," "Gießenkirchen," "Venlo Pocket," "The Rhineland," "Goch," "The Reichswald," "The Rhine," "Lingen," "Brinkum," "Bremen."

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

#### Colonel of the Regiment

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

#### Commanding Officers

1st Bn.—Lt.-Col. I. H. Battye, M.B.E.

5th Bn.—Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton

Regimental Headquarters—Col. F. Walden, R.O.II.  
Major E. L. Heywood, R.O.III.

#### Home Counties Brigade

H.Q.: Wevms Barracks, Canterbury.

Brigade Colonel: Col. M. T. N. Jennings.

D.A.A.G.: Major R. G. Snowden, T.D.

#### Regular Battalion

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

#### Regimental Headquarters and Regimental Museum

T. A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

#### Territorial Army Units

5th Bn. Edgware, Middlesex.

#### Record and Pay Offices

Record Office—Infantry Regiment, Exeter.

Regimental Pay Office—Canterbury.

#### Allied Units

##### CANADA

31st Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, Ontario.

21st Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery.

50th H.A.A. Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery.

102nd (Wentworth) Field Artillery, Royal Canadian Artillery.

The Royal Rifles of Canada.

##### NEW ZEALAND

The Wellington Coast and Taranaki Regiment, Tokau, Taranaki,

New Zealand.

##### HONG KONG REGIMENT

British Forces Post Office, 1, Hong Kong.

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

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T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

Chairman: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L.

Secretary: Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E.

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Major R. E. Robotham, M.C., 39 Cyprus Avenue, Church End, Finchley, N.3.

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

Mr. H. J. Fisher, 180 Purves Road, Kensal Rise, N.W.10.

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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.), T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex. cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, and crossed "£ Co." Annual subscription 5s. (post free).

Articles, news items, etc., are welcomed from readers; however, the Editor necessarily reserves the right of publication. Such contributions to the Journal should be addressed to the Editor, as above.



## CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Editor's Comments .. .. .	300	Hong Kong Regiment Notes .. .. .	337
Minutes of Annual General Meeting .. .. .	301	Old Comrades' News .. .. .	338
1st Battalion Notes .. .. .	302	Secretary's Report .. .. .	340
Depot Notes .. .. .	327	H.C.B. News Letter No. 8 .. .. .	341
7th Battalion Notes .. .. .	330	Obituary .. .. .	344
8th Battalion Notes .. .. .	335	W.O.s' and Sergeants' Roll .. .. .	345

## Editor's Comments

## Reorganisation of the T.A.

Sad to relate, our forecast in the last issue on the reorganisation of the T.A., as it affects the Regiment, has proved to be correct. The 7th, 8th and 9th Battalions are now to be amalgamated to form our only T.A. Battalion, which, we gather unofficially, will be designated the 5th Battalion. However, we are sure that the great traditions of those three battalions will not disappear with this amalgamation but, instead, be united and become even stronger. Our best wishes go to all ranks of our new T.A. Battalion.

## Lord Lieutenancy

A recent change in the Lord Lieutenancy of the County has come about with the resignation of that true and generous friend of the Regiment, Sir Frederick Handley-Page. During his four years in office Sir Frederick has always shown a keen interest in Regimental affairs, and he will be sadly missed. In his place we welcome General Sir John Crocker, who was originally commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment before transferring to the Royal Tank Regiment. We wish him every success in his new appointment.

## The Future C.I.G.S.

The announcement that General Sir Richard Hull is to be the next C.I.G.S. is a welcome one indeed, as, though it may not be generally known to readers, he has a direct connection with the Regiment through his father, Maj.-Gen. Sir Aymatt Hull, who commanded our 4th Battalion at Mons.

## Television Personalities

The abilities of General Sir Brian Horrocks in television technique are fully recognised and widely acclaimed. We now report, however, the appearance on the "small screen" of two other products of the Regiment in the persons of Brigadier Basil Rackham and Major Henry Marsh, who were both featured

recently in the series "This Is Your life," albeit in minor roles. We only wish that when members of the Regiment were appearing on television they could find an opportunity to mention the Middlesex Regiment—just the name—as, indirectly, it would undoubtedly prove a most valuable aid to recruiting.

## Major I. D. S. Gordon

We were very sorry to hear of the sudden death on December 26, 1960, of Major Ian Gordon, who was a well-known and likeable personality of both the 1st and 2nd Battalions during the pre-World War II era. The son of a distinguished soldier, Maj.-Gen. Frederick Gordon, Ian will be remembered as being a most meticulous officer. He was a former Adjutant of the Depot and, later, the 2nd Battalion. A personal tribute from his old friend, Col. Mervyn Crawford, appears elsewhere in this issue.

## Honours and Awards

We offer our congratulations to Maj.-Gen. Dick Batten on his award of the C.B. in the New Year's Honours. General Dick has recently been appointed Chief of Staff, H.Q. B.A.O.R.

## Vale

This is the last time that your present Editor will be writing these brief notes, as he is soon to retire to the depths of Cornwall, where he will find it difficult to keep in touch with current Regimental affairs. He hands over to the newly-formed Regimental H.Q. with much regret and in the hope that his efforts to improve the Journal have not been in vain.

## Regimental Headquarters—Edgware

At the time of writing, the position regarding the Regimental Depot and Regimental Headquarters is as follows.

War Office approval for Regimental Headquarters to

be established in the T.A. Centre, Deansbrooke Road, Edgware, was finally given on January 23.

This leaves very little time to make all necessary arrangements for the move and it is unlikely that R.H.Q. will be established in its new location until mid-February.

The personalities of the Headquarters will be as follows:

R.O.2: Col. F. Walden.  
R.O.3: Major E. L. Heywood.  
Clerical Officer: HQ. Bethell  
Museum Curator: Major Dick Smith.  
Typist: Mrs. Pat Newman.  
Asst. Sec. Regimental Association: Mrs. P. Brooks.

In addition, Major "Nobby" Clark will continue in office as Secretary for the Association until June, when he will depart into well-earned retirement. Col. Walden will then combine his Regimental Headquarters duties with those of the secretaryship of the Association and the Officers' Club.

The decision to locate the Regimental Headquarters with the 5th Battalion is undoubtedly a sound one in the long term, but, and especially to older members of the Regiment, it is sad indeed to know that the Regimental flag has been hauled down for the last time at Mill Hill.

Finally, all members of the Regiment will, we know, be glad to hear that Col. Maurice Browne will be retaining his office at Mill Hill, and that the Royal Engineers will look after his welfare when the H.Q. has moved.

## 5th BATTALION—

Company Commander	Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton
Admin. Officer	Major D. L. James, T.D.
Training Major	Capt. B. K. Clayden
Adjutant	Capt. M. C. D. L. Gilham
I.O.	Capt. J. K. E. Slack
Q.M.	Capt. (Q.M.) F. L. Griffiths
O.C. "H.Q." Company	Major P. Davidson
M.T.O.	Capt. de Lobb
Signals Officer	Capt. S. le M. Enthoven
O.C. "A" Company	Major R. J. Leighton
O.C. "B" Company	Major C. W. Davies
O.C. "C" Company	Major J. D. Gunnell
O.C. "D" Company	Major P. Hall

The 5th Battalion the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) T.A. is to be formed by the amalgamation of the following units:

7th Battalion the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) T.A.  
8th Battalion the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) T.A.  
571 L.A.A. Regiment R.A. (9th Middlesex) T.A.

Although three old and famous Territorial Units are losing their identity, it is with great relief and pleasure that we record that not only will they be able to continue soldiering in the same area, but that they will also continue as members of the Middlesex Regiment. The new Battalion to be formed will take the best traditions and leaders of all three units and weld them into a Middlesex Battalion which will be unexcelled.

## CORRESPONDENCE

"Dalgona,"  
Dunscore,  
Dumfriesshire.

THE EDITOR,  
*The Die-Hards*.

## A Photogenic Regiment

SIR,

When switching on my T.V. set, I have recently had the unparalleled pleasure of viewing the faces of no less than four of my brother officers.

Major Henry Marsh and Brigadier Basil Rackham have both stolen Eamon Andrews' thunder in "This is Your Life." Lt.-Col. Denzil Cubitt's performance in Dr. Bronowski's "Insight" must have given the latter much food for thought, and thrombosis. Whilst Black Rod gives us each month the most enthralling history lesson.

Surely it must be a record that four such distinguished personalities, who all served together between the wars, should have been chosen, from one Regiment, to appear on the B.B.C.'s silver screen. Sir William Inglis could no longer refer to his "ugly steelbacks".

I am,

Yours sincerely,

MERVYN CRAWFORD.

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE SEYMOUR HALL, SEYMOUR PLACE, LONDON, W.1, ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1960, at 7 p.m.

Present: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L. (Chairman), Brigadier J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E. (Colonel of the Regiment), Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton, Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Capt. S. R. Bonnamy, Mr. R. Ferguson, Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., R.S.M. S. Bartle, Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Major R. D. Hutchings, Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E., and eight additional members. Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

1. *Election of Branch Representatives to the Executive Committee of the Regimental Association.* The Chairman informed the meeting that nominations for Branch Representatives had been received from:

Mill Hill Branch	Major Newman and Major Smith
Hornsey Branch	Mr. Sills and Mr. Ferguson
Uxbridge (8th) Branch	Nil
Ealing (8th) Branch	Nil
Enfield Branch	Mr. J. Trunley and Mr. L. R. Read
9th Battalion Branch	Nil
12th Home Guard Battalion	Nil

Mr. Trunley of the Enfield Branch and Major Newman of the Mill Hill Branch were unanimously elected representatives for the ensuing year.

A vote of thanks was recorded to Major Smith and Mr. Ferguson, the retiring branch representatives.

2. *Minutes of the Last Meeting.* The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read by the Secretary and confirmed.

3. *Accounts.* The audited accounts for the year ending December 31, 1959, which had been circulated to branches prior to the meeting, and published in the *Die-Hards* journal were received and adopted. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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

Inglis Barracks,  
Mill Hill, N.W.7.  
November 30, 1960.



# 1st Battalion Notes

## EDITORIAL

It is with deep regret we announce that L/Cpl. Alan Wilkinson, late of "B" Company, died as a result of injuries received in a traffic accident on December 15 at Horn, near Paderborn.

This is the Battalion's second year in Hameln. We hope that we shall be able to finish our tour in this Weser town, where we have made many, and I am sure lasting, friends.

In our last notes we considered that the months of July to October were perhaps a little quiet. The training season ended with exercise "Holdfast," and it is assumed that a period of free-wheeling will naturally follow until we start the New Year. Let me dispel this idea immediately.

Being very military minded, I suppose we must take events in their logical sequence (this has been done for years).

I think the Commanding Officer can be well pleased with his Battalion as a result of the administrative inspection. The great day fell on November 2 and took the form of a parade and inspection by Maj.-Gen. E. A. W. Williams, C.B.E., M.C., and an inspection by one of his staff officers on the "Q" Side.

Six companies were drawn up on parade. The day was blustery with wind squalls up to 30 knots. These conditions proved very trying, particularly to the Colour Party. The officers commanding the companies and the Colour Party were as follows:

No. 1 Company	Major J. DeGaye
No. 2 Company	Capt. A. E. McManus
No. 3 Company	Major P. G. V. Bellers
No. 4 Company	Major J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.
No. 5 Company	Capt. J. I. D. Pike, M.C.
No. 6 Company	Capt. R. J. Durnell
Colour Party	Lt. M. D. Legg
	2/Lt. J. G. Lofting
	C.S.M. S. Michel
	C/Sgt. D. Walters
	C/Sgt. G. Simmons

The General arrived a minute early, and was held up by the Colours marching on parade. He inspected the main quarter guard commanded by Sgt. Scott of "B" Company.

He then proceeded to the saluting dais. His inspection was the longest I have witnessed, and by all accounts was extremely thorough, it lasted for about 50 minutes during which time the men were very steady. The march past in slow and quick time was good. The report, as a result of this and previous inspections of arms and vehicles, was as follows:

## 1. General

Due to the standard achieved by the Battalion at last year's inspection, this year's was limited to a ceremonial parade and visits to various companies and departments by myself. At the same time the Battalion's administrative arrangements were inspected by staff officers.

## 2. Ceremonial Parade

This was excellent and the steadiness and bearing of the troops on a not very pleasant morning was of a very high standard.

## 3. Administration

The Battalion's administration has remained very good. Vehicle maintenance has improved steadily and is now good.

## 4. Morale

I talked to a number of soldiers who spoke up confidently. Enthusiasm was very noticeable in all activities which I saw.

## 5. Conclusion

A first-class unit. I congratulate the Commanding Officer and all ranks on achieving a high standard.

Immediately following the administrative inspection the emphasis was focused on sport. "A" Company won the novices' boxing and "A" and "B" Companies shared the honours in the hockey. Congratulations to "B" Company on winning the Albuhera Shield by a clear 13 points from "A" Company. "B" Company won all the major events except one in which they were runners-up.

The Battalion rugby XV, which we had hoped would do quite well this year, failed to produce their best form and were knocked out of the Army Cup.

The team did not lack spirit, but there was a lack of skill in most departments. It was unfortunate that the Padre's known ability was rarely given a chance, as he was forced to play stand-off half and was usually behind a losing pack.

As regards football, we recall this Regiment in the 1930's, in the era of the Delaney's, Deans (Dixie), and even in 1945-46 with Phipps and Mason, when the Regimental XI was always a formidable force. These were the days when the Q.M. usually ran the coaching. NOT since those days has the XI risen to any great heights. The same doleful story is true of this season. This, the soldier's game, has failed to provide a fighting side, and unfortunately we were soon eliminated from the Army Cup. But, in spite of this, I feel we can congratulate our great friends, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who, I am pleased to say, have every chance of finishing at the top. They have a very spirited and talented side.



G.O.C. 2 Division visits W.W.T.C. Winterberg. Major-General E. A. W. Williams, C.B.E., M.C., Major C. N. Clayden, Capt. A. E. McManus

The hockey XI has beaten its old rival—the 1st S.W.B.—again in the Army Cup, and we look forward with interest to our next match on February 5 against the 1st Camerons. The team is capable of playing some excellent hockey, but lacking a certain ability to shoot hard and fast, and the technique to score from corners.

The Remembrance service this year was held in the gymnasium on November 13. Padre Crawte officiated. The lesson was read by Major P. L. Pearce Gould in the absence of the Commanding Officer. This was a combined service with the Sappers and R.A.S.C., and the Band was in attendance.

Brigadier J. A. T. Sharpe, M.C., late Commanding Officer of 1st R.H.A. and the new 11th Infantry Brigade commander, visited the Battalion on November 18. He visited the Company in the morning, and before lunch spent an hour with the W.O.s and Sergeants. He lunched in the Officers' Mess.

Brigadier Sharp was commissioned into the Royal Regiment of Artillery in August, 1939. He went to France soon after the outbreak of war, fighting there until Dunkirk. He fought throughout the Western Desert campaign with 9th R.H.A., twice winning the M.C. In 1944 he attended the Staff College at Quetta. When the war ended he returned to 4th R.H.A. and then joined R.M.A. Sandhurst as one of the first instructors when it re-opened. In 1952 he attended a Joint Services Staff Course in America and since then served

in 2nd R.H.A., the War Office, and as M.A. to the C.-in-C. F.A.R.E.I.F. and the Adjutant-General.

In March, 1959 he took over command of 1st R.H.A. He is a very keen sportsman and has played hockey for the Army, captained the Gunners at cricket and played for Leicestershire.

On November 23 we entertained to dinner H.R.H. the Prince of Hannover who is related to our own Royal Family. At the same time we dined-out Major P. L. Pearce Gould who has relinquished his appointment as 2IC to go to the West Indies. We regret to see him depart and wish him the best of good fortune in his new post. He was noteworthy for many things, not least his historical presentations, about the latest of which an appreciation appears further on in these notes.

The winter programme for the Battalion is a busy one. The Winter Warfare Training Centre at Winterberg was destined to be run by the Battalion. The initial party to occupy the W.W.T.C. departed on November 21. The first course of trainees from 2 Division and units of Rhine District arrived on December 12. The staff to run the W.W.T.C. were as follows:

Commandant	..	..	Major C. N. Clayden
Training Officer	..	..	Capt. A. E. McManus
Administrative Officer	..	..	Lt. M. D. Legg
W.O.2	..	..	C.S.M. Thorogood

The remainder of the permanent staff, some 60 soldiers, came from every company, and in addition included a R.M.P. detachment, R.A.O.C. detachment, and R.E.M.E. detachment.



Winterberg is the Army Leave Centre, and 2 Division W.W.T.C. is conveniently situated in several huts, a swimming pool, and skating rink. This means that the amenities of the Leave Centre are nearby, and luckily are available to the W.W.T.C. The snow this year decided to come before Christmas, which is unusual, so that the first course were able to get in at least eight days' ski-ing. Course No. 2 assembled on January 2 in a blinding snow-storm, and, to the ardent skier, this was no doubt a heartening sight . . . !

Winterberg is the civilian ski resort for the Ruhr and, as such, is very overcrowded during the winter season. We must, I suppose, consider ourselves lucky to have had only three serious casualties among 400 trainees, whereas an average of 50 Germans are carried off the slopes every weekend.

The Battalion is to run the W.W.T.C. until March 31. Five courses will be run, and the 2 Division and B.A.O.R. Championships held here within that time.

This is the period of great festivities, with the Officers' Mess Christmas party, the Sergeants' Mess ball, the Corporals' Mess dance, the all ranks' dance, and the men's Christmas luncheon. These activities are reported fully elsewhere. The Battalion was, however, widely dispersed at this time between Hameln, Winterberg, England, and Murnau, a ski centre in Bavaria, where a dozen soldiers are attending instruction at the Brigade ski centre which is located in a camp owned by the United States Forces.

This Christmas was saddened for us by the accident of December 16. We express our deepest sympathy to L/Cpl. Wilkinson's wife and mother. The funeral took place at Hannover Military Cemetery on December 22 and was attended by the wife and mother of the deceased, representatives of "B" Company, the rest of the Battalion and a Piper from the 1st Cameronians. The Rev. Crawte conducted the service.

We are all very sorry to say good-bye to 4th Royal Tanks, and especially "B" Squadron. For two years we have trained and worked together, and as a result have made many close friends. Some of us were fortunate in being able to attend a splendid parade on November 5 at Hohne, when the 4th Royal Tanks trooped their newly presented standard. This is the first time that this has been carried out. It was an exhilarating sight to see a Regiment of Centurions on parade in line, then advance in review order, and finally motor past by squadrons. It was also a sad occasion because 4th Royal Tanks say good-bye to their Centurions. We wish the Regiment the best of luck in their new role, and thank them for their unfailing cooperation over the past two years.

We close these notes with two thoughts in our mind. The National Serviceman is wondering what truth there is in the rumour about an early release and the Regular soldier is wondering where the Battalion goes from here.

We owe an apology to the Paymaster for failure to include his notes in the last *Die-Hards* journal.

#### INKERMAN RE-LIVED

It must be seldom, if at all, that a social evening in any Officers' Mess takes the form of a military lecture. There will be many who, with an incredulous expression,

will finally remark that a less appropriate form of entertainment could hardly be conceived. Yet, those who did not assemble on that evening of November 30 to hear P.G. give what can only be described as an outstanding presentation of the famous battle of Inkerman, will have missed a unique experience. It is no mean achievement to hold the unstinted attention of an audience for two and a half hours, but it is very much to be doubted if there was present one officer, warrant officer, lady or guest whose whole attention was not completely absorbed throughout. Perhaps some came prepared to endure a tedious talk, which, duty bound, they were unable to avoid. If so, they must have been amazed to find themselves re-living the events of November 5, 1854.

By way of an introduction, the presentation started with a short and light scene set on the stage. The curtains drew back to reveal an officer's bedroom, contemporary style, and time the present. In it was to be seen a young officer (Mr. Julian) in bed and attempting to get some sleep, but unable to do so on account of nervous anxiety about giving a lecture on the Battle of Inkerman on the morrow, about which he had been warned sometime previously, but about which he had done nothing. Now, in a fix, he rose in despair, addressed a hopeless appeal to the inscrutable portrait of a Crimean General which hung on the wall, and flung himself into a chair in the gloom of his room. To his surprise, at the witching hour of midnight, the portrait of the Crimean General (P.G.) came to life, and, stepping from its frame in an authentic and splendid uniform of the day, offered to solve the problem by giving an eye-witness account of the battle.

At this point the stage was darkened, and the audience, who, numbering some hundred, were seated round in the manner of an amphitheatre, found their attention directed down to the centre of the floor, where was displayed before them a panoramic scale model of the battlefield of the greatest detail and most excellent workmanship. Summoning ghosts from the past (C.S.M. Simmons, Sgt. Butler, L/Cpl. Stanborough and Pte. Clark, all in 57th Crimean uniforms), and supported by them, the General proceeded to declaim an account of the battle in the most exalted and fine English, in which no incident was too small to recall, and about which no single faltering line was delivered.

It was a truly magnificent effort, which lasted some two hours. Drinks were provided half-way through, but these were unnecessary, for the audience at least, so stimulating was the performance.

The Russian plan was for Soimenov to make a surprise sally from Sebastopol, advance to Mount Inkerman and attack the allied positions to the north. Here he was to be joined by Paulov who was encamped some distance outside Sebastopol, and on the other side of Mount Inkerman. Together they were to break through to a certain prominent windmill deep inside the allied positions. On seeing them reach the windmill, Prince Gautchekov, with a third column, also outside Sebastopol and to the north-west of the Allies, was to attack and roll up the allied armies. This grandiose and ambitious plan failed through bad execution, and the stubborn gallantry of the English soldiers. The sally was indeed

launched from Sebastopol (though Soimenov cannot but have been alarmed at Sgt. Butler dabbling at his column with a magnet on the end of a billiard cue every time it had to move), but Paulov failed to meet it at Mount Inkerman. Soimenov attacked on his own and was repulsed. Later, joined by Paulov, he attacked again, only to be beaten back in the end. Ironically, the bitterest and most bloody fighting was for the possession of the Sandbag Battery, which, unknown to both sides in this war of errors and mismanagement, was in fact derelict and useless, and of no tactical value. A certain sympathy must have been felt for poor Prince Gautchekov, who, as no one ever reached his precious windmill, remained in sight but non-plussed, and took no part in the action.

The 57th figured prominently, of course, and accounts were given of the exploits of Capt. Inglis, son of the famous Colonel, and Col. Thomas Egerton, the then commander, besides those of C/Sgt. Gardiner, v.c., Pte. McCorrie, v.c., and Pte. Wright, v.c.

Finally, the presentation closed as it had begun, with a short scene in our Officers' Mess bedroom, with all well, and our general, apparently none the worse for his ordeal, returning once more to his picture frame well before the batman (Pte. Thomas) entered with tea.

Afterwards, the entire audience returned to the Mess as guests of P.G., where a lavish buffet supper was served. There was none heard to speak who had not been quite fascinated.

#### CHRISTMAS, 1960

We had a full programme this year, and the solitary few to whom fell the task of getting everything ready were well exhausted before Christmas Day arrived.

We started with the Corporals' Club party on the 10th which was attended by all officers. This was followed by the Officers' Mess party on the 16th. Most noteworthy were the decorations which were surprisingly effective in a black and white motif. Those who weren't knocked down by the punch were knocked down by the brandy sauce on the pudding later on, so a good party resulted.

On the 17th the draw was made for the air ticket raffle which was won by L/Cpl. Atkinson of "S" Company. As he has since reappeared, we imagine he survived the journey, which seemed to be a bit of an endurance test. Our children (180 of them) assembled in the small gym for their party on the 30th. An excellent tea was provided by W.O.2 Medlock and the cooks, and Capt. Pike must have been the most distinguished Father Christmas ever. The number of presents to be distributed was immense, and it is believed he put in for leave after his outstanding performance which, exhausted, he had to complete seated on a chair. Those acquainted with the "Tuan" will no doubt be able to picture the scene.

The German staff came to the Officers' Mess for the traditional drink at mid-day on December 23, so there wasn't much work done that afternoon. Then, on the 24th, the Gordon Club held their Christmas party, followed by tombola.

As usual, the officers, W.O.s and sergeants served Christmas dinners in the men's dining hall, where, once

again a first-class spread of turkey, etc., had been prepared by W.O.2 Medlock and the long-suffering cooks. Christmas wound up, as it were, with a free for all hockey match between the Officers and Sergeants, after which everyone returned thankfully to the Sergeants' Mess.

#### A VISIT TO BERLIN

We decided to go through to Berlin by road. The Autobahn runs the whole way from Hannover, where we joined it, about 100 miles to Helmstedt, the East-West frontier, and just on 100 miles through the Russian Zone to Berlin. We were curious to drive through Russian held territory, as one hears so many stories of the poverty and bad conditions prevailing behind the Iron Curtain, that we wondered if any evidence of it would show from this strip of roadway.

Having got the necessary permits and visas, we set off early in the morning and arrived without mishap at Helmstedt some 2½ hours later. There is usually a 20-minute or so hold-up at the Western check point, as the Military Police satisfy themselves that you have a full tank of petrol (there being no petrol stations or garages on the road through), all necessary documents, a spare wheel, etc., etc. They also notify Berlin the number of your car, occupants, E.T.A., and issue you with a plan of the Autobahn and detailed instructions on what to do in the event of a breakdown. To this I heeded hardly say, one adheres very closely, as it could be in the nature of a last hope. Our next halt was at the Russian check point, some 500 yards farther on. This was manned by Russian soldiers, very young ones in long overcoats, dirty boots and magnificent fur hats. They held us up for a further 15 minutes, checking documents, while a radio blared the "Volga Boatmen" and I sat looking at all the Communist posters and slogans adorning the roadside.

Eventually we were cleared, and set off through East Germany. At once, or so it seemed to me, the countryside changed. There were still fields and woods and hills, but one saw very few houses or cultivation, and practically no people. There was very little traffic on the Autobahn, which was in a bad state of repair, no efforts having obviously been made to keep it up for years. The verges were uncut, with weeds growing into the road in places, and the centre strip of grass completely neglected. It gave one a very lonely feeling, and we pressed on at the maximum speed allowed—60 m.p.h.

We occasionally saw a horse and cart in the fields, but after passing Magdeburg, even that sign of civilisation ceased, and the road ran for miles on end through woods and moorland, devoid of cultivation. A Russian scout car passed us going the other way, and once we saw a group of soldiers digging beside the road, while a bit farther on there was what was obviously a Youth Club out for the day, who all waved cheerily to us, but apart from that there was very little sign of life. After just on two hours' driving along the Corridor, and as dusk was falling, we reached the American check point on the edge of the Berliner Ring. After passing through this, one is still in Russian territory, as notices by the roadside remind one, as does also the



rather unpleasant sight of a manned trench with rifles trained on the road, but at length the road becomes the famous Avus track; there is one last check point, and you're in Berlin.

As we arrived after dark, we got little view of the city, beside a wonderful impression of lights and civilisation, most welcome after the preceding two hours, but next morning we sallied forth to explore.

Berlin, as all the world knows, is divided into four sectors: British, American, French and Russian. We were staying in the British, an area consisting of Spandau in the north, Charlottenberg, Tregarten and Wilmersdorf to the east, and half the Grunewald Forest and Havel Lake to the south-west.

Our hotel was Bedford House, the British Forces families' hostel and hotel, situated very conveniently half-way between the Olympic Stadium, round which is H.Q. B.T.B., and a large and luxurious NAAFI on Reichkanzler Platz. We were pleasantly surprised at the standard of the accommodation, which, although not as cheap as it might have been, was certainly cheaper than going to a German hotel. It also had the advantage of being close to a U-bahn station and bus routes.

I had last seen Berlin 10 years ago, when it was mostly rubble, with little pre-fab shops erected on the ruins, so I was immediately lost in the present-day city. Everywhere there is building going on, new roads, roundabouts, and, most of all, of course, shops and flats. Vast new buildings are springing up everywhere, all very modern, with the German wide windows and somewhat futuristic designs rubbing shoulders with the few pre-war buildings left. The city is full of bustle, and the traffic is already beginning to create quite a problem. The shops are large, expensive and beautifully dressed, and the citizens, although not chic, are well dressed too. But what we noticed more than anything else was their friendliness. It is very marked, and goes far beyond the usual German rather stolid courtesy which we experience in Hameln. They go out of their way to help, as we found when, driving slowly up the Kurfurstendamm, the main shopping centre, with our maps spread all over our knees, a large Mercedes swept past us, waved us down, and stopped in front of us. Our hearts sank, as we thought we'd infringed the traffic regulations in some way, instead of which, the man leapt out, came up to the window, and said in perfect English: "I saw you with a map, Sir, and thought you might be lost. Can I help in any way?"

On another occasion, we were driving down to look at the Brandenburg Gate and got rather confused with roundabouts, "keep right" signs, Russian Zone signs, and so on, so, not wishing to end up in Siberia, we swung sharp left to stay in our own sector. A large policeman promptly stopped us to explain we'd gone left round a roundabout and across two "halt" signs, but, after looking at the car, he nodded wisely and said: "Ah, British," bowed, smiled, and let us go! He had obviously had experience of English visitors before, but, for all that, we tried to pay more attention to the road signs thereafter.

That afternoon we took ourselves out to Spandau, and then south to the Havel, a drive of, to my surprise some 15 miles. Two British units are stationed at

Spandau, at one point very close to the Russians, and here is also, of course, the prison where Rudolph Hess is still held prisoner. This looked a vast, gloomy place, and we didn't stop, but went on, through several villages, to the Havel. This is, I believe, the biggest of the many lakes with which Berlin is nearly surrounded, and is half ours, and half the Americans. We have all the top and western shore, and the Americans half the eastern shore. On our side are Gatow, with a big R.A.F. unit and airfield, and Kladow, a nice little village, with the British Yacht Club and some officers' quarters. Looking across from there to the hills and woods of the Grunewald opposite, it's hard to believe that one is near the centre of a large city, and harder still to realise that that city is Berlin, and completely surrounded by Russians.

Our evening entertainments consisted of a visit to an excellent ice show, dinner one evening at Marlborough House, the Officers' Club, and another at a first-class restaurant half-way up the Funkturm, a tower like the Eiffel Tower, in the centre of the city. We did not sample the late-night life of Berlin, so I'm afraid I have no information on that subject!

But, without doubt, the highlight of our visit was on Sunday afternoon, when we went on a coach trip round the Eastern sector. Anyone who visits Berlin should go on this, as it's an eye-opener. It is run by the W.V.S., and starts at 2 o'clock every Sunday from outside the NAAFI, the only regulation being that all Forces personnel must be in uniform. Cameras may be taken, but can only be used when told to by the guide. The bus starts by going through parts of the American sector and then, after a brief hold up by the East German Peoples' Police, passes into the Soviet sector. The first stop where one is allowed to get out, in fact the only stop, is at the Russian War Memorial. This is a fantastic piece of building and layout, commemorating the Russians killed in taking Berlin and, with its beautifully kept gardens and statues, only serves to throw into more horrible relief the rest of the tour. This now winds its way up towards what was once the Unter den Linden, and the heart of Berlin, but what is now—still—a wilderness of rubble, burned-out buildings and silent streets. The Adlon, Marinaut, the opera house, are all blackened shells with the window frames left hanging out, just as they must have looked in 1945, while they have razed the Chancellery to the ground, and used the marble to build their War Memorial. From then on the tour was distinctly grim. The Russians have built up one street only, Stalinalee, as a showpiece to Communism, but, behind the white, shining facade of flats, the wrecks of the original buildings are in some cases actually leaning against them. People still live in these ruins, and one sees them scurrying quickly along the untidy streets, for there are no cars except Russian-owned ones. We were not allowed to stop here, or to photograph. I was only surprised that we were allowed in at all. In all, the trip lasted nearly three hours, and we emerged at last through the Brandenburg Gate into the bustling British sector, very glad to leave that grim desolation behind.

The next day we left Berlin, but we are determined to get there again sometime as, although it is now a city of sectors and violent contrasts, and is 100 miles behind the

Iron Curtain, it still has a charm all its own which I believe nothing can quench.

## CHURCH NOTES

The Church in the Army is very much like a rock that lies just below the surface of the sea. Every now and again when the sea is not so turbulent, or not so high, the rock is seen to appear. It is always there, of course, but not always visible or noted.

This Rock, however, is not like ordinary oceanic rocks, in that, far from wrecking peoples' lives, it is there for people who have made shipwreck of their lives, to hold on to and be saved.

The trouble appears to be to keep people aware of its existence and its value.

In the drift of life—and unfortunately for most people life is little more than drift (the life of the soldier being no exception)—all the Church can hope to do is to try and push its head above the surface more often, so that people may be made aware of it. This, on official levels, the Army, and happily our Battalion in particular, tries to do.

To this end we are now embarking on our promised "Company Sponsored Services." How well they will be supported remains to be seen. There is always a thick layer of prejudice and misconception to break through.

To bolster up this effort it has also been decided to replace the normal "Padre's Hour"—which, for one reason or another, is next to impossible to keep regularly—by a "Padre's Day." Each company in turn will spend a whole working day in the shadow of this Rock with which we opened our remarks.

This, it is hoped, will make more impact, even if only held once every four to six weeks. Time alone will tell.

Since our last sally to the printing press we have had several major services.

Remembrance Sunday was "held" in the gymnasium and, from all accounts, went well. Our thanks are due to the Band for their big contribution.

The sermon made an impression on at least one member of the congregation who wanted to argue about it on Christmas Eve, when the author was doing his duty collecting at our carol singing effort. At another time such a result would be gratifying.

Christmas itself was suitably commemorated, and the faithful turned up in numbers for our midnight Communion. The number was down on last year, but it seems many more people managed to get away on leave.

The Battalion up to now is still wondering where it will be celebrating next Christmas. Here's hoping that at the end of the year a few more will be ready to celebrate it as a religious festival.

## "A" COMPANY

In the absence of Major de Gaye, who is circulating somewhere between Winterberg, London and Paris, the rather dubious honour of writing the notes has fallen to O.C. No. 3 Platoon.

In the last quarter we put the annual administrative inspection behind us for another year. C.S.M. Beale's motto, "If it stands still, paint it," was as strong as



"A" COMPANY CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

Back, left to right: 2/Lt. Lofting, Ptes. Elphick, Hubbard, Cleasby, L/Cpl. Peak, Lewis 52. Front, left to right: Salaria, L/Cpl. O'Keefe, Major de Gaye, Nicholson, Adams

ever. One of our platoon commanders lost his hat on the march past, another nearly lost the Regimental Colours over the gym in the strong wind, but we survived.

The social commitments, rather than training ones, have taken priority during the last few weeks. We have seen the opening of the new luxury club in the attic rejoicing in the name of "Acker's." It puts most of the bars in Hameln to shame. We would like to thank the Q.M., R.Q.M.S. and their staff for the help they gave us, also Lt. Julian for his excellent murals.

On the military side of things, the Company had their own little patrol exercise, called "Pathfinder," in which they set out, complete with camouflaged toboggans, into the snowy wastes for two days.

Once again the Company is showing the way in the sporting field. Having won the novices' boxing cup, we have now won the cross-country running and tied for first place in the hockey. We came second in the basketball.

Watch out "B" Company, the Albuhera Shield is halfway down those stairs already!

Just to prove to our critics in other companies that we don't only spend our time winning sports, we came fourth in the Brigade .22 shooting competition. The top infantry team taking part.

Finally, we were all so pleased to see such a delightful picture of our friend ("B" Company) above us in the last edition. They looked fit and ready to go lying in that heap! Also we would like to draw their attention to Standing Orders concerning the wearing of elastics.

## COMPANY H.Q.

Company Headquarters has undergone a structural change in command since the last edition. We have said farewell to Capt. Kitchener who has gone into civilian life, and to C/Sgt. Steward who has gone as



C.S.M. to the 8th Battalion. We wish them all the best in their new jobs. We welcome C/Sgt. Smith and hope he will be able to control all the serfs of his dark domains below the Company block.

Just before the Master went, the Company held a party in his honour in the "Acker's" Club. All the serfs and peasants were on parade looking clean and tidy, but the Master was absent. A snatch party, under Major de Gaye, was dispatched to the Colour-Sergeant's married quarters and they pulled the Master out of bed right under the doubting eyes of Mrs. Steward and escorted him back to the party.

Amidst much eating and drinking, Pte. "watch the loose ends" Abrey made a speech of thanks and presented to the Master, on behalf of the Company, a silver and glass ashtray, suitably inscribed. We would like to thank Pte. Abrey for the wonderful buffet he provided, and also for others since then, and for delivering his speech on two feet!

In November, C.S.M. Beale went to Berlin as manager of the Battalion rugby team. We thought in his absence there would be peace and quiet. How wrong we were. That evening we had a "lucky break" and for an hour the Company went into a flat spin. The M.T.O. did not help matters by sending us some new contraption called a 1-ton A.F.V. "B" Company tried to stop us getting away by sending their 2IC to act as O.C. "A" Company. Thank you, "B" Company!

December saw the barrack-rooms being made ready for Christmas. We would like to thank 2/Lt. Pickis and Mrs. Beale for coming along to judge them for the competition. Who won the crate of beer which was the prize? Company H.Q. of course! "Taffy" McDowell says it was worth the hard work and the drink they gave to the judges!

The Company Christmas party went well in the club, each platoon put on a show. Alas! the beer bandit captured the leading man in No. 1 Platoon's cast (are you there, C.S.M. Beale!) which did not help them. Our Champ driver, Ashman, had his girl-friend out here for Christmas, so we did not see much of him (lucky chap!).

We are now in the New Year and our first job is to get McDowell to stay with us. Abrey says it can be done by filling him up with Becks and giving him the old pink form.

#### No. 1 Platoon

The Platoon at present is like a partly completed jigsaw puzzle, of which the majority of pieces are missing (no comments, No. 3 Platoon). There are still some of us left, and we have managed to overcome the rigours and hardships of Christmas.

Things in 1961 have not changed. Pte. Eckford's beret, although often pulled, pushed and beaten into regimental shape manages somehow to resume its usual shape! "Mouse" is still the same size and Pte. Allan has got a healthy(?) glow in his cheeks, even if it does disappear in the mornings.

"Noshier" Miskin, Tynan, Horridge, Basley and King are at Winterberg enjoying a well-earned holiday, or were until Mr. Everard moved up there to keep an

eye on them. "Wee One" Norman is keeping the Americans in their place at Murnau.

It has come to light that "Uncle" and Pte. Goodchild are not seeing eye to eye on the comparative values of red and blue as a colour.

During the last few months we have conquered the annual administration inspection, exercise "Pathfinder," and a border patrol. There is a rumour that a certain N.C.O. "lost his heart" whilst on the border, and on the day that these notes are being written, is performing a one man patrol in that district. We are sure that our presence gave the East something to talk about.

We would like to welcome to the Platoon Sgt. Davies, L/Cpl. Goodall and all members of the 64th Intake and bid farewell to Sgt. Barr, Ptes. Bowers, Emms and Lewis (13)—he won't be far away.

#### No. 2 Platoon

Since our last notes we are pleased to welcome 2/Lt. Dudson, ably standing in for Mr. Rose, who is in England on an assault pioneer's course. Under Mr. Dudson's leadership the Platoon finished 15 minutes ahead of our nearest rival in the Company 9-mile P.E. test. Well done!—and so were Pte. Bennett's feet!

Having kept in the forefront of the Company, we are now moving into the larger Battalion orbit where we are a force to be reckoned with in .22 shooting. In the December shoot the team collected a provisional average of 89.2 points. Congratulations to the team consisting of Cpls. Whittle, Rockell and McLean, L/Cpl. Parker, Ptes Bull and Mitchell.

Having created the team we hope to keep it intact for the remaining monthly shoots following the fine example of our Cpl. Whittle who secured a score of 98 out of a 100, the highest in the Brigade, in the inter-Company competition.

As for the sporting world, already we are balancing on the top of the inter-Platoon basketball ladder, thanks to a convincing win over the Q.M.'s staff. However, Benny ("The Blow") Brannan nearly caused a technical foul against the team, when his fans, howling with delight, made the referee's whistle as much use as a baby's dummy.

Which brings us on to another outstanding and versatile sportsman within the Platoon. I refer to no other than Pte. "J. B." Bull. News that certain National Servicemen are due for early release, will no doubt panic Battalion Sports Officers into an effort to retain "J.B."

Also Pte. Salaria has been steadily improving in the cross-country running for the Battalion so that he is now among the top three candidates for the Regiment. This is a fine effort and once again we offer the Platoon and Company's congratulations.

The Christmas period was spent religiously—religiously eating, sleeping and drinking, that is! And every one rose to the spirit of the occasion, it didn't matter if it was whisky, gin, rum . . .!

So now we close our notes with the wish that all departments and platoons of the Battalion have a prosperous and eventful 1961 with perhaps kinder weather for our year's training.

#### No. 3 Platoon

"O woe is me and my poor pen,

For I am writing these — notes again."

Thus goes the lament of the Platoon scribe.

Having fooled them all on the annual administration inspection for another year, No. 3 Platoon forged on into the winter. (O.K., Harris, Lewis (52) and Co., you can come out of hiding.)

As usual, some have left the fold, others have arrived. Ptes. Edge and Stevenson will now be responsible for Signals (ugh!) and Pte. Stubbs for transport. Pte. Temple went on a 3-inch mortar cadre, but has since returned and is on loan to Mr. Everard as batman, Pte. Taylor is doing the honours for this scribe.

Some of the Platoon are ski-ing and skating at Winterberg or Murnau—"Jock" Forbes seems to live on skis. Vic Kirron is in the arms store and has not seen the light of day for some time. Sgt. Parnell took over as Platoon Sergeant for two days, then disappeared on a nuclear course and is now hiding in "D" Company empire; the Platoon Commander has given him up for lost.

The remainder of the Platoon were sent out into the snow to complete exercise "Pathfinder," and impressed the 2IC by marching out of barracks with toboggan (complete with camouflage!).

We wish all our readers a happy 1961.

#### RONALD WILLIAM "WATCH THE LOOSE ENDS" ABREY

Ron Abrey was born on June 21, 1939, at Edgware, Middlesex. He is 21 and has three brothers and one sister. His family motto is "Semper in Excretum."

He was educated at Barnfield Academy for young gentlemen (?). Having studied hard, he was let loose on the wide world at the tender age of 15. Ron, being a public-minded young chap, found himself looking after the fire on a large railway engine running from London to the Midlands.

After a while he became a park keeper in Clitterhouse Park (near the Watford Way) but, because of strange working hours and the nervous tension in this dangerous job, he moved on.

Next, he became a butcher, but, alas, he gave someone too generous a portion of one of his fingers and had to give the job up. Having moved back to the railways for a time, he then worked for Hendon Council on motorways and then "with the dust." The North Thames Gas Board was the next big name in Ron's career which was dedicated to the interest of the public. It was during this stage of his life that certain complications concerning motor insurance and licences cropped up and thus subsequently caused him to volunteer (!) for National Service rather earlier than most.

When he arrived in the Battalion he was posted to "A" Company, where he has been a Regimental cook all his time. In Company H.Q. he has risen to the top and is now head serf. He has cooked in the worst of the German elements can throw at him, and at all the big names on the training map.

He has always taken an active interest in the study of local Hameln beauties such as "Inga the Finger."

Ron will always be remembered for the wonderful buffets he has put on for the Company.

In eight months he hopes to go back to the North Thames Gas Board, we have other hopes.

#### CHARLES JOSEPH PATRICK MURPHY ("PADDY")

"Paddy" Murphy was born in Dublin on November 5, 1939. He is the second eldest of a family of three boys and three girls. The family motto is: "If you can't beat them, join them."

He was educated at Larkhill National School; to those who are familiar with Dublin, it is better known as the "Slaughterhouse." From there he graduated at the age of 14 with first-class honours in almost everything.

He has been a member of the St. John Ambulance Brigade for six years, but his first job on leaving school was that of laundry van boy. It was on this job that he helped to save the lives of two people in floods. Then he became a cinema attendant and also worked in a bookshop.

Eventually he got the message and left the "Emerald Isle" for "Blighty." Here he worked as a hospital operating theatre technician for two years. Then he saw the light and signed on for the Regiment. Having come through the normal channels he arrived in the 1st Battalion and was posted to the Drums. He sorted out the Drums, then set his sights on bigger things, namely "A" Company, where he is a member of No. 3 Platoon.

Paddy has also contributed to Anglo-German relations. He has not always seen eye to eye with the locals, and this has on occasions resulted in his becoming familiar with different parts of the barracks, especially near the main gate. Undaunted, he has continued with



Pte. Murphy



his diplomatic relations and can often be seen steering a course (not always steady!) to a certain ale-house with "boots and gaiters" under one arm and "small pack and pouches" under the other.

On the sports field he always makes his presence felt. Many have suffered under his hockey stick. He is also one of the few supporters of Battalion sport.

#### "B" COMPANY

2IC .. .. .	Capt. H. M. du V. Lohan	
C.S.M. .. .. .	W.O.2 Jessup	
C.Q.M.S. .. .. .	C/Sgt. Eldridge	
Company Clerk .. .. .	Pte. Mounsey	
Company Storeman .. .. .	Pte. Priest	
<i>No. 4 Platoon</i>		
Lt. Julian	<i>No. 5 Platoon</i>	<i>No. 6 Platoon</i>
Sgt. Scott	2/Lt. Rayner	Lt. Goring
Cpl. Fisher	Sgt. Clements	Sgt. Raffael
Cpl. MacFarlane	Cpl. O'Rawe	Cpl. Shave
Cpl. Miles	Cpl. Pollard	Cpl. Fleet
L/Cpl. Hills	Cpl. DaCosta	L/Cpl. Smith
L/Cpl. Turner	L/Cpl. Joliffe	

It is with deep regret that we learnt of L/Cpl. Wilkinson's death in a road accident at Horne on December 16, 1960. He was buried with full military honours at Hannover Military Cemetery on December 22. Sgt. Scott was i/c the "B" Company firing party.

The Company eventually won the Albuhera Shield by a clear margin of 13 points, winning five major competitions and runners-up in the sixth. We finished the season with a very creditable win in the hockey. The Company scored 19 goals against 4 in the tournament, only being beaten by "C" Company.

The Company can look back with pride upon a very successful year. They may at times have been driven by Major Clayden, but the success, both in training and sport, was far greater than expected or even dreamed of. It is interesting to note that 41 of the soldiers at present serving represented the Company in the six major sports.

With the conclusion of the hockey competition, we entered upon another year of the Albuhera competitions. At this stage we welcome Capt. Lohan to the Company. He, at very short notice, took over the Company; Major Clayden being despatched to a nuclear course at the N.A.T.O. School of Nuclear Warfare, and Capt. McManus banished to Winterberg to act as Training Officer to the Winter Warfare Training Centre.

We wish Capt. Lohan the very best of luck in "B" Company.

#### Farewell from Major Clayden

Major Clayden has asked if he may include in these notes a few impressions of his stay in "B" Company:

"I would like to thank all ranks for their great efforts (in all directions) over the last year. All of you must, at some time or the other, have been pushed around by me; all I can say to that is that you must try to avoid me. I, on my part, have, of course, received a bit of a pasting in one way or another from you. You have achieved, however, something which few expected; that of being champion Company. All credit is yours

for achieving this in a quiet, unassuming and efficient way. I hope that National Servicemen who are leaving in this coming year have enjoyed their first year of service, to some their last year, and to those Regulars still serving, I hope they are proud of themselves and will continue to give their best to their new Company Commander."

#### Boxing

The advent of the Albuhera Competition for 1960/61 was heralded by the novices boxing. The Company, with their select band of 22 competitors, came second to "A" Company who entered over 50 competitors. A question of weight of numbers. Our finalist winners were Clarke (Sunbeam), Hedges and Warnock, to whom go our heartiest congratulations. The losers we must not forget, and particularly do we congratulate Ptes. Payne (22), Pryor, Manning and Darvell on some plucky fights. Payne still thinks he was fiddled out of it; there is always next year, Payne.

Boxing for the Battalion we have Cpl. Shave, Payne (04), Seatory, Clarke, Warnock, Clarke (28) and Fitzsimmons.

#### Administrative Inspection

We must wander away from sport for a few minutes to mention the administrative inspection. Major Clayden was quite adamant this year and would not be panicked into much unnecessary work. Our efforts were centralised on drill, turnout and documentation. C.S.M. Jessup, by hard work and long hours, dealt with the drill and the documentation with occasional interruptions by the Company Commander, whilst C.Q.M.S. Eldridge plugged away at the turnout, not forgetting the burst pipe he had to contend with in his stores the day before the inspection.

Major Clayden, who was wrapped in a cellophane slipper, was unable to take to the parade ground, so the honour of commanding the Company on the parade was given to Capt. McManus. In spite of the high winds, "B" Company weathered the storm and the critical eye of the Divisional Commander on what must have been the longest inspection the Battalion has witnessed since the war. Congratulations to all soldiers on keeping on their head-dress.

#### Running

After the administrative inspection the Company running team got down to some steady training and came second to "A" Company. Kelly, Quartermaine, Wrightson, Gilham (16) and Escariot did particularly well. The first three are training with the Battalion team.

#### Shooting

The Company .22 shooting team performed with varying degrees of accuracy in the Brigade Minor Units Small-bore Championship. Our final placing was sixth, being the second minor unit in the Regiment.

All three platoons are shooting well in the inter-platoon shoot, especially No. 6 Platoon. Pte. Manning has shown that he is easily the best shot in the Company.



"B" Company, 1st Middlesex, with their trophies

The next events on the calendar are the Hopton Cup and rugger. L/Cpl. Joliffe has started training up a rugger team and we hope that we will do well.

#### Arrivals

Since the last notes the following have been posted to "B" Company. We wish them well for the coming training season and hope they enjoy their stay with us: Ptes. Bunyon, Clarke (23), Cuff, Curtis, McAllister, Riddle, Williams, Kendell, Misson, Willox, Chapman, Braime and Finnis.

#### Departures

We say farewell to Ptes. Zorlu, Whiley and O'Connell on being posted to "H.Q." Company, and to Pte. Sheffield on being posted to "A" Company.

#### Courses

Our congratulations to Cpls. Fisher, Miles and Pollard on passing their first aid instructors' course at 29th Field Ambulance, to Cpl. Da Costa on passing his small-arms course at the School of Infantry, and to Pte. Mounsey on passing the B III Clk. (G.D.) course at the R.A.S.C. School, B.A.O.R.

#### "B" COMPANY PERSONALITIES

##### Gilham (86)

Gilham (86), Battalion centre-half and captain of the football team. A fine achievement by this unassuming soldier from No. 6 Platoon, "B" Company.

He started playing football as far back as he can remember. Gilham's first proper matches, though, were when he played for Hogarth Secondary Modern at the age of 11. At 15 years of age, he joined Manor Football Club and got a place in their first team after a couple of trials. He also tried for Chelsea but, of course,

was the wrong age—too old for colts, too young for reserves.

Gilham leaves the Army in February, 1961, he tells us that he will try for a league team then.

Not only the footballers are going to miss Gilham. Since he joined us two years ago, he has learnt and become proficient at hockey and rugger; he has made a name for himself as an all-round cricketer. We will be sorry to lose this rather shy personality, a marvellous all-round sportsman from "B" Company. We wish him good luck in his civilian career and in his favourite sport, football.

##### Cpl. O'Rawe

Cpl. O'Rawe, known to his friends as Frank, is one of the finest boxers this Battalion has ever seen. He first took this sport up when he joined the Army in 1951. First boxing honour to come his way was when he won the Home Counties Brigade Novices' Championship in October, 1951.

As soon as Cpl. O'Rawe joined the Battalion he represented us usually at light-middleweight. In fact, he has boxed at middleweight and light-heavy as well. Out of 178 fights only six have been lost, truly a proud record.

In Austria he was B.T.A. champion in 1953, '54 and '55. Then followed three years of active service in Cyprus when he did not box at all. After the Regiment moved to B.A.O.R., O'Rawe was back with a vengeance; he became B.A.O.R. champion as a light-heavy in 1959 and as a middleweight in 1960.

This year he is aiming to put more emphasis on soldiering, let us hope that next season will see him back in the ring. Michael and Ian, his two sons, he tells us, are both shaping up well and he hopes they will take up the sport seriously when they grow up.

There is not room to tell of Cpl. O'Rawe's other





Cpl. O'Rawe

sporting activities except to say that he is a very fine all-round sportsman with whom it is a pleasure to come into contact in the sporting world.

#### "C" COMPANY

Company Commander ..	Capt. R. J. Durnell
C.S.M. ..	W.O.2 Michel
C.Q.M.S. ..	C/Sgt. Potter
O.C. No. 7 Platoon ..	2/Lt. P. Monypenny
N.C.O. i/c No. 8 Platoon ..	Sgt. Plumb
O.C. No. 9 Platoon ..	2/Lt. P. Dubbery

#### General

Our notes for this period cover autumn, administrative parades, masses of fatigues and a general exodus of personnel. The Army loosely calls this time of year "the beginning of the training cycle"—we, more frankly, describe it as the inevitable anti-climax after a full and enthusiastic summer training season—a period when more personnel are on cadres, leave, courses and extra-mural activities than the Company roll contains and we are left with almost a minus quantity. However, despite these minor mathematical problems which cause the Company Commander and C.S.M. to have ulcers, grey hair and lack of sleep, and the Adjutant to use his phone, "C" Company have managed to keep their heads above water and liquidate, in more senses than one, these trifling difficulties.

#### Administrative Parade

This parade, its advantages, disadvantages, highlights and successes will have already been covered in the minutest detail by the Battalion general notes, "A" Company and "B" Company, and anything we say

will be pure repetition, except, of course, to say "C" Company were, on the whole, steadfast, smart and almost soldierly in appearance. Although we were last in the column for the march past this bears no relation in an order of merit—unlike a certain other company, every man kept his hat on!!

#### Sport

The Albuhera Challenge Cup Competition has been in full swing with almost every conceivable sport imaginable being introduced. "C" Company did not, let's face it, do brilliantly—nevertheless, we were not completely outclassed and everyone took part with enthusiasm, keenness and a lot of spirit.

#### Boxing

The novices' boxing in mid-October showed us that Pte. Hill was our best competitor who reached the semi-finals.

#### Hockey

We finished third behind "B" and "A" Company, unfortunately we were held to a draw with "H.Q." Company, otherwise we may well have won this league—particular thanks are extended to C.S.M. Da Costa for his enthusiasm and encouragement for hockey within the Company and the fine spirit within the team.

#### Basketball

Again we finished third although we only lost two games throughout the whole league.

#### Cross-Country

This particular sport was our greatest disappointment as Pte. Jones, our best runner, was sick and Ptes. Kimber and Tichehurst, both Battalion team runners, were off form. We finished fourth, although there is no doubt that had all the team been really fit we would have done considerably better. We hope to cancel all this in the summer with some good Company athletics results—we hope.

#### Christmas

This Christmas was really very like any other Christmas—except, possibly, even more beer was consumed this year than ever before. This year we had two raffles within the Company—the first, designed for the personnel who would be home for Christmas and for the New Year, was a bottle of whisky, which L/Cpl. Barnard won. The second, designed purely for all people in station throughout Christmas and New Year, was a 72-hour pass and B.E.A. flight—Dusseldorf-London—for any weekend between mid-January and April 9. This has been won by Pte. Casey, a fairly new arrival in the Company—we hope he enjoys his brief visit home.

On Friday, December 9, we held a Company party at the "Lilliput Bar," Rohrsen—everyone enjoyed themselves and certainly entered into the "spirit" of things in more ways than one. Pte. McShannon supplied the one-man cabaret and his act was worthy of comparison to La Scala, Milan. The baritones in

Scotland are due for competition in the future, it seems, though in what way we are not certain—vocal or alcoholic capacity seems to be equally divided.

#### Arrivals and Departures

We welcome the following who have joined the Company during the last four months:

Ptes. Dempsey and Glazier from "H.Q." Company (Signallers).

Ptes. Cornibert and Wilson from the Depot.

Sgt. Ford from the T.A.

C.S.M. Michel from "D" Company upstairs.

Pte. Jones from "A" Company.

We say farewell and good-bye to:

C.S.M. Da Costa to "D" Company upstairs.

Pte. Waldron on National Service release (2½ years).

Ptes. Durling, Hutchinson and Mann, if they are successful in the Signals—we wish them luck.

#### Personality Parade

Each publication will present two members of the Company who have been in the limelight in the past quarter. This edition we present, firstly Pte. Alan Hill, from Kentish Town. Alan is 21, a National Serviceman who is due out of the Army in November, 1961. His civilian trade was a motor mechanic and he was training with the Alvis main dealers in Finchley before going to the Middlesex Regiment. On his last leave, Alan Hill married his young wife, Pamela, aged 20, and they have a small flat in Kentish Town, near where Pamela is working whilst Alan is abroad—Alan intends to continue with the motor industry on leaving the Army, as he is very interested in this type of work and he has ambitions in this particular sphere. He is keen on sport and has represented the Company in the novices' boxing competition where he reached the semi-finals. Also he plays hockey on the left wing and recently



Pte. Hill

represented the Battalion side in Holland—when he eventually leaves the Company we wish him luck with his career.

Our second personality is Cpl. Finnis—he is extremely well known in the Army pentathlon circles. He is 23 years old and joined the Army in 1954 when he came over from his home in Durban, South Africa. In 1957 he left the Army but rejoined six weeks later and became extremely interested in pentathlon events. In 1958 he represented the Middle East in the Army competition at Aldershot—later he was picked to represent the Army in the Combined Services' meeting. In 1959 he was in the Army team and reserve for Great Britain in the British championships, and later that year he was reserve for the British team in the World Championships in the U.S.A. The next year saw him coming second out of the British competitors in the international pre-Olympic meeting in Rome, and later that year he was reserve in the Olympic team in August. Apart from these pentathlon honours, Cpl. Finnis won the Templar Cup for .22 pistol shooting in Great Britain in 1960. He plans to stay in the Army and hopes to get to Moscow for the World Championships in August, 1961. "C" Company are very honoured to have such an international pentathlon star in its midst and we wish him every success in August this year.

#### COMPANY H.Q.

##### "S" Company

Whilst each platoon has conducted the affairs of its cadres in the loudest manner possible; and such phrases as "target right," "all cases action," and "three rounds more fire" echo and re-echo throughout the Company lines, Company H.Q. continues in a quieter vein helping to make such activity possible.

No doubt all the progress and success (or lack of it) will be related more fully in the platoon notes; suffice



Presentation to C.S.M. Dodkins on his departure from the Company



to say that all this N.C.O. and specialist training will stand us in good stead once the "exercise season" gets into full swing.

Remembrance Sunday was a double occasion for the Company, because it was the time to say good-bye to C.S.M. Dodkins. He was the longest-surviving member of "S" and, to mark his leave-taking, the O.C. presented him with a small token, he then marched the Company off to church, his last official act as the Company Sergeant-Major. We all wish him good fortune in "H.Q." Company and, in the same breath, say welcome to C.S.M. George Simmons. The tribulations and anxieties of H.Q.'s C.Q.M.S. were such that it is conceivable he was happier with his new appointment than with his well-earned promotion! Whichever way it may be, we wish him a long and happy stay in Support.

A change of Company Clerks coincided with the change of C.S.M.s, there is now speculation the Company daily detail will be spelt in English and not in its erstwhile phonetic mode (accommodation will revert to its original form). Greening, who has handed over the badge of office, is now spending his final few weeks practising judo—his new Civvy Street acquaintances had best beware! Pte. Bennis, his successor, fresh from a clerk's course, is already at grips with the constant "battle of the bumph."

Sport is not a word that we can mention with relish. In the Albuhera hockey competition we had the team that made all the other victories possible. In the running we came third, due to the splendid efforts of Cpl. Flanagan and Pte. Johns who came first and fifth respectively. At the time of writing we appeared to be losing ground in the basketball. To end on a happier note, the four boxers, Ptes. Heale and Jones, Sgt. Argent, and Pte. Johns, who helped to make up the Battalion's boxing team against 19th Field Regiment, all won their bouts, thus gaining the admiration of the rest of the Company.

We offer our congratulations to Capt. Pike, M.C., the Company Commander, who, after the normal spate of chain-smoking—waiting and quaking, was relieved when his wife announced: "It's a boy."

Standing in for the arms storeman is our cheerful chappy from Venezuela, to wit, Percy, who jocularly decries all suggestion that he should take over his army back home, promote himself to General and assist in any future riots!

Now that the festive season approaches and the first signs of the Christmas preparations appear, Support makes ready for the hectic days ahead. And, very naturally, we wish every *Die-Hard* reader and contributor a Prosperous 1961.

#### Mortar Platoon

For the Mortar Platoon the two highlights of this quarter have been the administrative parade and the mortar cadre. The former, after the usual weeks of pre-admin. flap, passed off extremely well, even although the General did not visit the mortar store, resplendent in its new two-tone paint job. But, however, he did notice the boots of Pte. Hayes!

The mortar cadre was attended by some rifle company personnel as well as the entire Mortar Platoon. It was

divided into two halves, one being for mortar numbers and the other for fire controllers. At the end of it, a satisfying number of specialist badges were handed out.

The ending of the cadre about finished the year as far as training went, and we look forward to putting our newly-acquired knowledge into practise in the new year.

In the cross-country sphere, Cpl. Flanagan and Pte. Johns have again excelled themselves, in fact they have been allotted "super priority" and never stop running.

The Platoon is doing quite well in the Battalion .22 shooting competition, and at present lies third. Pte. Grenfell has proved himself a useful shot.

In the Battalion boxing team we were represented by Sgt. Argent and Pte. Johns.

Although the Company team lost every match in the Albuhera basketball competition, the Mortar Platoon has not yet lost and, come next April, are confident of being in "high places" on the ladder.

For those of you who are interested in "Billy," some short news items from the last quarter:

First, "Billy and the boxing."

Billy was so confident of winning his first boxing match that he appeared in the ring in No. 1 Dress.

"Billy and the puff range."

Last June, Billy decided that we ought to have a puff range, within one day it was up, all except for the smoke-producing equipment. From that day to this, whenever asked about the completion of the project, a never-ending supply of phrases such as, "It's in hand," "finished next week" or "awaiting some vital part" results.

#### Other News

Although being allotted a quarter in "Briggs Basha," the writer was surprised to see on January 1 that our Scottish cousins and their friend from the Emerald Isle had not taken advantage of the fact.

Pte. Sheppard has lost even more hair since he became the Platoon Commander's batman.

Well, as our "Uncle Bill" says on the 1800 Club, "that just about wraps it up for this quarter." I am signing off wishing all our readers a happy and a prosperous New Year.

#### Anti-Tank Platoon

Anti-tank cadre, November 7 to December 10, 1960.

Since the last journal notes the Platoon has completed a very successful cadre and the following results were obtained:

		Specialist Grade	B
1. Lt. Cowing	"S" Company	"	B
2. Pte. Toner	"S" Company	"	B
3. " Armstrong	"S" "	"	B
4. " Dowdell	"B" "	"	B
5. " Austyn	"S" "	"	C
6. " Hession	"S" "	"	C
7. " Vass	"S" "	"	C
8. " Isaacs	"S" "	"	C
9. " Basham	"B" "	"	C
10. " Ekford	"A" "	"	C
11. " Murphy	"B" "	"	C
12. " Strange	"C" "	"	F
13. " Marshall	"A" "	"	F

During the first two weeks the cadre learnt how the gun worked and how heavy the shells were! Each morn-



Photo: Sgt. Lagden

#### ANTI-TANK CADRE "IN THE FIELD"

Chief Cook and Bottle-Washer Lt. A. B. Cowing (Anti-Tank Platoon Commander)

ing before parades Cpl. Cosgrave from the gymnasium made the Platoon lift, push, roll and stretch with the drill rounds until they felt like .303 bullets. Even Mr. Cowing did it... once!

After the second week all the commanders decided to seek refuge in Berlin, where they attempted to play rugby. The next three weeks were taken up with Platoon battle procedure and a 48-hour exercise.

#### Exercise "November Nonsense"

On a cold November day the cadre split up into two groups, one commanded by Pte. Murphy and the other by Pte. Vass. After selecting their gun positions both teams dug frantically, as the Platoon Commander was going to select the best position as regards camouflage and concealment. The prize was 20 cigarettes per man in the team. Fortunately for the cadre, and unfortunately for the Platoon Commander both teams were of equal standard, so all persons received 20 cigarettes... the Platoon Commander has now given up smoking!

Once in their positions the cadre staff carried out numerous attacks on them. Again honours were equal, though Pte. Isaacs has learned never to underestimate his Platoon Commander's fieldcraft. From this exercise many lessons were learnt, the main one being how to keep warm! Pte. Vass's detachment "fed like lords" and compliment highly their cook and chief bottle-washer, Lt. Cowing, but, as Mr. Cowing retorted: "Your turn next time, Vass." Vass appeared so frightened by this that he signed on from a National Service engagement to a Regular one. Well done, Vass, how about a few more from the Platoon to keep him company?



Photo: Sgt. Lagden

#### ANTI-TANK CADRE, SHELL POINT

Left to right: Pte. Strange ("C" Company), Pte. Murphy ("B" Company), Pte. Basham ("B" Company), Pte. Isaacs ("S" Company), Pte. Ekford ("A" Company), Pte. Hession ("S" Company), Pte. Armstrong ("S" Company), Pte. Vass ("S" Company), Pte. Dowdell ("B" Company)



Photo: Sgt. Lagden

#### ANTI-TANK CADRE, HOLDENSEN RANGE

Left to right: Pte. Wells, Pte. Armstrong, Pte. Webb, Cpl. Haffner and Pte. Budd

#### Christmas, 1960

No sooner had the cadre finished than all eyes were on the Christmas period, and the Platoon, after cleaning up, were waiting for Christmas Day and their being served by the Platoon Commander. Unfortunately, by that time he had escaped to "H.Q." Company, where he now sits in an office hiding behind the Adjutant.





SUPPORT COMPANY

Pte. Pollard, Pte. Austyn, Pte. Patmore, Pte. Bateson, Pte. Kerrison, Pte. Blackburn, Pte. Hession, Pte. Sharp, Pte. Chance, Pte. Moloney, Pte. Greening, Pte. Stewart, Pte. Isaacs, Pte. Wells, Pte. Austin, Pte. Gibbs, Pte. Johns, Pte. Hayes, Pte. Sheppard, Pte. Harvey, Pte. Rochester, Pte. Wilson, Pte. Jones, Pte. Hardman, Pte. O'Shaughnessy, Pte. Armstrong, Pte. Jones 16, Pte. Whittington, Pte. Grenfell, Pte. Gordon, Pte. Sach, Pte. Harris, Pte. Toner, Pte. Berg, Pte. Milburn, Pte. Webb, L/Cpl. Hilton, L/Cpl. Young, Pte. Russell, Pte. Heale, Pte. McMinn, L/Cpl. Pryor, Cpl. Haffner, Cpl. Flanagan, Cpl. McKenzie, Cpl. Shearing, Cpl. Mullender, L/Cpl. Walsh, L/Cpl. Forde, L/Cpl. Howe, Sgt. Argent, Sgt. Partridge, C.S.M. Dodkins, Lt. M. G. Waite, Capt. J. I. D. Pike, M.C., Lt. P. Mallahieu, C/Sgt. Dive, Sgt. Lagden, Sgt. Pritchard

#### Departures and Arrivals

Only a few changes have taken place this quarter. Pte. "Mathis" Clift has joined up with the band to "air his lungs" and, after spending three years with "S" Company (two and a half of which were with the Anti-Tank Platoon), Lt. Waite has taken over the duties of Assistant Adjutant. We welcome in his place Lt. Cowing. Sgt. Lagden was heard to remark: "Ah, perhaps we'll now see more of the Platoon Commander than we did of the previous one." Mr. Cowing left him in no doubts when he told the Platoon Sergeant to "Carry on, please, shan't be back from ski-ing until April"!

So once again leaving Sgt. Lagden to wrestle with the problems of command in his Platoon and with judo in the gymnasium, we, the Anti-Tank Platoon, wish all ranks of the Battalion a happy, successful 1961.

#### Assault-Pioneer Platoon

The Platoon, seldom at loss to devise interesting and exciting training adventures, such as the earlier rafting

expedition, or the cycle tour—sadly confesses that this has been an uneventful period.

Most of the Platoon's activity has been directed toward repairing the assault course, which had been suffering from over-use and not enough maintenance. It is hardly likely that the rest of the Company, or companies, will applaud this endeavour, but it is now in "good lick" and the P.E. tests continue unabated.

Our Platoon Sergeant, Sgt. Pritchard, has left for home on leave in order that he may for the first time present his beard to the family—we hope to record their comments in the next issue! These whiskers have been the butt of much abuse or admiration, depending on one's tastes. However, it is safe to say that, through this fungus, he has become the most widely known figure in the entire Brigade.

The novices' boxing competition discovered a new champion, Pte. Hardman's fistic capability delighted the spectators. He did exceptionally well and reached the finals in the true spirit of novice boxing (little skill but plenty of determination and courage). He fought five



Cpl. Flanagan

bouts in all and emerged winner of his weight. In a new realm of sport, as far as Assault Pioneers are concerned, L/Cpl. Bartlett has left for the ski-training centre at Winterberg, and, if he survives the initial snow-plough turns, etc., he will doubtless return to boast of his prowess on skis.

The future outlook: Pte. Berg joins the School of Military Engineering at Chatham for a long tradesman's course in carpentry. At the same time, Ptes. Hardman and Maloney attend a course with the Brigade's R.E. Squadron at Minden for basic field engineering, and Pte. Coles! after assisting at the local stables is considering a transfer to the Sovereign's mounted escort!!

Finally, the Platoon congratulate the Company Commander on the birth of his son.

#### Cpl. Flanagan

Cpl. Flanagan is one of the most prominent members of the Mortar Platoon, and indeed of "S" Company as a whole.

After living in Eire and going to school there, he developed a wanderlust, came over to England and worked in Woolworths for a spell. Finding this did not appease his wish to travel, he signed on and became a Regular in our Regiment.

Cpl. Flanagan stands out both as a soldier and as a sportsman. There are few sports that he does not represent the Company in and, indeed, stands out in the Battalion as our best cross-country runner.

#### Pte. "Surtees" Jones

Just over a year ago the Platoon Commander realised that he was entitled to a dispatch rider in the Anti-Tank Platoon. After a few tentative enquiries it was discovered

that Jones had driven a motor-cycle in civilian life and would like to carry out the duties of Platoon "Don R." With great haste he was pushed over to the M.T.O.'s academy for drivers and, directly the M.T.O. heard of a soldier wanting to drive one of his untamed mustangs, he took sympathy on this rather quiet but extremely confident young man. A test was arranged and soon Jones was tearing around like an expert, up and down hills, in and out of doorways, round and round roundabouts. Because of this marked improvement it was decided he should try his luck on a motor-cycle!

At first the beast was reluctant to pull away and, when it did, it did it so suddenly that Jones had difficulty in controlling it. However, as the days went by, Jones was becoming a very competent dispatch rider.

It was a proud day for him when the Anti-Tank Platoon went out on a defensive exercise and he was to be used to relay messages from the Platoon Commander to the Platoon Sergeant with only the help of his machine and a map.

So the training season progressed and "Surtees" Jones was now the complete master of his machine; no matter where he travelled, across muddy country, sandy country or on main roads congested with traffic, he was always in good heart and proved himself a very reliable D.R.

His great test came when on exercise "Holdfast," when he proved so efficient that he was stolen from the Platoon to help out "A" Echelon. Well done, Jones, you can make the Commanding Officer's personal D.R. yet.

The Platoon offer you their congratulations for the way you have carried out your task, even though it is time you drove something worth driving like a champ, adds "Stirling Wells."



Photo: Sgt. Lagden

Pte. "Surtees" Jones

#### "H.Q." COMPANY

With the administrative inspection safely over, "H.Q." Company has been able to get down to a little



internal reorganisation and to the many tasks we found so difficult to "fit in" during the summer.

In order to get the Band and Drums together a bit more, "H.Q." Company sports line-up has been altered and now consists as follows:

"H.Q." 1: Band, Drums, Admin. Platoon (Q.M.'s, R.A.P.C., and G.D.).

"H.Q." 2: Signals, M.T., Battalion H.Q. (including Mess Staff).

This gives each half of the Company three platoon groups for sports and for such things as the basketball ladder and for inter-platoon .22 shooting. This has worked well and we have started to get some more of the back-room boys out into the fresh air for exercise.

We can also congratulate "H.Q." 1 on not only winning the Albuhera basketball but on winning every match in the competition.

Our platoon basketball has also improved and it should be noted that the Admin. Platoon is at the top of the ladder (or was that the luck of the draw?).

Our .22 shooting is also improving (it could hardly do otherwise!). In the Brigade competition we had a very unfortunate first shoot, one member of the team (who shall remain nameless) only scored 7! However, since then we have got much better scores with each shoot.

On the open range, also, C.S.M. Dodkins has been getting good results from his steady coaching, which is most encouraging. Elsewhere we have said good-bye to C.S.M. Wright, and it is only fitting to say welcome to C.S.M. Dodkins here. He took up his duties in November and, so far, has remained remarkably cheerful! It is certainly good to see that the many problems of "H.Q." Company are not getting him down!

C/Sgt. Garraty has taken over C.Q.M.S. from C/Sgt. (now W.O.2 and congratulations) "Ever-So-Much-More-Cheerful-Thank-You-Sir" Simmons, who left us with a broad grin and a sigh of relief to take over C.S.M. "S" Company. C/Sgt. Garraty is no stranger to "H.Q." Company and he is most welcome, and we are sure that he will look after us very well.

Christmas seemed to last a long time this year, and the numerous parties seemed to be enjoyed by all. The atmosphere in the Band's "smoker" can only be described as smog, grog, and pea soup; it certainly took Major Pearce Gould's voice away. He could only raise a croak at his early-morning farewell on December 17!

Many members of the Company enjoyed Christmas with German families and most, apparently, had a very good time. A lot went back for more the following week-end (strangely enough to families with 17-year-old daughters).

P.S.—We assume that "Flash" Hammond's nickname bears no relation to the state of his bayonet (?). Incidentally, we bid him a fond farewell and trust that his shaking up in the accident will not affect him in civilian life.

#### Q.M. Department

We introduce these notes still in a fluster of inspections and hard work. The quarter commenced with the annual administrative inspection, a period during which this department wishes that there were 48 hours in each day, but, as usual, everything came out all right in the

end, even if the D.A.Q. and Staff had to inspect ledgers in the midst of children and wives who were watching the parade.

Once this was over we all thought, "Ah, now for a rest"; but no, new range equipment destroyed all thoughts of rest, and then Winterberg; again the midnight oil was burned. Winterberg has removed from our midst Brickell, Allen and Luck, also Sgt. Langford and the Q.M. temporarily. Sgt. Langford returned to the fold after trying to go swimming in a 10-ton truck, with a large bandage where his beret should be, and a definite list to starboard on his nasal organ, but some say that he is decidedly better looking now.

During this period L/Cpl. White was appointed as stage manager, stage-hand and general handyman for Major Pearce Gould's production of "The Battle of Inkerman"; the shock of having to work for a living caused him to apply for leave and proceed on leave immediately afterwards. The shock of having to work also seems to have had an effect on Cpl. Stubbing who proceeded to Hildesheim to become educated; rumour has it that his daughter was instructing him at one time, and now he awaits the result of his efforts.

About this time our shoemaker, R.A.O.C., returned from the N.C.O.s' cadre a bit smaller than he went, requesting to take the department on drill parades, field training and such things, but he was eventually persuaded to proceed on leave instead. We congratulate him on his very fine effort and excellent result on the cadre. "Well done, Jock."

The Q.M. decided that, as he had not had any leave since 1946, he would proceed to U.K. on leave for the Christmas period, and, after a lot of permutations of dates was eventually scuppered by the Orderly Room, who caused him to miss the Hameln Mess party, but, as consolation, he was still able to make the Depot party.

As usual, he won a prize in the Battalion raffle (some people have all the luck!). Ptes. "Flash" Hammond and "Big" Ward were passengers on the truck that had the unfortunate accident in December, but, after a few days in B.M.H., they returned to the fold, bandaged and battered, and are now leading the lives of retired gentlemen temporarily. Cpl. Long, our "hard-working canteen cowboy," is reputed to be learning maintenance after his "five-star motor" let him down on a couple of occasions. The armourer section is now hunting for work so that Cfmn. Simpson, fresh from his course at the B.A.O.R. School, R.E.M.E., can put some of his theory into practice; keep an eye on him, Ted, he will have you working yet. Most of the "layabouts" in the stores and the Q.M.'s clerks were invited out over the Christmas period to German families where they all report they had very good times. C/Sgt. Nicholson also appears to have had a good time as he insisted on marching one married Quarter out at 0300 hrs. on Boxing Day.

I should like to close these notes by correcting two barrack rumours that are going the rounds at present: firstly: "There is positively no connection between the Q.M. wearing boots and the Colours being carried on parade"; and, secondly, "Although the P.R.I. has raised all subscriptions (and now drives a new car) the

barrack damage stoppages will remain as before with no increase."

#### M.T. Notes

Once more your Cassandra of the "M.T. Confidential" is faced with the problem of keeping the Platoon in the news, and, to assist readers to digest the scandal contained, readers will note sub-headings have been used.

#### Economics of the M.T.

Your scribe got a very big shock upon his return from the U.K. to find some very grown men pushing some very large vehicles from point "A" to point "B" rather than start the engine, for the very sound of which would have been enough to cause the M.T.O. to borrow Pte. McIntyre's parachute and hover over the scene of the outrage. However, this economy drive has achieved the required result and, who knows, perhaps Pte. Lindon may one day be able to fill his lighter again.

#### C.I.V. Inspection

The Platoon managed to better last year's report by a considerable margin, and we congratulate Ptes. Boulton, Elkington and Hopkins on the 100 per cent. reports achieved. This reflects the amount of very hard work put in by all members of the Platoon.

#### Administrative Inspection

Whilst engaged in the work of preparation for the C.I.V. we also were getting down to the job of preparing for the annual administrative inspection, which we once again managed to pass, though this time, however, the score was only 99 per cent., the remaining 1 per cent. being L/Cpl. Robins's gaiters.

#### Christmas and the New Year

Over the holiday period a large number of the Platoon managed to get away for a few days. Ptes. Lay and Barnett only managed to get to Hamburg! Which only goes to show that Pte. Lay needs to read up his time-tables! However, those of us who elected to remain at home for Christmas were rewarded by five party days, and the sight of S/Cgt. Walters getting his just deserts. The 3-ton room was converted, at great expense, to look like a miniature "Cafe de Paris," an illusion which was improved by the early-morning cabaret acts of L/Cpl. Brown and Pte. Crowder (excerpts from "Swan Lake"), Pte. Jamieson (tightrope) and the morning, Pte. McIntyre (striptease). Pte. Stubbs developed a liking for white wine, but we regret to announce that after a bottle and a half he changed his mind. Ptes. Augtherlony, Fletcher, Butler, McIntyre, Jamieson and many more took advantage of the "Get-you-Home-Service" provided and these, plus others, enjoyed the benefit of fire buckets on which so great a demand was felt that extra supplies had to be obtained at very short notice. Regrettably on Christmas morning there were many who failed to respond to the M.T.O.'s and C.S.M.'s cheerful words: "Have a biccy." Pte. Pearce, in fact, refused point blank to have a bucket full of tea and rum but at least he did not require the services of two buckets, as was the case of one Pte. Rivers.

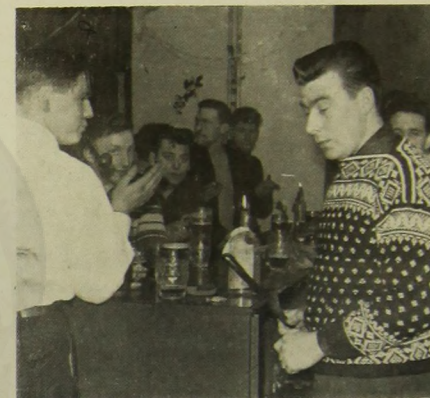


Photo: Pte. Cattermole

Barman-in-Chief Robins in conversation with "Percy" at the M.T. Christmas party

The Platoon also managed to invite a few friends in, the object being to repay services rendered. L/Cpl. Turner's reward took the form of a black eye (not intended), Pte. Delaney, A.C.C., afterwards found it necessary to visit the M.I. Room as his reward; Cpl. Beavis was wondering where L/Cpl. Young and six had got to (and at that hour of the morning as well); Pte. Elkington graced us with a fleeting visit, the shortness of which the Platoon took to be their Christmas box. New Year's Day was helped in by a number of suitably placed horns (in our opinion at least) and a visit from the Company Commander and Mechanical Transport Officer (that's a new one) in the very early hours, the net result being a very enjoyable time for all.

#### Comings and Goings

On the debit side of things dare I again mention Pte. Hopkin's hair (must have been to Butlin's again)? We have also lost Pte. Augtherlony to "C" Company where we believe he and a Bren gun are making fast friends, and, of course, by the time these notes appear we will have lost all those *redundant* and *unfit* for further service National Servicemen, and under 23 years at that, which, in fact, appears to be the whole of our 3-ton Section, but perhaps they will see the light and one day return to the fold. On the credit side, we expect to have a fill up from the driving cadres that we are running at the moment, that is if we have enough vehicles to last out, for we regret to say that our accident rate has gone up, the only consolation being in the fact that these large German lorries have no respect for even the highest of Sunrays. Welcome also to Ptes. Garner, Hodges, and to the Sportsman of the Year, Pte. O'Brien, who is unfortunately finding that hockey and P.O.L. just do not mix.

#### Sport

On the first day of the New Year we soundly outplayed a darts team from "A" Company, due, we feel,



to the excellent re-cooperative powers of our team from the night before, the poor quality of the opposition and the excellent work of one Pte. Goulding. However, on the .22 shooting when your scribe asked for the score it was summed up in two words, unprintable, however regrettable.

#### Winterberg

A large number of the Platoon have sought the refuge of the mountains this year, led by the A/M.T.O., who, before departure, we understand, carried out a major re-design job on his car (back and front). Also in the wandering band has been found such personalities as Ptes. Flack, Barnett, Rivers, Cheffings, Castle, Reynolds, Thurston, Jones, Hopkins and, for a much shorter period than expected, Pte. G. Stimpson.

#### General

Cpl. Minett returned from the U.K. (to the disgust of many, chiefly Cpl. Minett) in time to take over from Sgt. (unbearded) Pritchard (it's the only way you can tell) who has left for some U.K. leave with the words: "After a year with that lot, I need it, mate!" Cpl. Brennan left for "D" Company to be refreshed but, from rumours that we hear, "our Chris" will soon be in on the Felsenkeller Run when the need to be refreshed will be even greater! L/Cpl. Robins listens very keenly each morning to the foot and mouth report on the radio, ever since a corner of room 22 was declared a controlled area, in which he spends much of his time uttering weird sounds and sticking pins in strange objects. Pte. Whitmore still believes that plimsols are more comfortable than boots, we understand a Colonel told him. Sgt. Hawes received ever such a pretty picture of his car, pity it had that horrible clock on it and on such an expensive photo at that. Pte. Edwards tells me that he has never had a mention; he still won't get one, but we will say how pleasant it was to meet Mrs. Edwards at the all ranks' dance. L/Cpl. King sent a Christmas greeting to the M.T.O. who is awaiting an explanation. Pte. Beal, in Yank land we hear, is working every other day, a lot more, we might add, than he has ever done for us. Pte. Rowland proved that he is a very good watch-dog, in fact he allows his charge to put him to bed. Pte. Upton, we regret, has paid a visit to B.M.H. after a period of putting his best foot forward, Pte. Williams, not to be outdone, went sick at home, what he puts forward we don't yet know!

So, thanking that kind member of the R.A.P.C. for his kind words of appreciation; in remembering the M.T.O.'s words when viewing a certain photo, "Cor! aint it a small un"; in reminding Pte. Lindon of his disclosing remarks in the "Scorpion," and praying that somebody will produce a little more petrol, we remind you to read the next instalment which, regretably, will be six months from now.

#### The Signal Platoon

As in our last notes we stated that we were off to another Platoon party, it was held at a different place this time, at Hess Oldendorf, the Platoon invited Major and Mrs. Bellers, C.S.M. Wright, Sgt. and Mrs. Briggs. The R.S.O., then Capt. Pollard, headed the

table for the last time as he has now left us. There is no need to mention that a good time was had by all, but we will mention it anyway.

Capt. Pollard handed over to C/Sgt. Walters until Lt. Cheesman returned from Hythe to take over the right honorable post of "Pronto." Well, for the first week of Colours taking over everything went quite well, whenever he was wanted it was C/Sgt. "Nothing Heard," sometimes he was seen wandering around and muttering strange words to himself; after about a week he was back to his old self once again as some of us well remember, particularly Cpl. Haggerty who is now an expert on making model aerials.

Well, who are this happy band of men who feel it in their hearts to do a good day's work; men who never even think of skiving, men who are never content until their cells (rooms) are so immaculate that C/Sgt. Walters gave up having room inspections after the admin. (sorry, we promise never to say the word again). If you believe that lot, you must be stark raving bonkers. Skive? We wouldn't dream of it, until we wake up, as for room inspections—if we do not get at least three a week we've had an easy week.

There is "old" Tony Bowden, the Old Soldier with only one and days to do; there is a chance he might sign on yet. Then there is Brian Barratt, Jeff Edwards, Johnny Bracher and Bruce Howell, who every morning have a race to get out of bed first, and, of course, "Lofty" Hill, who sleeps with his head on the window ledge and his feet on his foot locker; little Russ does not use blankets, he just sleeps in his pillow-case. Don Donovan, who, after spending Christmas at home, still has the smell of English ale on his breath, much to the envy of "Tell Edge," who is guaranteed to be "well-a-gonk" by 1900 hrs., but is often beaten by "Buck" Ryan whose theory is "early to bed makes a man lazy." Talking about men, there is Brian Mann who, to add to the confusion of cell 46, says his mother is a man, but no relation to the brewery. When breweries come into the conversation, Alec Scorgie's name must be mentioned.

The cadre is now in full swing, as all the instructors well know. We think Sgt. Weston by now has mose on the brain, as he was heard ordering a beer in mose while in the Sergeants' Mess. Most members of the cadre are appearing quite experts at mose, so, with a little bit of luck, the Company Commanders will not hear the cry of "nothing heard."

We think C.S.M. Dodkins will be glad when the cadre ends, as he has quite a problem on duty week.

Now we have the W/set A 41, and everyone who has operated it agree that it is a very good set.

Over the Christmas period some of the Platoon spent their time with German families, and by all accounts they had a great time, most of them came back laden with gifts and food, and some of the boys receive letters from the families they visited.

Christmas Day found C/Sgt. Walters in high spirits—firstly in bringing round the tea in the morning—he then decided that the floor of the N.C.O.s' room needed washing, which he did for them with their ration of tea. He thought it highly amusing, although the N.C.O.s did not think so. Then came the dinner, and "Pronto"

Minor was asked to sing—or yes, well, he decided to sing, much to the disappointment of the Platoon. For moral support the M.T. Platoon started throwing things at him; needless to say the Signallers helped out as well. Somehow we think he will not sing next year.

Next came the all ranks' dance, which was attended by our new master, looking about 2½ stone heavier, with a few grey hairs, through worry. He admitted he had put on weight and intended to lose it as soon as possible with the help of the Platoon; plenty of route marches, that's what we need and that's what we are getting, for the outdoor type is in the Platoon.

We've not done too badly in the way of sport: Pte. Gibbons and Crook represented the Battalion in basketball, and L/Cpl. Phillips in football. Congratulations to L/Cpl. Jones, who was runner-up in the B.A.O.R. Judo Championships; we don't see much of him now as he is taking part in Sgt. Poole's domain. The Platoon's basketball team did quite well in the Albuhera Cup under the guidance of Sgt. Overton. The .22 rifle team are doing extremely well in the competition.

Ski-ing is the latest craze now, with the facilities at Murnau and Winterberg. We lost Cpl. Rand, Ptes. Lewis, Howard, Scott and Coles to Winterberg; they say they will do anything to get out of "Pronto" Minor's way. The ski centre at Murnau seems to be the favourite place out of the two, they say it's the food. Ptes. Thomas, Short, Kadshaw, L/Cpl. Challenor and Pte. Connell have so far been lucky enough to spend two weeks there; so far we have not had any complaints (touch wood).

While Pte. Short, the Battery storeman, was at Murnau, Pte. Connell took over. Pte. Short is still trying to find out what happened.

We are now looking forward to future schemes and a good training season, and, of course, news of the Battalion's next posting. At the moment the Platoon is busy preparing for the main exercise during the cadre, exercise "Station Organisation." We feel there will be no sleep for a long time. Pte. Glassup, who helped to compile these notes, is not complaining, all we hear from him is: Romeo Oscar Delta.

#### BAND

The first major event that occurred after the period covered by our last notes was our annual administrative inspection on November 2—no details, of course, are needed! Subsequently we played for the parades of various other units in the area—125 Company, R.A.S.C., at Bindon Barracks, 54 Company, R.A.S.C., in Minden, and B.M.H. Rinteln. Learning, particularly in the latter case, how the other half lives, there was not even a square!

The rise of our spirits towards the Christmas period received a sudden check when we had to play at the funeral of a member of the Regiment unfortunately killed in a road accident on the way to Winterberg.

Turning from the melancholy subject, we take up the story of the Band Christmas social on December 16—a very jolly and successful affair, for which the practice room was transformed into what we hoped was a fair replica of a Marseilles fishermen's den. Major Pierce

Gould, our guest of honour, in his last few days as Band President, was highly impressed and delighted. The Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. Battye, and the Company Commander, Major Bellers, also attended and, we think, much enjoyed the occasion. The Band members certainly made use of our "Morning Noon and Night Before."

The swing with which the celebration went has prompted us to install, in a less obvious position, the bar constructed for the occasion, and to start the Band Social Club on a more positive footing. "Won't anyone go up and help with the bar this afternoon?"

Two of our dance bands had a spell in Winterberg, playing at the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes, while a third remained here in Hameln to cover the work at this end. Needless to say, we were fairly busy.

Cpl. Torrie is now definitely married, and even flaunts his wedding ring with the mad, gay abandon of a newly-wed. Bdsm. Cooper is at present on leave undergoing the same operation. Our best wishes and congratulations go out to them both.

Bdsm. Coleman and Bdsm. Wornes became, overnight, as it were, L/Cpl. Coleman and L/Cpl. Wornes. Congratulations to them both on their promotion.

This month of January promises to be one of routine. Next month, however, the Band will, we hope, partake of ten days' local leave, and the present writer of these notes will then be demobilised. After that, who knows? But I'm all right, Jack!

#### DRUMS

The "elite" of the Battalion started this rather cold quarter with a "bang," Beating Retreat on the barrack square, which was to be our final showing-off parade before the winter months were upon us. The next four weeks were spent wandering around the Brigade area with the Band, enjoying many administrative parades.

After a short course on first aid we selected our potential doctors for the stretcher-bearer competition which takes place each year at Sennelager. We have now settled down to an interesting and intensive course under the guiding hand of "Doctor" Jones, and are hoping to do a lot better than last year when, out of the 20-odd teams that took part, we came 12th, the teams coming from all over B.A.O.R., including the Canadian Brigade.

In the field of sport we are more than holding our own at platoon level, of course. We have yet to lose a game of football, our thanks due in the main to Drms. Butler, Lane and our favourite goalkeeper Davidson, all three of whom play regularly for the Battalion team. In the basketball ladder we have played four games, lost one and won three, moving us up to 10th place. Having had bad luck to be drawn at the bottom of the ladder, in the New Year we will change that and finish up nearer the top. Can we even see someone bouncing around the pitch in a black track suit?

A very merry Christmas and a merrier New Year was spent by all, in U.K., on leave. More about that in the next quarter.



### Congratulations

Our congratulations go out to L/Cpls. White and Marquiss, both of whom, having done extremely well on the last N.C.O.s' cadre of 1960, were promoted to lance-corporals. Well done!

### W.O.2 WRIGHT

#### W.O.2 Wright

1. In the early hours of Sunday morning, November 20, 1960, a heavily laden little Austin A40 could have been seen swinging out of Gordon Barracks, Hameln, and heading for Ostend.

2. C.S.M. Wright was leaving 1st Middlesex after over 12 years' continuous service with the 1st Battalion. Quite a record and one that should not go unnoticed.

3. Here is the C.S.M.'s record:

August, 1948—Joined the 1st Battalion as M.T. Corporal at Mill Hill.

October, 1948, to May, 1949—With Rifle Companies on guard duties at Chelsea and Windsor.

June, 1949, to November, 1949—M.T. Corporal, Hong Kong.

December, 1949, to August, 1950—M.T. Sergeant, Hong Kong.

September, 1950, to December, 1954—Technical Sergeant, Korea, Hong Kong and Austria.

January, 1955, to March, 1957—C.Q.M.S., "C" Company, Austria, Cyprus and Aqaba.

April, 1957, to October, 1958—C.Q.M.S., "D" Company, Cyprus.

November, 1958, to May, 1959—C.Q.M.S., "A" Company, Hameln.

(and the hardest of all?)

June, 1959, to November, 1960—C.S.M., "H.Q." Company, Hameln.

4. He now goes to the T.A. (7th Middlesex) just as many changes are about to take place there. We in the 1st Battalion all wish him well and hope he enjoys life in the reorganised T.A.

5. We now wonder who claims to be the longest serving soldier with 1st Middlesex (and we mean continuous service with the Battalion).

### WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

It is with a very red face that the editor of these notes once again puts pen to paper. Having seen himself in undress uniform in the last issue of the journal, he feels that he has very little to disclose this quarter.

The biggest scoop this time was to have been a photograph of the "Five Mill Hill Pilgrims," but this was not to be. Yours truly nearly missed a drill parade chasing them with his camera. How they eluded him is still a mystery. We all enjoyed their company and hope that they will make the pilgrimage again this year.

Having put the annual administrative inspection behind us, we began to think about Christmas and the New Year. It was decided that the festive season should take its normal course of social events.

On Saturday, December 17, we held our Christmas draw. It was a very successful evening—at least for the R.S.M., who led the field by winning about 10 prizes. Prizes varied considerably, poultry and spirits being well



Visit of "Lofty" Evans and Mrs. Evans to 1st Middlesex Sergeants' Mess, January, 1961

to the fore. Mrs. Davies is to be particularly thanked for making a beautiful 10-lb. Christmas cake. Lucky winner—Fanny Gibbs—generously shared it amongst us.

Traditionally, on Christmas Day we visited the Officers' Mess and afterwards helped serve dinner to the troops. The following day found us engaged in battle with the officers in a comic hockey match. We treated them very gently, particularly the subalterns, who were very few in number. An injury to one of them would have caused a major upset on the Orderly Officer's duty roster. Afterwards, we entertained the officers in our Mess and, quite unintentionally, led a few of them astray. No more need be said.

The grand finale was the New Year's Eve ball. With the officers as our guests we all enjoyed a high-spirited party. Once again we must thank Johnny Medlock and his staff for providing us with a scrumptious buffet.

The only Mess dinner held during the quarter was on December 10 when Major P. L. Pearce Gould, M.B.E., was our guest of honour. This was both a memorable and sad occasion for us, as it was the last time we were to entertain Major Pearce Gould in our Mess. All members of the Mess will miss the 2IC and we take this last opportunity of wishing him every success in the future.

Sgts. Ford and Lloyd rejoined the Battalion just in time to team up with Sgt. Argent in representing the Battalion against the Camerons in the second round of the Army Cup boxing competition. All put up a very creditable performance, Sgt. Argent winning his bout on points.

Sgt. Hanford, R.A.P.C., has left us *en route* for Mons Officer Cadet School and a short service commission. We wish him and his family the best of luck in their new venture.

Congratulations to C.S.M. Simmons and C/Sgt. Smith on their recent promotions. George is now C.S.M. of "S" Company and Bill Smith has gone to swell the ranks of "A" (Acker) Company.



"OUR SYD"

Sgt. C. Pritchard

Finally, as promised in the last notes, we enclose a photo of "Our Syd" just to prove that fungus is not confined to trees.

### CORPORALS' CLUB

It is with regret that we start these notes with the very sad news of the death of one of our new but popular members of the Club, L/Cpl. Alan Wilkinson, who, as the result of a road traffic accident, died in Detmold civilian hospital. Fellow N.C.O.s provided the bearer party at the funeral which took place at Limmer Military Cemetery, and the P.M.C. placed a wreath on behalf of all members of the Club.

As reported in the last issue, Cpl. O'Rawe and his merry band of men were made responsible for the running of the Club. Since then they have organised a weekly social which is growing in popularity as the weeks go by. It is noticeable, however, the affect that the Company (elbow) rest rooms are having on attendance, and it is hoped that these will not bring to an end the many enjoyable evenings spent in the Club.

The big topic of conversation this quarter has been the letters of one Cpl. ("Champagne Charlie") Barnes, our middle-aged teddy boy, who, if not reading a copy of "Ireland's Own," is busy reading letters from a certain Masonic establishment in Manchester or from the land of the "wee people," much, we might add, to the amusement of a certain four.

Another topic of conversation has been the new bar which has been so long in retching (printer's error) the planning stage that a few members of the Club feel that they have long enough to do to reap the benefits of it; still, we live in hope.

We also hope that in these dark and dreary nights we can organise a games night with the more "senior" Messes of the Battalion, bearing in mind the return of the darts champ, Cpl. Meehan, and the wizard of the

snooker tables, Cpl. Quinn, whose only fault is the amount of hair found on the table after he has played.

Welcome to Cpl. Burrows, L/Cpls. Challenor, Marquiss, White, Kelly and the many others who have been accepted into the brotherhood; may the R.S.M. look kindly upon them and may their glasses never be empty.

Cpl. Brennan has announced that the big day is on the way, having been at last caught in the tender trap, as has also Cpl. O'Gorman, to whom we offer our congratulations on his forthcoming marriage on a time and date to be arranged by the P.M.C. and committee.

"D" Company have been running a refresher cadre for the more senior members of the Club. To date no refreshed looks have been observed, still, the "general" found the slow marching of a certain C.S.M. so painless. Cpl. O'Rawe found that it would not be quite proper to obey a certain command received whilst on stick drill, and who was it that was seen with an empty envelope after a certain cross-country hike?

Cpl. Dickens, we are told, may be Canterbury bound in the near future, thereby allowing L/Cpl. Brown to become the champion "bush grower" (mush type) of the Club.

L/Cpl. Mitchell had the honour of being checked in bed for a haircut at 0340 hrs., due to his surprise in seeing the Provost Sergeant away from his more usual haunt in the "Ice Box." He was unable to utter one word of protest.

L/Cpl. Hennessy, like L/Cpl. Knapp, has grown tired of little machines, but we feel that Hennessy's B.R.M. will outlap Knapp's Porsche any day. Cpls. Simpson, A.C.C. (no t(ea) this time), and Kirkpatrick are engaged in a form of competition. If one is as thick as the porridge he serves he will no doubt be the winner.

The Officers' and Sergeants' Messes paid us a visit one evening which resulted in a most memorable time for all, due to such happenings as Cpl. Puckey's remark of: "What is he doing here," the wife of one member who was certain that the man with the big badge on the sleeve of his white jacket was a waiter, Mike Brown's remarks on a certain hat and his performance at bringing the house down later in the evening.

It was around this time that L/Cpl. Smith felt that he was a descendant of Marconi, the television thought otherwise—result, in perfect German—"Kaput."

L/Cpl. White (Q.M.'s) remarks on the Pioneer Shop being medieval should not, we feel, be taken as referring to Kirk's countenance. We must not forget to congratulate Cpl. Miles on his success in the tombola, pity he has to spend his money on chips, unlike L/Cpl. Trudgil, who never appears to be hungry. Congratulations also to Cpl. ("Nurse") Lynch, who had the shock of finding one of his guard in deep freeze, to L/Cpl. O'Riordan who slipped out of civies and into a track suit in time to avoid any duties, and also to L/Cpl. Young on being pulled out for the fourth time, for which service Cpl. Minett's recovery team are claiming four beers.

Cpl. Pete Stuart has also discarded his holdall in favour of a "container," velvet with sequin decoration, supplied by a kind member of the N.A.A.F.I. staff,



which holds his washing and shaving kit much more unsuspectingly. Cpl. Fleet lent his services to the M.T. Platoon and has put forward several ideas of improving this already efficient body. The ideas put forward for Cpl. Blanco are, however, not repeatable.

The well-known phrase of "You could smell it a mile off" must surely apply to Cpl. Flanagan, but he in turn puts it down to training. Cpl. Stubbins has also found that when you borrow a friend's car it is a very long push back. Cpls. Manser and Burford have elected L/Cpl. Rahmatullah to represent them in the forthcoming motor-cycle cadre.

L/Cpl. Flynn shared a very restless morning lately with the Company, as his 120 bears witness and, in closing, we welcome to the chair Cpl. Kirkpatrick and "Big White Chief IC," Mr. Waite, to whom we extend our sympathy on being lumbered, but you cannot have it cushy all the time.

#### Stop Press

Will "Sherlock" Barnes, the Diehard "Dick," track down the big wheel in the "Phantom Letter Case." Do not fail to read the next gripping instalment.

#### SPORT

As a newcomer to the sporting helm of 1st Middlesex your correspondent finds it very difficult to summarise the sporting activities of the last quarter. A tremendous amount has been done in all fields of sport from judo and squash to rugby and ski-ing.

It cannot be said that 1st Middlesex has set the Weser on fire with their achievements this season, but we can look at the record book with a certain amount of satisfaction.

The boxing team were not disgraced by their narrow defeat to 1st Cameronians in the Army Cup nor were the rugby team by their narrow defeat to 24 Regiment, R.A., although this was very disappointing for the team, who had high hopes this season.

We are now pinning our hopes on the hockey and cross-country teams. The cross-country team will be the first to prove themselves in the Brigade competition on January 25. They are training very hard and could do well.

The hockey team have been playing very well this season and, if all goes well, are capable of beating the Cameronians on February 5 in the third round of the Army Cup.

A new sport to the Battalion, judo, was introduced during September and has become very popular. The Battalion team were entered for the B.A.O.R. competition and carried off the runners-up shield, a notable performance for a very young club. L/Cpl. Jones in the B.A.O.R. individual championship was runner-up in the senior competition.

Since the arrival of Capt. Lohan in October the fencing club has been revived and modern pentathlon is back on the map. We are very lucky in having Finnis with us again after his long stay at Aldershot with the British team and subsequent trip to Rome, as he has taken on the task of trainer to the Battalion pentathlon team.

#### RUGBY

The season 1960-61 started well with the encouraging enthusiasm shown in the Garrison seven-a-side competition mentioned in the last Journal.

After this a period of team building took place, which was made very difficult by the absence of several key players through leave, courses and injuries. We have had a very useful addition to the ranks of the rugby team in the form of the new Padre, Rev. W. R. Crawte, who is a very strong three-quarter. The absentees include Lt. Cheesman who has been away in England having his cartilage removed, and Capt. Lloyd who has been in B.M.H. Rinteln for an operation. Capt. Pollard, a stalwart forward, also missed several games through injury.

In spite of all the difficulties, Lt. Goring managed to get a jolly strong team together in time for the first round of the Army Cup against 24 Regiment, R.A. This match was fought out under difficult weather conditions.

The game was very much a ground battle and the pack were more than equal to their opponents. The backs played well in defence but had little opportunity to show their scoring potential. The play moved from one end of the pitch to the other with the forwards striving for possession. Neither side could cross the line but when the play moved into our half the Gunners got possession and attempted to drop a goal. To our chagrin the kick was a beauty and sailed over straight and true. This proved to be the only score of the match. We were very disappointed but acknowledge that our opponents took their chance to score and won.

Later in the season just before Christmas the rugby team went to Berlin to play a tour of matches and to see the lights. This was a great success, bearing in mind that the true rugby player must be capable of holding a full glass steadily to his lips while draining it, no matter how often it is refilled. We lost to the Yorks & Lanes 41-0 but something to regain our reputation in the record game against the East Anglian which we were unlucky to lose 6-3 after sustaining several injuries.

This is a suitable moment to pay a tribute to a stalwart member of the Rugby team—C.S.M. Beale—who works hard for us either on the field or off and was instrumental in allowing us the use of the "A" Company Club which has made all the difference to the entertainment of our visitors.

If you take a look at the Battalion Rugby fixture list you might at first blink at the number of fixtures we have. The next reaction is to look at the scores. It will be written in terms of defeats and victories. We have not had too successful a season so far. What you will not see on paper is that the team is made up of a large number of keen young novices with a sprinkling of experienced players. These novices have gained and are still gaining experience by playing in a higher standard of rugby than they would otherwise have encountered.

These players, like young pups in a pack of foxhounds, are slowly learning a game which relies to a great extent on experience and an occasional nip from the veterans. We have every confidence in these enthusiastic novices, who will be the backbone of future Battalion XV's.

#### ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

A season in which so far we have only two wins and two draws to our credit. This, however, doesn't tell the whole story, neither does it give a true picture of the team's ability.

The season had a successful start under Lt. Legg, and, after many practices, the final few were chosen, and so on to an 8-1 win over our neighbours, 43rd Field Park Squadron R.E., in the opening game. Our success, however, was short lived, and in the weeks that followed came defeat. 1st R.H.A. saw us out of the Army Cup 3-1 in the first round.

Morale sank, and, with lack of supporters at matches and our captain away on leave, it was hard to keep the interest alive. I took over from Lt. Legg, who was bound for Winterberg, and the problem became mine.

We had several close games in the next few weeks, often losing only by the odd goal, and we even managed a draw with 1st Q.D.G. away, which proved that with a bit of luck we could do it. In spite of all this, great praise must be given to the 14 or so players who have stuck together throughout the season, giving of their best in sometimes appalling conditions. In particular, Pte. Gilham, the captain, from "B" Company, and L/Cpl. Stanborough of the Intelligence Section have been towers of strength both in defence and in holding the side together.

Finally, my thanks to all concerned for their repeated efforts for such little reward.

Footnote: F.A. Cup, first round: Scunthorpe 6, Blackpool 2. Perhaps we're not the only team with problems!

#### BOXING

From the novices' competition there emerged the nucleus of the Battalion boxing team. A friendly match was arranged against our old rivals, 24th Regiment R.A. We travelled up to Nienburg and, after an exciting evening's boxing, lost to them 7 bouts to 4. This was an exact reversal of the result of our last meeting.

In order to build up the team for the Army Cup competition, we had another friendly against the 1st Battalion the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, again we suffered defeat, but we still had other boxers to call on.

Finally the first round of the Army Cup was upon us, and it was boxed in Hameln against 19th Field Regiment R.A., from Minden.

The team for that occasion was as follows: Ptes. Heale, Jones and Fitzpatrick, Sgt. Argent, Pte. Warnock, Cpl. Shave, Ptes. Johns, Clarke (23), Clarke (89), Lewis and Seatory. We won 9 bouts to 2.

The next bout was against the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) and, after an extremely hard-fought contest, the Cameronians won by 6 bouts to 5 (16 points to 15).

The team for this match was as follows: Ptes. Heal and Jones, Sgts. Ford and Argent, Ptes. Warnock, Johns and Clarke (23), Cpl. Shave, Pte. Clarke (89), Sgt. Lloyd and Pte. Seatory.

Thanks go to S.I. Poole and Cpl. O'Rawe for their work in building up a good team from a number of inexperienced but keen boxers. Also we thank the

boxers who trained so hard but did not box and were replaced by more experienced boxers.

The following were also members of the boxing team: Cpls. Cosgrave and Miles, Ptes. Lewis, Theze, Hedges, Bull, Gap, Grant and Boyden.

In February the 2 Division individual championships are being held, and the following have been selected to represent the Battalion:

Cpl. Shave	..	..	Light-middleweight
L/Cpl. Kelly (R.A.O.C.)	at-	..	
tached 1st Middlesex	..	..	Flyweight
Pte. Heale	..	..	Bantamweight
Pte. Clarke (89)	..	..	Middleweight

#### HOCKEY

So far this season the Battalion hockey team has not been as strong as last year. The main reasons being the loss of one or two key players and the difficulty of fielding our strongest team each week. With our best team out, two of our defeats might well have been victories.

The team itself is well balanced with Pte. Morgan and Cpl. Torrie two very dangerous inside forwards. Sgt. Leat and the R.S.M. are still playing with considerable dash and often show up the younger members of the team.

If there is any weakness in the side it must be attributed to the defence.

This year, for the first time, the team went on a short tour to Deventer in Holland. Two matches were played on grass pitches, which in itself was a novelty to us, who usually play on asphalt.

The first match on Saturday, November 26, was against Deventer 2nd XI and was lost badly by 6-0. However, on Sunday, November 27, we played Deventer 1st XI and won 3-1 and honour was satisfied. In spite of the fact that we played better in the second game, we attribute the sudden change of fortune to the fact that the home team had made heavier going of a St. Nicholas' Eve party than we had.

A good time was had by all, thanks to the splendid hospitality of the Dutch families with whom we stayed. Everyone got back to Hameln safely, in spite of one car starting to drive up a railway line in the dark.

We are still in the Army Cup. Having had a bye in the first round, we went on to beat the South Wales Borderers 2-1 in the second. This was a very good and fast game in which the team played well above the standard that was expected. In the third round, which is the 11 Infantry Brigade Group final, we meet the Cameronians, who, with luck, we might beat. The team for the S.W.B. match was Pte. Bassett, Lt. Cowing, Pte. O'Brien, Bds. Wallwork, 2/Lt. Lofting, W.O.1 McMillan, Lt. Bulloch, Pte. Morgan, 2/Lt. Rayner, Cpl. Torrie and Sgt. Leat.

2/Lt. Lofting and Cpl. Torrie were both given B.A.O.R. trials and 2/Lt. Lofting has played for B.A.O.R. against the R.A.F.

The Albuhera Hockey Competition this season was run on a league basis and produced a very high standard of hockey. "A" Company and "B" Company eventually tied for first place with 11 points each. "C" Company were third, followed by H.Q. 1, H.Q. 2 and "S" Company.



## SKI-ING

This winter we are lucky enough to have several of last year's team left in the Battalion. Capt. Hayward will, of course, be a loss in the Alpine events, but in other departments we should prove as strong or stronger than last year. The Divisional and B.A.O.R. Ski Championships are being held in the first half of February and a report will be included in the next issue of the journal.

Facilities for ski-ing are much improved this year, and already several parties have attended courses at the 11 Brigade Winter Warfare Training Centre at Murnau, near Garmisch-Patenkirchen in Bavaria. A number of others have been ski-ing at Winterberg, although the call of duty there is unfortunately often away from the slopes.

## JUDO CLUB

A Battalion judo club was formed in September. From a small nucleus the club has now risen to over 50 very keen members. The club has been granted the permanent use of the small gymnasium where every Tuesday and Thursday evening training sessions take place under the supervision of the club's two Blue Belts, L/Cpl. Jones and L/Cpl. Smith. An initial difficulty was the finding of a suitable mat. However, S.I. Poole got this in hand and an excellent mat was made. Since then the club has also been granted a substantial sum of money with which a large judo mat and kit have been purchased.

In September S.I. Poole went on a course and was graded Yellow Belt in one week. By November the club had so progressed that we felt strong enough to enter the B.A.O.R. individual and team championships held at Sennelager. In this our team reached the final and only just lost in that after a very tough struggle. For this the team was awarded a very large and splendid shield. In the individual championships L/Cpl. Jones was runner-up in the senior events and S.I. Poole reached the quarter finals of the junior event. As a result of these successes the Battalion was paid a visit by reporters from *The Soldier*, who are writing an article on the judo club.

In December a grading course was held over one week at Gordon Barracks. A Black Belt especially came for this to train and judge the club. In this ten of our novices were graded and Pte. Ruddock was upgraded to yellow, Ptes. Reeve and Skelton previously having been upgraded to yellow at Sennelager.

The enthusiasm and morale of the club is such that it is hoped to arrange fixtures with other garrisons and units in Germany in the New Year.

## SQUASH

Squash is one of the few games that I know of in which "priorities" do not creep in, and it is far better that way, because the gentle art of gamesmanship would quickly disappear, and squash without gamesmanship is no fun.

Earlier this year a ladder was introduced and the happy band of players—about 15 in all—concentrated on climbing. However, as soon as the giants moved in

and reached the top few places the ladder settled down to a fairly stable affair. Major Pearce Gould, until he left, remained unbeaten at the top, and Lt. Cowing has taken over since.

The squash competition was played in December, and went the way of the favourites, Major Pearce Gould again beating Lt. Cowing in the final 3—0.

Towards the end of the year, however, a sinister force came on to the squash court—gamesmanship, as applied by Major Shipster, acting on advice from Stephen Potter! Lt. Bulloch immediately beat the Major at his own game by employing counter-gamesmanship, or one-upmanship. After a few disheartening reverses, he managed with the aid of a friend to beat the Major. However, gamesmanship still lurks on the court.

The Army Cup match was played on January 6 and for once we were without Lt. Cowing, whom we sadly missed.

The 19th Field Regiment, R.A., team came over to our court, and it was here that the squash ladder proved useful. Just as the players were due to enter the court they were shown the ladder and, with subtle movement of names, the top name happened to be the player who was about to play, thus causing alarm and despondency for at least five points. Capt. Lohan was unlucky to lose 3—2 (his name was not even on the squash ladder). Major Shipster played a "classic" game and won 3—1. Lt. Bulloch fell foul to some good play, and was not able to practise his gamesmanship, being beaten too quickly, 3—0. Standing in for L/Cpl. Stanborough, who succumbed to blisters after a nine-mile march in the morning, 2/Lt. Lofting played his game with great effort, and great amusement to the spectators, winning 3—1. Capt. Cowan, after having to overcome the strain of waiting for his opponent to arrive, started well, but after a long set finally lost 2—3, and we waved goodbye to our chances of the Army Squash Cup.

## FENCING

The fencing club has re-formed and is in the painful process of getting organised from scratch. There was a good response from the Battalion for membership. The only snag was that there was nowhere to fence and hardly any equipment.

The first of these problems was got rid of by Sgt. Poole, of the P.T. staff, who kindly gave us a room in the gymnasium to use for fencing classes. Pte. Finnis, who has taken most of the responsibility on his shoulders, soon got the room organised. A really good job has been done on it. The only item missing is a long mirror. Perhaps a visit to the Battalion H.Q. block late one night?

We need £85 to get fully equipped with weapons and clothes. Not even the P.R.I. would help us here, but we hope very gradually to build up our stocks and to train a team.

## PENTATHLON

This year the Battalion has a very strong team for the pentathlon. Finnis heads the team in experience, having been in the world championships representing

Great Britain. Capt. Lohan had considerable experience at R.M.A. Sandhurst and in 1955. Seatory, a newcomer to the sport, is the third member and he shows great promise. He has a natural aptitude for all the five sports—riding, running, swimming, shooting and fencing.

Training for B.A.O.R. championships in April and May has started and we hope the team do well for the Battalion.

## SADDLE CLUB

The Saddle Club is having a very quiet winter. The Club bought two horses at a most reasonable price.

## Depot Notes

## EDITORIAL

It was intended to make this editorial a form of potted history of the Depot, but a lengthy browsing through Depot Notes reveals that this would not be a very informative account. Life at the Depot seems to have followed a similar routine throughout its existence. Methods have certainly changed but the previous notes on training and the two messes have a definite pattern, which is known to most soldiers and many Old Comrades and needs no explanation. The recurring themes are the high standards of training, shooting and sport, the excellent relationships with many civil bodies, and the splendid way in which serving and past members of the Regiment visited the Depot whenever they were able.

Of these three themes the first and second will be maintained in the Battalions of the Regiment, but the third, a very vital one if the R.H.Q. is to become the new home of the Regiment, can only be maintained if members of the Regiment continue the custom of visiting.

A Retreat Parade was held on January 31, 1961, at which the Regimental Flag was lowered for the last time at Inglis Barracks. Only 30 members of the staff remained for this simple ceremony, but it was heartening to see so many Old Comrades there as well. They feel more keenly than most of us who are still serving the sadness of closing the Depot. May the Mill Hill Branch long continue in Inglis Barracks.

The Home Postal Depot have moved into the Militia huts, where they will remain until the rebuilding and redecoration of our barrack blocks are completed. This unit, with which we have had a long association here, evolved from the Army Postal Corps which in turn was formed in 1882 from a company of the 24th Middlesex Volunteers (Post Office Rifles). Our very best wishes to them for a long and happy stay in Inglis Barracks.

The farewell celebrations, mentioned elsewhere in these notes, have all taken place, and the Sergeants' Mess must be congratulated on entertaining many

One of them, Herald, has turned out to be a very good buy indeed.

The indoor school is in much use. Most mornings Herr Meyer is there schooling the children. The pentathlon team have started training and have been given the use of the Saddle Club horses.

In February we hope to hold an indoor gymkhana again. Details about this will be announced shortly.

We would like to take this opportunity to ask all members of the Regiment who have an interest in horse riding to make use of the Saddle Club this year. Herr Meyer is an excellent instructor and the horses are of a good standard.

people after the Retreat Parade although not possessing one item of furniture in their Mess. The Bar alone remained, and the empty crates were the only seats. It is a strange paradox that some of those in the Sergeants' Mess were members of the Depot team which won the Royal Army Temperance Association Challenge Cup in 1923, 24 and 25. Some said this cup was for shooting.

The Colonel of the Regiment, speaking at the Sergeants' Mess closing social, made the point that the closure of the Depot was not the end of our Regimental home, and that the important factor was the spirit of the members and not the building. It seems important to stress this, and a fitting thought with which to end the last Depot Notes. The home of the Regiment will be at Edgware. It remains for everyone who has so strongly supported the Depot in its existence, to be as active in their support of its successor.

## TRAINING COMPANY

The last intake has passed out from the Depot. As the majority of the recruits were destined for the East Anglian Brigade the passing-out parade was taken by Col. W. A. Heal, the Brigade Colonel. Prizes were presented to the following:

Pte. R. A. Brown (E.A.) Best All-round Recruit.  
Pte. R. A. Brown (E.A.) Highest Physical Efficiency  
Pte. M. G. King (E.A.) Best Rifle Shot  
Pte. K. A. Lyon (E.A.) Best L.M.G. Shot  
Pte. B. Osborne (Mx.) Best Regular Recruit

When they leave the Depot the East Anglian recruits join the 3rd East Anglian Regiment now serving in Malaya.

Everyone had a few days' leave at Christmas and thoroughly enjoyed themselves with perhaps the exception of a few of that long-suffering permanent staff who went on guard.

Now that we are definitely closing there is more activity in the Company than ever before. The Company Office staff have embarked on an orgy of destruction



burning range orders, daily details and anything else that can be forced into the office stove. The rest of the Company, if not employed in moving stores or area cleaning, are preparing their equipment and putting a high polish on their boots in readiness for the move to Germany.

However, as the Home Postal Depot Royal Engineers has taken over all our duties and the dreaded words Company Orderly Sergeant and guard duties are no longer to be heard; there is an air of freedom and light-heartedness to ease the sadness at the closing of the Depot.

#### OFFICERS' MESS

The closing months of our Depot at Mill Hill have seen a good deal of activity as far as the Mess is concerned, and almost every officer within reach seems to have paid us a visit at some time or another including about a dozen from the 1st Battalion. Among so many, it would be invidious to name only a few. It has been a great pleasure to see them all and we are only sorry that for most of them it is likely to be their last visit to Mill Hill.

Our invitations to a guest night on November 2 were accepted by Maj.-Gen. Hughes (Hon. Col. of 571 L.A.A.) and Lt.-Col. Doyle, Brigadier Hepper, Major F. de R. Morgan (C.O. designate of 1st Middlesex) and Major Methven. The Colonel of the Regiment was present.

As reported in the last issue, the Officers' Club entertained the retiring Lord Lieutenant to dinner in the Mess on November 10.

The Officers' Club cocktail party held in the Mess on November 23 was very well attended, about 170 all told, most of whom remained for a buffet supper. We were particularly glad to see Lt.-Col. Battye and his wife here.

Two days later the 57/77th dinner was held at the United Service Club, and this again brought 41 members of the Regiment together.

On December 7, Gen. Bucknall came to lunch, and the Colonel of the Regiment and five cadets from Sandhurst were here for tea.

The Depot, as distinct from the Officers' Club, gave a cocktail party on December 9, when we entertained military and civilian personnel with whom the Depot has had dealing over past years. Unfortunately the G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command was unable to be present.

Col. Desmond Ellis spent the night here on December 12; Major Bill Bennett came to lunch on the 14th, and on the 16th Major Ian Campbell and his son paid us a surprise flying visit.

The Sergeants' Mess kindly entertained us at their Christmas Draw on December 17.

Major Wilnot Allistone came to lunch on the 19th. On December 20, the Mess held their Christmas Party which was very well attended. Instead of sitting down to dinner as in past years, proceedings began at 8 p.m. This enabled more people to attend from the start, instead of some coming in after the meal was over. The Band started up about 9 p.m., and after a variety of presents from the Christmas tree, a buffet supper

was served about 11 p.m. Dancing then continued until the early hours when an early "breakfast" was served before the party broke up. Gordon Crumley and his Committee are to be congratulated on their excellent efforts which gave us a most enjoyable night.

The Sergeants' Mess again entertained us royally in their Mess before lunch on the 22nd. In the afternoon the children all enjoyed their Christmas Party organised by George Freeborn.

On the 23rd, members of the Sergeants' Mess visited us before we all went on to the troops' Christmas dinner, and after tea that day, the Mess closed for the Christmas break when it is hoped the staff got a little well-deserved rest.

On our return, there was a short space for a breather before social activities restarted.

On January 12 the Middlesex County Council gave a cocktail party in the Guildhall to officers, warrant officers and senior N.C.O.s of the Regiment, and we sincerely thank the Chairman and all members of the Middlesex County Council for their very kind gesture. It was on this occasion that we renewed our acquaintance with the new Lord Lieutenant of the County—General Sir John Crocker, who himself, as a Lieutenant, served for a time with our 2nd Battalion in Egypt in 1920-21; both met again later on serving in the same station in India (Ahmednagar).

On January 16 2/Lts. Finch and Hubert reported, having just been commissioned.

On January 18 a cocktail party was given here to some members of the Middlesex County Council, Mayors and Town Clerks, and Chairmen and Clerks of District Councils in the County.

The following evening saw our farewell dinner when our guests were the new Lord Lieutenant, the G.O.-in-C. London District, Lt.-Gen. Bucknall, Maj.-Gen. Weston, Brigadier Baker, Lt.-Col. Brotherton, Col. Clayton and Col. Walden. The Colonel of the Regiment, Col. Browne, and Depot Officers completed the numbers.

David Pike, from 1st Middlesex, stayed here for 10 days after the middle of January whilst on a course at Stanmore, and, at the end of the month, the Mess closed.

The Home Postal Depot Royal Engineers then very kindly took the single members of our Mess under their wing, and we set about getting ready for them to move in.

Before closing these notes we would like to express our very grateful thanks to our Mess Staff who have served us so faithfully and well. In particular we must mention Sgt. Palmer and L/Cpl. Anderson who have been with us for many years, and it is hoped that they, and all the staff, will realise how much all their good work has been appreciated.

#### WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

It is quite pointless to say that these are the last notes to be published under the above heading. This fact is all too obvious to us all. It is possible that the odd individual—the weedy type—still suffering from certain effects, may be heard to murmur: "A — good job, too!"

During the period of which we scribble we have

attempted, in our own small way, to take our leave of the great number of friends whom it has been our privilege to know during our stay at Mill Hill. We fully appreciate, of course, that a number of these very sincere friends can look back on many years' association with us at Inglis Barracks. For our part we can say, with some pride, that we have roots firmly planted in most corners of the county, including the majority of police stations, British Legions, ex-Service Associations and even the G.P.O. Our Mess members will probably be immune from prosecution for most crimes up to and including manslaughter, but I have it on reasonable authority that our friends of "S" Division would probably have to draw the line at murder.

On Remembrance Sunday, November 13, 1960, following the service at the Regimental Memorial, we entertained a large number of former members of the Regiment to an excellent lunch which was conjured up, as usual, by Sgt. Banks. This was, indeed, the first of our farewell functions and it was great to see so many old "Die-Hards" re-living Spion Kop, Ypres, Arnhem and even "Busty" Hull's distinction of being the last N.C.O. to be tried by Regimental court martial.

On Friday, November 25, 1960 we were visited by the Corporals and their ladies. All enjoyed an excellent social evening. We would like to record, with our usual smugness, that although outnumbered by about three to one we mastered our guests in all activities including darts, the nifty pint and even rocking to the strain of "Betsy"—our faithful old "steam" music box.

We ourselves had no doubts that we had won to come. It came. On December 7 we were invaded by "S" Division, led by Inspector Jock Crooks and Sgt. Cecil Cooper. The least said about this evening the better, but while speech was still possible and eyes were set in focus, we presented our very good friends the policemen with a suitable trophy. They were most touched and very impressed.

Continuing our fond farewells we entertained, on December 14, a strong party from the Old Hendon ex-Servicemen's Club led by their president, Roland Mallock. Once more a most successful evening—except, perhaps, for the driver of the car, the rearlights of which were seen bumping across the assault course. We shrugged off what little concern we could muster with the thought that he was heading for 10 Command Workshops anyhow.

And so on to our Christmas Draw. The most convenient date was Saturday, December 17, and preparation duly went ahead. We mustered our usual excellent array of prizes and did our best to ensure that we won them. In spite of divers tricks and much cunning, a few did in fact escape the clutches of Mess members. Honours for the night went to Sgt. and Mrs. Redmond while Double Diamond is still puzzling how nearly 100 tickets netted him exactly nothing. If he only knew!

We were determined that in spite of a very full programme we would secure the company of our officers for a seasonal drink in the Mess. We were honoured with their visit on Thursday, December 22, at noon—"high" noon, as it so happened. The following day a convoy of private cars screeched to a standstill outside the Officers' Mess, and guess who piled out and

dashed in! We were entertained most royally. We really were.

Duly fortified together with the officers we marched briskly to the dining hall and proceeded to do our annual conjuring tricks with soup, etc., most of which seemed to finish up in soldiers' laps. The W.O.s and Sergeants enjoyed their Christmas dinner the previous evening; a most impressive affair at which we were honoured with the presence of the ladies.

Being so few in number at this stage, we decided to play New Year's Eve "off the cuff." A most successful party developed although Sgt. Redmond is now observed to avoid any lady clothed in a fur coat.

We decided that we would hold our final function on January 20. All were rather downcast as the day approached and a very sombre gathering started the evening reluctantly sipping grog and awaiting the arrival of their guests. These included Brigadier and Mrs. Willoughby, Major and Mrs. Hutchings, and the officers of the Depot. The Vice-Chairman of Middlesex County Council paid us a short visit together with the County Fire Chief. Inspector Deacon headed a disgustingly thirsty group from "S" Division and a number of old "Die-Hards" appeared. "Busty" Hull, who later shared a room with Basil (I say!), was apprehended during the early hours prowling the precincts. Certain remarks he had made previously occasioned us to remove his matches and certain inflammable materials. We were very pleased to receive Col. Browne for a short time during the evening. He obviously felt the occasion as much as anyone present.

Well, the bar has a rather sad look about it; the silver is packed; the furniture and effects have been disposed of—but we are determined, with the aid of soap boxes and candles, to use our Mess until the very last—had better close now, the bar is open!

#### CORPORALS' CLUB

And so we come to what must surely be the last club notes to be written from Mill Hill. To the Secretary this is a welcome relief, especially as he has only 21 days to do. As parade ground activity and the necessity to guide our recruits through the first days of their army careers diminishes, so the barrack room gimping and pressing sessions decrease. But still the almost deserted quarter of the Depot still belonging to the Middlesex, echoes with the rare sounds of bulling as the panic-stricken junior N.C.O.s prepare reluctantly for their crusade to the 1st Battalion.

In November we had an excellent social evening put on for us by the Sergeants' Mess and a wonderful time was had by all. But even though festivities went on to 6 o'clock the following morning we failed to drain the bars.

Fortunately we had the weekend to get over it, but on Monday morning Cpl. Cairns inquired as to how the shindig went, as he spent most of the time under the stairs in a state of incognito. We think he must have caught a whiff of Sgt. Redmond's breath.

Arrangements were made for the N.C.O.s to see "Ben Hur" on December 10, and a very enjoyable time was had by all that went.



Congratulations to Sgt. Banks and L/Cpl. Bristow for arranging a splendid Christmas dinner. As this was the last Christmas dinner to be had by the men of the Middlesex, a special effort was made and I think that everybody will agree that it was very successful.

We welcome back Cpl. Pearce ("The Wanderer") and wonder how long it will be before he wanders off again.

We would also like to offer our congratulations to Cpl. Willis and Fisher on their success at the Small Arms and Drill courses respectively. And at the same time we extend our sympathies to Cpl. "Grass" Savill (R.E.M.E. attached), who has failed to have his period of National Service shortened. (Time rolls on.)

#### SOCCER

The Depot were put out of the Army Cup by the Guards Depot, Pirbright, losing 2-3; after being one goal down in the first half they fought back to lead 2-1, the goals being scored by Capt. Gilham and Pte. Gooday. The Guards retaliated to score two goals to win the game.

With the closure of the Depot the team were fighting a losing battle, S.S.I. Bristow worked very hard trying to arrange earlier dates for league matches, he managed some but not all.

Ptes. Duke and "Ali" Barber were the outstanding players—both very good footballers. S.S.I. Bristow, L/Cpl. Philp (he played centre-forward three times. Nuff said!), Ptes. Sawyer and Smith formed a formidable defence with L/Cpl. Ashbolt a reluctant goalkeeper. Sgt. Redmond and L/Cpl. Evans, the wing forwards, proved too fast for most defences and both have a creditable score sheet.

The following are regular members of the team: S.S.I. Bristow, Sgt. Redmond, L/Cpls. Ashbolt, Evans and Philp, Ptes. Barber, Duke, McLaren, Sawyer and Smith.

#### RESULTS:

v. Provost Company, R.M.P.	..	..	2-3
v. 20 Company, R.A.S.C.	..	..	12-1
v. 20 Company, R.A.S.C.	..	..	9-1
v. Depot Royal Artillery	..	..	3-1

#### Army Cup

1st round v. Guards Depot, Pirbright	..	2-3
<i>London District Cup</i>		
1st round v. Eastern Command Hounslow	..	12-1
<i>Eastern Command Minor Units Cup</i>		
1st round v. H.Q. Grenadier Guards	..	13-0
2nd round v. Depot Royal Artillery	..	3-2

#### DEPOT OFFICERS' MESS LIBRARY

The following books were missing from the Depot Officers' Mess Library on closing:

1. "Behind the Bar" A. E. Bowker, M.C.
2. "Communist Guerilla Warfare" Aubrey Dixon
3. "Decisive Battles of the Western World" (Vol. I) Fuller
4. "Specially Employed" Maurice Buckmaster
5. "The Dear Old Regiment" (missing since 1956)

6. "Memoirs of an Infantry Officer"
  7. "Tales from the Outposts"
  8. "Before the Tide Turned" Hodgkinson
  9. "Three Men went to War" Ash
- Any information, please, to Regimental Headquarters.

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

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



At the time these notes are being written the Battalion is in the throes of reorganisation.

As a preliminary we have closed down to a Battalion H.Q. and two rifle companies, "A" Company and "C" Company, in order to facilitate our amalgamation in the T.A. reorganisation.

The two companies have been formed by amalgamating our old "A" Company, "S" Company and "H.Q." Company into the new "A" Company, and "B" Company and "C" Company into the new "C" Company; these two companies will be transferred to the new Middlesex T.A. Battalion shortly.

Some members of our "H.Q." Company will be changing to the "H.Q." Company of the new Battalion at Edgware, and helping to form the nucleus of this unit; this is especially our very efficient Provost Section under Sgt. Gibbons, and the Drums of the Battalion under C.S.M. Holdford.

The Band will also form part of the new Battalion Band.

All these changes are most distressing to us all, but, with the need to streamline the T.A., are necessary.

To look back over the last quarter, what has the Battalion been doing?

In October we held a very interesting Battalion exercise in the Surrey training area. Despite the rain the Battalion deployed three companies and a H.Q. and carried out a two-day exercise, in which a large number had to march across rugged terrain. Many lessons were learnt, and it appeared a most successful exercise.

Our Christmas festivities are reported on in the various notes, but mention must be made of the Battalion dance held at Hornsey; an enjoyable and memorable dance.

The W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, undaunted by the

presence of the Post Office in the Drill Hall, had their annual Christmas draw and social; it is a wonderful thing the way in which they were able to "borrow" from the Post Office half of the Drill Hall for the night, and despite the sounds of sorting of parcels behind the temporary screen. All those who were present voted it a most outstanding success, and a memorable night.

There was a belated attendance by "Father Christmas," in the person of Sgt. Stack, at the annual Christmas children's party held on January 7. A total of over 100 children of members of the Battalion were present and were entertained in various ways. Food took a large part in the proceedings, ably provided by members of the Elms Club. The standard of presents given seems to improve year by year despite any so-called increase in the cost of living. All those who helped to organise and run this party deserve great credit.

Following these festivities we had the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess dance. The Mayor and Mayoress of Hornsey and Tottenham honoured them with their presence, and among other guests were members of the Metropolitan Police, Old Comrades and officers of the Battalion, including the C.O., Lt.-Col. Simpson, the Adjutant, Capt. Clayden, the Q.M., Lt. Pike, and their wives. Some of the old age pensioners from Chelsea Hospital were also present.

Companies held their socials with their usual aplomb, and made Christmas one to be remembered.

Shortly before the end of the year we learnt of the Battalion rifle teams' great results in the Territorial Army Rifle Association's decentralised matches for 1960. These are reported in detail later; they are a fine end to the 7th Battalion's efforts in the past years. To finish so high in so many competitions that are open to the whole of the T.A. reflects great credit on all who took part, whether as a member of the teams, and those who assisted in their training by work in the butts and administering on the firing point or back at the T.A. Centre.

The Battalion results in the Middlesex T.A. Association Miniature League are very satisfactory, and it is hoped that this may be crowned with success.

A cross-country team is in training for the Eastern Command Championships, and we hope that it will improve on last year's results.

In the Command football competition we had the misfortune to be drawn against the champions of the last few years, the 5th Battalion the Bedfordshire Regiment (T.A.), and lost by 13 goals to nil. Despite the score it was a hard-fought match all through, and the very few penalties are a credit to the clean game played by all. R.S.M. Thom, who has long worked hard to produce a good team, was naturally very disappointed, but his efforts have been deserving of the highest credit, as are those of all the team, who upheld the name of "Die-Hards" to the end.

All these activities augur well for the future of the new Battalion. Those volunteers, of whatever rank, who serve in it are bound to be encouraged by the efforts and results of the past, and they will take with them that great spirit of the 7th to lay the foundation and traditions of a new T.A. Battalion.

Many of the Battalion will unfortunately be left out.

Their loss to the T.A. will be regretted, but their enthusiasm will be continued by their successors.

Remembrance Sunday saw the usual Battalion parade accompanied by members of Highgate School, 16 Company C.C.F. and the Old Comrades, when we marched to the Parish Church. Following the short service at the Garden of Remembrance, five buglers, Drum-Major Poulter, Cpl. Chackfield, L/Cpl. Hooker, L/Cpl. Sharkey and Drm. George, sounded the Last Post and Reveille from the church tower, and then the service was held in the Parish Church before the Mayor and a large congregation and included the simple ceremony of laying of the wreaths on the Battalion War Memorial by the Honorary Colonel and a member of the O.C.A.

The Band, as usual, took their part in the service, accompanying the choir and the organ for the hymns, under the able direction of Bandmaster Whitewood. An innovation this year was the playing of the Purcell "Trumpet Voluntary" by Sgt. Lewis accompanied by the Band and organ during the procession out of church.

The Battalion, accompanied by the Old Comrades and cadets, then marched past the Mayor and returned to the Hornsey T.A. Centre. This was a poignant moment to all on parade when the Colours were marched off.

With deep regret we have to report in these columns the sudden death by natural causes of Boy Wicks of "A" Company whilst on parade with the Battalion.

#### "A" COMPANY

Company Commander	..	Capt. S. J. Carter
C.S.M.	..	W.O.2 Hills
C.Q.M.S.	..	C/Sgt. Jackson
P.S.I.	..	Sgt. Allsopp

So far as the Highgate Company of the 7th is concerned, this may only too well be referred to as "the last quarter." In spite of this and the attendant uncertainty about the eventual fate of this Company, its Drill Hall and its members, the year ended in a spate of activity.

As for the whole Battalion, the highlight of autumn training was the Battalion exercise in the Farnham area. This was an excellent weekend of exciting training in ideal conditions, and the new recruits, 15 of whom have joined "A" Company since camp, obviously enjoyed their first taste of T.A. life.

In November, 36 hours of incessant rain failed to obliterate a night and day field-firing exercise at Pirbright. Fire effect at night from platoon weapons fired by all the volunteers provided a salutary but valuable lesson. Capt. Carter and Sgt. Allsopp gave an impressive rendering of a "concerto for trip flares and two conductors."

The Battalion dance at Hornsey was enjoyed by many members of the Company, and this last social function of the 7th was voted an outstanding success.

Sad as we shall all be to leave Highgate, we look forward to carrying with us to Hornsey the traditions and spirit of Highgate volunteers who formed the senior company of the 7th Battalion when it was formed over 100 years ago.



**"C" COMPANY**

Company Commander	Major R. J. Leighton, T.D.
C.S.M.	W.O.2 Curry
C.Q.M.S.	C/Sgt. Moran
P.S.I.	Sgt. Turner

This, our last few months as a Company, has been a quiet, almost dormant, period. We have had a few training weekends and there has been a disturbing fall in the numbers turning up for Tuesday evening training—Thursday pay nights have continued to be popular.

Our final classification shoot was well attended and will live in history for a hectic evening at Woking. The standard of .303 shooting was poor but the Hornsey .22 team, which is still active in the Association Competition, contains a high proportion of "C" Company members and is captained by Lt. J. S. Richards. The Hornsey team has reached the semi-final.

The only training weekend was a success in many ways, but the Company ended the Battalion exercise as a victim of accurate mortar bombardment—by our own "S" Company. We nearly had a real casualty when Pte. Barry was saved by his eyebrows and L.M.G. from sinking into a bog.

We hope to take a solid nucleus of keen and active members into the new Battalion, but will be sorry to say farewell to Major Leighton who will command the other Hornsey Company. The other old members of the Company will, we hope, DIE-HARD.

**"S" COMPANY**

It is always sad to attend a funeral and it is even sadder when it is your own, particularly when the last rites extend several months and that unfortunately has been the case with "S" Company.

As it was known from the early days of reorganisation amalgamation that Tottenham and "S" Company would cease to exist, it has been very difficult for all ranks to enter into training and social events with the old verve and enthusiasm which in two years has made it one of the most successful companies in the Battalion. No longer would the Machine-Gun Platoon compete for and win competitions which they have done successfully for one trophy or another over the last two years, for whereas the Mortars and Anti-Tank would be absorbed into the new "S" Platoon of the successor Battalion, the Machine-Guns would go into oblivion.

The Company's last fling was to participate in the Battalion weekend training in the Farnham area. This they did successfully, the Mortars and Machine-Guns having frequently to perform the most unpopular function for any member of "S" Company, the long carry, but it was not all that long although the terrain was not always kind. The Mortars were accused of bringing too accurate fire on their own rifle companies. The moral of this is that the assaulting companies should move over the ground given to them in orders and not double back on their tracks. Anyway, the Mortars worked like Trojans. We wonder where they would have obtained sufficient ammunition. The Company threw off its gloom at the Christmas social which included a real life band, a first-class buffet, including

curry—Sgt. Taylor will make someone a marvellous husband—and barbecued chicken. The excess of food reduced the dancing to a minimum—sad for the ladies—so when these words are being read, "S" Company of the 7th Middlesex will already have crossed the Styx and be in Valhalla.

Company Commander	Major J. C. du Parc Braham
C.S.M.	W.O.2 Payne
C.Q.M.S.	C/Sgt. Medcalf
P.S.I.	Sgt. Taylor

**OFFICERS' MESS**

Rumours, counter-rumours and the mysterious appearances of four commanding officers on numerous occasions have all intensified the speculation of who "is" or who "is not" going to stay in the new Battalion. As this will probably be the last full notes on the Officers' Mess of this Battalion we will try and make it as long as possible. Although they are supposed to be up to December the Battalion is being reorganised in January, and so it is felt that we ought to include some future notes which will no doubt be reported in full in the Obituary Notice of the 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).

The Mess Committee, having congratulated themselves on what they thought were their last cocktail and dinner parties in September, now find themselves organising other parties in February. On February 11 we dine each other out, and on February 18 we entertain our ladies for the last time. We hope, however, still to keep an Officers' Mess going here for at least nine officers in "A" and "C" Companies of the new Battalion which will be stationed at Hornsey.

The usual Remembrance Sunday cocktail party was held in the Mess, and although attended by fewer ex-officers, it was very much enjoyed. Visitors to the Mess have included Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton (8th Middlesex), Lt.-Col. J. R. Doyle (9th Middlesex), Lt.-Col. H. Hansen (9th Middlesex) and Capt. B. Skinner (9th Middlesex). The Adjutant appears to have deserted us for a few weeks. We have heard he is studying for the promotion examination in a Tibetan monastery. Candidates for the new Battalion Officers' Mess Committee are already being canvassed, and it is rumoured that the messing member (who likes his food) is well in the running. Perhaps the only thing the officers will not regret is a voice saying "why have you not paid your mess bill" every time they set foot in the Mess.

**SERGEANTS' MESS**

These notes are somewhat tinged with nostalgia as they are probably the last that will be written about the 7th Battalion Sergeants' Mess.

Needless to say the coming reorganisation of T.A. Units will affect Mess members to some extent, and at the moment, most of us feel a sense of uncertainty about the future. However, by the time these notes appear in print we shall probably know our fate.

The past few months' social activities reflect considerable credit on the two P.M.C.s, C.S.M. Holdford and C.S.M. Curry, and on the Social Committee members, Sgts. Stansell, Stack, James and Ives.



Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess Farewell Dance held at Hornsey on January 14, 1961

The main events worthy of note are, firstly, the social evening held on November 17, at which we entertained members of the U.S. Air Force from Ruislip and the Hendon Mobile Police. A full evening's programme included darts and .22 shooting matches as well as dancing, and the general feeling was that a good time was had by all.

On Saturday, December 17, we held a Christmas draw and social. Again the organisers are to be congratulated on a first-class evening's entertainment and a really excellent buffet. Undoubtedly the Christmas draw was the biggest and best that the Mess has ever held and was worthy of such an occasion—the last Christmas draw of the 7th Battalion Sergeants' Mess.

It is perhaps appropriate to close these notes by tendering our sincere thanks to all those members both past and present, Regular and T.A., together with their wives, who over the past ten years have given so much of their time and effort to make the Sergeants' Mess the "happy club" that it undoubtedly has been.

**THE ELMS CLUB**

Since the last Elms Club notes we have said good-bye to Mrs. Goodge and Mrs. Cubitt. They have both moved near to Southend but we hope that they will pay us a visit now and again. We wish them, their families

and their husbands good luck and every success in civilian life.

Mrs. Holdford has been in hospital for a number of weeks and we hope she will soon be home and really fit again.

Some of the Club members enjoyed a night out at the theatre in November, and as "The Amorous Prawn" was about the Army, they had quite a few chuckles. We are now looking forward to the pantomime and the Club social which are taking place in January.

We have been asked as to whether the amalgamation of the 7th Battalion will mean that the Club will have to close. We do not know, but hope not. We feel sure that the new Battalion could not do without the Wives' Club—could they? The Elms Club take this opportunity to wish every success to the Battalions when they amalgamate.

**BATTALION RIFLE TEAM**

Since the last notes there has been no other range work by the Battalion rifle teams. However, excellent results have been notified on the T.A. Rifle Association decentralised competitions for 1960.

These were:

Lord Lieutenant's Challenge Shield	11th out of 49
High Sheriff's Challenge Shield	9th " " 103



L.M.G. Match	..	..	2nd
L.M.G. Pairs "C" team	..	..	2nd out of 171
L.M.G. Pairs "A" team	..	..	8th
L.M.G. Pairs "B" team	..	..	18th
Simpson's Cup	..	..	2nd " " 75
Service Condition Match, "A" team	..	..	4th " " 82
" " "B" team	..	..	5th " " 82
Imperial Tobacco Aggregate	..	..	4th

These matches are open to the whole of the T.A. and practically all were won by the 6th Royal Ulster Rifles.

Two members of the Battalion, Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson and Cpl. S. Huth, were in the 44th Divisional team which won the Kolar Inter-Divisional Cup.

The Battalion results in the decentralised competition also greatly assisted 44th Division to obtain 2nd place in the Kolar Divisional Aggregate Cup competition, being only 12 points behind the winners with a score of 3,967.

In .22 shooting, teams have been entered by each of the T.A. Centres in the Middlesex T.A. Association Units knock-out competition of which the Battalion is the holder. The latest position is that Hornsey T.A. Centre team has now reached the semi-final.

Before the disbandment is completed it is hoped that the Battalion will have successfully fired in the Eastern Command Edmond's Trophy match.

These results are a most successful 1960 series of open range competitions, in all of which the Battalion teams were highly placed with several trophies to their credit.

#### 16th MIDDLESEX CADET COMPANY

At long last the social side of 16 Company is on the right path. We feel in a strong enough position to apply for the higher standard of A.C.F. club reward from the Approved to the Commended. There is no doubt that this side is very important if we are going to hold our own against the other youth organisations in the borough.

This success is mainly due to the efforts of Fred Goodland and the club leader, Mr. Langley.

The Company paraded once again, regretfully for the last time, as the 3rd Division of the 7th Battalion on their Remembrance parade. About 40 cadets paraded with their Colour and were proud to march with the Regiment. In the evening the Company excelled themselves at the British Legion festival in the Hornsey Town Hall—it being the Army's turn to take the main part in the display: 16 Company provided a guard of honour on the stage for the Lord Lieutenant of the County. All went well until one of the stage-hands let the curtain fall too early, separating the officers from their troops. Then came the parade of six cadets in old-time uniform. Here, Dickie Smith, the "Museum King," really came into his own; he had gone to a great deal of trouble to help the Company. A gasp of surprise arose from the audience when the noble Dick paraded before them in a gorgeous uniform and a magnificent three-cornered hat, complete with wig. This really added colour to the festival. He was well supported by Wally Walder as a Guardsman of 1840, Cadet Potter really looked the part of an 18th-century Grenadier,

Cadet Nibbs as a soldier of 1815, Cadet Charlton as infantryman, early 18th century, and L/Cpl. Barnet as a Hussar, with a sword which always seemed to be getting in the way. Cadet V. Watkins had the honour of wearing the scarlets of the Regiment.

Next came the night patrol. This was really first-class stuff, written by S.M.I. Hoy and arranged by 2/Lt. Boys. The audience had luckily been warned that there would be some noise. First came the crack of the rifle firing blank. Cpl. Bell then opened up with the bren, firing bulletted blank. Then all hell was let loose with rifles firing and even a grenade being thrown.

After the night patrol, Sgt. Eagleton brought on his drill squad and showed that the lads of today can do their drill with the best.

And now to the annual inspection by Brigadier Glennie. Here, I could go into great detail, but I will only tell you about the assault course that was put up in the drill hall. Four sections competed against one another, the winners being led by Cpl. Bertie Andrews. No. 2 Platoon ran an exercise with all kinds of hazards, and at the rope climbing L/Cpl. Barnet proved that Darwin's theory was right. Further evidence as to the very origin of the species was offered by Cpl. Bell, in, or at, the river crossing.

Old members may like to know that on April 16 the Company will have the annual church parade at St. George's, Cranley Gardens, at 11.15 a.m. The Mayor of Hornsey will be present and all are cordially invited. The more people that attend, the more encouragement will be given to the cadets, for attending Church is quite an adventure for most of the London boys today.



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

As we despatch these notes to the journal editor we are in the throes of transformation, and although not anxious to lose the title of the 8th Battalion, we are very thankful to be amalgamating with the other T.A. units of the Middlesex Regiment and look forward with relief to the thought of becoming part of the 5th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).

Our "S" and "H.Q." Companies have joined forces to reproduce "D" of the new Battalion, while "A," "B," "C" and "D" Companies have melted into a new "B" Company.

Any change of this nature must inevitably bring with it the loss of familiar faces, and although those to leave us are as yet unnamed, we would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for their services which have upheld the honour and traditions of the 8th Battalion.

A triumphant year in the fields of shooting, tough training, and Nijmegen marching, has been brought to a close by the success of our soccer team, which, having won the Divisional Cup, has now reached the final of the Eastern Command Cup and awaits its next opponents before battling for a place in the semi-finals of the T.A. Cup.

To "H.Q." Company went the honour of the best all-round company, and with it the Bott Cup, which was presented by the Commanding Officer. This is a splendid achievement for what is so often a vast anonymous empire, and it should set the more compact rifle companies on their mettle. During December "H.Q." Company said good-bye to C.S.M. Davis on his departure to civilian life, and we sincerely hope that we shall maintain contact with him, at least socially. In his place we welcome C.S.M. Wright from the 1st Battalion.

"B" Company were reminded of their "days of glory" in the Nijmegen Marches and the "Tough Training" competition, by an article which appeared in "Men Only." This made the dangerous claim that the tough training team were the six toughest men in Britain. The team's modesty would not of course allow them to accept this title, but they were extremely disappointed to see that the pages adjacent to theirs in this well-known magazine contained photographs of "Europe's most censored film star." However, at least six people lingered on the achievements of "B" Company's strong-arm sextet. Our congratulations go to Cpl. Tompkins on winning the Corby Cup for the second year in succession. This is an outstanding achievement and a fine example to the rest of the Company.

There was a welcome visit to Ealing from Major Head and Capt. Roberts of the 4th/5th Royal Sussex Regiment who very kindly brought with them some colour slides of the Nijmegen Marches. An excellent evening was enjoyed, and proof of its success was the departure of our guests at 0330 hrs.

"D" Company must reluctantly say good-bye to Sgt. and Mrs. Jolly who have nursed them since their arrival at Hendon and taken more than just a caretaker's interest in the Company's activities. It is a sad loss indeed and the best wishes of every member goes with them to their new home. Another loss, not only to the T.A. but also to the Regular Battalion is C.S.M. Shrubbs who, having finished his tour as P.S.I. of "D" Company is now leaving the Army. The extent of this loss will be felt by "D" Company when they miss his cheerful face on their next wet weekend. There is, however, always the hope that he will be welcomed back as a Territorial soldier. On the brighter side, we are pleased to welcome back C.S.M. Dunne whose long experience of army matters will prove most helpful.

Anticipating its new role as a rifle company, "S" Company has led a very active life in the last four months. Hangmoor firing range and Chobham Common have both resounded to the crackle and bang of its fighting sections. Their version of Guy Fawkes celebrations was held on November 5-6, when after some exacting compass marching, the Company returned to camp to find that the rear party had built a bonfire of gigantic proportions. It was either the heat of the fire or the ingredients of a beverage provided by C.S.M. Rea that brought to light the talent for song and adverse displayed by Lt. Parkinson.

November 26 saw the most successful bounty night dance ever held by "S" Company. This success must be attributed mainly to the efforts of C.S.M. Rea, Sgt. Lloyd and Cpl. and Mrs. Williams. At the Company annual dinner the two guests, both old members of "S" Company were the Commanding Officer and C.S.M. Jack Vasey, the old P.S.I. The vacant seat at the top table in the photograph is that of the C.O., who insisted on being the photographer.

Congratulations to Capt. and Mrs. Hogg on the birth of a son on December 27. It was observed in the week following this that Capt. Hogg appeared a little absent-minded over the number of times the baby's head had been "wetted" at the bar.

#### WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Firstly, news of the Christmas draw and dance. The suggestion in our last notes that certain individuals should park their barrows at the rear of the Drill Hall seems to have been noted. The thought did occur to us that perhaps some of the barrows weren't large enough! What happened to the R.S.M.'s Christmas pudding that was his one and only prize in the draw? On his remarking that he didn't like Christmas pud, most members kindly offered ideas on what he should do with it! The draw and dance was a great success, although unfortunately the Depot and both the 7th and 9th Battalions held their Christmas draws on the same date. The War Office has said they will remedy this next Christmas.

Our congratulations to Sgts. Gainsbury and Young in keeping the Mess colours flying by playing for the Battalion soccer team in the final of the Divisional football competition.





8th BATTALION SOCCER TEAM  
Winners of the Divisional Cup, 1960-61

We welcome W.O.2 Bill Wright to the mysteries of the Territorial Army. He celebrated his first night in the Mess by clearing the board at Pokey die.

W.O.2 Les Shrubbs and W.O.2 Dave Davis are leaving us for Civvy Street shortly and we would like to take this opportunity of wishing them and their families well in the strange world outside. A special "thank you" to Mrs. Davis for the help she has given towards the catering at our monthly socials.

It is almost certain that these will be the last Sergeants' Mess notes the 8th will write. We are looking forward to helping to form the new Mess and hope that it will be as happy as our present one. With that we will bid you *au revoir* from the 8th and hope to join in saying "Hello" from the new Mess in the next DIE-HARD issue.

#### A VISIT TO 1st BATTALION

Comfortably housed in the quaint little town of Hameln in Germany is our own 1st Battalion of the "Die-Hards." And a date with the "Die-Hards" saw Lt. Gordon Taylor and myself motoring along the Dover Road one cold crisp December night *en route* for Germany. We were to see at first hand the operation of this one small facet of the N.A.T.O. shield.

An easy crossing to Dunkirk, an atrocious trip across one of the worst roads we have experienced;

and then out of France, across Belgium, a short spell of Holland before joining the autobahn at Duisberg for the long last leg to Hameln.

Tired, dirty and hungry, we entered the home of the Pied Piper at dusk after nearly twelve hours of hard driving without incident. In Gordon Barracks, we avoided the bright lights until we were cleaned up and presentable. Then came a meal and sleep in that priority.

The next day, Sunday, saw the introductions: To Col. Ian Battye, his charming wife Christina, our fellow officers . . . and the "perks" of service in Germany such as cheap whisky, Carlsberg lager, and cigarettes. And, to top it, an excellent curry lunch—relic of the British Army's service in warmer climes than Westphalia. Next, a sightseeing trip to the cosy little town of Pymont nestling in the hills south of Hameln. And more sleep.

Next day, to business. We inspected the new range of A40 and A41 sets now coming into service in place of the outmoded 31 and 88 sets, soon to find their way into the Territorial Army. The new equipment, American inspired and all-VHF, certainly looks the goods. All N.A.T.O. is receiving it as part of the standardisation programme. And though our aptitude—at least mine—is anything but mechanical, Gordon Taylor and myself left the instruction room with at least the rudiments of the new sets at heart. Or maybe

it was the enthusiastic instruction of L/Cpl. Phillips from Hillingdon which made us *au fait*.

He came into the Army for National Service knowing little about bleep-bleeps. Now he knows a lot more—and he thanks much-maligned conscription for giving him the opportunity of becoming an adept signaller. But, so he says, Civvy Street in nine months' time will see him back at his lathe.

But back to radio. Later in the week, L/Cpl. Phillips showed us the mysteries of the C41 set—with which, we understand, a certain Territorial Army colonel had doings in its prototype. And inside two hours we were both so brilliant that we were able to set up, net and operate to C41s without any help from L/Cpl. Phillips. It is on the cards that the 5th Battalion soon to be born will be seeing something of this splendid piece of equipment.

After radio, we heard about the Russians—at a course of instruction about the Soviet Army and its equipment. This was, to us, an eye-opener; and how well off we must consider ourselves this side of the Weser. Ivan from Moscow does all of three years' National Service, with no leave whatever. His approximate pay is something like two pounds a month. And his working day starts about six in the morning and goes on until about ten at night. One could ask our two-year soldiers if they, indeed, ever had it so good.

The lectures covered such things as bridge building—the Russians reckon to have a bridge up and in use in about three hours from scratch—and weapons and transport. They are obviously well off on the Other Side. But an interesting submission by one of the lecturers was this: maybe their preponderance of equipment betrays a lack of trust in the people using it. Let us, however, hope that the point is never put to the proof.

Next morning was spent in checking over our faithful Volkswagen—the only failure, a broken speedometer cable. And later we went out into the wilds to see an N.C.O. cadre in progress, commanded by Major Shipster and Lt. Bulloch, a former National Service officer who has gone back into the Battalion on a short service commission.

We found the two officers and their staff comfortably based in a dimly-lit barn and poring over maps in preparation for the ensuing stage of their scheme. This involved much cross-country work for the participants, with plenty of compass and map work and an emphasis on initiative and individuality. We paid a couple of visits to check points during the night and found the men in good heart, well fed and well clothed. Such is the changing character of the Army that we found among the National Service element a lad from the West Indies. He was cold and preferred the sunshine of Barbados, but the big smile that only a West Indian can serve up dispelled the idea that he might be fed up.

We ate well off compo and slept the night very comfortably. And morale, always at low ebb around reveille, took a steep upward trend when Lt. Wood awoke to find the farmer's daughter (or was it his granddaughter?) walking across the room. Lt. Bulloch smiled too, only it was a little more embarrassed. For he had just got out of bed and was standing there rather

sheepishly dressed only in pullover and pyjamas. But she didn't seem to mind.

This rather humorous start to the day had lost its edge somewhat 90 minutes later as two subalterns from Hounslow stormed the slopes of the Ebersnacken—highest hill in these parts and a potential base camp for three members of the cadre. We looked for the adventurers but couldn't find them. So we admired the view, left a note for Major Shipster and evacuated the position—seeking out a cafe (sorry—*gasthaus*!!) for some excellent German coffee. Then it was back to Hameln for a bath and change. Even B.D. feels good when it is clean!!

Thursday was spent in individual chatting with the men, and an interview with the R.S.M., Mr. Macmillan—who is not optimistic about the effect the ending of National Service may have on the Battalion.

All too quickly next day we said the good-byes, for we had enjoyed our brief stay. We had a good impression of the Battalion and were in good health from the generous hospitality of Col. Battye and his officers and men. We headed back to England with the usual complement of N.A.A.F.I. cigarettes and liquor, and the Christmas presents of jewellery and leatherwork which are so cheap in Germany. We made Brussels in good time to find the city in festive mood for the coming wedding of King Baudouin, but soon to see the shedding of blood in the wave of strikes over the Government's austerity measures. As we had time in hand, we struck off along a secondary route to see the battlefields of World War I. Night it was, but it seemed that in the mist the ghosts were there—in Menin, Ypres, and atop Hill Sixty where history was made at the cost of thousands dead. A quick glass of wine in a nearby *bistro*, where they thought we were Belgian officers home from the Congo!! . . . and away to the coast and the boat home.

It was good to be back in England next day. It was a lovely morning, the countryside was fresh, despite winter—and, like good, sensible Britons, people drove on the "right" side of the road . . . the left. Gordon and I said good-bye at Hendon before midday, 1,500 miles after starting out. That night I washed away the last of the lager with a pint of good English ale, paid out 4s. for a packet of cigarettes for the full realisation of civilian life again.

It was home again—and, for the present, Auf wiedersehen to Deutschland and the "Die-Hards."

K.S.W

#### THE HONG KONG REGIMENT

For the third year in succession the Regiment went to camp at Far East Farm Camp. This year, because of the impending reorganisation each camp was only eleven days and the emphasis was on physical fitness and the basic skills required of the soldier rather than on tactical exercises. Nevertheless everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, especially the A.P.T.C. instructor on loan from the Regular Army.

As usually happens Remembrance Sunday fell on the first day of camp, but the Regiment was represented by a detachment and by the Commanding Officer



laying a wreath. We were delighted to see the wreath laid for our affiliated Regiment by Major E. A. H. Jeffcoat.

Whilst in camp we were visited by the Commander British Forces, who gave us the splendid news that the Colonel of the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) has been appointed Chief of Staff Land Forces, Hong Kong. We all look forward to Brigadier Willoughby's arrival and know that this will greatly strengthen the already firm ties between our two Regiments. We hope to see him frequently on both military and social occasions.

Shortly after camp we heard that the Middlesex Regiment would present a silver drum-major's mace, suitably inscribed and bearing the badges of both Regiments. This magnificent gift will set the seal upon our efforts to equip the Corps of Drums with silver bugles and fanfare trumpets and, indeed, will take pride of place being carried at the head of the Regiment on all ceremonial occasions. This will be a most fitting outward and visible sign of our affiliation.

At the moment of going to press we await the

announcement in the Government Gazette of the reorganisation of the Hong Kong Regiment. For those who remember us as an infantry battalion it will be a surprise to learn that we are now to consist of up to three Reconnaissance Squadrons, a Home Guard Company, a Recruit Company, an Intelligence Platoon, a Support sub-unit, a Regimental Headquarters and a sub-unit of the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps. Despite these surface changes, we are convinced that the spirit of those wearing the badge of the old Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps will remain unchanged.

A recent addition to our ceremonial duties was our selection by His Honour the Chief Justice to provide the guard of honour at the ceremonial opening of the Assizes on January 19, 1961. This privilege had never before been accorded in Hong Kong to a Regiment which was not part of the Regular garrison. It is pleasant to be able to report that the guard commanded by Capt. G. Hampton acquitted itself so well that we are to retain the honour of finding this guard for future years.

## OLD COMRADES' NEWS

### DIE HARDS CLUB MILL HILL BRANCH

Three outstanding events have taken place since the notes were submitted for the last issue. It was entirely my fault that two of them were not reported upon and published in the last issue. Had I remembered to have asked the Editor for extra time to give them a write-up he would have granted it—still, better late than never.

#### Regimental Reunion

No blame can be attached to the members of this Branch for the poor attendance at this reunion. They were there in force, and as their Chairman I thank each and every one for such attendance. What is the reason for such poor response, do you know? If so, write and tell us in order that any "wrongs" can be put "right." This is a very important matter, so do think of ways to help improve the attendance.

#### Remembrance Sunday

All who attended the service and parade will not forget it. It was, to my mind, the best attended parade for many years.

What a grand sight to see 87 bemedalled "Die-Hards" forming the base of a square at our memorial while the other three sides were formed by very smart platoons of recruits and permanent staff.

The laying of wreaths was followed by the march past. The salute was taken by the Colonel of the Regiment. Many of our members could not, for various reasons, join in the march, but 58 managed to do so. It was a joy to see the column led by Brigadiers Baker

and Rackham—it is still the topic of conversation on club nights. How proud I was to command that march past.

To the delight of all, Sgt. Ryder, v.c., was with us on that day. I was indeed grateful for the opportunity of welcoming him to the Club when I was able to remind the younger generation that it was not often we could talk to a real live V.C. and see the actual medal, and I may say they took the chance to do so.

#### Christmas Draw

A very successful draw of Christmas fare was held on December 14. It entailed a lot of work, but in the end was well worth the trouble taken.

It was Tim Harrison who suggested collecting early; we began in May and by November had collected over £40 to buy prizes. I am sure next Christmas it will be bigger and better.

#### Star and Garter Home

A week or so before Christmas I listened to the Sunday programme, "Down Your Way." It took place at the above Home. Ernie Fenton, an old "Die-Hard," took part in this programme. I was so struck by the good work which was being done there that I thought it was time something was done by this Branch for our comrades who are there.

Each was sent a Christmas gift of a new Regimental tie, O.C.A. badge and a Christmas card, "Steady the Drums." The secretary of the Home personally gave this gift to each of the five "Die-Hards" on Christmas morning. From the letters of thanks I have received, they all say, "Thank goodness we are not forgotten."



### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

"Old Comrades," Mill Hill, November 13, 1960

#### Albuhera Dinner

This important function will be held again this year in May, and with a bit of luck we hope to exceed last year's attendance of 136. This is, of course, for the members of the Mill Hill Branch, but I am given to understand that other branches are also thinking of holding one. Let us hope they are—it is one way of keeping together.

#### Other Items of News

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Lowe who celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on December 30 last.

Also to Charles Escudier and his charming lady who were married on December 17. Good luck to you both.

Brigadier and Mrs. Rackham visited us on two club nights. How delighted we were to see them—come again, please.

There are still a few invalids amongst us.

Stan Furniss and Bob Overton have not been too well. Bob "Tug" Wilson has had, and is still having, a rough time since his discharge from hospital—get well soon, "Tug."

Mr. Mathews had a spell in hospital but was discharged just in time to enjoy his Christmas dinner at home.

Eight new members have joined the Branch within the last three months. Let us all do our best to get more, but remember to pay the annual subscription; quite a number forget to do so.

Now the spring is on the way, it is time you thought

of the badge for your blazer. They are available from the Secretary, so drop him a line and you will get it by return of post.

This will be the last time I shall be able to mention the Secretary of the Association before he retires. I refer to Major A. W. Clark, who has for many years worked very hard on behalf of ex-members of our Regiment.

From personal knowledge I can say that no deserving case for help has ever been refused by "Nobby." I am quite used to the fact that, when he is asked for something he always says "No," but means "Yes," and he has always met my requests. Thank you, "Nobby," for your help and for all you have done for the ex-members of the Regiment. Our best wishes for a happy retirement.

P. NEWMAN (Chairman).

The following is a letter from our old pal, "Busty" Hull.

DEAR "DIE-HARD,"

Since our last notes we have gone through a period of activity which recurs each back end of the year, namely, "The Field of Remembrance" at Westminster Abbey, the Remembrance Sunday Church Service at Mill Hill and the parade at our Regimental War Memorial. In the Club the annual Christmas draw and all the good things which go with the spirit of good will prevailing at Christmas. In connection with these events a photograph is reproduced herewith which we are sure will be of interest to all. Thanks are given



to those who by their efforts on behalf of our Club have greatly contributed to the success which attended all occasions. Every member, of course, by his presence alone has contributed his share and we do thank each most sincerely. To our Chairman, Major Newman, Mrs. Newman, Major Dick Smith and Mrs. Smith, Mr. Johnson for the wonderful collection of Christmas cakes and Mrs. Ivy Clarke for the lovely basket of fruit, to Tim Harrison for urging the Chairman to start the Christmas draw early in the year, to "Old Man" Cox for his unfailing attendance at all times with his pleasant personality; to Percy and Mrs. Hale for the wonderful film of the Remembrance Day Parade and visit to the Officers' Mess (which we hope to see again), to the Padre who is a tower of inspiration to us all, to Brigadier and Mrs. Rackham for their kind attendance and interest. The Brigadier revived many things in conversation which are treasured memories to many members, persons and events which have helped to make our history real and to preserve our *esprit de corps*. Again to all on behalf of all: Thank you!

To R.S.M. Bartle and all members of the Sergeants' Mess, thank you all for the hospitality we received on Remembrance Sunday, and for the kindness with which ex-members are received at all times; these things mean so much to us all, more than words can express.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the opportunity of contributing these notes to the Journal, especially at this time when there is so much to be said. All members, I am sure, are feeling deep inside, as I do, great sorrow at our departure from our home at Mill Hill. Forty-six years ago since I entered the gate for the first time—and I am only a young soldier among many old Soldiers. Yes, it is so true to say that Inglis Barracks is our home—our home it must always be. To those who have given our memorial stands on the hill. As its light shines may it be the beacon which will for ever guide us home. I ask you in all sincerity to resolve that you will never relax, that you will continue with all your strength to do all and more that you possibly can to preserve the Spirit of Comradeship and continue to gather wherever and whenever the "Fall In" sounds.

I leave you now with all good wishes one to another. A very happy and prosperous New Year, and may it be attended with God's blessings of "Good Health" to all.

Here's to the "Old Die-hards,"  
May they for ever be victorious,  
May they add to the laurels they have won,  
When there's fighting to be done.  
Here's to the Rank and File,  
May they ever win the day,  
And when we've drunk our Queen and Country's health,  
We'll drink to the "Old Die-Hards."

God bless you all.

"BUSTY" HULL.

No one will say that his letter is not from the heart of a "Die-Hard."

P.F.N.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT ON BENEVOLENT WORK

During the three months ended January 31, 1961, the sum of £444 3s. has been used to assist 47 cases of various types.

Before giving readers information regarding the cases assisted, two points arise. Firstly, annual subscriptions are due to the Association Fund at the beginning of each year, and it will be appreciated by readers that these subscriptions help considerably to the continuance of the benevolent work of the Association and the relief of distress. May we ask, therefore, if you have not already sent your subscription to do so now, and, if possible, make it a generous subscription this year. A lot of work, and the expense of postage, is saved if the necessity for sending out reminders is eliminated.

Secondly, we receive many comments on these reports, and one question often arises: "Do we help all cases which are placed before us"—of course not! It is quite often found, after investigation by one of the various bodies who act for us, that requests are made for assistance with such things as arrears of rent, H.P. arrears, and arrears of clothing clubs by applicants actually in full employment earning average wages, and even above. The reason they are in debt is either bad management, or over-extravagance, and naturally benevolent funds are not used for this purpose. Only when a case is thoroughly recommended by the investigators do we help, if assistance is not recommended then we abide by that advice.

Now for those we do help. You will see the sum is rather larger this quarter, but it is accounted for by a case which is helped annually to meet the fees of a cathedral school. The 51st Highland Division agreed with our help to meet these fees for five years, and their grant is made through us. A large grant was also made to meet the cost of air passages for the widow and mother of the late L/Cpl. Wilkinson to fly out to Germany to attend his funeral.

As usual at this time many grants are made to widows and those living on the retirement pension to cover the cost of extra fuel and some warm clothing during the cold months. A grant was made for clothing for the children of an ex-member of the Regiment who is over 70 years of age and in receipt of the retirement pension, but has two children still at school. His wife had been working to supplement the income, but, due to the fact that she had had a stroke, the income dropped considerably and difficulties had arisen. Help was, therefore, given to reduce weekly outgoings and so enable them to manage on a reduced income.

Help was required by two families who were in arrears with rent, etc. The fathers in both cases were in the building trade, and, due to the very bad weather, had been on short time.

Assistance was given to the parents of Boy Wick who had died on exercises with the 7th Battalion. This grant was made at the request of the Officer Commanding, the 7th Battalion.

We cooperated with the R.A.S.C. in the cost of tools to enable a man to take up the trade of master plumber upon his release from prison. We cooperated with the

Royal Signals in a grant towards furniture for a house recently allocated to a couple, both of whom were being discharged from hospitals where they had been under treatment for T.B. The couple had five children, all of whom had been fostered on and off for years. An effort is now being made to bring all the children home again, but at the moment it is only possible for the two youngest to be with the parents.

The wife of an ex-Sergeant of the Regiment was given considerable help to enable her to reduce H.P. payments. The husband is in prison and the wife has returned to work to care for herself and two children and to keep the home together for his return. By reducing the H.P. payments and arrears, she is now able to manage until his return. The widow of a man who had recently died with T.B. was helped to clear various debts. The man had been unable to work regularly since the First World War as he had a leg amputation which was constantly bothering him.

The Knights of St. George asked for help for an ex-Corporal of the Regiment who is now 79 years of age and lives in a home for the disabled. He is alone in the world and they visit him regularly to take comforts to him.

We were approached by S.S.A.F.A. on behalf of the wife of a man serving with the 1st Battalion. The wife lives in one room with their two children, and the only means of heating the room is an oil heater. These heaters are expensive and she was buying one on hire purchase, but the payments were difficult to meet from her allowance. We paid the balance to relieve her of this burden.

Assistance with the cost of clothing for herself and an invalid daughter was given to the widow of a man who served with our Regiment in the First World War, and whose only son was killed whilst serving with our 2nd Battalion in the Second World War. She has to support herself and this daughter on a very small pension.

We were asked by S.S.A.F.A. to help an ex-Private of the Regiment whose wife had recently died and left him with three small children of school age to care for. He is endeavouring to care for them himself, but had got into some difficulty with clothing for them and a school uniform was required by the eldest. A grant was made to cover this.

A very sad case was presented to us immediately after Christmas. A widow had been left with seven young children, the youngest only eight days old. The husband, who had been sick for about three years and unable to work regularly so the income had been small, died suddenly and unexpectedly during Christmas week and left many small debts, and the family in need of clothing. A grant was made to meet immediate difficulties.

The almoner of Edgware General Hospital telephoned us one afternoon recently. She was worried as an elderly member of the Regiment had been admitted to hospital, seriously ill, and his wife was to visit him every day. As this necessitated a journey from Hayes daily, the wife was unable to afford the expense from the retirement pension. We immediately made a grant to cover the expense for a week or so, but unfortunately the man died even before the grant was fully expended. The balance was given to the widow to help her meet other expenses.

#### DO YOU KNOW?

##### R.F.E.A.

During 1960 the number of men and women from the Regular Armed Forces of the Crown placed in employment by the National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen was 18,411, which was 86½ per cent. of those who registered at one or other of the Association's 52 branches covering the whole of the United Kingdom. It is of interest that, of this number, 7,639 were from the Army and 27 were from your Regiment.

If, when you get home, you have forgotten, lost or have never been told the address of your Area Jobfinder, apply at any big post office or to your own Regimental Association. They'll be able to give it to you.

Regular Forces Employment Association,  
62 Victoria Street,  
London, S.W.1.

#### HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE NEWS LETTER No. 8

The weeks and the months roll all too swiftly by and the Brigade Colonel has suddenly realised that another of his periodical intrusions into the pages of certain Regimental Journals is already overdue. That this particular intrusion is the last for 1960 is obvious; that it is also the last from this particular pen is now a certainty.

As there is such an air of finality about this particular letter it will do no harm to kick it off by reviewing the Brigade's position from the most important standpoint of all, that of recruiting. Statistics are invariably dry and uninteresting fare, but the following summary may perhaps be an exception to that rule; if it is nothing else it is at all events a somewhat unusual item to find in a News Letter. Take a look at this:—

Regiment (d)	Regular recruits enlisted during first ten months of 1960 (b)	Total for similar period in 1959 (c)	Remarks (d)
Queen's Surreys	159	103	Figs. in col. (c) are combined Queen's & E. Surrey's figures
Bufs/R.W.K.	164	58	Figs. in cols. (b) and (c) combined even though Amalg. not due till March 1, 1961
R. Sussex	74	38	
Middlesex	118	60	
Home Counties			
Brigade Total	515	259	

These figures do not take into account any regulars who have extended their engagement, so that it is not an entirely true picture. Nevertheless the trend is an encouraging one and it is especially so when, as is shown in the other, equally dreary, little summary given below, the Regimental totals given in col. (b) of the previous table are broken down into monthly totals:



	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Total
Queen's Surreys	15	12	18	12	20	12	11	15	26	18	159
Bufs/R.W.K.	6	10	6	6	21	27	19	34	26	9	164
R. Sussex	3	5	3	1	6	5	11	14	19	7	74
Middlesex	6	9	13	14	12	18	4	14	20	8	118
Brigade Total	30	36	40	33	59	62	45	77	91	42	515

There is no doubt that all concerned in this recruiting effort have done, and are continuing to do, a fine job of work for the Brigade; there is equally no doubt that the posters, pamphlets, ash-trays, shaving mirrors, beer mats, book matches, paper weights and other gimmicks thought up by certain people at the Brigade Depot and produced by a variety of other people elsewhere have also played their part; but there is also no shadow of doubt that we cannot at this juncture sit smugly back and say that our troubles are behind us. In spite of the improvement shown there is still no cause for complacency and not one single one of us can afford to relax the efforts he has been making in the past. Unless those efforts are continued and a steady flow of regular recruits into the Brigade Depot is maintained by all Regiments there is no question what-so-blooming-ever that the Brigade will be in a pickle by the end of 1962 when the last National Serviceman returns to civilian life.

The more recruiters there are "on the ground," round and about in the four counties, and in London, the more regular recruits there will be forthcoming. It is a false economy, and a sure way to failure, not to have as many Officer/N.C.O.s as can possibly be made available for this vital duty. It is a MUST for every Regiment in the Brigade.

Yet another Regimental Depot, that of the Bufs, has closed since the last News Letter. Only two now remain, the Queen's Own at Maidstone and the Middlesex at Mill Hill, and they are due to close at the end of March and the end of January 1961 respectively. Howe Barracks, lately the home of the Bufs Depot and the home-to-be, after a certain amount of reconstruction and rebuilding, of the Brigade Depot, was officially vacated on October 31. Every day since then we have waited with bated breath to see when the first contractor's lorry would spill its initial load of bricks on to the flower beds, back into the nearest lamp-post after doing so and demolish the barrier across the entrance on its way out. News has just reached us that this particular performance will not be put on until April next year, which makes one wonder why the Bufs Depot had to close when it did. Perhaps it was that the Brigade Colonel was just omitted from an earlier distribution list, or even that "the Estimates" for this financial year were wrongly added up?

Other more recent events are the arrival of the 1st Battalion the Bufs from B.A.O.R. and the opening of the Brigade Museum. Of the former it need only be said that, as they disembarked at Folkestone Harbour at an early hour on a cold, grey, wet November morning, they did so under their present name for the last time.

They now have until March 1 in which to poise themselves in readiness for amalgamation with their next-door-neighbours at Shorncliffe, 1st Battalion the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. The name of the new Regiment, the Queen's Own Bufs, the Royal Kent Regiment, has already been announced and is already well known within the Brigade; amalgamation, in short, has virtually begun and there is no doubt that, as with the other amalgamation in the Brigade, it will prove a great success. The successor to Lt.-Col. Dendy, who will command the new Battalion for the first year of its life, has been announced, in the person of Major H. B. H. Waring.

The Brigade Museum was officially opened on November 25 by Maj.-Gen. Paul Gleadell, G.O.C. Home Counties District, before a large and representative gathering which included Maj.-Gens. Metcalf Talbot, Col. Ogilby and Brigadier Thurburn of the Ogilby Trust, the Brigade historian, Major Blaxland, Regimental Museum curators, and representatives from all 1st Battalions, Depots and R.H.Q.s. As a more appropriate way than cutting a Brigade tie strung across the front door with a pair of nail-scissors, General Gleadell declared the Museum open by pulling aside a Brigade flag draped over a finely made board on which had been painted, in gold, the names of the 46th Brigade recipients of the Victoria Cross.

The Museum is now an established part of the Depot and of the Brigade; it contains a variety of extremely interesting and historic exhibits from all the six Regiments which originally formed the Brigade. It is, therefore, worthy of a visit by anyone who comes to Canterbury, and it is also worthy of everyone's consideration as to how he or she can help to fill some of the gaps which there undoubtedly are in the collection. It is much to be hoped that further exhibits will be forthcoming; they will all be most welcome.

A buffet luncheon to all our guests followed the opening ceremony, after which there was a passing out parade with the salute taken by General Gleadell; rain unfortunately began falling heavily during lunch and the parade had to be held indoors.

Maj.-Gen. Talbot took the salute at the previous passing out parade at Canterbury early in September and was more fortunate with his weather. It is anyone's guess how General Sir Lashmer Whistler will fare when he comes here on January 6, and we can but keep our fingers crossed.

As was mentioned briefly in the last newsletter, Lt.-Col. Mike Lowry has now taken over command of 1st Queen's Surreys in succession to Lt.-Col. Tony White. The Battalion is off to Aden at the end of the

year and the best wishes of all ranks in the Brigade will go with them. The only other change of command to be announced, and that not due for another 18 months, is that of Major Francis Morgan (Bufs) who will succeed Lt.-Col. Ian Battye in command of 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) in May, 1962.

The new Brigade poster will shortly be on the hoardings. Like all such recruiting aids, it has taken many months, much thought, numerous "mock-ups" and a lot of "lolly" to produce. The motif of the silhouetted figure of the infantryman has been carried forward from the original "This is the Life" poster and he is to be seen looking down on to a foreshortened map of our four counties. "These are the Counties" carries on where "This is the Life" leaves off, and Mr. Woodcock, the Brigade Museum Curator, is to be congratulated on his original drawing for this, our second venture into the realms of the advertising world. There can be little doubt that, by that medium as well as by many others, the Brigade must continue to put itself in the eye of the public, because it is the public we rely upon for our professional soldiers of the future.

The new Brigade Colonel, in succession to the present writer, is to be Col. M. T. N. Jennings of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, to whom go warmest congratulations; he will take over in March. If he receives from all in the Brigade anything approaching the kindness, consideration and help which his predecessor has had during the last two and a half years he will have nothing to complain about.

Which brings this eighth newsletter neatly to its conclusion. As the end of his tour of duty as Brigade Colonel approaches and as he prepares to terminate his active service in the British Army, the Brigade Colonel sends to all ranks in the Brigade his best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, coupled with his every good wish for their personal happiness and success in the future. The future of the Brigade lies largely in their hands; it will be watched by him with keen interest and lasting affection.

#### OLD CONTEMPTIBLE BROADCAST ON BATTLE OF MONS

Extract from Croydon Advertiser, November 11, 1960

On parade in Katharine Street this Sunday, Remembrance Day, with 20 other members of the Old Contemptibles, will be 67-year-old Mr. Victor Francis Rogers, of Howberry Road, Thornton Heath.

He is chairman of the 70-strong Croydon branch of the Old Contemptibles' Association and spoke on the radio on Wednesday in a short interview which was recorded by the B.B.C. at a reception in the town of Mons in Belgium. The reception is an annual affair to commemorate the very first encounter between the Old Contemptibles and the German Army on August 23, 1914.

Mr. Rogers was a Private in "D" Company of the 4th Middlesex Regiment and was one of the few survivors of an engagement at Obourg. He was subsequently taken prisoner and spent three years in Germany and one year in Russia under terrible conditions.



This year, with four other survivors, Mr. Rogers visited a cemetery near Mons which contains a unique plaque erected by the Germans in memory of the Middlesex Regiment, after the First World War.

Mr. Rogers, who was in the Army for 10 years and in the Home Guard during the last war, was presented with a Belgian award, the Albert I Gold Cross, earlier this year.

Although he was born in London, he has lived in Thornton Heath for 38 years and is a signwriter by trade. This Christmas he hopes to retire and "have a try at idleness."

#### THE 17th (1st FOOTBALLERS) BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

Between 1914 and 1918, 46 Battalions of the Middlesex Regiment were raised and engaged on active service. One of the first of the new battalions to be formed was the 17th, who came into being towards the end of 1914, and continued until February, 1918, when they were disbanded to serve as reinforcements for other Battalions of the Regiment which had suffered crippling casualties in the Flanders Campaign of the previous autumn.

Because of the very large number of professional and amateur footballers who joined up in this Battalion it became known as the 1st Footballers' Battalion. Among the best known of its recruits were Woodward, who as an amateur played centre-forward for England many times in the early 1900s, and Frank Buckley who later earned fame as manager of "The Wolves." Their prowess on the football field was such that the Battalion was barred from normal inter-unit competitions, but was often called upon to give exhibition matches, particularly while resting in France.



However, their capabilities were not confined to the field of sport. Between the time of its arrival in France in December 1915, and its disbandment just over two years later, the Battalion was engaged in much heavy fighting. It first saw action on Vimy Ridge on June 1, 1916, and took part in the bitterest of the fighting on the Somme. In 1917 it suffered heavy casualties during the Battle of Arras and later was again fully committed in the German counter-attack on the Cambrai salient.

Immediate awards made to the Battalion for the Cambrai action were one Victoria Cross (Capt. Macready Diarmid), two Military Crosses, six Distinguished Conduct Medals and twelve Military Medals.

After the war, the Battalion reunion was held each year, most fittingly, on the evening of Cup-Final Day, and it is interesting to note that 20 years after the Battalion's disbandment on the eve of a second world war, some 80 survivors still managed to attend the reunion, which is a worthy tribute to the spirit of comradeship which existed in its ranks.

Lt.-Col. Stafford, who was the last Commanding Officer, and who has furnished the material for this note on the 1st Footballers' Battalion, gives the following footnote on the men he had the privilege to command. In December, 1918, under the heading of "Hero in Trouble," an account was published in a London newspaper of an ex-"Die-Hard" who in seasonal festivities had found himself embattled with two London policemen. The man in question, sometime Corporal, sometime Private, Hickman, late of the 17th Middlesex, was what his present-day comrades-in-arms would describe as "half-pint sized," so his battle with the London Police Force must have been reminiscent of his battles with the late enemy for which he had been awarded the D.C.M. and bar and the M.M. and bar: no mean achievement.

#### ENGAGEMENTS

*Extract from the Daily Telegraph, January 24, 1961*

LAWRENCE—BEAGLEY.—The engagement is announced between Capt. Christopher Lansdowne Lawrence, M.C., The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), son of Major and Mrs. F. A. L. Lawrence, of Bransgore, Christchurch, and Kay, widow of Capt. M. T. Beagley, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), only daughter of Mr. R. S. Stafford, C.B.E., F.R.Ae.S., and Mrs. Stafford, of Ruislip, Middlesex.

#### DEATHS

GORDON.—On December 26, suddenly, Ian Douglas Strathearn, Major (Retd.), Middlesex Regiment, only son of the late Maj.-Gen. the Hon. Sir Frederick Gordon, C.M.G., D.S.O., and Lady Gordon, of Nairn.

CRANFIELD.—On January 9, 1961, peacefully, at his home, The Old Vicarage, Hernhill, near Faversham, Kent, in his 92nd year, Lt.-Col. Sydney White Cranfield, T.D., F.R.I.B.A. (Retd.), formerly of Enfield Chase, and the 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own). An officer from the Depot attended the funeral.

#### OBITUARY

##### Lt.-Col. Sydney White Cranfield, T.D.

Lt.-Col. Sydney White Cranfield, T.D., died on January 9, 1961, in his 92nd year. He enlisted in the 1st Volunteer Battalion The Middlesex Regiment in 1902, was appointed 2/Lieutenant, and posted to the Enfield Lock Detachment.

In 1914 he was commanding "F" Company (Enfield), 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, with half Company at Enfield Town and half Company at Enfield Lock (which was composed almost entirely of employees at the Royal Small Arms Factory).

On mobilisation he was appointed Staff Captain, Middlesex Brigade.

In 1915 he commanded 3/7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment and in May, 1917, when this Battalion became the 2/7th Middlesex, he was sent to France, where he held various administrative appointments, being mentioned in despatches for his services.

He retired in 1919 but, in his professional capacity, continued to act as architect to the Middlesex Territorial Association for many years.

He designed the 7th Battalion South African War Memorial tablet in Hornsey Parish Church.

While serving with the Enfield Company, Cranfield lived nearby at Forty Hill and thus was able to keep in close touch with all ranks in the Company.

His sympathy and ready help for all those in trouble endeared him to all ranks.

His cheerful good humour under all circumstances will be remembered by all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

He was always keenly interested in the Battalion, and in 1954 at the age of 85 he attended the officers' reunion dinner.

##### Major I. D. S. Gordon

Ian Gordon died suddenly on December 26, 1960, after several years of ill-health. He was educated at Wellington and the R.M.C. Sandhurst, and was the son of Maj.-Gen. Frederick Gordon, C.M.G., D.S.O., and the Hon. Mrs. Gordon. His father commanded the 19th Brigade during the 1914-18 War, in which the 1st Battalion had played a distinguished part.

Ian joined the 57th on first appointment in 1921, in Ireland, and was posted to "D" Company, then commanded by Capt. B. G. Horrocks, M.C. He remained with this Company throughout Silesia, Cologne, Aldershot, Catterick and China (Shanghai Defence Force). In 1931 he was posted to the Depot as Training Subaltern, and continued there for a further tour as Adjutant. So successful was he in this appointment that in 1935 he was posted as Adjutant to the 2nd Battalion (77th). On relinquishing the adjutancy in 1938 he rejoined the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong, and retired shortly afterwards in 1939.

Ian will be remembered by his old friends as kindly, erudite, generous and loyal. He was a most unusual and remarkable character in many ways. His likes and dislikes were violent and unaccountable, loving such things as good music, but hating the conceit of the bogus playboy or the super athlete. He was very industrious

and possessed a quick brain which seemed at times to see round corners. He had an astonishingly thorough grasp of detail, and one would find a list on his desk pad, when he was Adjutant, of over 200 items to attend to during an ordinary peace-time working day. He might have gone a long way in his military career had he not always had a strong antipathy to, and an overwhelming suspicion of, higher authority. He never married and is survived by his younger sister, to whom he was devoted. Although rarely seen at Regimental functions, he was intensely proud of his Regiment and its traditions.

#### PSYCHIATRIST CRITIC OF FREUD DEAD

##### Dr. Eric Strauss

*Daily Telegraph Reporter*

Dr. Eric Benjamin Strauss, a psychiatrist with an international reputation, died in London last night aged 66. He was consulting physician in psychological medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and formerly head of the Psychological Medicine Department of the hospital and lecturer on the subject at London University.

He was educated at Oundle, University College School and New College, Oxford, and served in the 1914-18 War as a captain in the Middlesex Regiment.

At Oxford he took a Modern Languages degree before reading medicine, and subsequently qualified at King's College Hospital. He later studied psychological medicine at the University of Marburg.

He was a critic of the theories of Freud, on whom he wrote a centenary article for *The Daily Telegraph*.

#### SUBSTANTIVE ROLL OF WARRANT OFFICERS, COLOUR-SERGEANTS AND SERGEANTS AS AT FEBRUARY 1, 1961

Bde. Pos.	Appt. or A/Rank	Name	Last Known Station
2	W.O.1	T. McMillan	1 Mx.
7	W.O.1	J. Thom	7 Mx.
10	W.O.1	R. Budden	R.H.K.D.F.
15	W.O.1	S. Bartle	Depot Mx.

#### WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS II

6	W.O.2	F. Firman	5 Queen's
7	W.O.2	A. Cooper	1 Mx.
13	W.O.2	R. Dodkins	1 Mx.
15	W.O.2	W. Thorogood	1 Mx.
17	W.O.2	C. Burgess	Depot Mx.
29	W.O.2	K. Beale	1 Mx.
40	W.O.2	W. Wright	8 Mx.
45	W.O.2	A. Da Costa	1 Mx.
52	W.O.2	S. Michel	1 Mx.
54	W.O.2	M. Eastap	Depot Mx.

#### COLOUR-SERGEANTS

6	A/W.O.2	H. Davis	8 Mx.
17	C/Sgt.	J. Potter	1 Mx.
21	C/Sgt.	P. Dive	1 Mx.
22	A/W.O.2	J. Moyse	7 Mx.

#### SERGEANTS

10	Sgt.	E. Weller	H.C.B.D.
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Bde. Pos.	Appt. or A/Rank	Name	Last Known Station
12	Sgt.	G. Palmer	Depot Mx.
25	A/C/Sgt.	E. Steward	4/5 R. Sussex
30	Sgt.	D. Bailey	A.S.C.D.
33	A/W.O.2	G. Simmons	1 Mx.
36	A/C/Sgt.	D. Walters	1 Mx.
40	Sgt.	J. Dickie	1 Mx.
47	A/C/Sgt.	A. Nicholson	1 Mx.
48	Sgt.	B. Warner	H.Q., 11 Inf. Bde. Gp.
49	Sgt.	M. Butler	1 Mx.
52	Sgt.	A. Gibbs (O.R.C.)	1 Mx.
53	A/C/Sgt.	W. Smith	1 Mx.
61	A/C/Sgt.	J. Martin, M.M.	Depot Mx.
69	Sgt.	R. Davies	1 Mx.
82	A/W.O.2	P. Amor	22 S.A.S.
87	Sgt.	R. Clements	1 Mx.
96	Sgt.	R. Power	1 Mx.
99	Sgt.	K. Lloyd	1 Mx.
100	Sgt.	C. Partridge	1 Mx.
103	Sgt.	D. Lagden	1 Mx.
104	Sgt.	E. Langford	1 Mx.
110	Sgt.	C. Orme	1 Mx. (A.I.O. Kentish Town)
115	Sgt.	M. Elston	M.T. School
125	Sgt.	H. Harder	1 Mx.
132	Sgt.	R. Ford	1 Mx.
133	Sgt.	C. Shinn	Inf. Jnr. Leaders Bn.
137	Sgt.	N. Taylor	7 Mx.
138	Sgt.	B. Callaghan	8 Mx.
145	A/C/Sgt.	H. Males	G.H.Q. M.E.L.F.
146	Sgt.	C. Blackwell	1 Mx.
176	Sgt.	J. Patterson	Depot H.C.B.
178	Sgt.	B. Tarry	8 Mx.
186	Sgt.	S. Speakman	8 Mx.
189	Sgt.	W. Argent	1 Mx.
190	Sgt.	L. Plumb	1 Mx.
198	Sgt.	H. Turner	7 Mx.
202	Sgt.	J. Williamson	22 S.A.S.
204	Sgt.	B. Edey	1 Mx.

#### ORDERLY ROOM SERGEANTS

2	O.R.Q.M.S.	E. Colebeck	Depot Mx.
4	O.R.Q.M.S.	P. Soper, B.E.M.	1 Mx.
9	O.R.C./Sgt.	G. Cripps	Depot H.C.B.

#### BANDMASTER

9	B.M.	J. McShane	1 Mx.
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#### BAND SERGEANT

5	Sgt.	A. Probert	1 Mx.
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#### SERGEANTS (BAND)

3	Sgt.	D. Carson	1 Mx. (B.M. Course, R.M.S.M.)
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#### DRUM MAJOR

3	C/Sgt. (D.M.)	J. Lewis	1 Mx.
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