

The Die Hards

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



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THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN)

(57th and 77th)

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

"Mysore," "Serangapatam," "Albuhara," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsula," "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa 1900-02," "World War I—46 Battalions—" Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marnes, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "La Bassée, 1914," "Messines, 1914," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Prezennberg," "Bellevue," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "Albert, 1916," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Flers-Courcelette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "Bapaume, 1917," "Arras, 1917," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "Arleux," "Pickle," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "St. Quentin," "Roosters," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrouck," "Bailleul," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suvla," "Landing at Suvla," "Scimitar Hill," "Callipoli, 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," "North Africa, 1942-43: "El Alamein," "Advance on Tripoli," "Mareth," "Akarit," "Djebel Roumana," "Sicily, 1943: "Francoforte," "Sierro," "Sierro Hills," "Italy, 1944-45: "Anzio," "Carroceto," "Gothic Line," "Monte Grande," "North-West Europe, 1944-45: "Normandy Landing," "Cambes," "Breville," "The Odon," "Gaan," "The Orne," "Hill 112," "Bourgeois Ridge," "Troam," "Mont Pincon," "Falaise," "The Seine, 1944," "The Nederin," "Le Hayre," "The Lower Maas," "Venrai," "Meijel," "Gellenkirchen," "Venlo Pocket," "The Rhineland," "Goch," "The Reichwald," "The Rhine," "Lingen," "Brinkum," "Bremen," "Korea 1950-51," "Naktong Bridgehead," "Chongju," "Chongchon II," "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.: Weymss Barracks, Canterbury.
Brigade Colonel: Col. M. T. N. Jennings.
D.A.A.G.: Major C. N. Clayden.

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 Records, Exeter.
Regimental Pay Office—Canterbury.

Allied Units

CANADA

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

NEW ZEALAND

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

HONG KONG

The Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers), B.F.P.O., 1.

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

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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 "S. & Co." Annual subscription, 5s. (post free).
Articles, news items, etc., are welcomed from readers; however, the Editor necessarily reserves the right of publication. Such contributions to the Journal should be addressed to the Editor, as above.

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Editor's Comments

On June 30 the Colonel of the Regiment sailed from Southampton in S.S. *Nevasa* for Hong Kong, where he has taken up the appointment of Chief of Staff at Headquarters, Land Forces.

Our best wishes go with Brigadier Willoughby for a very happy and successful tour overseas.

During his absence, Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C., D.L., has kindly consented to act as Deputy Colonel.

In order to mark the formation of Regimental Headquarters and the new 5th (T.A.) Battalion, a champagne party was held on May 17 at the T.A. Centre, Edgware. About 325 guests attended, including the Chairman of the Middlesex County Council and most of the Mayors (or their Deputies) of boroughs in the County of Middlesex. It was a pity that, owing to his absence abroad on duty, the Lord Lieutenant could not honour us with his presence.

The drill hall was the scene of the reception and, with the Colours of the 7th, 8th and 9th Battalions and the Museum as a background, it looked its very best.

We are deeply indebted to the Hendon Borough Council for the magnificent floral decorations provided entirely free of charge for the occasion.

It was with considerable pride and pleasure that we heard of two ex-members of the Regiment being chosen as Mayors this year—Major G. Hartley, late 8th Battalion, as Mayor of Uxbridge, and ex-Sgt. R. A. Harrison, late 2nd Battalion, as Mayor of Bridlington, Yorkshire.

We congratulate them on the honour conferred on them and wish them both a successful tour of office.

Shortly before the Colonel of the Regiment sailed for Hong Kong we heard the good news that Col. H. A.

de Barros Botelho, M.B.E., E.D., had been appointed Honorary Colonel to our affiliated Regiment, the Hong Kong Regiment (the Volunteers).

Col. Botelho is well known to many of us, and is himself an honorary member of our Officers' Club.

It is perhaps not widely known that the membership of our Regimental Association at the present time is less than 1,000. This is indeed a sorry state of affairs, and it is greatly to be hoped that the steps which have been put in hand by the Committee of the Regimental Association will do much to improve the present unsatisfactory position.

Taking into account the vast numbers who, during and since World War I, have worn the regimental cap badge, our membership today should be something like 10,000.

The Museum is now firmly established at Regimental Headquarters at the T.A. Centre, Edgware, and can be seen at any time by appointment with the Curator, Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E. (Tel.: EDGware 2625).

Whilst it is housed within a smaller space than at Mill Hill it has, nevertheless, room for more exhibits. Any gifts or loans of Regimental interest would, therefore, be most gratefully received.

EXTRACT FROM THE LONDON "EVENING NEWS," DATED JULY 26, 1881

The Sheriff of Limerick today proceeded to Ardagh to carry out two evictions on the property of Mr. Edward Wm. O'Brien, J.P., of Catermoyle, for non-payment of rent. The Sheriff was accompanied by a company of the 57th Regiment and about 40 policemen.

Personalia

We were glad to note that Col. R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker had been awarded a C.B.E. in the last Birthday Honours List, and send him our heartiest congratulations.

Major F. J. Bennett, who retired last December, is now working in Carlisle for Border Television Ltd. as their publicity manager.

Major K. J. Carter is due to finish as G.S.O.2 (Ops.) at Headquarters, Southern Command, in October next, when he will rejoin the 1st Battalion.

Capt. R. D. Fisher has been nominated to attend the next course at the Staff College, Camberley, starting in January 1962.

Capt. "Jimmy" Flavell retired on July 2 and is now living in the Isle of Wight. We were sorry to see him go, and hope that, by the time these notes are printed, he will have found himself a good job in civilian life.

On May 18, Capt. C. L. Lawrence was married to Mrs. Margaret ("Kay") Beagley at St. Giles' Church,

Ickenham, Middlesex, and on July 26, Capt. J. M. Hewson was married to Miss Vanda Mitchell at Holy Trinity, Brompton.

Capt. I. M. E. Lloyd has been selected to take over as Adjutant of the Hong Kong Regiment (the Volunteers) from Major R. M. Cain in January 1962. On relief, Major Cain will rejoin the 1st Battalion.

No. 3 Selection Board has agreed to the appointment of Major P. L. Pearce-Gould as Officer Commanding 2nd Battalion the West India Regiment. The date on which he assumes this appointment, which carries with it promotion to the temporary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, has not yet been notified.

As we go to press, news has been received that Lt.-Col. A. R. Waller has been selected for the appointment of Military Attaché in Baghdad, with the temporary rank of Colonel. He is being relieved of his present appointment in September, but it is not yet known when he will go to the Middle East.

MAJOR A. W. CLARK, O.B.E.

At the end of June this year, "Nobby," as, of course, he was inevitably known in the Regiment, finished his appointment as Secretary of our Regimental Association, and at the last committee meeting which he attended a tribute was paid to him by the Chairman and a token presentation was made from the members of the committee. This is not the occasion to review "Nobby's" very long and devoted service to the Regiment, but to record our gratitude for the 13 years' service or more which he gave, after leaving the active list, as Secretary of our Regimental Association.

This appointment involves a lot of patience, consideration and hard work, and we have been extremely lucky

in finding someone who provided all these qualities coupled with an absolute devotion to the service of the Regiment. Every case which came up for consideration was properly enquired into and "Nobby" saw to it that the minimum delay occurred in giving assistance where it was needed. Files of all the cases were carefully kept, and when applications were received on subsequent occasions from the same person, all the information necessary was available for those responsible for approving any grant.

We thank "Nobby" for all he has done to help old members of the Regiment during the past 13 years, and we wish him a very happy retirement. G.L.F.

OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER

The annual dinner of the Club was held at the United Service Club, Pall Mall on Friday, July 21. In the absence of the Colonel of the Regiment, the Deputy Colonel, Lt.-General G. C. Bucknall presided, and the following officers attended:

Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, Major P. G. V. Bellers, Major F. J. Bennett, Capt. S. R. Bonnamy, Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton, Col. M. Browne, Lt.-General G. C. Bucknall, Major K. J. Carter, Lt. A. S. Cawthorne, Capt. B. K. Clayden, Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Lt.-Col. H. Cook, Lt.-Col. D. Y. Cubitt, Lt. P. D. J. Clarke, Major W. R. Davey, Lt. M. F. Deakin, Lt. R. T. Douthet, Col. W. D. Ellis, Major H. J. Evans, Major H. Farrow, Brigadier E. W. C. Flavell, Capt. J. S. C. Flavell, Capt. M. C. D. L. Gilham, Major J. N. Green, Capt. R. E. Guest.

Major J. A. Hamilton, Major G. Hartley, Capt. M. K. Hayward, Col. S. F. Hedgecoe, 2 Lt. M. F. Hedgecoe, Lt.-Col. A. S. Hewson, Major E. L. Heywood, Major G. W. P. Hodding, Lt.-General Sir Brian Horrocks, Major R. A. Kaye, Major G. Kent, Capt. P. J. T. Lane, Capt. C. L. Lawrence, Major R. J. Leighton, Major Sir Arthur Levey, Lt.-Col. A. B. McQueen, Col. A. M. Man, Capt.

B. H. Marciandi, Major H. Marsh, Major P. D. H. Marshall, Major F. J. Millard, Col. N. Moller, Major P. F. Newman, Major J. C. du Parc Braham, Major M. F. Pearson, Lt. J. M. Pickard, Col. W. E. Pringle, Brigadier B. B. Rackham, Major B. St. G. A. Reed, Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, Major G. E. St. Clair, Col. R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker, Major H. Sherwood, Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, Capt. P. A. Stocken, Col. F. Walden, Major S. C. W. Weller, Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 11 Remembrance Day Service, Field of Remembrance, Westminster.
- " 12 Remembrance Day Service, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.
- " 17 Regimental Reunion and Annual General Meeting, Seymour Hall, W.1.
- " 23 57/77th Militia Officers' Dinner, United Service Club.

1st Battalion Notes

The mad season is upon us. This year our training periods away from Hameln have been compressed into May and June. Easter was no sooner over when the Battalion seemed to take up station at Sennelager more or less permanently. The rifle companies in turn spent a week classifying all their men on the Platoon weapons. This was followed immediately by the Battalion and Brigade rifle meetings. The results of our efforts with the rifle and sub-machine gun are recorded elsewhere.

The annual visit of the Battalion to Sennelager followed in May. This year a camp site was chosen on the edge of Lippspringe playing fields. This was our first piece of concentrated training, and in spite of the absence of many commanders at all levels, the companies showed a marked improvement in elementary tactics and field training and much experience was gained in the use of the one-ton armoured truck.

I am sure that, in spite of life being very tough for the Company Command, the supernumeraries who had the chance of commanding at Sennelager will prove their worth before the end of the training season.

One Company in particular, judging by the frequency of its appeals, should by the end of August be full of chiefs with very few Indians. It remains to be seen, however, in what condition the chief of all chiefs will be by the end of the year.

Each year some descriptive word is produced, which becomes a fixture for the season. The year 1960 produced the "Blob," the mere mention of this word causing an immediate reaction by those to whom it was addressed. The reaction was not always that which was required. This year, 1961, we have the word "Flitting." This applied to the soldier is designed to cause a frightening reaction, and the immediate ageing of the commander on the spot.

The Battalion entered a team for the B.A.O.R. rifle meeting. They did not, however, meet with the success we had hoped. The results can be seen in the shooting notes.

The next event which assumed some prominence was the 11 Infantry Brigade Athletics. We were convinced that the material we had was good, but was it fit enough? With the help of the novices meeting which we held at Sennelager, many of our noted athletes were shocked at finding how unfit they were. Capt. McManus set to in the ten days available to form a team. To cut a long story short the Battalion won a most thrilling meeting on the last race. Congratulations to all members of the team for a very spirited and determined performance. They have now qualified to compete in Berlin from July 11 to 13. We hope to include an account of the Berlin meeting later in these notes.

Battalion Headquarters has had its fair share of exercises already this year. "Gentlemen's Relish" proved a very interesting exercise in that it gave us a look at 4th Divisional Headquarters. Trying to control 4 Div. needed a great deal of tact and in some cases quick thinking. In this apparently we were successful,

as tokens of thanks were received by the Commanding Officer from both 2 and 4 Divisions.

"Top Hat" required far less effort on our part, but the airing just before Soltau was no doubt a good thing. Those being exercised returned looking very bronzed and, some, overfed.

Albuhera Day this year was celebrated at Sennelager. This perhaps was not an ideal setting for this great occasion; perhaps the weather had a lot to do with this. In spite of the cold and damp and the normal frustrations, we had a memorable church service in the morning, followed by the customary visit of the Sergeants to the Officers' Mess. The novices athletics were held in the afternoon. We were pleased to drink with our W.O.s and Sergeants in the Sergeants' Mess in memory of those who fell at Albuhera, before dining in the field with Colours and most of our Mess silver. One wonders whether the real significance of Albuhera Day is fully understood by many of the younger members of our two messes. Too often these days a gathering together of a number of people immediately calls for a celebration. Let us not lose sight of the fact that Albuhera Day should be, what is more must be, a day of reverence, of remembrance by us all.

The Pentathlon team of Capt. du V. Lohan, Ptes. Finnis and Seatory, who have done extremely well in the United Kingdom, very nearly crashed in the B.A.O.R. inter-unit meeting. Capt. du V. Lohan's disqualification in the riding seemed to unnerve our team, who performed well below average, and as a result gained second place to the 10th Hussars. Pte. Finnis has maintained his unbroken record against all English competitors. He has been selected to represent the British team in Switzerland, Germany and, later, in Moscow. The Battalion team returns to England at the end of August to compete in the Army championships at Aldershot.

One of the highlights of this period was the expedition to Moscow undertaken by the Commanding Officer, Major Peckham (Paymaster), Lt. Mallalieu and Lt. Bulloch. The party very bravely motored to Moscow where they were looked after by Brigadier Ian Burrows, and then motored back. The story of this most interesting journey is told by the Commanding Officer himself. The officers, W.O.s and Sergeants of the Brigade were very fortunate in being able to hear the story of this trip and to see some 120 excellent coloured slides taken on the expedition.

On June 10, some of us had the good fortune to be present when Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., D.S.O., D.C.L., presented the new Guidon to the 14/20th Hussars. This was a most impressive and colourful parade. All squadrons, after the presentation and consecration of the new Guidon, marched past in slow and quick time. All the other ranks were carrying sub-machine guns and the whole parade in No. 1 Dress. The background to the parade was provided by the tanks of the Regiment.

The 14/20th Hussars are our new armoured Regiment. At Soltau we were delighted to have the opportunity of living and working with "A" Squadron, commanded by Major Robin Harris. Together we have sampled the dust and mud which these training areas produce, and are both learning afresh the art of infantry-tank co-operation. This year, however, we have the one-ton armoured A.P.C. to carry us. This does not mean that we are no longer seen travelling on the tanks themselves. One Company Commander has already lost the seats of his trousers and pants whilst riding on a tank. This year we are in camp at the outskirts of the village Schneverdingen and within easy reach of the showers in Reinschlen camp.

The Services Liaison Officer for the area of Soltau is a Mr. Ross, who I believe joined the Army at Mill Hill Depot during the last war. This is his first association with the Regiment since those days.

The first week at Soltau was very hot indeed and companies were left to train on their own. The second week a series of exercises was run at Company, Battalion and Brigade level. These exercises proved both interesting and instructive and, I hope, testing. It certainly gave commanders at all levels a chance to iron out a lot of mistakes. Major-General E. A. W. Williams, C.B.E., M.C., spent three hours watching the Battalion exercise, and was generally pleased with what he saw. He unfortunately left just before a splendid counter attack made by the Recce Troop of 14/20th Hussars on a recently captured position. The umpires for the Battalion exercise were Capt. Fisher, Donovan and Lt. Bulloch. They did noble work in ensuring that all departments were exercised but not controlled. The enemy was expertly handled by Lt. Dudson, R.S.M. McMillan, C.S.M. Thorgood and Sgt. Lloyd, bolstered up with the Corps of Drums and the Recce Troop from 14/20th Hussars.

The Brigade exercise proved to be a great test of map reading. I, as controller, was continually seeing commanders at all levels quite lost or without part of their unit. It must be pointed out, however, that the requirements for good map reading in this part of the world are some local knowledge of the country, a compass and a lot of luck. I think that everyone left Soltau having been well exercised and with special memories of Schneverdingen swimming pool, Reinschlen showers, strawberries at 1s. a pound, and the constant and faithful attention afforded by the canteen vans of the Church Army from the Red Shield Club, Soltau.

Col. Ankrah, of the Ghana Army, is doing a long attachment to 11th Infantry Brigade. He was a constant follower during our Company and Battalion exercises and seemed thoroughly to enjoy it all, asking some very pertinent questions, especially regarding the umpiring; every tank knocked out and every advance held up had to be backed by a very good reason.

The Regimental Band left for England on May 18 to fulfil a series of engagements and to have leave. The following report appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*: "Military Music at Lords. Music will be played during lunch and tea intervals at a county cricket match at Lord's today for the first time within memory. The

Middlesex Regimental Band, which is spending a summer in Britain for the first time since the 1939-45 War, offered its services and the Middlesex Club accepted for the opening day of their match with Warwickshire. The Bandmen will have their own lunch and tea at the Tavern."

A letter of thanks was received by the secretary of the M.C.C. The Band will be playing in most of the boroughs of Middlesex before returning to Hameln at the end of July.

Congratulations are extended to Capt. R. D. Fisher on passing the Staff College examination and for being nominated to attend the 1962 course at Camberley. We also congratulate Capt. B. K. Clayden and A. E. McManus on passing the promotion examination.

We apologise to Lt. Rose for his name not appearing in the Roll of Officers at the end of the Journal. This will be rectified.

I see that C.S.M. Dodkins has followed the Battalion Editor's advice and has purchased a motor car to replace his motorcycle. No skid turns please.

We were all delighted to hear that Capt. Mike Hayward has a daughter.

We offer our best wishes to Capt. Chris Lawrence and his wife, who is well known to many of us. We, I am afraid, have no inside story of their wedding; we trust everything went according to plan.

Your Battalion Editor had the good fortune to travel to Berlin to attend the B.A.O.R. inter-unit athletic meeting as Chief Field Referee. This enabled me to see a much greater part of the meeting than is normal. There were nine Regiments competing: 2nd Grenadier Guards, 1st Welch Guards, 2nd and 3rd Greenjackets, York and Lancs, 28th Signal Regiment, 94th Location Regiment, 3rd Royal Tanks, and The Middlesex Regiment. The standard was good and the Battalion did very well in gaining fourth place. Lt. Philp was the Battalion's outstanding athlete. After a magnificent last leg in the hurdles to give us third place, he won the long jump with a leap of 20 ft. 9 in., and he finished the day by running a very fast leg in the 4 x 100 metres. Sgt. Miles did very well in the 4 x 100 and 4 x 200 metres and had, after two no-jumps, a 20-ft. leap to finish up with. Capt. McManus and Mr. Cheesman had good performances. The meeting took place beneath the shadow of the Berlin Olympic Stadium.

Company commanders will now produce a sigh of relief because the athletic team just failed to qualify for the Army Athletics in the U.K. Some of their junior commanders will now be able to do a little military training.

2/Lts. O'Regan and Rayner have returned to civilian life since the last *Die-Hard*.

Martin O'Regan started life in "A" Company and then became Assistant M.T.O. In November 1960 he went to Winterberg to run the administration at the Winter Warfare Centre. He expressed a desire to do Sennelager before leaving the Army, and so he commanded a platoon in "C" Company.

Ted Rayner spent practically all his service with "B" Company except for a few weeks with "D" Company at the end of his time. He played hockey and cricket for the

Battalion and finally got into the Battalion ski team.

We hope that we will see both of them from time to time, and wish them the best of luck in their new walks of life.

The Pipers' Club, I feel, has never had a very prominent press in our Journal. This club is situated just outside the barracks where it moved in 1960, and Capt. Derek White of the Church Army has for some 18 months been in charge there. A first-class canteen service is provided in very pleasant surroundings, and all the daily papers for the garrison are handled by their bookstall. One can also order practically any magazine through them. A games room is available for use by all ranks, and if you want a mobile canteen the Pipers' Club will oblige.

There is upstairs in this active club a very pleasant little church room able to accommodate approximately 25 people. It is here that the Padre and Derek White hold many of their mid-week services.

Capt. Derek White has, to assist him to run this busy concern, Miss Bobbie Jarvis and a small German staff. I am sure that of the majority of people who use the club, all but a few appreciate the immense amount of work and time put in by the very small staff.

I would like to thank Derek White and his staff on behalf of the Regiment for their cheerful and ever-present service to us at all times.

This may be a little premature, but we do wish Derek White every good fortune in the future, and we in Hameln will certainly miss him.

Major Maurice Hastie is our new Station Staff Officer. He arrived here, as always in the Army, in a great hurry, about the middle of June, to find everything ticking over smoothly. From 1957-59 Major Hastie was at Eastern Command H.Q.; he was then sent to Singapore for two years prior to joining us in Hameln.

We welcome him to this garrison and hope he will enjoy his stay here. I know he will be glad when the Battalion Editor departs as he can then have his quarter. I won't enlighten him here as to the numerous problems he will have to cope with as S.S.O. Hameln.

On Friday, July 21, at 1900 hrs., some of the Battalion and about 1,000 Germans saw the Corps of Drums beat Retreat in the rain in the Market Square in Hameln. This was a very praiseworthy performance under extremely adverse conditions. In spite of the heavy rain, the spectators remained until the end and generously applauded all they saw. Great credit is due to the Drum Major and the Corps of Drums on a very fine effort in this, their first public performance, without the Band.

These are the last notes I shall be editing. I hand over with great pleasure and some relief to Major Peter Galvin. I would like to thank all departments for their co-operation, and I hope that you will all continue to give my successor the same help that you have given me.

EXERCISE "JULY JUMP"

On July 25, at 0920 hrs., "A" and "B" Companies with a section of 3-in. mortars emplaned in three S58 Sikorsky helicopters, piloted and manned by the German Army, as the start of Exercise "July Jump." In



"A Company loading"



Loading "B" Company

a series of lifts this force was established on the far side of a river obstacle some 20 miles from Hameln. By 1300 hrs. the whole Battalion was concentrated at this first landing zone.

In the afternoon "C" Company was moved by helicopter some 15 miles to secure a defensive position.

This is the first time that a very large number of our present soldiers have been lifted by helicopters. This proved to be a very popular method of transportation and gave a great fillip to the start of the exercise.

The Battalion was kept fairly actively engaged over the whole of the 48 hours of the exercise, very little sleep was had, due to the constant attentions of the enemy ("B" Company, 1st Cameronians).



In flight, "B" Company

CHURCH

The "Exercise Season" usually heralds in an appreciable slump in attendances at the Station Church. This year has been no exception. Some of this is made up for by services in the field—as it was on Albuhera Day, when a service was held at Sennelager and the biggest part of the Battalion was on parade. The Band was present and was a godsend in leading the singing. The C.O. read the lesson from the Acts of the Apostles referring to St. Paul finding the altar to the "unknown god" in Athens. The sermon tried to draw the moral that far too many people still worshipped worthless or unknown gods and that this was hardly good enough in present times and for future conflicts. It is not enough to "die-hard"—one must have something worth dying for. That something is a way of life built on belief in Jesus Christ, whose own "Albuhera" was a victory for all time and in which we can all partake.

The other centre of Church life—the Church Army's Pipers' Club—continues to cater for the troops' spiritual and physical needs. It is not all that surprising that little use is made of the former, but it is surprising how little the club itself is used by the Battalion, even as a club. Two attempts to entertain by running a jive night by request have fallen flat. On the other hand, a weekly Scottish dancing night seems to thrive. A flourishing Anglo-German Club which functions in the Pipers' Club could always do with more members and those with the necessary gumption should find the programme interesting and entertaining. Boredom is one of our more popular grouses, yet little use is made of attempts to overcome it.

BATTALION PAY OFFICE

The Battalion Pay Team manages to remain in existence nowadays very much by "courtesy of the Regiment" as, to bolster us up (numerically, at least), we have taken on Cpls. Hart (ex-Corps of Drums) and Green (ex-"A" Company), and very pleased we are to have them, too. The "genuine" pay clerks (Cpl. Daniels, L/Cpl. Adams and Pte. Hindmarch) are the

last remnants of the dying race of National Servicemen—never again shall we see their like—and we shall miss them.

If this paragraph reads as the opening stage of a recruiting drive, then I have achieved the object of the exercise!

Sgt. Brereton—swimming, cricket, basketball and fatherhood permitting—joins us from time to time, and is a never-failing source of good humour.

W.O.2 Edwards, after three years with the Battalion, has had enough (sometimes, it is suspected, even too much)—and, with the good wishes of all, including those disappointed in their mid-week search for petrol coupons, he is about to leave us on promotion to W.O.1. His immediate future is at Shorncliffe—who knows, our paths may cross again.

The rumour that the Paymaster is slightly pink at the edges is utterly false—but he would be the last to deny that he had a thoroughly good time in Moscow!

BATTALION H.Q.

Our empire is on the increase. We welcome to that hive of industry the Battalion Orderly Room Pte. Hill from the Signal Platoon and Pte. Waller from "A" Company. Both are doing us well, and Pte. Hill with his vast height has a good start on anyone else trying to reach "thirty-five thousand."

We hear that Pte. Fordham is doing a good job in Norway at the Adventure Training Centre and that his wife is joining him for a fortnight's holiday. Which part of his stay Pte. Fordham classes as holiday is not quite certain; we thought it all was.

Pte. Hoare left us on July 10 to seek his fortune in civilian life. As movements clerk he was everybody's friend and did a good job. Ex-L/Cpl. Hennessy wrote asking for money—an old loan, we hasten to add—so obviously his job with B.R.M. has not yet made his fortune, but he is still hopeful.

Marriage has been in the air a lot this quarter, and both Sgt. Gibbs and Cpl. O'Gorman took the plunge recently. Part II orders reached the Adjutant's desk for signature within 24 hours and applications for quarters were submitted even earlier. Sgt. Gibbs has also had trouble with his car on a bendy road and further worries with a tent rope at Sennelager. A black eye was considered by some to be an improvement.

We have had some good course results, both Pte. Gower and Pte. Buckridge doing well. The latter is now amending the Adjutant's Q.R.s which he started in January. No doubt he will be promoted on completion of this mammoth task.

We have yet to mention C/Sgt. Cripps who is, as usual, overworked and underpaid. He hopes to put the latter right in October, when he is due for promotion, but there is a documents inspection before then! Pte. Painter is still with us, too—by the skin of his teeth—but is improving, he now makes the tea. At least he is always cheerful.

The Commanding Officer's writing continues to give us much trouble, as does the Adjutant's English. However, we survive!

On sunny afternoons we intend to have Intelligence Section outings to familiarise ourselves with the local countryside.

Pte. Thomas is still on leave and Ayliffe and Harron are looking forward to theirs in August.

By the time the next notes have to be written we should have news of excitements on exercise "Spearhead," to be held in October.

INTELLIGENCE SECTION

Although we only have six members we are expected to produce as long notes as the Signals and M.T. platoons. We are, therefore, kept very busy doing things worthy of reporting. More by luck than judgment we have not yet incurred the wrath of the "gods" while trying to make news. But by the next issue this may not still be the case. Pte. Ayliffe has sailed very close to the wind on more than one occasion by postponing his return to the flock. But each time the Sergeant-Major has been cheated of his prey at the last moment. On the day that these notes are being written Pte. Clarke has also added a few hours to his leave. He has not had so much practice as Ayliffe and is to appear on orders tomorrow. (Look out for the next thrilling instalment in our next issue!)

Even the Intelligence Section has its excitements. At Sennelager we felt we were really up the "sharp-end." We fired rocket launchers, threw grenades and even went over the assault course on Xanten range—twice! Much of our time was spent butt-marking for the Battalion shooting team and some of us were lucky to fire rifle, L.M.G. and Sterling.

This is the "silly season" for exercises and the Intelligence Section has been out on all of them. On exercise "Top Hat," Sgt. Butler let his imagination run riot and produced a stay worthy of a boys' comic. But Brigade were not amused—they were listening to the Test Match, and the battle was allowed to peter out like a damp squib.

In our brief moments of leisure we have wandered far afield. Pte. Thomas went on a visit to Amsterdam organised by the W.V.S.; Pte. Harron went to further Anglo-German relations in Frankfurt, and Pte. Clarke got as far as the Scorpion. Pte. Ayliffe went with a party from the Signals Platoon to England. He was supposed to do the map-reading, but in fact slept for most of the journey. They returned in style in an old London taxi (for further details read the Signal Platoon notes—how's that for a free plug?).

We are now highly mobile as the I.O. is the proud owner of a new car—so far unscratched.

P.R.I.'s. STAFF

This is the first time any notes have appeared about the somewhat obscure P.R.I.'s. staff, which includes the cooks, as ever under the monumental figure of W.O.2 Medlock (A.C.C.). W.O.2 Medlock first joined the Battalion in Austria, having come from the train "The Medlock" strangely enough, and he has been with us ever since. As caring for the inner man has reached proportions about the same as W.O.2 Medlock's, the

most junior of cooks is now a key figure. The training season is a busy time for them, and their craft is strained to the limit trying to make varied meals out of M. and V. and the ever popular mutton Scotch. It would be fitting to record an appreciation of their efforts, and in particular, those of Sgt. Tingey and Cpls. Coleman and Brice, who managed to cater at all hours often in pouring rain. Cpl. Coleman has now gone to 25 Field Squadron R.E. as a Cook Sergeant, and we wish him luck. All these people are ably supported by L/Cpl. Trudgill and Pte. Peachey in the ration stores, who, owing to the complexity of the ration system, work long hours into the evening, when most good soldiers are at play.

As these notes are by way of introduction, mention should be made of Pte. Bailey, who looks after our newspapers, among a myriad of other small jobs. He is leaving shortly on demob.

On paper there are a few other individuals on the P.R.I.'s staff, but as the P.R.I. has never seen them, and has little idea what they do, it is hoped they will not mind not being mentioned here by name. We only assume they are still with us, and drawing pay as usual.

"H.Q." COMPANY

The accent at the start of this quarter was shooting. On April 10, a large contingent went to Sennelager with "A" Company for rifle and L.M.G. classification. Pte. Durling (Signals) came back with the largest score and our congratulations on showing the Rifle Company the way, but at the other end of the scale, the lowest score was by an ex-Q.M.'s Depot man. "A" Company think we got rid of him for being such a poor shot.

"B" Company took a mere handful of H.Q. on the ranges and achieved very good results, then "C" Company were left taking more of "H.Q." Company than they had in their own Company. Whilst all this was going on, the Company was trying to assemble a shooting team for the Battalion meeting. Very difficult to sort out L.M.G. pairs when all but two guns were away with "C" Company. The Adjutant threatened to turn out for this event, but decided that for a mere Battalion event his batman was good enough.

The Battalion rifle meeting lasted for two days and after the rifle and S.M.G. events were over, "H.Q." Company were in third place. On the second day the L.M.G. firing took place and "H.Q." fell heavily into fourth position. Must have been that batman. Sgt. Leat and Drm. Elliott won on Pool Bull and the C.S.M. says "I was robbed" on the pistol shoot. The falling plate team did very well, only to lose to "A" Company in the final. Some magnificent shooting by L/Cpl. Adkin of the Band, who had only had half a day firing the rifle the day before, so still was not sure where you had to put in the rounds.

The basketball enthusiasts had a Danish tour and the "H.Q." side kindly let one or two outsiders in. We're not surprised, after listening to the tales, that they never won a single match.

There was a night "Stand-To" which found a Commer 3-tonner, loaded with broken furniture in the Signal Platoon column, calling itself an S.D.S. vehicle! The cemetery is beautiful by moonlight!



Pte. Simpson, Q.M.'s Department, and new Regimental Board. ("All his own work")

"Gentlemen's Relish," a most gentlemanly affair, took a lot of Signallers, Officers' Mess, drivers and other staff and whilst that was in progress more Signallers were dispatched to the R.A.S.C. to help out on their exercise "Mutual Trust." Other drivers were busy collecting trucks from Antwerp and it left the Company so short that we reversed the usual process and borrowed men from Support Company to assist us in our duties!

As predicted by the Editor, C.S.M. Dodkins has had to get a car. All efforts to fit a trailer to his motorcycle have failed, so now he is on four wheels at last. Except for a complaint about fresh air, he is secretly enthusiastic. Anyone want to buy a motor bike?

A call for volunteers for the Nijmegen Marches found Cpl. Manser and L/Cpl. Rahmatullah heading the list. Exhausted by their efforts, they have now apparently retired.

The doctor has been practising for the Officers' Mess Dart Club by inoculating all who innocently wandered into the M.I. Room for the odd half hour's idle. They'll just have to find somewhere else to scrounge off duty.

The usual season's greetings to shirt-sleeve order. We all froze.

Sennelager this year was a very cold and wet affair, with crafty S.L.R. classifications during odd periods when the Battalion shooting team were not using the range.

The Drums spent a lot of time live-firing with a backing from the M.T. Platoon and Intelligence Section on occasions. There were no fatal casualties but a couple of suspected fractures and one case of tonsillitis. The wives from Hameln visited one weekend to see what life of luxury we were leading. The R.S.M. and C.S.M. went out one day looking for the Corps of Drums who were on a map march and saw the C.O., R.S.O., Mortar Platoon O.C. and had many reports of trucks outside

Gasthouses, but saw no sign of any Drummers. L/Cpl. Marquiss's section won the Xanten competition to prove that they had not fired all that ammo in vain.

Back in Hameln the W.V.S. ran a coach trip to Amsterdam. The C.S.M. is getting suspicious. Every time the Company is duty company, the W.V.S. have a coach trip somewhere, and out of the 320 in "H.Q." Company he can't find a guard and fire picquet.

Albuhara Day in Sennelager found Battalion novices' sports in progress, and we congratulate R.S.O. on winning the discus and L/Cpl. Philp on the 100 and 200 metres. The latter now finds himself going to Berlin for the athletics on the day that he should be going to U.K. for release on completion of his National Service.

Q.M.'s PLATOON

This has been the quiet period for the staff, meaning, to all those not in the know, that at present 24 hours in one day is quite sufficient. We, being the "Base Wallahs," are permitted to remain in camp whilst the "Sharp Enders" go out on training, sunbathing, swimming and drinking. It is quite a change from the stores—as doing guards, fire picquets and fatigues keep us "military."

The Sennelager training was graced by a few of the staff who took rifles and Brens to fire for their pay. One member of the staff got such a good score that he became part of the "H.Q." Company rifle team, but, on practice it must have been an off day, or perhaps the butt markers had changed, and he returned to hang his head and disappear into his hutch.

"Tim" Langford and "Flapper" Partridge have been having nightmares with tentage and can now sort it in their sleep. L/Cpl. Kelly ("Wee Jock"), besides being the shoemaker, was the ration N.C.O. for Sennelager.

L/Cpl. White and Lewin returned to U.K. for a period of leave. L/Cpl. White returned with a large amount of pamphlets on electric tools and has attempted to get the Q.M. to buy some of these items for the Pioneers' shop, but without success. "Mick" Lewin returned starry eyed, saying "I'm engaged," but, on seeing "Froggy" French, the new G 10 storeman, promptly said "Can you drink," and they then proceeded to the NAAFI. We're sorry to say "Froggy" carried "Mick" back to bed.

"Chalky" White's job in the Corporals' Club, originally estimated at 28 days' work, has now entered its fourth month of production—any chance of it being finished before you go on demob?

The terrible twins, Jones (28) and (63), proceeded on a W.V.S. trip to Amsterdam, and it would appear that the only sights they saw were in an area known as "Canal Street."

Reports have it that 63 had four attempts at something but then gave it up as a bad job. Can anyone put the Q.M. and R.Q.M.S. in the picture: "What is 'Canal Street'" and "What was it 63 was attempting?"

The Corps exercise, "Top Hat," caused the Platoon to take to the field for tactical and admin. training. The R.Q.M.S. again graced us with his presence (you will have to watch it, George, twice in the same year!), and it was necessary for the Q.M. to become a battle casualty so that he could collect the rations for the Battalion at Soltau. This he took in good grace with a few bottles of beer thrown in. Later reports state he arrived at Soltau on time to the dot. "B" Echelon completed the exercise, all having gone up one on the promotion roll.

This completes this quarter's notes, with the Platoon's minds now thinking of one or more of the four following: leave, annual administrative inspection, Corps exercise or demob.

Personality Parade

Cpl. Stubbings, known as "Ernie," "Bilco" or as tight "S-D" by different members of the Battalion.

Ernie joined the Army "when they were needing them," as he said on August 17, 1944, at Colchester, and, having completed his basic training, was posted to the 4th Battalion Dorsets in the Wessex Division, and proceeded through Belgium and Holland into Germany, but here was wounded in the thigh. On return from hospital he was then posted to 1st Battalion the Royal Sussex and went to Palestine with them. In February 1948 he returned to civilian life. Whilst he was a "civvy" he met and courted Vera, whom he married in September 1950. Vera is well known amongst the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment families. In June 1952 Ernie decided to grace The Middlesex Regiment with his presence and went to Mill Hill and signed for 22 years, and on the return of the 1st Battalion from Hong Kong joined them at Warley Barracks. He went to "A" Company, with whom he remained in Austria, firstly as a Lance-Corporal and then in January 1955 as a Corporal. Vera was with him in quarters in Austria.

In August 1955 he proceeded to Egypt to Tel-el-Kebir and joined the Wardens Company North. This was a security job, something like the V.P. R.M.P. guarding military establishments. Later he was posted to Moascar



Cpl. Stubbings, Q.M.'s Department

where he controlled 130 watchmen of 11 nationalities, until the Egyptian authorities took over the British bases. He was then evacuated to Cyprus to G.H.Q. M.E.L.F. where he became the Bar Corporal of No. 1 Officers' Mess, and met another Middlesex O.R. (Sgt. Mayles). His appointments fluctuated from No. 1 bar to the Clothing Corporal, to No. 1 bar again. Vera joined him for his last six months in Cyprus. In July 1958 he returned to U.K. and rejoined the Battalion in November 1958 as the Married Families' N.C.O., but, in 1959, left this life of luxury to become the harassed Clothing Corporal, now named "Bilco."

His sporting activities are "shooting a line" and "left off" on the R.S.M.'s drill parades.

It seems that he might become the Q.M. of Middlesex yet, as his run-out date is June 8, 1974, and, as he says, "You can only know the job by working from the bottom upwards."

There is a rumour that, since presenting the Q.M. with a debit voucher, he is on the "Free Transfer List."

M.T. PLATOON

Yet another three months have passed and gone, and your scribe is tucked away in his dark corner trying to remember the happenings of note. First, we have said good-bye to Lt. Rose, who left us for the active life of "A" Company, and in his place we welcome Lt. Dubbery, who was soon launched into the world of servings, inspections and V.O.R.s; it seems such a pity that he, however, has followed the example set by many of your previous A/M.T.O.s, and has carried out a major re-design on his car.

Our good-bye also to Cpl. Robins, Ptes. Elkington, Keable, Hopkins, Wilmot and "Parachute Bill" himself, Pte. McIntyre, all of whom have decided to give Civvy Street another try. We have also extended the hand of friendship to Ptes. Baisden (now "C" Company), Geddes, Howlett, Halfhide, Innes, Rance, Smith (89), Baxter, Blythe, Townshend, Cfn. Speed, Conroy (to our R.E.M.E. Department) and, last but not least, Cpl. ("Chippy") Wood, who is now the i/c tool stores.

Our congratulations to L/Cpl. Toomer (R.E.M.E.) on his promotion and to Cpl. Minett for his award of the M.T. Medal with Clasp, "Handbrake". This was awarded for his bravery behind "L" plates in the Hitler's Hill area during the unit driving cadre, and again at a later date in the Uhlhorn Weg district, but we might record that the driving cadre finished after a week's extension having had no less than 17 vehicles engaged in the fray at one time or another, some of which were engaged at very close quarters indeed, as the N.M. & D. reports go to show. Ptes. Whitmore, Cheffings, Lay, Whitt, Lindon, Hopkins, Wilmot, Scorgie (Signal Platoon), Reynolds and L/Cpl. Young (Support Company) were pressed into the service as driving instructors.

It took a night out in Bad Pyrmont to erase the memory of those few weeks, and the final result? Well, all should now know how to fill in an F.M.T. 3, and we have one driver (nameless) who, if the yellow light on the dashboard should light up, will promptly get out and clean his windows in double-quick time. L/Cpl. Brown has just returned from six weeks' U.K. leave, his upper lip having to carry far less weight than when he left. Cpl. Brennan spends most of his time these days in nature study in the surrounding country district. L/Cpl. King has now moved to Hannover, where he and Cpl. Wood have taken over quarters (separate), so bang goes another pair of duty N.C.O.s and more often will be heard the cry started by Cpl. Puckey of "Stand in for us". Still, "Tom" goes on leave soon and we hope that the "John Collins" in England are as good as out here.

Pte. ("Percy") Butler has still got command of the water cart and has given up his attempts to explain the workings to Pte. ("Prof") Holland. Pte. Beal has been sent to the Q.M.'s and only calls in for P.O.L. Pte. Desombre has indeed graduated to a three specials man, but you have to stand well clear for at least an hour afterwards. Pte. Edwards has lost his private accommodation with all mod. cons., but informs me that it won't be for long. Pte. Fletcher had a little party a little while ago and, we hear, had an invitation for one Pte. Stubbings towards the end. Pte. Fenemore must have enjoyed the Battalion's stay at Sennelager, for he asked to return the following day with the shooting team, and kept Pte. Yeoman company for a week. Ptes. Goulding and Geddes went with "B" Company for the Sennelager period and managed to get a few miles in. Ptes. Harding, Boulwood and Hodges went with Support Company but, we think, were happy to return. Pte. Innes, we found, could ride a motorcycle, and, after all, we had plenty, so off he went. Pte. Jamieson spent a few weeks in the "Old Country" but, we are happy to say, failed to locate any bagpipes. Pte. Jevon did a spot of ferreting on Exercise "Top Hat," and Pte. Jarvie still declares that a man's best friend is his bed.

We regret to announce that Old 88 has had a knock, which resulted in the loss of at least two bits of Pte. Lay's hair, and gave cause for concern to all for the safety of "Harry Boy's" mop. Still, a couple of hours' work by Pte. Page and some 40 gallons of olive green paint later and all was well. Pte. Lindon has had the job of trying to get one good Volkswagen out of two and, at the time of going to press, is still without a car. Pte. Newman has been appointed driver of the recovery

Humber; you know you can get free leave on that job. Pte. Osborne and the green doors have again fallen out, and the expression of "I'll shut mine and you can keep the rest" is often heard. Pte. ("Sergeant") Padgett is still to be seen around the tech. stores. Ptes. Parker and Pearce seem to be getting in a lot of football and swimming lately—must be the slack period, for they also had a few days off in Holland, where they found one man wearing clogs, much to Parker's delight. Ptes. Reynolds and Yeoman seem to be unable to agree about the hard-working 1-ton drivers; dare we point out that agreement was impossible if Pte. Ross was in the discussion? The "Balham Boy," or in other words, Pte. G. Stimpson, still shows reluctance in parting with his bed, a little effort being required by all concerned to get any results. Pte. Smith ("Klein") was welcomed back from leave with the kind words of "get yourself a haircut" and then went to Soltau. Pte. ("Staff") Stubbings went with the local R.M.P. detachment and became known as the Hameln Terror to the "stay out at night-ites." Pte. ("Waiter") Whitehouse has at last had a truck for more than a week at a time and has since walked around with a look of disbelief on his face. Pte. Whitmore has instructed me to correct my statement ref. his moon and eternal light, and point out that it was his plan for Perpetual Motion, as it may attract more attention that way. Sgt. Pritchard had his offer to join the Soltau and Sennelager advance parties accepted and has been out and about for some time now. We also heard that "Siddy Ben Abdul" was found hanging from a coat hanger in the "Scorpion" with a neat label addressed to Gordon Barracks.

So now we will close by pointing out that, in all the Battalion moves this year, there has not been a single breakdown of an M.T. vehicle, which reflects the efforts both of the drivers and the R.E.M.E. attached; and now the last three verses of a tune that is quite often heard in M.T. circles these days, sung to the air of "Ten Green Bottles":

Three "A" Company Humbers travelling in a line,
Three "A" Company Humbers doing mighty fine,
Until one "A" Company Humber met a steep incline,
Leaving two "A" Company Humbers travelling in a line.

Two "B" Company Humbers darting to and fro,
Two "B" Company Humbers' drivers having a go,
When it was over, only three wheels left to show,
Leaving one "B" Company Humber with not an ounce of go.

One "C" Company Humber towed by a chain,
One "C" Company Humber tried and tried in vain,
When they got it started, it did not stop again,
Leaving no company Humbers to continue this refrain.

SIGNAL PLATOON

During the past three months we have taken part in numerous exercises and at the time of writing are up at Soltau, for infantry tank training.

We arrived here from Exercise "Top Hat," where due to certain incidents we cast our minds back to an exercise held in April, "April Alert." This exercise

was noted for the culmination and death of the 1-ton C.P. Austin. We had always had a lot of trouble with the engine on this vehicle when generally we had difficulty in maintaining a speed of 20 m.p.h. Going up one slight incline the driver, Pte. Scorgie, was considerably put out when a pedestrian overtook him. We can now record that Pte. Biggs, the new driver, is delighted with a new engine fitted on Exercise "Top Hat."

125 Company (R.A.S.C.) had their usual "Swapping Exercise" in April and some 20 of the Platoon enjoyed a 3,000-mile trip around Northern Germany. One incident to record on this exercise was when the vehicle in which Pte. "Masonky" Masaero was travelling, overturned, and Masaero missed an early demob by a short neck, uttering those famous words "Over and Out."

We went to Sennelager and lived under canvas for three weeks where a net was maintained, when required, for 24 hours a day. This was the first time that we had used radio in the A.P.C.s and here "A" Company decided to operate in this manner. It was very successful and now all companies have adopted this method and up to now everything is running smoothly. We may also mention that the weather was terrible, and Pte. "Ben" Whiley, trying to obtain distilled water when it was raining forgot that it was no good to collect it in a metal bowl and then empty it into the correct container. "Mein Freund bezahlt" is an old German saying but none paid for this one. Luckily it rained and we were able to fill up once more.

In June we had Exercise "Top Hat," where reported by a certain D.R., C/Sgt. Walters, more affectionately known to some as "C...Y," obeying the course of nature in the middle of the night inadvertently fell in a ditch of "Wasser" by stepping on something as Pte. Witt would say, "What was not there"!

At Whitsun break which was taken later due to work at Sennelager, some of the Platoon hired a Volkswagen ten-seater bus, driven by Pte. Witt and went to the Hartz Mountains, where they were somewhat disgruntled to meet a short sighted rabbit which was anxious to end its meagre existence, and did so by hurtling itself at the bus and causing DM. 150 worth of damage. Pte. Stephenson, after a certain amount of trouble with his driving licence, set off with four other members of the Platoon to England in a fairly old Opel Kapitän. The journey home was successful. However, when one day in England the car broke down, no spare part being available and having a deadline to meet in Hameln, Pte. Stephenson bought an old London taxi for £50 which got him and his crew back two hours late but with plenty of praise for their initiative. There is at the moment a cry going about, "My, what a bargain," "Take yer hands off me paintwork," "Look at the interior, but the roof leaks," "Wanna buy it?"

Pte. Davis who had a spill at Sennelager and damaged his shoulder, should be back in circulation and riding again very shortly, certainly before you read these notes.

In the sporting world the Platoon has been most prominent in the athletics world, where now in training for the B.A.O.R. inter-unit finals to be held in Britain are the R.S.O., L/Cpl. O'Riordan, Ptes. Stephenson, Ryan and Stewart, the latter only just having joined.

Cpl. Stewart and L/Cpl. Dowsett are in England on the Signal course at Hythe and we all wish them the best of luck. Whilst mentioning Hythe one must say that Sgt. Weston is going there to become an instructor. Where the Platoon loses, Hythe benefits. We wish him all the luck possible and hope he will enjoy his two or three years there.

We also lose C/Sgt. Walters to higher things and we welcome Sgt. Briggs, an old friend, in his place. Certain people will breathe a sign of relief when the Colour-Sergeant goes, especially those who have found themselves on his wrong side from time to time, but none more than the M.T.O. who will try even harder now for us to cut down our stores in the field. In view of his departure a suitable rhyme has been compiled and runs as follows:

An Ode to a Tame Colour-Sergeant

Thus departed Curly Walters
Mighty Colour-Sergeant Walters
Most beloved in the Signals
Chief of little private Army.

Now his robe has one more feather
Not a sub-chief any longer
Maybe Regal Sergeant-Major
In the lodges of the Blackfeet.

Now he'll lead his men to battle
With an S.L.R. and bayonet
Not a wireless set any longer
But with hand grenades and mortars

Farewell Colour-Sergeant Walters
Much success in future conflicts
May your days be full and happy
All the best, Adieu Great Chief.

Just recently we have been seeing a lot of ex-Cpl. George and his wife who are staying in Bad Muender. Cpl. George served with the Platoon for 12 months in Cyprus and completed his time in Germany. Having got married he and his wife decided to see some of the world and ended up at Bad Pymont where unfortunately they had some of their camping equipment and most of their money stolen. However, they are now working and we hope to see more of them before they move back to England.

BAND

At the time of writing the Band are approaching the end of their summer tour, this being the first tour of England since the war.

The journey to England was not without incident. At Minden the military train has a stop of only two minutes. With frantic haste the Band hurled themselves and their kit aboard, but, when the train pulled out, "Neddy" Fairbrass was left running alongside the train with a case in each hand trying to get on. Many hands grabbed for him, but to no avail. "Neddy" did not make it, and had to get another train to catch us up.

The tour opened with an engagement at Leamington Spa over the Whitsun weekend. The Band played in the

Pump Gardens to an appreciative audience. The food and accommodation were very good at the camp in which we stayed, although it was isolated.

We then moved to Twickenham, where we played in support of a recruiting stand on the green there. We followed this by playing at the opening of the Commonwealth Technical Week at the R.A.F. Depot, Uxbridge. It was wrongly reported in the local Press that the R.A.F. Central Band had played, and, although a compliment, I think the Bandmaster had something to say to the newspaper concerned.

We then came to the highlight of the tour so far. We played during the lunch and tea intervals at Lords Cricket Ground, the occasion being a county match between Middlesex and Warwickshire. This was the first time in the history of the ground that a band had played during a county match, and the ensuing publicity was very valuable, as there were about 15,000 people present, and all the national newspapers carried a report.

The following day we were on the move once more and found ourselves at Maidstone, where, on a scorching Sunday afternoon, we took part in the "Burma Star" reunion. This consisted of marching through the town followed by a church service. We then marched three miles back to the reception.

This proved quite an arduous task, as it was uphill nearly all the way. The Chief of Police was heard to remark that it was the first time they had had a band that played all the way without stopping! Fortunately, at the reception there was enough liquid refreshment to replace the "blood, sweat and tears" lost on the way.

It was in a happy frame of mind that we travelled back to Woolwich, knowing that the following day we began three weeks' leave.

After leave, everyone turned up looking sun-tanned but not too happy at the thought of working again. The exception was "Our Ned" who came back looking pale and worn, having spent some time in hospital with an unpronounceable disease. The cobwebs were shaken out with a passing-out parade at Canterbury. Everyone looked forward to this as we all got paid again. While at Canterbury we picked up an old friend of ours, Bernard Yates, whom, I am sure, a lot of people will remember.

On July 1 we visited our new R.H.Q. at Edgware. Here, we played for an "At Home" and met Col. F. Walden, who has done such a lot of work to make our tour a success. This was followed a day or so later by a concert on Turnham Green, Chiswick.

We have yet to play for a carnival in Hanworth (lots of beauty queens, we hear), Friern Barnet, Highgate, Southgate, Ealing, Christ's College, Finchley, Wembley, and, finally, a weekend at Brighton.

CORPS OF DRUMS

This has been a full and most useful quarter. Sennelager, a Brigade exercise at Soltau, and preparation for the massed bands' parade at Minden. Thrown in for good measure is a beating Retreat parade at Hameln, on our own for once.

First Sennelager. This proved to be the best training period at Sennelager during our three years out here—despite the fact that we put tents up. On going to press we find our fellows in the Signal Platoon did this

job at Soltau ("Good luck, mate, it breaks your back"). A quick demonstration to the companies on section and platoon drills, and on to our own training under the guidance of Lt. Bulloch, who managed to keep alive during the three weeks. It was to him that we owe our training. We went from one range to another, and shot off 20,000 rounds, and even a bird, as Amos will recount. L/Cpl. Marquiss and his section won the Battalion Section Xantern Competition in wintry conditions. Our congratulations go to him and his section.

On our return from there we put away warlike weapons and resumed our bugling and fluting. Strange noises were heard for a few days until Drum-Major Lewis took the matter in hand, and, at present, some very melodious notes drift over from the square.

Training for the massed bands' parade at Minden goes on, also for the Battalion Retreat in Hameln on July 21. This was Capt. Fisher's idea, and one is often wondering if he has any evil intentions in this. He is trying to reduce his welfare file, we know. Maybe the Band have more to do with this than we have.

L/Cpl. ("Ginger") Marquiss roughed it in Norway and still tells us how cold/hot/wet/dry it was—anyway he enjoyed it.

L/Cpl. ("Nobby") Clarke disappeared on a basketball spree with the Battalion team in Denmark. Whether he played or not is very doubtful, but he has much delight in whistling up Lt. Bulloch who plays a cross between football and rugby whilst trying to play basketball. He is a good referee—or perhaps quite good.

L/Cpl. ("Chalky") White changes girl friends regularly, and adds to Capt. Fisher's welfare file every time he does so.

Mears shot with the Battalion team in its competitions—a good achievement.

Parker and Campy have played in the Battalion cricket team, and Butler has got into the squash ladder—a notable deed. Gill ("George") has decided to wed. We offer our consolation and sympathy to his wife. Dave Pumfrey still keeps his teeth intact. "Silvie" is becoming more sun-tanned this time of year (or browned-off) and Davidson has for some unknown reason become known as "Nosha." Somebody wrote somewhere that Mason and Elliott worked hard—they must have bluffed somebody pretty well.

Finally, we trust that Benton's holiday goes well—perhaps Lawn might write him a line—and that Dawson has settled down again.

"A" COMPANY

The last notes were written in the Sennelager training area, where we were completing our annual classification. Since then we have visited Sennelager again but in a very different setting. The Company fulfilled its early promise in the shooting world and won the Battalion rifle meeting which was held this year at Wittloge Ranges. The Company team consisted of the following: Major Meiville, 2/Lt. Everard, C.S.M. Beale, Sgts. Parnell and Davies, Cpls. Lynch, Rockell, Meacock and Brumwell, Ptes. Brandon, Mitchell, Nicholson, Tynan, Lewis, Eckford, O'Brien, Elphick, Holton, Morris, Whelan, Goodchild and Hawkins. Of this select band,

mention must be made of Cpl. Rockell who was the best individual rifle shot, Cpl. Brumwell the best individual S.M.G. shot, C.S.M. Beale the Sergeants' Mess and Pte. Mitchell the runner-up for the Young Soldier Cup.

As a result of the above results the Battalion team were allowed practically full time for training for the B.A.O.R. rifle meeting. The Company provided over half of the Battalion team and therefore we had to reorganise for the Sennelager training period. This was done by forming one composite training platoon under Lt. Rose and 2/Lt. Hubert, running a Company potential N.C.O.'s cadre under 2/Lt. Everard and a Company driving cadre under Cpl. Meacock. The composite platoon made the most of its opportunity and learned how to combine the A.P.C. role with the field firing done at Sennelager. For the Company Commander and Company H.Q., this was a very valuable period of experiment for the trials of Soltau, as yet to come.

While at Sennelager on Albuhera Day the Company won the novices athletics meeting. This, for the first time since the war, was for the Willoughby-Batten trophy. We entered for all the events and found we had a wealth of unsuspected talent. Such stalwarts as O'Brien who won the pole vault, never having done it before, and de Grouchy the high jump made the day as far as we were concerned.

As a result of the novices meeting we found that we were the proud possessors of over half the Battalion athletic team. This team having won the Brigade athletic meeting went forward to the B.A.O.R. finals. Again we were confronted with a problem of reorganisation—this time for Soltau. A quick juggle with names and vehicles found the Company in a very strange state. We have no officers other than the Company Commander, only two Sergeants and two Corporals. A rapid appeal to higher authority produced the loan of Lt. Rose from the Battalion cadre and we were off.

It is almost certain that in the history of the Regiment, this is the only occasion that a Company has carried out a training period of this type with platoons commanded by sergeants and every section commanded by private soldiers. That all went well was largely due to the N.C.O.'s cadre we had run at Sennelager and the enthusiasm displayed by all members of the Company. In the event we had a highly successful time and many valuable lessons were learned. The details of various incidents are recorded in the Platoon notes that follow.

We now look forward to the summer and a series of exercises which we hope we shall be able to take part in with our full team for the first time since the last notes were written. What is certain is that "A" Company will enter wholeheartedly into all Battalion and Company activities and we hope to be able to continue to report that we are just as successful.

Company Headquarters

As is usual once a quarter the problem is who is to write these notes. As is usual the same old scribes get caught. So here we are again with the latest news from the Kremlin.

Since we last went to press Company H.Q. has doubled in size with the arrival of the A.P.C.s. We now have "Command Vehicles", a "Recovery"

section and various other extras to add to our normal numbers. They are all a very welcome addition but of course the "Q" problem for your poor old scribe is worse then ever.

We have said a sad farewell to Jock McDowell, our faithful Company storeman. We all wish him the very best of luck in Civvy Street. If he should happen to read this we would like him to know that there is always room for him in "A" Company if he wants to come back to a man's life. In his place in the stores we now have a "He Man" type called Norman. We all wish him a happy time in this select group.

The arms stores have lost Red Rogers and we believe he thinks he can do better in civilian life. We wish him well but assure him his job is open if he has a change of heart. Within Company H.Q. we took a vote to find "The Soldier of the 60s—Man of Action." On totting up we found that "Compo" Abrey had won by a very large margin. He can now be seen giving advice to all on how to lead a platoon, a company or even a section in the attack with his trusted weapon, a lighted No. 1 Burner. As the oldest member of Company H.Q., it is sad to record that he must leave us soon. He has been our able cook for 18 months, and as he says "if Fatso says give 'em salt, then salt they get," but please Abrey not in the tea again.

The mother of the Company has lost a vital piece of kit. A reward was offered for a beret lost at Soltau. If this should be found the Colour-Sergeant will be very happy as he is tired of being checked by the C.S.M. for not having a cap badge!

In the past few months the Company, as usual, has been doing more than its fair share of the work. The C.S.M. and Brandon have been in the Battalion shooting team and Capt. McManus in the Battalion athletic team. So it will be noted that Company H.Q. is well represented.

Major Mieville is still with us and we have had Lt. Rose back for Sennelager and Soltau.

He is truly a loyal member of the most excellent team that some call the other Middlesex Regiment. It has been reported that if a vehicle is bogged, no matter how or where, between Major Mieville and Lt. Rose they will get it out without outside assistance.

We end with the sad news that "Uncle" has lost his car. No, it was not pinched, but his wife has passed her driving test! It is reported that Capt. Donovan, the Battalion M.T.O., commented at the end of the test: "That's fixed him." So now to the next quarter, when we hope to find some more interesting things to report for the next issue.

No. 1 Platoon

It was on a Tuesday morning,
Around the sixth of June,
When we started off in mourning for the loss of
3 Platoon.

Now everybody's happy, everybody's gay;
We've started off a new platoon
The same old Parnell way.

After many weeks of rumours it finally happened!
The Company reorganised into two platoons and No. 3

Platoon was split up between No. 1 and 2 Platoons. We all think the best came to us and we welcome them to our ranks.

We are now on the dusty plains of Soltau training with the 14/20th Hussars in our own role as a fully mobile force. This involves new ideas and new tactics with our A.P.C.s (armoured b—ts—ds).

Behind us we have left the damp three weeks of Sennelager, which was spent in the "Merry Month of May" (some days being merrier than others). We celebrated Albuhera Day during this period and, as it would take too long to describe the day in detail, it must be left to the reader's imagination as to the goings on! We found a large number of the Battalion shooting team and the athletics team. Special congratulations must go to: Pte. O'Brien (1st, pole vault), Pte. Peak (2nd, long jump), Pte. Harwood (2nd, shot put), Cpl. Lynch (discus), L/Cpl. de Grouchy (high jump), 2/Lt. Everard (1,500 m.) and Pte. Skelton (2nd, 1,500 m.). We said farewell to Sennelager for another year, but not before a certain person who shall be nameless lost his heart in Bad Lippspringe.

He is now to be seen every other weekend heading towards the railway station in Hameln!

The Platoon welcomes Ptes. Leworthy, Etherington, Flahant and Hatton who have joined us from Canterbury and other places. Also we extend our welcome to Pte. Gibson, who has just joined us after seven months' leave (developments awaited).

We are sorry to say farewell to Cpl. Lynch and Pte. Tynan who have left us for the pleasure of the National Serviceman's dream. We all wish them well and hope they will keep in touch with us.

At the time of writing we are very busy at Soltau. Always with us is the voice of (1 for 2) Chamberlain who is the Platoon wireless operator. He is never happy unless he appears at the wrong time with a message, to the exasperation of our Sunray. Another member of Platoon H.Q. worthy of mention is "Cannonball" King, the driver who would be at home in a racing car. To judge by the dents in his head, Sgt. Parnell has had a problem to keep him under control.

"Lofty" Harris keeps himself fit with his job. As Platoon runner he has travelled some miles on his feet since we arrived. His secret for keeping going we shall never know for certain, but he consumes a large quantity of beer. "Lips" Marshall is the "Jack of all Trades" in his section. He manages wireless, Bren and rifle and, at the same time, his ever-ready camera. We hope he will be able to produce some good snaps for this issue.

To break up the Soltau fortnight, we all went down to Steinhuder Meer for the weekend. The weather remained very kind and Anglo-German relations were improved by Messrs. Leworthy and Allen, who were to be seen hand in hand with bikini-clad frauleins of the district, exploring the beauties of nature. Boats for hire were in great demand, and one prominent figure was C.S.M. Beale standing in the bows of a boat while half the Platoon did their best to sink him! We must report that both the boat and our beloved Acker survived the ducking. An enjoyable weekend was had by all.

We now have just a week of Soltau left and we know not what is in store. However, as the first Platoon of the

first Company of the first Battalion, we are sure we shall be well to the fore.

No. 2 Platoon

With the reforming of the Company into two platoons, the main news will be the forming of our present "clan."

It was a great surprise to many of the Company when they were told that No. 3 Platoon was to be put in a state of suspended animation for a while. This, of course, resulted in the uprooting of some of the old sweats. There were moans from some and cheers from others. However, both the happy and the sad have moulded themselves into a happy working (and playing) unit which we think is second to none.

Before all this happened, we spent our usual "holiday" at Sennelager, where fun and games were had by all. The Company was split into four groups and, of course, the members of No. 2 Platoon said they were only in their particular group so that the others could benefit from their experience.

The most surprising addition to the Platoon since our last notes are some vehicles called (among other things) armoured personnel carriers. These are designed to assist the poor footslogger to get from point A to point B at slightly greater speed. They have also been found to be handy for carrying other things, such as spare socks and brew cans! There are mixed feelings among us as to whether or not we should regard them as friends or enemies. It has been discovered that, despite all attempts, they cannot fly, although "test pilot" Temple says he almost made one do a victory roll. "Hole in the Head" Mishkin says he can fly even if A.P.C.s cannot!

Certain members of the Platoon deserve special mention for their efforts at Soltau. They are "Tracker" Felton, Harry Creaser and "Jumbo" Clarke who carried out their duties as section commanders in a highly commendable manner; it is only fair to say that they were supported by the whole Platoon and everyone worked very hard.

A very special mention must go to Ben ("Scarlet") Bennet, who performed the most dangerous duty of all, that of canteen barman. It is rumoured that he has qualified for the No. 2 Platoon Purple Heart, which he well deserves for unflinching courage in the face of a thirsty enemy.

L/Cpl. Cousins

Born in Australia, in the New South Wales Coalfields, L/Cpl. Cousins came to the Regiment through a devious path.

Educated at Maitland District Schools, he graduated to coalmining, and finally, on the death of his parents, joined the Australian Army. There, he served in Japan and in the backblocks of Central Australia until his discharge.

Following the taste for Army life, he journeyed (illegally) to Siam via devious routes and joined the Dutch Colonial Forces at Bangkok. This started the mercenary service for him, and it was from this beginning that led to the French Foreign Legion.

One slight incident from the break between armies was a short period spent at Hong Kong working for



L/Cpl. Cousins

ex-Count Boris Plotnikof, an hotel owner of the island. After six weeks of home-sickness (and weakened by the efforts of Mrs. Plotnikof—32 years, 42—26—38) he returned to his native land and the open arms of his family.

After searching for a place to settle down, it became evident that the younger Cousins would never be able to settle down to the humdrum of civilian life and he left his native shores for a life of Soldier of Fortune.

As a recruit Legionnaire Engage Volontaire, the French embarked him at New Caledonia for Marseilles. From there, he was shipped to Fez, Morocco, for training with the 4/4 R.E.I. (Fourth Battalion, Fourth Regiment, Foreign Infantry). Shortly after his arrival with this Regiment at Fez, the Moroccans decided they wanted independence and a Sultan of their own.

At this point in his service he was returned to Fez to wait for the independence of Morocco, which was accorded in February 1956, and in May of the same year Legionnaire Cousins was posted to the 2 R.E.I., known in the days of Albuhera as the Second Legion, who had fought against the English in the Peninsular Wars.

In the Second Regiment, life was just one tangle of operations, one after the other. From Djebel Amour to Mekalis. From Djebel Aisa to Tizi Ouzou and then

away to Afrou, near Geryville. Each operation took its toll on the ranks. None so heavy, though, as the ambush near Geryville on January 24, 1959.

Here, a complete company of motorised infantry was wiped out with only two exceptions. Total losses were 250 killed, 12 trucks completely written off. Their epitaph read: "They gave their life for Legio, Patria Nostra."

By this time, as Corporal of the Legion, "Digger," as he is now called, was transferred to Paris, and it was there that he decided to join the British Army, and The Middlesex Regiment in particular. Under the guidance of the Assistant Military Attache he finished his time with the Legion and left France for England, with Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, as his objective.

Now happily married in Germany, he is in the process of settling down to family life as a soldier, at long last for his own Queen and Country.

"B" COMPANY

The training season is well under way and we appear to have crossed the two major hurdles, field firing at Sennelager and infantry tank cooperation at Soltau, without much difficulty.

Without a doubt the best thing that has happened to the Company in a long while is the addition of 10 armoured Humber 1-ton vehicles. Our whole concept of training, both in barracks and in the field, has changed, and changed for the better. This was proved conclusively at Soltau, where we carried out infantry/tank cooperation (or, as one member said when watching Kelly drive: "Which one is the tank?").

The section commanders have a new lease of life. Platoons are independent. "B" Company is a fast-moving and flexible unit, as are the other companies. We are sure that the umpires on the company exercise will never forget the gallant cavalry charge on the last feature by "Shipster's Horse," as immortalised by the dead poet 99-1 Alpha's boss:

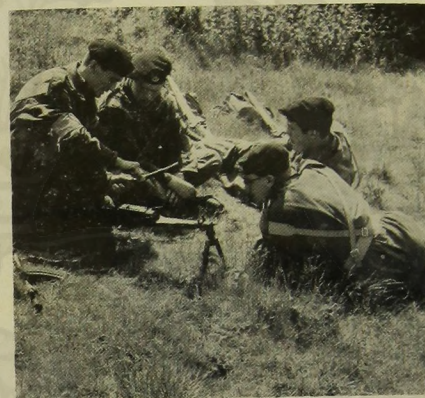
Line abreast in the pouring rain,
Bearing down across the plain;
Freeborn on the left flank,
Pitman to the right,
Our gallant leader stretched across the bonnet.
"On! On! old horse!" as he, off course,
Hastily scribbled this sonnet.

We started the training season proper with a three-day Battalion exercise, "April Alert." One of these "Nuclear Capers" which, although the Company was under the command of Lt. Julian, went quite well. Major Shipster then left the comfortable umpire's chair and took command, and, a few weeks later, in May, the Battalion went to Sennelager—in a tented camp for three weeks.

Three weeks then elapsed and along came Soltau, where the Company sweated it out in temperatures well into the 90s, knee-deep in dust—mothers please note!

Shooting

In this military section of the notes, due credit must go to our "B" Company sharpshooters. In the Battalion Shooting Championships we won the L.M.G.



Cpl. Willis, "B" Company, with his section



Pte. Marlow and Pte. Smoker in "B" Company C.P. vehicle, Soltau

with Lt. Goring and Cpl. Miles as individual winners and Ptes. Godfrey and Tucker as runners-up. Sgt. Lloyd won the individual pistol shoot and the Company came third in the overall championships.

Courses

Sgt. Scott attended the drill course at Pirbright and obtained a "B" grade, and Cpl. Miles obtained a "B" on the small arms course at Hythe, to whom we say "well done!" We welcome two old familiar warriors, C/Sgt. Martin and Sgt. Warner, to whom we naturally say "Benvenuto."

Sport

Without doubt the greatest achievement in sport within the Company was the "Company" Pentathlon

team or, in other words, the Battalion team comprising Capt. H. M. du V. Lohan, Ptes. Finnis and Seatory. Representing the Battalion in the R.E.M.E. invitation match in England earlier this year, they beat the finest competition in England to win. Many congratulations. More details of their very good achievements can be found in the Pentathlon notes.

Cpl. Rogers joined the Battalion from the Depot and stepped straight into the Battalion basketball team and then went with the team to Copenhagen along with Lt. Julian and Pte. Harris.

At Sennelager, we scored what we consider to be a major triumph. In the finals of the Battalion tug-of-war competition, both our light weight team and our heavy weight team were drawn against "A" Company—whom we absolutely slaughtered in both weights.

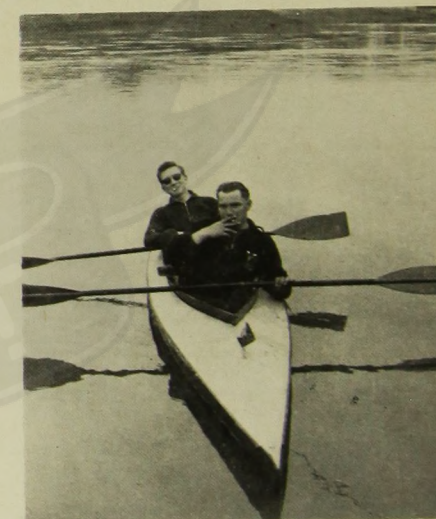
Sgt. Raffael is the Captain of the Battalion cricket team and other Company members of this team are Lt. Pitman and Pte. Cuff.

In June, the Battalion won the Brigade athletic championships and now qualify to compete in Berlin in July in the B.A.O.R. championships. "B" Company is represented in this team by Lt. Julian, Lt. Goring, Sgt. Scott, Ptes. Clarke (89) and Tucker.

N.C.O.s Activities

Cpl. DaCosta organised one of his outdoor initiative trips over one weekend, which proved to be another success.

The weather was not as good as the team, consisting of Cpls. DaCosta and Turner, L/Cpls. Smith and

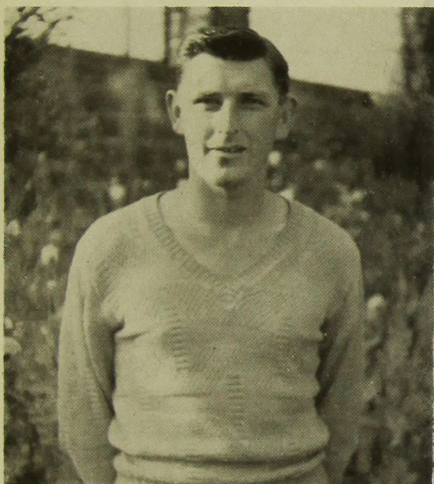


Cpl. Turner and L/Cpl. Smith

Jolliffe. They set off in their canoes some 60 miles up the river from Hameln at a place called Kulsruhe.

Steady rain and wind made the going difficult but they managed to complete their journey in two days.

Food and equipment were carried by them on board. All were in agreement that the trip was well worth while and they hope to plan another one in the near future.



Sgt. Scott

"B" COMPANY PERSONALITIES

Sgt. "Buana" Scott

Roy Scott was born in Hayes, Middlesex in 1936. He left England with his parents at the age of six and went to Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia. He went to school in South Africa, four days travelling time away.

"Buana" left school at the age of 15, returned to Lusaka and worked on a tobacco farm of 70,000 acres as a learner manager for a year.

However, the call of the bright light was too great and he left the farm and went to work as a fitter for a trucking company: there he decided to join the Rhodesian Army—applied and was told to wait for a year. During this time "Buana" Scott had various jobs—crocodile hunting, bush clearing on the Kariba Dam site, selling skins and other such rubbish to the tourists.

In 1955 he joined the Rhodesian Army for three years, reached the rank of Sergeant and then left, in favour of the British Army!

He arrived in England in 1958, signed on and had to start basic training again at the Depot at Mill Hill. He remained there for 14 months and reached the rank of Corporal before joining 1st Middlesex in Germany.

Among other "intellectual" achievements, "Buana" speaks Nyanja and Bemba and a smattering of Sindbelle.

He represents the Battalion in athletics, swimming, basketball, hockey and shooting.

His hobbies are normal and he claims that he has no spare time! Q.E.D.

"C" COMPANY

Since we last went to press, the Company has been extremely active, both mentally and physically, in a multitude of ways and life has passed so quickly that the few remaining National Servicemen in the Company have gone almost before they've handed their kit in.

Classification

In the last week of April, we went to Sennelager to carry out our annual classification in competition with the weather. On the whole, the Company won, and the classification breakdown is as follows: Marksmen: Rifle: Sgts. Blackwell and Ford, Cpl. Burrows, L/Cpl. Knapp, Ptes. Dawson, Davis and Bateman. L.M.G.: Sgts. Blackwell and Ford, Cpl. Burrows, L/Cpls. Foster, Murphy and O'Sullivan, Ptes. Augtherlony, Davis, Wills, Woolford, May, Jones (18) and Morley.

We produced 47 first-class shots on both weapons. Other scores we tactfully omit from these notes, for the benefit of all concerned.

Sennelager—May 15-June 3, 1961

On May 15, the Company en bloc moved to Sennelager in the newly acquired 1-ton A.P.C.s. On arrival we started almost immediately with our section training and field firing which gave everyone plenty of exercise, particularly the officers and Sergeants in running up and down ranges all day. In the last week, an inter-section competition was held and the Company finished in 2nd, 3rd and 8th out of 14 teams which proves that although we did not produce the outright winners at least we have three consistent sections.

Athletics

So far there has been no inter-Company meeting but, as an extra, a novices meeting was held whilst we were at Sennelager. The following represented the Company: 800 m.: Capt. Durnnell, Ptes. Whyte and Merrill, and L/Cpl. Penfold. 100 m.: Ptes. Vaughan, Evans and Morley. 200 m.: 2/Lt. Finch, Ptes. Wills and May. 400 m.: Ptes Willis and May. 1,500 m.: Capt. Durnnell.

Pole vault, Pte. Westgarth; long jump, Pte. Hill; weight, Pte. Gapp; hammer, L/Cpl. Murphy.

The final Company result was: "A" Company 1st, "C" Company 2nd, "B" Company 3rd.

The inter-Company tug o' war also took place but, owing to high flying, we had difficulty in keeping our feet firmly on the ground.

Shooting

The inter-Company shooting competition took place early in May and the following represented the Company:

Rifle: 2/Lt. Finch, 2/Lt. Monypenny, Sgt. Ford, Sgt. Blackwell, Cpl. Burrows, L/Cpl. Foster, L/Cpl.



"C" Company tug o' war, Sennelager

Knapp, L/Cpl. O'Sullivan, Ptes. Bateman, Kyne, Hurrell and Evans.

L.M.G.: L/Cpl. O'Sullivan, L/Cpl. Murphy, Ptes. Wills, Augtherlony, Morley, Dawson and May.

S.M.G.: Sgt. Ford, L/Cpl. Foster, Cpl. Burrows and 2/Lt. Finch.

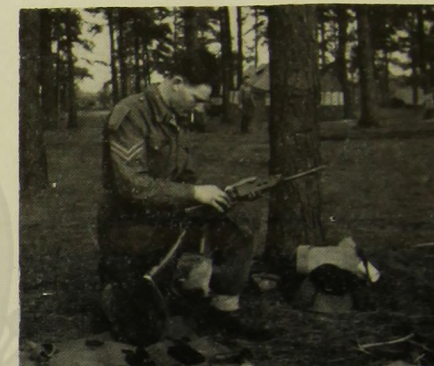
In the rifle we came second, also in the L.M.G. Pte. Bateman was the Best Young Soldier shot, rifle, and runner-up rifle shot. Runner-up from the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess was Sgt. Ford. After this meeting, a great effort was made to build up a Battalion team for the Brigade and, subsequently, B.A.O.R. meeting. The following Company personnel trained as members of the Battalion team: 2/Lt. Finch, 2/Lt. Monypenny, Sgt. Ford, L/Cpl. Knapp, Ptes. Bateman and Kyne in the rifle team; Pte. Gray and L/Cpl. Foster in the L.M.G. team; and Cpl. Burrows and Pte. Blowers as pistol shots.

Soltau, 1961

We were told: "Do not destroy ant-heaps in forest areas. They are there for a specific purpose, as the ants destroy certain pests which attack trees and ruin timber." How true we found this to be, for, even before we had started to turn our A.P.C.s into bushes on wheels, the ants had been supplementing our rations, obviously discouraging us from cutting foliage. Despite this, training went with a swing, all ranks enjoying the tank cooperation with the 14/20th Hussars and learning to live and work with the "Tankies." The first week's sun having turned the ranges into a dust bowl, each and every one of us looked like Al Jolson singing "Mammy" after minutes' riding on a Conqueror—at least camouflage cream was unnecessary! Our training was culminated by a successful Company test exercise, the Battalion and then the Brigade exercise, really building up the picture to fit us for the autumn's large-scale manoeuvres.

Personality Parade

Cpl. Frank Cairns is twenty-one, single, and hails



Cpl. Cairns

from Sunderland. In 1957 he joined the Junior Leaders' Battalion, Plymouth, and reached the rank of Lance-Corporal. In August 1958 he joined The Middlesex Regiment at the Regimental Depot, and in November 1958 joined the 1st Battalion in Hameln. He was promoted to Acting-Lance-Corporal in October 1958 and Corporal in June 1959, the latter at the age of 19.

Cpl. Cairns is interested in football, swimming and rock climbing. He has passed the Duke of Edinburgh's award in Boys' Service, and he has done one month's adventure training in the French Alps in 1960. Cpl. Cairns comes from an Army family. His father is a R.Q.M.S. in the Royal Artillery; his brother is a Sergeant in the Royal Signals; and his grandfather was a Sergeant in the D.L.I. As a child, Frank Cairns spent five years in Egypt, where his father was posted (1950-55), and later on was 18 months in Cyprus, where he became friends with several members of the 1st Battalion, and it was this that made him decide to become a "Die-Hard" on completion of his Boys' Service at Plymouth. It is hoped that Cpl. Cairns will change his engagement from a six-year to a twenty-two-year term.

"D" COMPANY

Once again many unaccustomed pens are put to paper and many heads scratched as Journal notes are prepared. "Don't flap, they were only due in yesterday." The comings and goings have continued in "D" Company. We said reluctant farewells to our two National Service subalterns, 2/Lts. O'Regan and Rayner, as they left us to try and earn a living. I wonder how long it will be before one or both are back with us. A very welcome arrival to the "empire" was C/Sgt. J. Martin, M.M., but, unfortunately, he was only with us long enough to take over the stores and build new racks before a vacancy occurred in "B" Company and he left us for the pleasure of a rifle company at Sennelager. With the departure of 2/Lts. O'Regan and Rayner came the arrival of Lt. Rose, who will train the next cadre.

Another loss to the Company is Sgt. Plumb, who has left us to take up an appointment at H.C.B.D. Canterbury. We wish him and his family all the best and hope they have a happy stay in Kent.

Since the last notes, most of the Company have been at Sennelager where a considerable amount of time and effort were put into the training of the Battalion rifle team for the B.A.O.R. meeting. This was not wasted, as the team did quite well. Detailed results can be found in the shooting notes.

After Sennelager and the B.A.O.R. rifle meeting we found ourselves busy with preparations for the next potential N.C.O.s' cadre, due to begin on July 17 and to last until September 1. Pte. Gregory, our busy clerk, is pounding on his typewriter until it is nearly red hot endeavouring to clear up all paper work before going home for some well-earned rest. Sgt. Power, now acting C.Q.M.S., can be seen, if you are lucky enough to catch him, between moving beds and lockers from room to room. His task is not made any easier by the absence on leave of Pte. Rice, the storeman, although that jack of all trades, Pte. Lynch, is a very able stand-in. There must be something in the air in "D" Company block at the moment, for "the other" Gregory, sometime batman for the O.C., has been seen to work in the afternoon. Is this a record?

W.O.2 Thorogood and Pte. Robertson continue to keep the Battalion supplied with ammunition and training films, in spite of a serious shortage of the former at Sennelager. Who forgot the indent?

Pte. Utton continues to look after the armoury with loving care, his only regret being that the impending cadre will mean his weapons have to be issued and might even get "dirt." Our projectionist, Pte. Lock, went home to England on a trip organised by the W.V.S. for a long weekend. It certainly has been a long one, 28 days to date.

C.S.M. Da Costa and Sgt. Plumb are to be congratulated on the form of the Battalion shooting team, which was largely due to their efforts.

C.S.M. Da Costa also managed to win the individual award for the S.M.G. in the Brigade rifle meeting—a very good effort.

Capt. Lloyd is still busy with sports but the shooting files have been thankfully put away for another year. He is usually to be seen clutching a NAAFI sports catalogue or driving off at high speed to the sports shop at Herford. In spite of his many problems he looks happier these days. I wonder why he was studying a map of the Far East the other day?

SUPPORT COMPANY

Transport

It was mentioned in the last issue of the Journal that the Company had established a transport office, fixed a fancy notice on the door, and acquired a whole conglomeration of documents. It was easy to prophesy that the next step would be armoured 1-ton vehicles and, sure enough, the "pigs" have duly been taken over and, albeit gingerly, mastered.

Hohne

The first major phase of the summer training season

was the field firing for support weapons at Hohne. On May 7 the Company, less Assault Pioneers, moved out to the bivouac area on the fringe of the anti-tank-gun range and, despite appalling weather, stayed there until the 13th. Doubtless the Mortar Platoon and the anti-tanks in their own notes will be eager to acclaim their hits and strikes on the targets, but, in a lesser vein, Pte. MacKenzie was successful in the culinary field in producing, at his first attempt, "nosh" that satisfied the Company. Reveille was somewhat unusual the first morning as, instead of the strident notes of a bugle (the Company Commander had been most insistent that a Drummer accompany the Company), 16 S.P. guns of the R.H.A. had taken up position 50 yards from the bivouac site, and at a minute to reveille "volleyed and thundered" for over an hour.

Sennelager

Hohne was only a prelude for Sennelager. The trucks were not even off-loaded on return to Hameln, and the following day the Company joined the rest of the Battalion for live firing on the ranges. At Sennelager, Company H.Q. showed an upward trend in strength as Ptes. Russell and Wilson were posted in as temporary storemen. Here, the word storeman took on a new meaning and "store-keeping" was used in the most euphemistic sense, for as one crisis abated the next developed. However, the final check proved they had triumphed, as nothing was amiss on return to Hameln once again.

Sport

The Company Commander forsook Sennelager on several days to play cricket with the Divisional cricket team in Berlin and in Dusseldorf for Rhine Army. He keeps on saying he is now far too old to play any more, but apparently results show he can still keep his arm turning over satisfactorily!

Training occupied most of the time during this quarter, tug o' war being the only sport of note. Although the Company was unable to win this event, it did provide the most dramatic match of all. With "A" Company and Support Company level, having won one pull each, the final pull had "A" Company tottering on the brink, when Pte. Ward who had tried so valiantly, having pulled in both the heavy and light teams, unfortunately collapsed. "A" were thus able to avoid defeat which at one stage seemed so near at hand.

Hospitalisation

With all this training in the offing, the C.S.M. decided that this was the appropriate moment to have his appendix removed. It was rumoured that the appendix was vouchered over to the hospital "unserviceable and surplus to requirement." The lure of the training, however, denied C.S.M. Simmons' convalescence, and he was soon living out at Sennelager "inspiring" everyone.

Arrivals

We wish to welcome Cpl. Long into the fold, who has joined the Company to reinforce the mechanical "erks."

Finally a word of thanks to Cpl. Haffner, who has earned this gratitude by acting as canteen manager during these out-of-camp periods. It should be recorded that this was no sinecure, since he also carried out his normal duties as detachment commander.

Redeployment

Just as these notes were being submitted to the Battalion Editor, came the sad news that the Battalion would implement the new establishment and that Support Company would disband at the beginning of August. This announcement had been threatening for some time now and, therefore, it was certainly not unexpected. Nevertheless, it is a sad occasion to think that Support Company, after so many years, will no longer appear in the Battalion order of battle.

But, in conjunction with all other infantry Battalions in B.A.O.R., we must move with the times and do our best to make the new establishment work as well for nuclear warfare as the old establishment did for conventional war. Main changes will be as follows:

Capt. J. I. D. Pike, M.C., to "C" Company as Company Commander.

"Yankee" Support Platoon (Lt. P. Mallalieu) to "A" Company.

"Zulu" Support Platoon (Lt. A. B. Cowing) to "B" Company.

Assault Pioneer Section to "H.Q." Company.

C.S.M. Simmons to Home Counties Depot at Canterbury.

C/Sgt. Dive to "D" Company.

All ranks are wished the very best of good fortune in their new employment. "Auf wiedersehen" to you all.

Mortar Platoon

The day foreboded by the new organisation of the infantry battalion has at last arrived and, alas! we are to be no more. From August the Mortar Platoon will be split in half and, together with two sections of anti-tank guns, will be formed to make two Support Platoons. The Support Platoons known as "Yankee" and "Zulu" will be integrated with "A" and "B" Companies. So, after more than 20 years of "specialist" independence, we will at last be permanently organic to the rifle companies.

Although, therefore, these will be the last notes from the old Mortar Platoon as such, news of ourselves will no doubt appear in new Support Platoon notes in the future.

Since our last notes we have started the 1961 training season with a swing, and have been "flat out" since May with, first of all, Hohne—where we had our first field firing of the year amidst drenching rain falling the entire time—and after one day at Hameln the Platoon moved to Sennelager.

For the first time at Sennelager we lived under canvas, and our Hohne weather came with us. As far as the writer can remember, there were only three rain-free days during our three weeks' stay there. However, rain or not, training went on with the Platoon Commander

rushing about on his motorcycle between the shooting team and the mortars. Our training steadily improved during this time and, apart from one instance when an unnamed O.P. almost "bedded in" on the Platoon Commander—he was seen diving under the champ before the second bomb came down—all went well.

Immediately following Sennelager the Platoon acted as enemy in an exercise against the Cameronians. Operating in a very different role to our normal one, we all had a most enjoyable time, although, of course, the usual vile weather was encountered throughout the exercise.

The Platoon Commander went off to Moscow during April and May and came back to give us all the latest news from Russia.

Sgt. Partridge and Cpl. Shearing appear to have missed going to Soltau again this year—no one really knows how they get away with it year after year!

All ranks extend a welcome to Cpl. Dickens, who has joined the Platoon from "C" Company, and, finally, congratulations to Pte. McMinn, who has just returned to Scotland to get married.

Anti-Tank Platoon

The stream of Platoon activities these last few months has resembled the Weser very closely. Swift and wide with deep pools and weirs, strong under-currents and bearing a wide variety of flotsam on the surface.

The writer has had to paddle fast and furiously down stream to overhaul the last journal notes and then, clinging desperately to the bank, has reviewed the flood as it swept past and selected those items which he hopes will be of interest to the reader.

First comes duty week—a stretch of calm water with no remarkable incidents; then the current strengthens and the river runs dark and swift as a period of intense concentration follows. An instructor refreshes the minds of L/Cpl. Hilton, Ptes. Webb, Sharp, Heale and Jones (16), and introduces the new "fish"—Ptes. Ward and Caston—to the intricacies of Anti-tank gunnery. Cpl. Reynolds, who has just returned from Netheravon with a good result, bears the brunt of this cadre, and we congratulate him on the results.

Following the cadre comes the Hopton Cup competition. The team entering consists of L/Cpl. Atkinson, Ptes. Caston (L.M.G.), Sharp, Ward, Budd and Jones (S.L.R.). Despite a certain individual, who shall be nameless, failing to adjust his sights, they scored 466 points, and gained sixth place in the Battalion.

Now Pte. Toner, who has been hiding in a quiet backwater known as "hospital," is, despite his struggles, washed back into mid-stream wearing a large scar on his abdomen and minus his appendix.

Another stretch of quiet water (duty week) follows and the Platoon wallows in the cross-currents of P.E. tests and range practices, finally floundering into a quiet backwater which takes the form of a week attached to the 29th Battery Field Regiment, who had requested their assistance in manning the 5.5s at firing camp in Hohne. They have a most enjoyable time, despite the almost continuous rain, and impress the R.A. to such an extent

that an attempt is made to trap several of them into the R.A. net. The appearance of the Platoon Sergeant in their secluded retreat is, however, sufficient to drive them back into the turbulent waters of the preparation for Exercise "April Alert." Fortune favours them and the weather remains fair, though the previous rain makes it difficult to get the vehicles into the gun positions and a great deal of manhandling and carrying is involved before two gun detachments allocated to "C" Company are in position. The other two detachments with "B" Company fare slightly better although the fate of Pte. Patmore's vehicle is literally in the balance when he slides off a slippery track on a steep hillside.

Another period of calm follows whilst the Platoon prepares its equipment for firing at Hohne. Pte. Toner manages to slide away to another hospitable back-water (Rinteln) and has his left eye re-zeroed (he can now look eyes front without any of the difficulties previously encountered). Pte. Stewart, despite his Platoon Sergeant's efforts to comply with the exhortations of a well-known Road Safety poster, somehow manages to obtain a place on the Battalion driving cadre and emerges as a qualified driver, much to the consternation of his Detachment Commander, L/Cpl. Hilton.

The river is now in full flood, and the Platoon struggles to zero the guns at Hohne. Although the holes eventually appear in the screens, the conditions—rain squalls, wind of gale force and lack of visibility—make it impossible to achieve an accurate zero.

Hohne is followed almost immediately by Sennelager. In the dappled reflection of this period we find among the brighter shoals—the visit of the Brigade Commander after we had successfully zeroed the guns in ideal conditions. On this occasion we achieved 100 per cent. accuracy with our shooting, placing ten rounds (five guns, two rounds per gun) in an area 6 ft. square on a previously unused tank hulk at 800 yards.

We also recall the afternoon of the Xanten competition, when four teams from the Platoon competed against the Mortar and Assault Pioneers and took the first three places. Cpl. Haffner's team, consisting of Ptes. Toner, Heale, Isaacs and Caston, won the Company Commander's prize for the best overall team.

Among the deeper shades we see the night-firing exercise on Blucher when the wind direction prevents target illumination and we are unable to fire the main armament, the days spent in the drizzling rain in manoeuvre area North practising gun-drill, and the two ricochets off the tank turret which resulted in one unlocated blind and the other exploding on the very edge of the ricochet area close to a column of the South Wales Borderers waiting to pass through the barrier into the area. They were most disconcerted and we apologise to our old friends but firmly maintain that circumstances in this instance were beyond our control.

The stream deepens on the return from Sennelager, and reminds one of the Styx of Mythology. Two bodies are borne past and disappear into the maelstrom of civilian life, where they will undoubtedly be resurrected as "dole drawers" (their own expression). The dearly departed are £200 "buy me out" Harris and "extra time" Atkinson, both of whom we miss and wish the success they deserve in Civvy Street.

After Sennelager we drifted along quietly, recovering from our labours and adjusting ourselves for the Soltau period.

We awaited with anxious feelings, the return of our Platoon Commander who had been on short leave too long. However, Lt. Cowing returned from the U.K. at last, and took the helm to steer us into the new waters of Soltau.

Soltau was to prove an exacting experience for most as not only was the "skipper" back but the old organisation was being reshaped into a new and more mobile craft in the form of two Support Platoons, known as "Zulu" and "Yankee."

Before, however, the Anti-Tank Platoon redeployed, it did prove to itself that it was capable of withdrawing 20 miles in darkness and taking up new positions before dawn. Full credit must be given to the drivers of the "pigs," Ptes. Vass, Budd, Patmore and Stewart, for their hard work and also to the D.C.s who strangely enough map-read with unaccustomed accuracy.

Swimming was also not neglected at Soltau and it will be remembered for some time the occasion when on a Tuesday afternoon the Platoon persuaded the Platoon Commander to drive to Sehnervdingen Swimming Pool only to be met by the Commanding Officer who had also had the thought that it was too hot to work! A few minutes later the Brigade Commander also turned up with apparently the same idea! Enough said!

Now perhaps comes the sad part of these notes, because as from the end of July, Support Company will no longer exist. No longer will the Anti-Tank notes be found washed up on the river bank. Over the past years the Anti-Tank Platoon has built up a great spirit, with good team network. It was in fact a grand crew. We all know that the spirit will continue and that the crew will work together as of old and that by their team work, loyalty and comradeship these new "boats" ("Yankee" and "Zulu") may sail on successfully as before.

Assault Pioneer Section

This quarter has been quite a handful for the Pioneers and we have been kept continually busy.

In April we spent a fair amount of time destroying the old Battalion assault course. This was quite an easy task, but we soon had to build a new course under the personal direction of the 2IC. This was not an easy task!

So off to Sennelager we went, where we were able to carry out a reasonable amount of training, battle simulation and normal demolition work, such as blowing bridges and watermanship. Our normal infantry training was represented by section firing on Xanten obstacle course, throwing grenades and firing the 3.5 rocket launcher.

From Sennelager we came back to normal training in camp and were very lucky to have the opportunity of working for two weeks with the R.E.s on bridging and ferrying. We also had the chance of seeing the new French bridge, which is a most impressive piece of equipment. We all spent our last week on normal training, minefields, demolitions and the very many related jobs that come under our branch of training.

We are glad to welcome L/Cpl. Bartlett back from hospital. We hope his arm will soon be properly healed. (They might have done better to cut a chunk out of his legs instead of his elbows!) We are also pleased to see Cpl. Beavis back after three weeks in Norway on adventure training.

With luck, very shortly we hope to be sending Cpl. Beavis to Chatham on a course and Pte. Berg on his carpenter's course.

Sgt. Pritchard and Pte. Pollard are still cycling round the countryside meeting German friends and whooping it up.

We take this opportunity now of wishing Cpl. Beavis, Ptes. Moloney and Hardman all the best on their leave and a good time.

Soon the Section will be leaving Support Company and joining "H.Q." Company owing to a change in Battalion organisation. We have enjoyed ourselves with "Shiny 'S'" but feel sure that we will soon settle down in our new home.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Most of the last quarter has been spent away from the barracks at the now very familiar training areas of Sennelager and Soltau. At both places we established a Mess. For the three weeks at Sennelager we lived in the Mess lines and enjoyed the hospitality of "Mine Host," Bob Power, who heaved a huge sigh of relief when it was all over. At Soltau each Company had its own Mess, but Pte. Cook, our most efficient barman, set up shop in Battalion H.Q. and made a pleasant retreat for us to go between training sessions.

"Fanny" Gibbs has at last taken the plunge and got himself hitched. We wish him and his wife Anna every happiness.

Whilst on the subject of happy events we congratulate Ray and Veronica Dodkins on the birth of their third child, a girl, Iris Veronica; and Tom and Margaret Brereton on their second child, a girl, Sandra Elizabeth.

The foreman of the Pay Office, W.O.2 Vic Edwards, has for many months been talking of the day in September when he would become a civilian. One day out of the blue he suddenly signed on for a further three years. Promotion to W.O.1 was too much of a temptation for Vic. He is being posted to the Command Pay Office at Hounslow where no doubt many of us will be able to pay him a visit. "Cross Lancers" stand by for another regular.

We welcome back C/Sgt. "Mary" Martin, who is Molar of "B" Company and Sgt. "Tubby" Tarry who has set up a new record for beer drinking, without ever putting his hand in his pocket. Jack Warner has returned to us after a spell as Sergeants' Mess caterer at Brigade H.Q., where, we are told he was the perfect landlord.

We bid farewell for the time being to Brian Edey who has been posted to the R.M.A. Sandhurst and to Les Plumb who is now at Canterbury.

After a long lapse the Mess trophies for shooting were once again awarded at this year's Battalion rifle meeting. C.S.M. "Acker" Beale had his glasses especially zeroed for the occasion and was consequently champion shot.

Sgt. Reg Ford was runner-up and Sgt. Lloyd, who



Sgt. Horder

must have had something else on his mind at the time, managed to get the lowest score of the day.

We have not managed to hold a Mess Dinner this quarter, due mainly to our training commitments, but whenever possible we have continued with our Saturday social evenings. These unfortunately have not been well supported but were nevertheless most enjoyable.

Albuhera Day this year was celebrated in our tented camp at Sennelager. Activities were curtailed somewhat due to this but we paid our traditional visit to the Officers' Mess at midday and in the evening we had the pleasure of entertaining the officers. An Albuhera Day with a difference and one that will be well remembered by two of our members, who shall remain nameless.

Nearly every member of the Mess owns a mechanical vehicle of some sort or another ranging from Mercedes-Benz limousines to scooters. Latest addition is a Mini-Minor owned by C.S.M. Ray Dodkins, who has reluctantly parted with his motor bike and sidecar. The obvious reason for the change is shown elsewhere. He assures us that he has no intention of starting a taxi service.

Stop Press—Two more deliveries were made this week: a Borgward to Bob Power and a Renault to Blackie Blackwell.

CORPORALS' MESS

Your scribe is in the rather difficult position of having to report on a quarter almost devoid of any social activities, that is with one exception—when Corporals' Club in full strength were the guests of the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess for a games night, in which our hosts emerged as the victors. However, a most enjoyable evening was had by all especially L/Cpl. Adams and the late departed Cpl. Bustin, who retired rather early with the farewell greeting of "Come again Boy"! Our thanks also to hard-working P.M.C. and Committee for the excellent arrangements. The Corporals' Club social evenings have, however, fallen foul to the current fine weather and though the Tombola fans went down fighting, they had in the end to admit that the NAAFI beer being served at 74°F. was a bit much when one bore in mind the fact that the outside temperature was only 80°, so now it is a case of making plans for the

future. We must say "well done" to our outgoing P.M.C., Cpl. Kirkpatrick, who felt that he had served his time out. The Club President agreed, but only on the grounds of good conduct; so we welcome to the chair Cpl. da Costa and L/Cpl. Clarke, who have been fitted straight into harness by being given the task of organising an informal social for mid-July.

Cpl. Stopp offered to be the Barman-in-Chief, after being instructed in the profit and loss system of accounts, and it is hoped to have a one-man band which we believe was *had* by someone before.

L/Cpl. White and helpers still insist that the bar is incomplete, and every so often they descend with a modification kit and proceed to change the whole thing around again, but we hope that the doorway behind the bar is now fixed size, for should it again be curtailed then we feel Ella won't quite make it!

Over the Sennelager and Soltau periods, the responsibility for maintaining club life fell in the main to our cadets, i.e. Cpls. Sharp and Woods. The former we congratulate on "pulling it off," and the latter we welcome from the Depot, celebrating his arrival by being placed on a coat-hanger in a nameless guesthouse, work ticket made out to Gordon Barracks—still it was only a short camel ride to go!

On the debit side, however, we have said "good-byes" to Cpls. Fisher and Quinn, who have been posted to the H.C. Brigade, their departure being marked by a noticeable absence of sand for sand dances and surplus hair on the billiard table. Cpl. Stewart and L/Cpl. Dowsett have gone to join a course at the School of Infantry. We trust that Pete will meet with more noticeable success on future sky waves as a result. Cpl. "Blanco" Fleet and L/Cpl. Bartlett have gone to Norway in search of adventure. We would like to know however, how L/Cpl. Bartlett gets these plum jobs, what with snow sports in winter, and now this and a private car in addition, it certainly speaks well for the prospects of a Regular soldier! Cpl. Manser went on a chicken-eating run one evening at Sennelager and took a dislike to a harmless bridge in the training area—as a result we now see "Pop" walking to and fro! L/Cpl. Atkinson, nevertheless, enjoyed the views of Sennelager, in particular that from the main gate—where one could find him 24 hours a day. Company Corporals have now got that certain weather-beaten look on their faces, since the Battalion received their A.P.C.s, which has resulted in many of the N.C.O.s being up the hatch, Cpls. da Costa, Meacock, Fleet, Stevens, Fisher, Long and Young all taking to the black webbing and oily denims like ducks to water.

Cpl. Hart we notice is now a "shoes only" man, since he entered the inner sanctums of the Battalion Pay Office, and we notice that Cpl. Daniels (R.A.P.C.) emerged from the darkness one evening, complete in Wimbledon kit and gave a display of energy that shocked all. Cpl. Flanagan has been engaged in a lot of training but we were surprised to find it taking the form of being brought feet first in the main gate—C.S.M.I. Cleaver to note.

We are pleased to hear that "D" Company will be honoured with the presence of Pte. Minett (sorry—Cpl. Minett). What he is going to do there is rather un-

certain but from the grapevine we gather he is about to be indoctrinated in the finer art of Rifle Company procedure. We wish him well on his visit. Whilst on the subject, many members of Support Company N.C.O.s are walking around with drawn and haggard faces lately. We say "good-bye" to Dave Miles who has once more gone to join the upper crust of society in the Sergeants' Mess! It is to be noted that the sale of chips in the Club will fall considerably now that Mrs. Miles will no longer be with us.

For the information of C.S.M. Dodkins, Cpl. O'Gorman and the R.A.P.C. N.C.O.s are applying for block leave when the next big Battalion scheme is due to start. Mattered curses were heard in the Mess about putting him on short pay, and others about posting him.

By the time these notes appear we shall have said "farewell" to Cpl. Kirkpatrick—that great advocate of long hair—who also wishes to dispel the rumour that he was seen outside the NAAFI wearing a kilt and holding a bottle in one hand singing the song "Scotland the Brave."

And so we beg to leave you, at the end of a very queer quarter.

SPORT

Summer sport this year has been seriously curtailed by the requirements of military training. The only sports to be pursued seriously have been shooting and athletics.

The shooting team had a late start. Consequently they had to work very hard in order to reach a standard to compete on equal terms in the B.A.O.R. rifle meeting. The results were disappointing if the final position in the Rhine Army Shield is considered alone. If, however, detailed results are looked at, the scene becomes rather more promising.

The team were, in fact, third in the S.M.G. team match, sixth in the L.M.G. match and ninth in the rifle team match, all out of 22 competing teams. This placed us sixth in the competition. The last competition was the Wavell Trophy and in this we did badly taking 15th place. This result took us down to 11th place in the Rhine Army Shield.

Many of this year's team were young regular soldiers who will be available next year. With the experience gained this year they can look forward to the B.A.O.R. meeting with some confidence.

The athletes were the Cinderellas of the Battalion, and, but for the determination and the hard work of Capt. McManus they would never have left the fire-side to go to the Ball in Berlin.

The active season started at Sennelager where a track was marked out and jumping pits dug on the playing field opposite the Battalion Camp site. Some training was carried out as the opportunities arose and a successful novices competition held. "A" Company won the Willoughby-Batten Trophy which was competed for after many years' lapse.

From this modest start, the team graduated to the Brigade inter-Unit competition at Minden. Much to everyone's surprise they won, a fine example of determination and team spirit. This victory qualified the team to go forward to the B.A.O.R. team championships in Berlin.

The athletes went to Berlin with high hopes after three weeks of intensive training and coaching. There was even talk of a trip to England for the Army Championships. But this was not to be, the opposition, particularly the Grenadier and Welsh Guards, were of a very high class and the team did very well to finish fourth.

Of the summer sports, cricket and tennis have been the only activities.

Tennis has been played by a large number on a friendly basis but no competitions have, as yet, been held.

Cricket is slowly getting into its stride after a difficult start, but there seems to be difficulty in finding opposition. All units are in the same position, too many exercises!

The swimmers have so far had no opportunity to show their talents but the inter-Company competition will take place soon. It is hoped after this to arrange some matches.

SHOOTING

Shooting started seriously this season with the rifle companies going to Sennelager for a week to classify and practise for the Battalion rifle meeting on May 2 and 3. "A" Company had an advantage in that, being first at Sennelager, they were able to select their team and practise them for a few weeks in preparation for the Battalion meeting.

The Battalion meeting itself was successful in spite of the very variable weather and the water-logged range. A great deal of credit goes to 2/Lt. O'Regan who was I.C. the range party and who put in a good deal of work assisted by C.S.M. Thorogood and Sgt. Young. The Butt parties also earned a word of praise. They worked long hours under adverse conditions without reducing the firing point officers to nervous wrecks—a state that is all too common on the ranges, particularly if the telephones do not work.

The results were very much as expected with the time and effort that the Companies had put into shooting being reflected in the scores.

In the team events "A" Company showed their strength by winning the rifle and S.M.G. matches and being second to "B" Company in the L.M.G. "A" Company also won the falling plate competition beating "H.Q." Company in the final.

"A" Company had the lion's share of individual honours also. Cpl. Rockell was champion shot with Pte. Mitchell and C.S.M. Beale taking third and fourth places respectively. Cpl. Brumwell was champion S.M.G. shot with Pte. Eckford third equal.

Pte. Bateman of "C" Company is to be congratulated on some very good shooting to gain the Best Young Soldier prize; Pte. Mitchell of "A" Company being second.

In the L.M.G. competition two pairs tied for first place with a score of 312 each. Both pairs were from "B" Company and were, Lt. Goring with Cpl. Miles and Pte. Godfrey with Pte. Tucker.

Major Shipster shot well to be runner-up in the S.M.G. competition, but even this effort could not save the "B" Company team from being last.

Finally the individual pistol competition was won comfortably by Sgt. Lloyd.

Detailed Results

Rifle Match			
1st	"A" Company	1,406 pts.	
2nd	"C" Company	1,217 "	
3rd	"H.Q." Company	885 "	
4th	"S" Company	868 "	
5th	"B" Company	866 "	
INDIVIDUAL			
1st	Cpl. Rockell ("A" Company)	162 pts.	
2nd	Pte. Bateman ("C" Company)	150 "	
3rd	Pte. Mitchell ("A" Company)	138 "	
4th	C.S.M. Beale ("A" Company)	134 "	
	Best Young Soldier	Pte. Bateman	

L.M.G. Match			
1st	"B" Company	1,024 pts.	
2nd	"A" Company	855 "	
3rd	"C" Company	844 "	
4th	"H.Q." Company	735 "	
5th	"S" Company	447 "	
INDIVIDUAL			
1st Pair	Lt. Goring and Cpl. Miles ("B" Coy.)	312 pts.	
1st Equal	Ptes. Godfrey and Tucker ("B" Coy.)	312 "	
2nd Pair	Dmrs. Blake and Mears ("H.Q." Coy.)	262 "	
2nd Equal	Ptes. Whelan and Goodchild ("A" Coy.)	262 "	

S.M.G. Match			
1st	"A" Company	386 pts.	
2nd	"S" Company	338 "	
3rd	"H.Q." Company	322 "	
4th	"C" Company	322 "	
5th	"B" Company	319 "	
INDIVIDUAL			
1st	Cpl. Brumwell ("A" Company)	110 pts.	
2nd	Major Shipster ("B" Company)	98 "	
3rd	Cpl. Hart ("H.Q." Company)	96 "	
3rd Equal	Pte. Eckford ("A" Company)	96 "	

Pistol			
1st	Sgt. Lloyd ("A" Company)	144 pts.	
2nd	C.S.M. Dodkins ("H.Q." Company)	138 "	
	Sgt. Partridge ("S" Company)	132 "	
3rd Equal	Cpl. Hart ("H.Q." Company)	132 "	

Falling Plate			
"A" Company beat "H.Q." Company in the final			
Final Position of Companies			
1st	"A" Company	2,647 pts.	
2nd	"C" Company	2,383 "	
3rd	"B" Company	2,199 "	
4th	"H.Q." Company	1,942 "	
5th	"S" Company	1,653 "	

After the Battalion rifle meeting we had one day on the range to get a Battalion team together for the Brigade meeting on May 8 and 9. Inevitably we had to go on the result of the Battalion meeting and hope for the best. A large proportion of the team were from "A" Company, led by C.S.M. Beale, and many were new to competition shooting.

The results were disappointing but not surprising after the short time we had for practice. Many of the team shot below their best but some excelled themselves and got really good scores. Among them were Cpl. Lynch with 153, Cpl. Rockell with 147, and Pte. Brandon with 143. Both the L.M.G. and S.M.G. teams suffered from the same trouble as the riflemen with the result that we were third in the Brigade behind 1st S.W.B. first, and 1st Cameronianians second.

C.S.M. da Costa did well to win the individual award for the S.M.G. and Sgt. Lloyd was runner-up in the individual pistol competition. In the competition proper he had an equal score with the winner W.O.2 Holland (S.W.B.) and lost the shoot-off to take second place.

Cpls. Hart, Lynch and Rockell, and Ptes. Mitchell and Brandon, all qualified for the Brigade "24" and fired in the second phase of the individual championship. Here training and experience really told and none



BATTALION RIFLE MEETING AT WITTLAGE RANGE, MAY 2 and 3, 1961

Brigadier J. A. T. Sharpe, M.C., looking at the new equipment when he visited the Battalion Rifle Meeting. Left to right: Cpl. Stewart, Cpl. Hart, L/Cpl. Clarke, Cpl. Rockell, Major C. N. Clayden, Major G. C. P. Morgan, B.M., and Major P. W. Galvin



Major P. W. Galvin, firing-point officer during Battalion Rifle Meeting. In rear, Sgt. Briggs looking after the public-address system

of our firers did very well. In the falling plate competition we entered two teams: "A" team lost to 1st Cameronians "B" team in semi-final; "B" team lost to 1st Cameronians "A" team in final.

Detailed Results

Rifle Team (in order of firing):

Cpl. Hart	124
Cpl. Meacock	96
*Pte. Mitchell	140
*Pte. McLaren	85
*Pte. Bateman	122
*Pte. Brandon	143
*Pte. Kyne	66
Cpl. Rockell	147
*Pte. Lewis (13)	113
Cpl. Lynch	156
Pte. Peak	94
2/Lt. Monypenny	98
Lt. Pitman	82
2/Lt. Finch	117
Pte. Tynan	121
Sgt. Tarry	111
Sgt. Plumb	102
Sgt. Parnell	106
Sgt. Ford	103
C.S.M. Beale	101

Total .. 2,224

*Young Soldier

L.M.G. Pairs	
Lt. Goring and Cpl. Shaffner	242
Ptes. Holton and Hawkins	269
Ptes. Godfrey and Tucker	251
Sgts. Partridge and Davis	243

Total .. 1,005

S.M.G.

C.S.M. da Costa	130
Sgt. Ford	94
Cpl. Brumwell	96
Cpl. Hart	111
Pte. Eckford	117
Pte. O'Brien	106

Total .. 654



PRIZEGIVING

Pte. Bateman, "C" Company, receiving the trophy for the Best Young Soldier Shot from Major C. N. Clayden. On the right, Capt. I. M. E. Lloyd, O.I.C. shooting



Photo: WO 2 Dodkins

"H.Q." COMPANY FALLING-PLATE TEAM BATTALION RIFLE MEETING

Drm. Blake, Cpl. Hart, Drm. Mears, L/Cpl. Adkin, Drm. Elliott, and Pte. Jones (28)

In spite of the disappointing results in the Brigade rifle meeting, the C.O. decided to go ahead and enter for the B.A.O.R. rifle meeting taking place on June 6, 7, 8 and 9. This meant three weeks of intensive training for the potential team. After some argument and giving and taking by both sides the names of those to train for the shooting team were decided. We were allowed the whole of the Sennelager training period to prepare but in spite of the fact that we were on one of the best ranges in the world we had to return to Holtensen our local Hameln range for two days when we were unable to get a range at Sennelager.

A lot of work was done by everyone not least the O.I.C. shooting who did up to 20 "run-downs" a day. During this period Sgt. Scott returned from his drill course and immediately joined the shooters. This made a big difference with him and Sgt. Lloyd on the L.M.G., eventually becoming the most successful pair.

Again considering the short time we had to prepare for the meeting the results were satisfactory.

The Unit rifle team took ninth place in the rifle match out of 22 teams entered.

The L.M.G. team took sixth place in the Unit L.M.G. match. In the Unit S.M.G. match the team were third — a very good effort.

As a result of their effort, at this stage we stood sixth in the Rhine Army shield with one event, the Wavell trophy, to complete. The Wavell trophy is an international event incorporating the Allies cup and is used as a way of selecting the team to represent the British Army in the Prix le Clerc, the international shooting match to be held later in the year.

The practices in this competition are for rifle, L.M.G. and pistol and except in the case of pistol are quite different from anything an English soldier is ever likely to fire. Because of the short time we had for practice we were only able to fire the "Wavell" practice a few times and we dropped badly coming 15th out of 18 teams competing.

This put us 11th in the Rhine Army shield by no means the lowest infantry battalion competing. The other battalions in 11 Brigade were: 1st S.W.B., fourth; and 1st Cameronians, seventh.

In the falling plate match the Middlesex team of Cpls. Rockall and Lynch, Ptes. Tynan and Bateman were only just beaten in the quarter-final by 1st R.U.R.

Four of the rifle team qualified for the Rhine Army "100" competition and fired the second phase for the individual rifle prize.

They were: C.S.M. DaCosta, with scores of 153 and 81; C.S.M. Beale, with scores of 151 and 80; Cpl. Meacock, with scores of 142 and 66; Pte. Mitchell, with scores of 148 and ?

Pte. Mitchell was unable to fire in the second phase as he had to return to U.K. on leave before the end of the meeting.

The outstanding feature of the meeting was the very high standard of the Rifle Brigade team and our own team now know what they have to aim at if they are to get anywhere next year.



C.S.M. Beale receives his award from Major C. N. Clayden, as champion shot from the Sergeants' Mess, at the Battalion Rifle Meeting

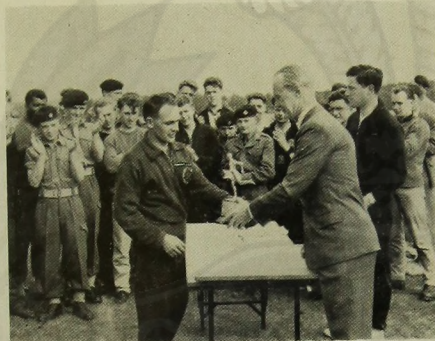


Left to right: 2/Lt. Everard, Major Mievile, and Major Clayden

ATHLETICS

The first event of the year was the novices meeting held at Sennelager on Albuhera Day. The inspiration for this meeting goes back to pre-war 2nd Battalion days when Lts. Willoughby and Batten presented a silver statuette of a running man as a trophy to be competed for each year. This year the trophy was won by "A" Company and it is hoped that the novices meeting will remain, in future years, as one of the best ways of encouraging new talent. As a further encouragement, instead of the usual medals, individual winners received help towards buying sports equipment, particularly running spikes.

It was clear after the novices meeting that the Battalion team was potentially the strongest we had had in recent years. However, the demands of military training



Left to right: Pte. Nicholson, Lt.-Col. Battye, and Capt. McManus

reduced team training to the afternoons of the ten days preceding the Brigade Championships on June 17. As a result a none-too-fit team took the field at Minden. In the event everyone produced excellent form and a strong competitive spirit, backed by a good number of enthusiastic supporters. They just carried the day from 19th Field Regiment R.A., on the result of the final relay.

The Brigade championships were a qualifying round for the B.A.O.R. championships in Berlin on July 12 and 13. In the interval the team has been training hard, having the invaluable coaching assistance of C.S.M.I. Cleaver (A.P.T.C.) for the first week. C.S.M.I. Cleaver is the A.P.T.C. instructor to 19th Field Regiment R.A. and his assistance, offered immediately the result of the Brigade championships was known, was a striking example of good sportsmanship. The results of our efforts in the B.A.O.R. championships can be seen at the end of these notes.

The 11th Infantry Brigade Group Championships

The first event of the meeting was the 5,000 m. team race. The field was out-classed by L/Cpl. Grubb of 14/20 H, an Army runner of some distinction, but, although there were no brilliant individual triumphs the Battalion team of Ptes. Salaria, Nicholson, Cpl. Flanagan and 2/Lt. Hubert all finished well up and secured first place.

During the morning another first place was gained in the 4 x 200 m. relay. Strong running by L/Cpl. Philp, Cpl. McKenzie and Lt. Julian gave the baton to Capt. McManus with a short lead which was maintained to the tape. In the remaining track events and the field events, except the long jump, in which L/Cpl. Philp and Cpl. Miles broke the Brigade team record with a combined jump of over 41 ft., a steady second place was maintained so that by the start of the final 4 x 400 m. relay the Battalion team and 19th Field team were level on points. Pte. Vaughan ran first for the Battalion and after a strong start lost some ground on the final bend. Pte. Wills followed and the 19th Field Regiment lead was

increased to about 50 yards. The third runner, 2/Lt. Everard, ran very strongly and reduced the gap to nothing in the first 300 yards, handing over to the last runner Pte. Ward slightly in the lead. Ward running a very characteristic race surrendered his lead immediately, allowing the 19th Field Regiment runner to make the running for the first 150 yards. He then opened out on the back straight and pulled away strongly to win convincingly by about 12 yards. This final race decided the championship for the Battalion—a pleasing success, due as much to the competitive enthusiasm of the team as to their innate ability and fitness.

The B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Team Finals

This meeting was held in Berlin on July 13 and 14, on a track alongside the 1936 Olympic Stadium. There were heats for all track events except the 5,000 m. and 1,500 m., which placed heavy demands on those runners competing in more than one event, particularly as all events were squeezed into two periods of two hours each.

The high quality of the opposition was soon apparent and the team did well to secure second places in two track events; the 4 x 100 m. relay and the 4 x 800 m. relay. The considerably improved time of 44.5 sec. for the 4 x 100 m. relay was due largely to C.S.M.I. Cleaver's coaching, while the 4 x 800 m. relay result reflected the hard training put in by Ptes. Ticehurst and Whyte, L/Cpl. O'Riordan and 2/Lt. Everard.

In the field events L/Cpl. Philp and Sgt. Miles again carried the long jump, this time by 6 in., from the 2nd Grenadier Guards with a combined jump of 40 ft. 9 in. Lt. Cheesman's individual performance in both shot and discus was well up to the standard of the competition, but unfortunately Lt. Goring had an off day and we dropped to fourth and third places in what should have been our better events.

No account of this meeting would be complete without a word about the 5,000-m. and 1,500-m. team races. A field of 36 in each event was excessive for a meeting of this standard and, considering our lack of track experience at these distances, the results, fifth and seventh of the nine teams competing, are a credit to the determination of the runners: Pte. Salaria, Cpl. Flanagan (5,000 m.), 2/Lt. Hubert, Pte. Nicholson (5,000 m. and 1,500 m.), Pte. Skelton and Capt. Durnell (1,500 m.).

However, athletic teams depend on balanced all-round ability, not on individual brilliance, and in this respect mention must be made of the steadily improving performances of: Sgt. Young and Pte. Stephenson (pole vault); Ptes. Evans and Kimber (javelin); Bdm. Taylor and L/Cpl. Murphy (hammer); Pte. Holton and L/Cpl. deGruchy (high jump); and of the gallant, if shin-sore, hurdling of Pte. Peak, Sgt. Scott and Sgt. Blackwell.

CRICKET

Cricket and the training season conflict to such an extent that it is hard to get regular practice and build up a proper team. However, the three matches we have played have been most enjoyable and give promise of

good cricket in July and August when we hope we can get consistent practice and matches.

The first match was played at Sennelager against the South Wales Borderers during our three weeks' field training there. We batted first and scored a very shaky 84 all out. We had not hoped for much, considering it was the first match but that was poor. Fortunately the S.W.B. batting was suffering from an equal lack of practice and, with the aid of some accurate bowling by Capt. Pike (5 for 4) and Sgt. Raffael (2 for 3), they were dismissed for 36.

The first home game was played against the 1st Royal Horse Artillery. In this match, leave and various other activities had depleted the team. The R.H.A. batted first to score 102 for 5 declared. We suffered from three run-outs and good bowling to score only 38, leaving the R.H.A. comfortable winners by 64 runs.

The next game at home was against the S.W.B. and was entered into with a spirit of determination to get over our recent defeat. We batted first, and with the score at 14 for 4 things looked bad. It was then that Pte. Peak ("A" Company) and Sgt. Raffael ("B" Company) came together. Pte. Peak proceeded to wield the willow whilst Sgt. Raffael stayed an hour and a quarter for his 11. When we declared at 117 for 7, Pte. Peak had scored 82.

The S.W.B. batting showed it had improved since Sennelager and they had the runs coming slowly but surely. The bringing on of off-spin bowler Pte. Hill ("C" Company) soon brought about a change. His accurate length and turn made him difficult to play and batsmen were returning to the pavilion with gratifying regularity. However, with the S.W.B. score at 84 for 9, time intervened and the match was drawn. Pte. Hill claimed a very creditable 5 for 14 in eight overs.

Soltau then intervened, and once again we were unable to practise. Unfortunately we had to play our Army Cricket Cup competition first-round match against 2 Division Signal Regiment within three days of returning. Again, the batting was rusty and out of touch, unable to cope with the pace of the wicket. We were dismissed for 60 runs, of which Sgt. Horder claimed 31 not out. Although the Signals wickets kept falling regularly we had not got enough on the board, and 2 Signal Regiment passed our total with four wickets in hand.

PENTATHLON

The pentathlon season has almost come to a close and the team is at the moment very split up. Pte. Finnis is in England training with the British team for the international at Moscow in August, Seatory is having a rest, and Capt. Lohan is back in uniform.

We can look back with some pride at our early efforts in U.K. and with great embarrassment at the result at Sennelager for the B.A.O.R. championships in which we came second to the 10th Hussars. Capt. Lohan had a bad start and never really recovered. I think we had a bad case of nerves. Finnis, who won the B.A.O.R. as an individual, did not produce anything like his usual form. The 10th Hussars have a fine team but even they were surprised at the result.

It is very much in the air whether the team goes back to U.K. for the Army championships in September, although the team and each individual have qualified. We have, at the time of writing, four weeks in which to get fit. Certain difficulties have also arisen which might prevent us from competing. However, if we do not manage it this year we will certainly do it next year.

TENNIS

Tennis has been this season very much "the poor relation" of the summer sporting activities.

This is due, not to the lack of individual interest, but purely because there have been so many other activities which have, unfortunately, taken priority.

It was hoped to hold a Battalion singles "knock-out" competition on our return from Sennelager but this idea was doomed almost before the explanatory letter had come off the printing press in the Orderly Room, owing to Exercise "Top Hat," Battalion athletics, Battalion cricket and the inevitable company training. It is hoped to hold this fixture later on in the year when life is less hectic (Christmas seems a good opportunity).

Meanwhile it is encouraging to see that a large number of people are taking up tennis in the evenings, and although dress may be a little unorthodox (let's face it, boots and denims would cause quite a stir on the Centre Court), nevertheless, individuals are getting out and are enjoying the sport.

SWIMMING

This summer has not seen swimming in very much evidence. This has been caused by a heavy military training programme and the successes of the Battalion athletics team. The inter-Company competition, after a false start, is now scheduled for early August. The Divisional and B.A.O.R. championships had to be left for other Battalions this year while the swimming team turns its attention to the athletics track.

There has not been total inactivity however. Lt. Cheesman raised a water polo team, which, early in March, twice did battle against the local Hameln team. In both we were out-classed, but experience was gained and they were two most enjoyable evenings.

BASKETBALL

Although the basketball season had ended, the team visited Copenhagen for a week in May. Unfortunately Sgts. Scott and Young, Cpls. Cosgrave and Miles were unable to accompany us. This seriously affected our performance.

We arrived in Denmark not knowing the standard of the Danish competition, but we soon found out! Our first match was played in a magnificent gymnasium against "Eftersloeget" the runners-up in the Danish Championships. For the first 15 minutes the team, under Sgt Brereton, played very well and we held them. Then fitness told and we tired very quickly. O'Brien saved our faces with some miraculous shots from the half-way line. We lost to a fitter team 84-48.

Our second match was played out of doors—a condition which we found difficult—and we just lost to a much inferior team 50-42.



EXERCISE "BORDERLINE"

Left to right: L/Cpl. Anderson, Cpl. Redrup, Pte. Howard, Pte. Bryant, L/Cpl. Clewey, Sgt. Weston, Pte. Johnson, Cpl. Phillips, Pte. Bracher, Pte. Thomas, Pte. Speddy, Pte. Clayton and Pte. Joel

Our last match was played in another most beautiful gymnasium; this time against the Danish champions "Club Sisu" in which team were four national players. Many spectators turned up to watch what on paper looked like the slaughter of 1st Middlesex. We lost 92-27. We did, however, play some very attractive basketball but there is no denying that we were outclassed.

We were entertained wonderfully in Danish barracks in Copenhagen and all members of the team enjoyed the trip, enjoyed the Danish hospitality and also learnt how we should play basketball next season.

HAMELN TO MOSCOW BY ROAD FOR MAY DAY 1961

Before I start there are two points to make clear.

Firstly, we went as tourists. There was no question of any military or official sponsorship of our trip. There are two ways you can visit Russia; either sponsored by the Government as an official visitor, or as a simple tourist. In neither case can you stay privately with friends nor in private accommodation. Thus I have nothing military to impart but it was of great interest to travel along the route which Napoleon and Hitler took and to cross rivers and frontiers which have always been only a name.

Secondly, these are quick personal impressions. We travelled just on 3,000 miles in 13 days, of which six days were spent in Moscow. We saw and did a tremendous amount so inevitably my comments and background are sketchy.

Planning

Major Shipster is full of bright ideas and last autumn in one of his "thinking" periods he first produced the

idea of visiting Moscow by road with the aim of seeing and staying with our Military Attaché there, Brigadier Burrows, of our Regiment. This idea soon caught on and five of us agreed to form a team prepared to make the effort to get there. Major Shipster acted as Secretary, Major Peckham, our Paymaster, as a well cast treasurer and Lt. Mallalieu was the German linguist who proved most useful until he ran out of language in Russia, Lt. Bulloch was our route finder and I provided the two-year-old Hillman Minx, as we felt we should make the trip in a British car.

We started off by applying officially to the War Office for permission to make the trip, at the same time writing to Intourist in London and the A.A. on insurance, routes, etc. Our first shock, and a sad one, was when Major Shipster, who had recently served in a N.A.T.O. appointment was blackballed by the War Office. This left the four who made the trip, Major Peckham taking over the job of secretary/treasurer.

We soon found that Intourist acts only as the internal agent within Russia and externally, for instance in England, they appoint accredited agents through whom one has to deal in making all arrangements for routes, accommodation, etc. It is impossible to obtain any visa until you have submitted an itinerary showing routes and where and when you are going to stay each night and have booked and paid cash down for accommodation. We were trying to do the trip as economically as possible and this committed us completely financially and on dates.

We held back our payments as late as possible in case we could not get away. As soon as we did pay up the agency got our visas from the Russian Embassy in London. There was a last minute crisis when the Poles insisted that they had not had our applications and photographs and were not prepared to issue visas without a fresh set. By telephoning and flying Lt. Mallalieu back to London at a few hours notice with a fresh set of forms and photos this was cleared up on the Saturday morning before our departure on Tuesday, April 25.

Second-class hotel accommodation, the cheapest, was £45 per head; £2 14s. od. a day in Poland, £4 a day in Russia. Car insurance we found was only dealt with by one firm in London with whom we insured against every contingency we could think of—the car breaking down and being shipped back to Hameln, ourselves being flown back, losses of kit, being put in hospital and even against the amount of money we had paid in advance in case the trip was cancelled at the last moment. Although this insurance seems heavy at £45 I consider it was well worth it. If anything had gone wrong it was obvious that one would have incurred considerable expenditure in extricating the car and ourselves from inside Russia.

Our carnets, visas and other documents cost some £20 and petrol for the trip £20. So our total expenditure was some £75 a head. This excludes what we spent personally, which was in fact remarkably little.

The visas we had in our possession before we started were Russian and Polish and we were told we obtained those for East Germany for payment in cash at the frontier post. We had intended to stay in East Berlin

for our first night but this had been turned down by Bonn as it would imply some recognition by us of the East German authorities. As we wished to take the shortest route we were permitted to use the ring autobahn round the south of Berlin to Frankfurt am Oder.

To get to Moscow and spend the maximum time there, we planned to take four days each way on the journey of 1,380 miles. Our first stop was at Poznan, in Poland, some 400 miles. The next at Warsaw, a short haul of 180 miles, the third at Minsk, 360 miles, and on the fourth day 440 miles to Moscow. This gave us six clear days in Moscow and we retraced our steps on the return journey. We had originally planned to return on a more southerly route through Czechoslovakia but this proved too complicated in the time available.

We had many alarms before achieving our aim of getting to Moscow and attending the May Day Parade. The M.A. had pointed out how difficult it was to get a ticket for the parade as entrance was strictly controlled and limited. Two days before we set off he sent us a signal saying he had broached the matter with Marshal Malinowski who had given him an undertaking that we would get tickets, if we got there and wore uniform. So we hurriedly packed our No. 1 dress on top of our suitcases and took our identity cards in addition to our passports.

East Germany

After an early start from Hameln we arrived at Helmstedt at 9 o'clock where a rather surprised military policeman found we would have nothing to do with him as we were not calling at Berlin. After some minutes at the East German office a Russian officer appeared. He inspected our Russian visas and with some interest checked the fact that we were Army officers. After this we paid five marks per head each way for our transit visas through East Germany. We were not allowed to go off the route and if we wanted a meal were only allowed to stop at an authorised resthouse. Two hours later saw us taking the ring autobahn round the south of Berlin, where we met the odd East German police check-point, and a further hour and a half found us at the end of the autobahn at Frankfurt on the River Oder. Looking across the river when opposite Frankfurt we could see the many new buildings that the East Germans had built in that town. The only point of interest on the perfectly normal autobahn beyond Berlin was the almost complete absence of traffic.

The third part of Germany, which one sees so often diagrammatically on red and black boards on the outskirts of towns and villages in West Germany—the Oder/Neisse territories—had previously meant little to me. Now our route lay through the central part of Pomerania, now Polish, with West Prussia to the north and Silesia to the south.

Poland

The country and villages for the first miles into these former German territories were desolate and derelict and little effort had been put into restoring them. In the villages the majority of the houses were empty, windows were missing and roofs had fallen in. Cemeteries were



Kustrin, on the River Oder. Main road and rail crossing point between Berlin and Danzig before the war

overgrown and you could see where farms had been by a splash of unkempt fruit trees and lilac hedges which had once surrounded a homestead. In the first towns where few shops appeared, their windows were heavily barred as though lawlessness was rife and even the cheapest, commonest goods were worth window breaking.

We picked out the clear demarcation of the border of the old Germany by stopping at a church and checking the names and script on the headstones. The old frontier ran across the sole small geographical feature that existed, a shallow, narrow wooded valley.

On the return trip we inadvertently took a different route through these territories and met the Oder some 30 miles north of our original crossing point at Frankfurt, at a place called Kustrin. This was the old main crossing point for the railway and road on the Oder between Berlin and Danzig. On the outskirts of what had once been a sizeable town was a citadel and moat. The remainder of the town was as it had been left by the Russians in 1945—devastated. The cobbled streets with their tramlines had been cleared of rubble and there were not more than six old buildings of any sort left standing. The only new buildings were one smallish power station and about six small blocks of flats where the present population live. There appeared to be no more than two or three hundred people and, as it was Sunday, they were mostly in a small square listening to loudspeakers blaring and interesting themselves in some stalls round the edge of it.

The place abounded in armed sentries, particularly on the river line. We motored south on a small road which ran along the east bank of the Oder and passed through some five or six small villages in a similar state.

The whole of this stretch of Western Poland, some 15 to 25 miles deep, was derelict territory and obviously had little or no priority on the Polish national resources.

As we drove eastwards conditions gradually improved but lorries were infrequent, buses a rarity and cars scarcely existed except in large towns. The country appeared to depend on railways and on horse transport which abounded. Hazards on the road were not from

motor traffic but from the innumerable farm carts, all with old motor-vehicle rubber-tyred wheels, and from cows, pigs and ducks which were used to treating the road as their highway. Where horses were ridden it was bare-backed stuff with a rope bridle. It was the nesting season for storks and we saw quite a number. Owners of small wooden thatched cottages encourage them to build by preparing a base for the nest by opening up the thatch at the end of the roof. The storks appear remarkably tame and we spent quite a bit of time photographing them, until it was decided that the object of our journey was to get to Moscow. But, being thirsty, we stopped at one of the towns for a glass of beer at the first kiosk we saw. It was not too bad, and at 3d. a glass we were prepared to drink freely.

Poznan is the second city of Poland and has a fine citadel, university buildings and square. It is also the second industrial city of Poland and there was still evidence of war damage and dilapidation. Banners were out for the riders in the peace international bicycle race, Warsaw-Prague-Berlin, who staged a night at Poznan.

We found our hotel, the "Bazar," and had a pleasant surprise. We each had our tourist coupon for £2 14s. for the night and, at the reception desk, were interested to see it changed into cash at the rate of 67 zlotys to the pound. From this was deducted the cost of our bed and the remainder was returned to us to be spent either at the hotel or in the town as we wished. On the way out our beds cost us 15s. but on our return journey a most capitalistic change had occurred. The hotel prices had increased by 50 per cent. because the Poznan Trade Fair, a major fair with the status of the Hannover Trade Fair, was to take place shortly.

Tourist second class provided each pair of us with a comfortable room with single beds, a telephone, democratic-type wireless set which one could tune in to the B.B.C., bathroom, clean linen, towels, soap and hot water.

This was true of all hotels we stayed in, both in Poland and Russia, and is one reason why tourists are confined to those hotels which provide the facilities they expect and give a good impression of the country concerned. The main difference between second and first class seemed to be the height at which one slept (we were normally on the fourth or fifth floor) and on the amount of cash or coupons left to pay for meals.

The roads in Poland are straight, well surfaced and narrow. The country is flat and largely agricultural with few features of any interest.

Warsaw came as a surprise to me. I knew it had been badly damaged but not to the extent that at the end of the war it was 90 per cent. destroyed and the population, which had been well over a million, reduced to 150,000. Many acres, particularly along the banks of the Varta river, were rubble which has still not been properly cleared but a new city is being built and the population is again over a million. The central building is the hideous Palace of Culture which was presented by a generous Soviet Union to the people of Warsaw at the latter's expense.

There is one delightful area of Warsaw, the old city square which is being restored in its former architecture and colour, together with part of the city walls and



Warsaw Centre. Palace of Culture presented by Soviet people, flanked by modern office block and burnt-out shell

ramparts. The cathedral has also been rebuilt with beautiful simplicity of design and colour, pieces recovered from the wreckage being incorporated in the new building. For instance, a lovely bronze bas relief of a former archbishop in his robes, rent and torn by shell fragments, has been plastered into one of its walls.

We were in Poland on a Sunday and got an impression of the strength of the Church. For miles along the road people were walking, in carts or on cycles going to, or coming from, mass and at regular intervals there were roadside crucifixes beautifully painted and decked with flowers and leaves.

Although it has a communist government, Poland gave the impression that here there was still an individual and independent people making the best of living the life they want to despite the regime. It was summed up by a liftman in a hotel in Warsaw who spoke a little English and had served in the British Forces during the war. When asked what life was like he replied, "Bad. But Poland's my country." There were bars and cafes and Poles, provided they were not an official, appeared to talk comparatively freely to a tourist. There did not appear to be the same restrictions on sticking to the route, although I understand some areas are prohibited. Women looked one straight in the eye and were reasonably dressed and attractive and their modern architecture, clothing and shops showed none of the signs of regimentation which one saw later in Russia.

Petrol in Poland was appalling unless one was lucky enough to run to earth some Super which was just about equivalent to our ordinary grade. Tourist petrol coupons were sold but gave no great reduction in cost and could only be obtained at the hotel and not at the frontier as the A.A. had told us. Pumps, as in Russia, were infrequent. They were anything from 30 to 50 miles apart and then might be shut or out of petrol. They were just a pump by the side of the road and there appeared to be no air, water or the simplest facilities for changing a wheel or tightening a nut, though no doubt repair facilities did exist in the major towns. A jerrican and a fairly close watch on re-filling were essential.

In the shops prices appeared fairly reasonable but the

quality of goods was not high. Certain shops had imported goods for sterling or dollars and in this communist controlled country were selling them at a vast profit. They included such items as a 2-oz. tin of Nescafe for 30s., a large bottle of Maxwell House coffee for £7, American cigarettes at 12s. a packet and indifferent white cotton shirts of U.K. manufacture at £11 each.

In Warsaw we stayed at the Grand Hotel which was good. One hazard which defeated us was finding the "Gents." Down the stairs were two identical doors, one marked "O" and one "V." As there was no traffic it was anyone's guess which was which and the first choice of a member of our party, the door marked "V," turned out to be the "Ladies." Incidentally, the equivalent of Intourist in Poland, the Government Agency, is called "Orbis" and a point we noted in the hotel in Warsaw was the excellent quality of the B.E.A. advertising.

Leaving Warsaw we crossed the Varta, big and fairly fast flowing, with many shoals and banks. It was then a fast drive to the Polish/Russian frontier and crossing the river Bug into Brest. Our main difficulties at frontier posts had not concerned the car documents which were rarely asked for but the filling in of forms in general, particularly those concerning money and the actual inspection of the cash. Once behind the Iron Curtain they did not seem to like each other's currency and you are not allowed to change it or to take it from one country to another. For instance we had to hand in our zlotys on leaving Poland against a signature before entering Russia and trust to picking them up on the way out—which we did.

Russia

On entering Russia the car had a real "going-over." A team of officials appeared and I was ordered to drive over a pit where the underneath was thoroughly inspected while I took the opportunity to have a good look myself. The bonnet was opened, the seats and pockets examined and the back seat taken out. Finally we got to the contents of the boot. The first suitcase was opened and on top were Lt. Mallalieu's blues and cap and the examination stopped abruptly with no more comment. One of the team was a girl who asked if we had any flowers, fruit or vegetables. We produced one apple which we were allowed to keep. The regulations on the importation of any goods which might be diseased are undoubtedly as strict as those for the U.K.

We then adjourned to a large office building where a doctor, insurance salesman and an Intourist agent joined the party. We had obviously interrupted a game of chess in a waiting room with a typically Victorian type of decor. The game still appeared to be in progress on our return. There was much filling in of forms which included such questions as how much hashish and opium we had. Finally the Intourist agent insisted on escorting us to Brest, some three miles away, where he could book us into his organisation.

At Brest we went into his office at the railway station which is the main crossing place for the West/East express trains. There, we exchanged our coupons from the agency in London for bed and meal vouchers for the

whole of our stay; we were given the names of our hotels and paid for our petrol coupons. Super, which was good, cost us the equivalent of 3s. 6d. a gallon. We also changed sterling cheques at the new heavy rate of 2.72 roubles to the pound, which gives the rouble a slight lead (on paper) over the dollar.

I was surprised at the touting done for insurance. They had a full-time agent who offered us comprehensive insurance on the car and its contents—15 days for \$16. This would represent a considerable saving, but if anything did go wrong I have a feeling that the snags and delays before any effective action was taken would be endless.

On crossing the border, where the formalities had taken two hours, our watches also went on two hours. As you are not supposed to be on the road after dark we were pressed for time, so that, although we left Warsaw at 8.30 a.m., we did not get to Minsk and find our hotel until just on 10 p.m.

Our "tail," whom we called "Fred," followed us faithfully from our arrival in Russia at Brest until our departure from there. On the main routes there would normally be one car, a wireless-equipped Volga, which changed about every 100 miles. There were usually two or three men in the car and those in the back seat quite often ducked down to keep out of sight if they were close to us. We could clearly establish the identity of "Fred" by choice of suitable ground on which to stop. On long, straight stretches with no exits we would slow down and he would slow down and stop some half to three-quarters of a mile behind. To check, and to let him know we knew he was there, we then stopped just over a crest and waited for him to come steadily on at normal cruising speed. As he crested the rise and saw us we could see a momentary hesitation and then the decision to drive on. As he passed we had a good look at him and he would go on down the road and turn off up the next track and get behind some building or cover. When we drove on again, with two watching left and two right, we could nearly always see the bonnet of the car projecting from behind his cover and he would then duly drive out and slot in behind once again. If we halted unduly long he would turn round and drive back again just to see what we were doing.

The road from Brest to Minsk was about three-lane width, well surfaced and fast. Once away from the major towns there were few private cars, a certain amount of heavy lorry traffic, all four-wheel drive, and a few buses. They were completing what looked like a large fuel pipe line up to the frontier supplied by their oil-producing areas far to the east. Soon this will be extended across Poland and thus provide cheap fuel delivered to Western Europe.

The road which was gently undulating and straight was bordered by some relatively poor agricultural land. Most of it was flanked by reeds, peat and small silver birch fir-type forest. The same held good most of the way to Moscow. There were few main road intersections or major bridges. Secondary roads, such as they were, were simply dirt tracks leading off to the thatched wooden villages one could see at intervals. Occasionally we passed a modern collective farm with a commemorative arch covering the track leading off to it. There are very

few main West/East axes and I realised how difficult these vast areas must be for any large-scale movement unless the ground is either frozen hard in winter or has dried out in the brief continental summer.

At every major road intersection there was a policeman on duty in a box with a telephone. As we went past he looked at his watch, doubled back into his box and rang to report our forward progress. They were also checking some of the ordinary traffic. At any bridge of any significance there was a sentry box at each end in one of which was a militia-type soldier.

We arrived at Minsk after dark and found that headlights are not permitted in towns where there is street lighting, even though the lighting was often inadequate by our standards. The Hotel Minsk provided much the same facilities as those in Poland, but of a lower standard. From our tourist coupon of £4 per head per day we found that £2 8s. was docked for our bed and the remaining four roubles (£1 12s.) was represented by three perforated meal tickets each of a specified value. There was no question of getting cash for them, and they could only be used in Intourist hotels for food and drink. Anything else had to be purchased by cashing travellers' cheques.

Minsk is a large industrial town and the hotel represented the summit of night life and entertainment in the area. We had a late and indifferent meal in a crowded room with a noisy dance band. At the next table there was a garrulous and friendly Russian who joined our party, swapped cigarettes and chatted for some minutes until he was quietly removed. For the rest of our meal the next-door table was occupied in silence, first by a Russian Lieutenant and then by a Captain.

Meals are interminable, the service poor and the food uninteresting. About midnight we went out for a breath of fresh air and in the distance down the main street heard the sound of a band. After a brisk 20-minute walk we came to the main square where there was a massed army band some 250-strong playing for what was obviously a May Day rehearsal. There were two main groups being practised until 1.30 a.m. One group was of young women who were going remarkably well, and of which the right-hand files were obviously the most dedicated types. The other group was of young men whose spirit and dedication, admittedly at a late hour of the night, did not match up to that of the women.

Our route from Minsk to Moscow skirted the northern edge of the Pripyet Marshes. One of the snags is that it is impossible to get a normal map in Russia. We asked two or three times for a road map or for a street plan of Moscow and the only sheets of paper available are those issued by Intourist. They showed the road on which you are allowed to travel and only give the names of the main towns where there are petrol pumps and were not to scale. Thus it was impossible to place oneself accurately or read the country. As we were on the main tourist route from the West there were sculptured figures of men and women at intervals of standard designs with either a wheat sheaf or a hammer and sickle in their hands. Some 60 miles short of Moscow we passed a coloured mosaic memorial with the date 1812 and we decided that this must commemorate and be the site of the Battle of Borodino.

In Moscow we went straight to our host's flat. He had arranged for Lt. Mallalieu and Lt. Bulloch to stay at our official Intourist hotel, the "Metropol," which was old and quite comfortable. It had the merit of being central, as opposed to the others which are big, modern and some way out. Major Peckham and myself, whilst officially staying at the hotel, in fact, lived at his flat. He had a dear old soul as his cook and we were extremely well looked after throughout. He had achieved the impossible and got us tickets for the May Day Parade and the ballet, and spent much of his time taking us round. This gave us quick entry to many places we would either have not found or would have spent hours searching for.

Moscow

Moscow is undergoing a vast rebuilding programme. Its streets are enormously wide with centre lanes reserved for Kremlin traffic. Huge blocks of standard soapbox construction and colour are being built as offices, flats and factories. The present programme is geared to be ready for the World Exhibition which is being held there in 1967.

The dominant feature of the Moscow skyline is nine "wedding cake" type structures 30 to 50 stories high of the Stalin era. There is little merit in the new buildings and the Russians are going in for quantity rather than quality. They are becoming seriously perturbed about the quality of the new buildings many of which have already proved to be defective.

The heart of the city, the Kremlin, flanked by enormous Red and Revolution Squares, the Bolshoi Theatre and the old Czarist Riding School, was where my interest lay. The Kremlin is beautifully maintained and has the most lovely colouring in its bricks, paintwork and gilding. The high reddish brick wall with its towers encloses some 45 acres of palaces, churches and offices.

We visited the Kremlin Armoury, now a museum, where they have the pick of the objets d'art that have been saved from Czarist times. There was a good collection of armour, old firearms and religious ikons and vestments. There were quite a few relics of Ivan the Terrible, on whom they seem to concentrate. There were many conducted parties of Russians going round and it was noticeable that in the hands of the official guides they skipped the religious section. We spent some time in it and incurred obvious displeasure by the interest we showed. In every room here, as in all their museums and public buildings, there was a warder in the shape of an old woman. The churches in the Kremlin are visited by parties who treat them as a museum to inspect the structure and much of the original splendour that remain. We visited the Lenin Museum where there was an entrance fee and few visitors. It was not of the same standard but had some interesting prints and relics of the Crimean period.

On Sunday morning we made a well worthwhile steamer trip on the Moscova river. It runs below the Lenin Hills, on which were the houses of the members of the Soviet Praesidium, and on past the Kremlin walls. We passed the British Embassy which is a fine old building facing the Kremlin across the river. The

Embassy was built by a wealthy sugar baron who also built on the opposite side of the river, as a home for his mistress, the comfortable house in which we were staying. This house and the Embassy are the only ones with gardens; the remainder of the 150 strong staff are living in flats. It is not an easy life for families.

At the foot of the Kremlin walls in Red Square is the grave of those who died storming the walls. Alongside is the ugly, squat, rectangular, polished red granite mausoleum of Lenin and Stalin, the "Gruesome Two-some" as they are irreverently known by some. In the bitterest weather there is a long line of people moving slowly to pay their homage and there can be no doubt of the sincerity of their feelings. We went near closing time. There were two guards at the door and just inside a Captain, Major and Lieutenant-Colonel of the N.V.D. We turned down some steps and went about a floor underground and then slightly up into a large dimly lit room. In the centre on plinths were two fluorescent-lit sarcophagi with four armed guards standing facing inwards. Lenin looked exactly like every picture of him whilst Stalin had a whimsical grin on his face.

No halts or pauses were allowed as one went past and there was no doubt about the look of reverence on the faces of the Russian people filing past.

The highest honour that can be paid in the Soviet Union after death, and which is sparingly accorded, is for the recipient to be cremated and for his ashes and a plaque to be placed in a niche in the Kremlin wall facing Red Square. There are only some 20 plaques and I was surprised to see one to "Arthur McManus 1889-1927." Capt. Tony McManus, who is with the Battalion, admits to a black sheep or two but none so red in his family tree which he is checking.

In preparation for May Day, Moscow was a city of banners of every description. Lenin was omnipresent, often in company with Marx and Engels. Stalin has been almost completely removed except in such places as a metro station where a large mosaic portrait has been built into an end wall. The cult of the personality was certainly out, although there was on Revolution Square one large banner of Krushchev, and Gagarin, of course, figured frequently with a space hero's welcome.

To go more than 25 miles out of Moscow you have to apply 48 hours in advance, giving routes, timings, etc. The one trip we did make was to Zgorsk, some 55 miles north. This is a famous monastery dedicated to St. Servatius and is a well-known place of pilgrimage. The monastery consists of seven churches with 100 monks and 250 novices at present under training. One side of the monastery area has been appropriated by the Soviet authorities as an exhibition of culture and the two co-exist side by side. Pilgrims come from all over Russia to visit this shrine and we saw many peasant women with their bundles in each of which there was a small milk can or a bottle or two. The smallest chapel was built over a well and the holy water was pumped up and emerged from the arm of a black marble cross on the altar as from a tap. The women reverently drank and bottled this water and I saw some remove their shawls and pour it over their heads. There were services going on in the

various chapels and, although the majority of those present were old peasant women, there were men in their thirties or forties, well dressed and devout. Although the Party states that religion is "the opium of the people," it is clearly not stamped out. Undoubtedly the Communists are letting religion exist for their own purpose, possibly until the older generation disappear but it is curious that they have not snuffed it right out.

An Intourist guide, an intelligent woman whom we had every reason to believe, and who was willing to discuss the subject, said that most families liked to have their children baptised; none were married in a religious service, and many have a Christian burial. It did not seem logical to me, but she was insistent on these facts. A century ago the position was much the same when the fees charged by the Orthodox Church for a religious marriage ceremony were prohibitive.

Their prophet is Lenin. Russians do not refer to Lenin as one who is dead but use the phrase "Lenin is with us." The new religion of Communism has many of the trappings and dogma of a doctrinaire creed. The main problem is that what Communism as a religion is unable to explain is death. They have magnificent state funerals, bodies are embalmed and ashes interred in the Kremlin walls; "Lenin is with us"; and yet there is no future life. As their youth grows old the thoughts of many must turn to this problem.

We decided to explore the suburbs and backstreets of Moscow by car and managed to get thoroughly lost amongst ancient railway sidings, cul-de-sacs and roads under repair. Our "tail" was undoubtedly anxious about our behaviour and kept closed right up until we eventually retraced our steps to the modern streets. In the last day or two we split up much more and were followed by two cars. As we quite often got tied up in the system of signing and one-way streets we could always identify "Fred" following the same manoeuvres; even if we had contravened the traffic circuit he would do the same.

We visited some shops, including GUM, a mammoth, Selfridge-type store, and an Ideal Home-type exhibition. Prices were high and goods were shoddy and badly finished by our standards. Except in narrow and specialised fields they are years behind the Western world in design and quality of production. But however critical one may be, it is important to remember that they have "never had it so good." As far as they are concerned, consumer goods are appearing in the shops which they could never buy before. Prices force not only the father but also the mother to work if they wish to be able to buy these goods. But rents are low and it is dangerous to generalise in an economy where normal costing and the laws of supply and demand do not really operate.

After a period of lax morals, divorce is almost out and strict Victorianism is the present form. It is also a good example of a "classed" society. Privileges, such as being allowed to buy a house, country cottage or car, are given only to those who have power as officials or who are among the elite of industrial or cultural workers. I was surprised by the colour question which is a considerable problem. They are now putting coloured students in their own hostels and are talking of building separate universities for them. There are indications

that the most effective way for the majority of students, and not only coloured ones, to see the light, is a stay of some months in the country. Then they really begin to see the difference between the theory and practice of the system.

May Day

May Day dawned fine and cold and our host escorted us through the five outer cordons of policemen and two inner cordons of N.V.D. troops to reach our stand in Red Square facing the Kremlin walls. There is no question of the general public gaining admittance or of the place being thronged with spectators. Admission was by ticket only and for a relatively privileged few. The great privilege was to be part of the parade itself.

At 10 a.m. sharp, the President, Mr. Krushchev, and members of the Praesidium took their places on the saluting dais on a balcony of the mausoleum.

The parade had three distinct phases—military, organised labour and the workers—in that order. The whole thing was non-stop, beautifully controlled and organised, and aided by the width of the streets and squares available.

The military phase started with Marshal Malanowski inspecting the troops in their solid blocks from a car, stopping to address each group with a few well-chosen words and getting an answering chorus of "hurrahs" in return. He then delivered his official address to the armed forces of the nation and the march past commenced. Blocks on foot were from the various war colleges, each headed by its own commandant, selected N.V.D. units and representatives of the various fighting arms. Then followed a wheeled section, largely of airborne troops and equipment, looking very efficient with their light-tracked carriers, guns and amphibious vehicles. The next section was a selection of rockets mounted on wheels or tracks ranging from the smallest ground-to-ground, ground-to-air, air-to-air to at least three varieties of really big ones. The last vehicles were two enormous guns and two still-larger mortars on tracked chassis. They looked most impressive but have probably little practical military application.

Throughout this, and the subsequent phases, a massed military band, 1,000 strong, complete with jingling johnnies, played away resolutely.

The second phase of the May Day Parade was that of organised youth and labour. For a further hour and a half the land workers' guilds, workers' unions, physical culture representatives, etc., marched and drove through with their tableaux and banners. There was plenty of colour with floats which pictured not only life and work in the various parts of the Soviet Union but also topical items such as a bus well dressed up as Gagarin's rocket, the "Vostok." This stopped opposite the dais and out jumped children dressed in space suits carrying bunches of flowers for Krushchev. The emphasis was on space and there were many models of rockets. One hydrogen-filled balloon of the shape of a rocket was let loose amid fresh cheers together with many balloons, streamers and banners. At another point several hundred youths with doves in their hands let them loose at the appropriate moment. There were also hideous floats depicting the African races breaking the shackles of colonialism and "ban the bomb." Finally, there drove across the square



March past of part of procession of organised labour. Kremlin walls offices in background. Saluting dais on the Mausoleum of Lenin and Stalin on right



Floats at the end of the wheeled march past of organised labour depicting the African peoples obtaining their freedom by breaking their manacles and chains of colonialism

in line a string of lorries carrying letters announcing not "Communism will win," as in previous years, but stating "Communism is winning."

The third and last phase, the march past of the workers, was as impressive as any. The first mass to advance was an astonishing sight. It was a solid wall of people which surged across the square topped by a cloud of blood-red banners and I could sense the spirit of the original revolutionaries.

These were followed through most of the afternoon by steadily moving streams of people grouped by their factories, city guilds, or residential blocks, some with tableaux and nearly all carrying flowers or banners. The overall impression was of a disciplined people with force and driving power behind them. Anyone who does not conform is uncultured or a parasite; both expressions being abuse of the worst kind.

On May Day evening and on the following day, which was a public holiday, we walked across Revolution Square in the early evening. It was packed with people enjoying themselves watching folk dancing and music on a stage erected at one end. We came back again at



Civilian procession dispersing on leaving Red Square. In background, behind St. Basil's Cathedral and Kremlin walls

11.45 expecting to see great crowds still enjoying themselves but there was not a soul in sight. Enquiry elicited the statement: "Oh yes. Last year the people were allowed to be in public places until midnight. This year 11 o'clock is the official hour."

We never saw any form of misbehaviour let alone noise and laughter. Undoubtedly there is drunkenness if they can get hold of the stuff, but the penalties are severe. There were a few prime specimens of teddy boys and the odd tout outside the Intourist hotels who did not persist after the first refusal.

Our visit was rounded off by two visits to the Bolshoi, which is all one ever dreamed of. We saw "Swan Lake" with a new prima ballerina, Plisetskaya, who was quite magnificent, and, on May Day evening, "The Flames of Paris," which was real good revolutionary stuff. It is a magnificent theatre, and when a horse or a fire is called for, a horse or a fire really appears and there is no question of improvisation.

Conclusion

This is a trip I would strongly encourage anyone to undertake, preferably by road so as to get their own impressions of the country, its vast distances and people with a completely different way of life. With few real geographical barriers I now understand better the Russian historical dependence on distance to absorb the heaviest blows. Apart from any ideological aspect the displacement of Poland westward by 120 miles and a further screen of 150 miles provided by Eastern Germany increases their military security if they fear any form of attack from the West, however imaginary we may think it to be. As long as they think there is any threat to their national security from this direction I do not believe they will relinquish effective control of these areas however much they may loosen their grip, either internally or on their satellite countries.

As a holiday, in the sense of enjoying scenery, comfort, food and things of beauty, there was nothing, apart from parts of Warsaw and the Bolshoi. But to see a people whose way of life and creed dominate half the world and with whom the West must learn to co-exist to survive is a journey well worth undertaking.—I.H.B.

5th Battalion (T.A.) Notes



Colours of the 7th, 8th and 9th Battalions marching on parade, at Stanford P.T.A.

Those who had the opportunity of attending the cocktail party on May 17 to mark the opening at Edgware both of the R.H.Q. and the 5th Battalion will have witnessed the resplendent surroundings of our new headquarters. There is no doubt that the cocktail party itself was an immense success, and although the spirit measure recorded a "new low" level, the high state of affability and the congenial atmosphere served good purpose in placing us squarely on the map. The programme of events was indeed well planned. May 16 was of course Albuhera Day, the 17th was the cocktail party and on the 18th the Mobile Blood Transfusion Centre arrived to draw off several pints of highly inflammable plasma from the permanent staff.

The 5th Battalion security instructions were read and re-read on the return of the C.O. from his business trip to the Moscow trade fair. In fact there were some at annual camp who firmly believed that he had been recalled to the Kremlin for a refresher course in methods of instruction, when they heard his opening words, "My aim, comrades, is to work you hard..." Sore feet, heavy eyes, weary legs, but sky high spirits confirmed that the Moscow trip had been well worthwhile. There were the hand-outs too, of course, wads of "Black Russian," "Balkan Sobranie" and "Lenin's notes for the guidance of other ranks on Socialist revolutions."

On May 27, less than two months after the Battalion was formed, car loads trickled into East Wretham camp. On June 3, the Battalion formed up behind three colour

parties with six standards gleaming in the sun. On June 10, at the crack of dawn one solid efficient body of troops paraded for the last time at camp before returning to the solitude of Civvy Street. Camp had been a great success and the machinery had been "well oiled"! What happened behind the steel doors of East Wretham Camp is recorded elsewhere by individual companies.

We were honoured at camp by the visit of several dignitaries. The Secretary of State for War, The Rt. Hon. John Profumo, M.P., saw the Battalion in the field, and was accompanied by Major-General C. M. F. Deakin, Director of T.A. The G.O.C. Eastern Command General Sir Gerald Lathbury, and Major-General I. H. Freeland, 54 Div. Commander, also paid us a visit. The Officers' Mess entertained the Brigade to cocktails on the first Monday of camp, and on the Friday received a welcome visit from Brigadier Flavell the chairman, and Col. Clayton the secretary of the Territorial Auxiliary Forces Association.

An interesting pastime at camp was guessing where Sgt. "Whipper" (a hard man) Sills would turn up next. He was to be seen at the start of camp with his band of Pioneers painting and erecting Battalion signs, followed this by clearing the Battalion area of rubbish and ensuring that all wash houses were clean and serviceable, took to heaving coal to keep the boilers going, erected a drying room, appeared in the Officers' Mess to assist the Mess Sergeant, and ended up behind the bass drum in the band!



The Secretary of State, Rt. Hon. John Profumo, M.P., tries the 3.5 rocket launcher for size

Training since camp has been directed towards the Middlesex T. and A.F.A. tough training competition. This was inaugurated two years ago and was won on both previous occasions by "B" Company of the 8th Battalion. This year's competition will be stiffer than before with several visiting units from outside the County taking part.

At the time of writing the Battalion team is representing the Division at the Nijmegen Marches in Holland. The team consists of: Capt. S. le M. Enthoven; Lt. J. M. Robertson; Cpls. R. C. Tomkins and D. Foord; L/Cpl. A. Robinson; Ptes. G. H. Biggs, H. E. Bowers, D. Dickens, A. Hearne, R. A. Ratchford and M. Roberts; with Capt. Pouch and Sgt. Burt as bicycle orderlies.

A great many man hours of solid marching have been devoured in preparation for these marches and training has been well organised by Capt. Couch and Lt. Robinson.

The Band and Drums have had a very full engagement book including performances at local fetes and carnivals at Hornsey and Twickenham, at the British Legion Parade at Chiswick and the T.A. boxing championships. An interesting assignment was at the ceremony of the Dedication of the Standard of the National Federation of Veterans of King Albert 1st of Belgium at Victoria Embankment on June 18. We are in the happy position of having a band which is actually overstrength!

Recruiting is now the highest priority as with the Regular Battalion. There is a very strong nucleus of officers, N.C.O.s and men, but an all-out effort is being made to lift our strength from 450 to the 600 mark.

Capt. Fred Griffiths has now left us for Ghana and his place as Q.M. has been taken by Sam Weller from the Depot. We regret that Capts. Lanyon, Lobb and Lt. Powell have found business too pressing and thank them for their services to the T.A.

SERGEANTS' MESS

"Was you at Thetford in 61." That is the question that will be asked in the Mess over future glasses of beer. We're sure, because this was one of those grand camps.

The Mess did well at work and play, helping to mould the Battalion together in drill and training, and enjoying a good party in the evening.

We invited the officers and Corporals to the Mess on separate nights, and most enjoyable evenings they were too, "Henry," as usual pounding the keys to all the "good old songs." Listening to the gusto with which they were sung, how is it they are not in the top twenty?—with modified words, of course!

The Mess was stretched to the limit on the middle Saturday, Drum Head Service, when we were very honoured to provide three escorts for the three sets of Colours on parade. We had only about five hours warning so there wasn't time for anything to go wrong.

This parade lasted four hours and the Mess visit to the Officers' Mess afterwards was more than welcome.

We were very sorry to lose our P.M.C.—C.S.M. Ron Vaisey—after a few days at camp, to B.M.H. Colchester, but we are glad to say that he is now out of hospital and, we hope, will be back amongst the maze of "H.Q." Company soon.

A hearty welcome to C/Sgt. Vasey, Sgts. Young and Elliott on their promotions.

Recent visitors to Edgware have included Lt. (ex-R.S.M.) Wild, Les Shrubbs, Bert Callaghan and George Markham.

The Mess is open on Saturday evenings and Sunday lunchtime, and all serving and past Sergeants' Mess members are very welcome with their wives.

In closing may we offer our good wishes to the Colonel of the Regiment on his new post in the Far East.

"A" COMPANY

This, the first camp of the new Battalion, was approached by "A" Company with the realisation that at last the opportunity had come to know ourselves, to discover precisely how we would work together as a Company in the field and in camp. The answer satisfied us all, and it was good to hear our P.S.I. say at the end of camp: "Yes, we've got the makings of a good Company here," for this was the voice of an experienced infantryman!

Not only did we find out more about ourselves, but during the second week we began to discover something about the other companies who, at the beginning of camp, were almost complete strangers, but who, after two weeks, were certainly recognisable as fellow "Die-Hards." It was particularly interesting to see how well Cpl. Birmingham and his Assault Pioneers from "H.Q." Company fitted in with us when they were attached as a rifle section on the Brigade exercise, especially as they had so recently been anti-aircraft gunners with the 9th Battalion.

"A" Company divided into two simple sub-units for training at camp—Rifle Platoon and Support Platoon—and platoon training on this basis was undertaken during the whole of the first week. The Stanford training area was certainly large enough to accommodate us, however widely we deployed, and our activity could be described briefly as very hard work and very good fun. One day our whole programme was disrupted when we set fire to the 2-inch-mortar range in dry weather. The fire blazed quite threateningly until the arrival of the Norfolk Fire Brigade.

Towards the end of the week Lt. Van de Pol took Support Platoon on a long drive to Fingringhoe Ranges in Essex where they fired 2-inch and 3-inch mortars. At the same time, Company Headquarters and the Rifle Platoon went out on a two-day scheme which concluded with a visit from the Secretary of State for War, Mr. Profumo, who seemed to enjoy being photographed tasting our piping-hot soup with its cook, L/Cpl. Ford.

The second week of camp was occupied entirely with the Battalion and Brigade exercises. The general pace of such schemes is, of course, slower for the ordinary rifleman than when he is engaged on section training, but there was still plenty to do and, on the last day, quite enough practice at lying still in long, wet grass. At one stage on the Brigade exercise we shared our Company position with a patrol of the London Irish Rifles, who showed great vigour in helping us to defend it against a battalion attack by the enemy.

At a Battalion parade on the middle Saturday of camp, "A" Company was proud to see W.O.2 J. Moysie

presented by the Commanding Officer with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. We offer him our heartiest congratulations.

P.J.O.

"B" COMPANY

Camp was the first real opportunity for the new Company to train as a single entity. Unfortunately, Major Davies was unable to attend camp due to urgent business commitments, but we were pleased to see him at the middle weekend.

The Company was, therefore, commanded by Capt. H. E. Couch, who, in terms of the training directive, made us all work very hard indeed.

The first week was occupied by training in the field. We brushed up our weapon training, practising section and platoon battle drills, and patrolling. On the first Friday we were visited on the 3.5 R/L Range by the Secretary of State for War, the Rt. Hon. John Profumo, M.P., who displayed great interest in our activities, actually going on to the firing point. He was photographed aiming the weapon.

The morale of the Company mounted during the first week as our confidence and proficiency increased. Weekend leave in the hot sun rounded off the first phase of camp, and we were refreshed and ready for the Battalion and Brigade exercises which were to occupy most of the second week.

During the 36 hours of the Battalion exercise we practised all phases of conventional warfare and, although very tired at the end, the Company was well satisfied with its progress.

The following day brought the Brigade exercise which gave a very realistic picture of what war really is like. A certain amount of confusion ensued early on in the exercise, but in the later phases a more realistic pattern was imposed by the umpires which, although "B" Company was caused some inconvenience, made the whole event rather more interesting.

The highlights of the exercise, for us, were the spectacular dash to "The Bridge" in Champs and "1 tonners," the fighting patrol which found the enemy's position during the night, the march back to "The Bridge" when we accomplished a mile and a half in less than 20 minutes to take over the defence from "D" Company, the "blowing" of "The Bridge" by Capt. H. E. Couch, Lt. R. G. Tett and Sgt. Gainsbury—all of whom had been longing to blow up something for days, and the devastating ambush set up by the London Rifle Brigade, in the course of which they successfully wiped out one of their own companies—and one of ours, I hasten to add.

On Thursday evening, we "requisitioned" a public house in Thetford and enjoyed a splendid evening when the Company displayed their versatility in song and speedy drinking of beer. The Privates' team beat all-comers at darts, due mainly, we suspect, to long hours of pre-match practice.

On this pleasant tenor, camp drew to a close and we returned home on Saturday, June 10.

We look forward to the tough training competition,

when we intend to emulate the feat of "B" Company of the 8th Battalion by winning.

In conclusion, we send greetings to ex-members of the Company now serving with the 1st Battalion and hope to see them on their return to the United Kingdom.

"C" COMPANY

This past quarter, as with the rest of the Battalion, the outstanding item has been the annual camp. This was held at East Wretham, Stanford P.T.A. and despite an unusually cold first week, we made good use of and enjoyed our visit. Stanford is perhaps one of the best training areas in the country, offering good "ground" variety, with the added attraction of villages, farms and cottages, which greatly help to add a realistic flavour to exercises.

The main theme was basic infantry training with a tough and very full programme. This proved to be very necessary but soon two sound sections were functioning under Cpl. Hill and Cpl. Warren with Lt. Young as Platoon Commander. (Incidentally, we are very sorry to say goodbye to Cpl. Warren who has moved to Broadstairs with his firm.) Two good night patrols escorted the Training Officer and the M.T.O. on rather circuitous but eminently successful routes to an objective very well defended by "A" Company.

Our visitors during training included the Secretary of State for War and Brigadier Flavell, Chairman of the Middlesex T.A. Association.

The Battalion and Brigade Exercises provided plenty of action, despite the usual "pauses" and also our first real rain. "C" Company distinguished themselves by their thorough digging in and good discipline—fearlessly fording a deep stream! Pte Yates snatched from his foxhole by an enemy night fighting patrol was an exemplary prisoner and well slaked his thirst on the Q.R.R.s liberal hospitality.

The Company party was held at a pub in Harling and a happy but orderly party shared "H.Q." Company's coach home.

In a very exciting football match the Company lost narrowly to the Corps of Drums. The Colour-Sergeant demonstrated his skill at tackling and we hope the Adjutant has now fully recovered.

Prior to camp Capt. Skinner arranged a weekend training at Goldings near Hertford. We were delighted with this pleasant new area (which included a swimming pool!) and hope we shall be invited again.

Lt.-Col. A. J. Ross, the High Sheriff of Middlesex, has just been appointed as a Deputy Lieutenant at Enfield. We were pleased to welcome him and the Chairman of Potters Bar Council to a Company social one Thursday.

Our Mortar Platoon has started training at Enfield. Lt. Hunt is capably supervising and this "new" weapon is providing great interest.

We have a Company outing to Clacton on August 27 and on September 30, a Company dance. We hope we shall receive some support from other companies for this latter and that it will be a success comparable to those well organised by Capt. Beaumont.

Lastly we are pleased to report that our recruiting is improving and we hope it will continue to do so.

"D" COMPANY

By dint of much practice in co-ordination we managed to win the 1961 Battalion rifle meeting. This was due more to good team work than to good shooting, as the standard of shooting throughout the Battalion was not high at such an early stage in the season.

The Company has now settled down to its infantry role and we are indeed fortunate in the quality of the young but experienced N.C.O.s we now possess. To lighten even this high quality we considered ourselves especially lucky to acquire the services of our old P.S.I., C.S.M. Jack Vaisey, who has gallantly returned to us as Colour-Sergeant. A welcome too, to the following recruits who have joined us recently: Ptes. Benham, Coultas, Edwards, Huddle, Jones, Lee, Searle and Steele.

And so to camp and a diary of events.

Monday, May 29. Having recovered from the rigours of an R.S.M. drill parade, we marched out to the training area where we passed the time pleasantly with weapon training and fire control. We also marched back and on the return journey it became obvious to the Rifle Platoons that the Support Platoon were not accustomed to this form of exercise!

Tuesday, May 30. Having fired our Energa's, we advanced to Tommys Belt where we dug ourselves in, in a defensive position. This position we occupied for the whole of Tuesday night and carried out patrol activity. One nuisance patrol visited "H.Q." Company's location and disturbed its slumbers for two hours.

Wednesday, May 31. With the recruits and trained soldiers carrying out complicated manoeuvres in section tactics, the N.C.O.s were absorbing the mystique of 5 Mx. Battle Procedure.

Thursday, June 1. To the 36 grenade range and the place where Cpl. Garrett earned his nickname "Dropsy," and where Capt. Hogg was glad he had missed his breakfast cereal. In the afternoons we did in earnest all the things we had practised in our Section and Platoon tactics. But what a lot we've got to learn!

Friday, June 2. The Support Platoon in company with other Support Platoons motored all the way to Colchester to fire the 3-in. mortar. Until this time we were under the impression that Stanford P.T.A. afforded suitable ranges! The rest of the Company under the direction of Cpl. Mick Taylor carried out a tank stalk competition. This was won by L/Cpl. Smyth and Pte. Jones and earned drinks all round for No. 10 Platoon.

Sunday, June 4. The beach at Cromer and Yarmouth called us.

From Monday to Thursday of the second week we joined with the rest of the Battalion in higher formation exercises and although we were delighted to fight our friends the Greenjackets, it was the unanimous opinion of us all that the first week was the week. We hope that a precedent has been set for future years.

"H.Q." COMPANY

It is with regret that the passing of the first annual camp with 5th Middlesex has to be recorded—this year spent in and around the Stanford P.T.A. The amalgamation of the old T.A. Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment meant that "H.Q." Company was composed mostly of ex-Gunners, to whom infantry work appeared



The Corps of Drums beating Retreat at East Harling, Norfolk

a somewhat mysterious art—even the Company Commander insisted on referring to “Bombardiers,” “Batteries” and “Gunners.” Despite these past associations, by the end of camp every member of the Company was behaving as a true infantryman.

It was obvious from the first few days that, despite the hotel-like accommodation of the hospital site at East Wretham, camp this year was not to be embarked upon lightly, and those who had thought that this would be a fortnight’s holiday in the pleasant Norfolk countryside were in for a rude awakening. Individual platoons took full advantage of the excellent facilities of the P.T.A. during the first week, and their diverse training included such activities as demolition work, M.M.G. firing, signals exercises and grenade throwing to mention but a few. A Battalion H.Q. exercise was held during Tuesday and Wednesday of the first week, and many were the lessons learned, especially during the night which must have been one of the coldest of the year. Fighting patrols were sent out, and several skirmishes developed between ourselves and “D” Company which helped to warm up the otherwise frozen surroundings. The M.T. came into their own during the exercise and the drivers are to be complimented on the excellent way they handled their vehicles, not only by day but by night as well.

During the first week C.S.M. Vaisey fell ill and was taken to Colchester Hospital. This was a great loss to the Company, as the C.S.M. had been one of its keenest members and to a great extent handled much of the administrative work. We were lucky, however, in having our P.S.I., Sgt. Willis, who quickly filled the gap and carried out the duties of C.S.M. most admirably

throughout the remainder of camp. We all wish C.S.M. Vaisey a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him back on duty at Edgware in the very near future.

After a well-earned rest at the weekend, the second week started with a vengeance with a Battalion scheme that had the whole unit working together for the first time. The Company worked well during this exercise, and, although some sleep was lost, those of us new to infantry work had our first real taste of what life would be like in a non-nuclear war. This was followed by a Brigade exercise to round off a full and busy camp. It was during these exercises that individual platoons had the opportunity to function in their war-time roles, and they very quickly settled down to their tasks and put into practice the lessons learned earlier in camp. These exercises were often very thirsty work, and occasional visits to the well-equipped R.A.P. were rewarded by tea served by the maitre d’hotel himself, Major Winstanley.

Despite the apparent sleepiness of one signals officer (caught by the C.O.’s candid camera), this platoon functioned well and by the end of the fortnight had developed into an efficient section. Sgt. Moore and his cooks worked wonders during the fortnight, and many were the praises sung of the excellent food prepared both in the cookhouses and in the field. The Recce Platoon, under the command of Lt. Herriot, concentrated mainly on their M.M.G. role for the fortnight’s training, and a visit to Fingringhoe Ranges for live firing was enjoyed by the whole platoon. November the fifth was re-lived when the Assault Pioneers had their first taste of explosives at camp, and at one time a section of the P.T.A. echoed and re-echoed with a great cacophony of



Assault Pioneers receiving instruction from W.O.2 Duff

sound, as the platoon practised demolition work to great effect. Of all the lessons learned, this year, there is no doubt that the one most firmly planted in the minds of most of the company is that of “digging in” and the time it takes to dig a fire trench surprised even the oldest soldier.

No report on the activities of “H.Q.” Company would be complete without especial reference to the Corps of Drums. This year they were in fine form under the leadership of Drum Major Holdford, and among their many engagements the one that stands out as being the highlight of camp was their Beating Retreat in the neighbouring village of East Harling. The local population turned out in force to witness a most polished display, and loud was the applause as the Drum Major hurled his mace among the roof tops.

Camp ended for the Company with a somewhat riotous party being held at East Harling, during which the Carnegie brothers entertained us in true West Indian style on the drums, with Sgt. Sills looking on with satisfaction as his protégé performed to the delight of all. The Company must now look to the future, and much needs to be accomplished in the coming year so that annual camp 1962 can be even more of a success than that of 1961.

THE HONG KONG REGIMENT

(The Volunteers)

On May 30, a new page of Regimental history was written when His Excellency The Governor and Honorary Commandant General was the principal guest at a dinner held by the combined Officers and Sergeants’

Messes to celebrate Foundation Day. In an address after dinner His Excellency was pleased to announce that he had approved the additional title of the “Volunteers” to be added in parenthesis after the title The Hong Kong Regiment.

The announcement of the new title was most enthusiastically received and the timing was particularly appropriate, coinciding as it did, with the end of compulsory service.

Despite heavy rain the Government House Guard led by the new enlarged Corps of Drums was able to march into Government House where His Excellency was able to carry out his inspection in a lull between showers. The guard was dressed in No. 3 Dress for the first time.

Our contingent of “Diehards,” strengthened by the arrival of Major Jeffcoat, celebrated Albuhera Day by attending the service at the Cathedral on the nearest Sunday, visiting Sai Wan and Stanley in the afternoon and dining in the Officers’ Mess on May 16. Col. Dowbiggin, Col. Botelho and Major Lane were all once again present after their absence on leave in 1960.

The appointment of Col. H. A. de Barros Botelho, M.B.E., E.D., as Honorary Colonel of the Regiment was a most popular choice and one which will be applauded by those members of the Middlesex Regiment who have served in Hong Kong or met Bots at Regimental parties in London. Once again the ties between the two Regiments have been strengthened.

The Regimental water polo team won the Colony League for the fifth successive year after a most exciting game against our nearest rivals South China. Of the original team which won for the first time in 1957 five veterans still remain and under the new rules are able to put their experience to account in the crucial final quarter.

Training has continued steadily with the Recce Squadrons preparing for the Regular Army exercises by carrying out one weekend exercise each month. No. 3 Company has assumed the burden of ceremonial by providing the detachment for Queen’s Birthday Parade, the firing party for Canada Day and the guard for Government House.

At the time of writing the Regiment is waiting to welcome Brigadier J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E., when he arrives on the *Nexasa* on July 28. Although it is well known that all members of our allied Regiment receive a warm welcome in Hong Kong the arrival of the Colonel of the Middlesex Regiment is a unique occasion and one of which we hope to take full advantage.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The Regimental Museum has now opened at its new site in the Regimental Headquarters, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex. More showcases have been purchased and a number of new exhibits added to those already in our possession.

From St. George’s Church, Brentford, which is due to be demolished in the new road-widening plan, have been obtained two old Colours of ancestor units of the 8th Battalion and the shell of a very interesting side

drum. The Colours were originally deposited in the church on June 25, 1922, when a special church parade was held for the ceremony.

Colour of the Loyal Uxbridge Volunteer Infantry

This Colour was presented to the Corps on September 16, 1831, and was the gift of the Ladies of Uxbridge. The Colour is of the regulation pattern of the period with the name of the unit on a scroll encircling the monogram of King William IV.

The unit was formed in 1830, its first commander being Capt. T. H. Riches, and the "Second Captain," as the title then went, was W. Rayner whose commission, signed by the Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex, was dated January 20, 1831.

Owing to public apathy, and consequent lack of Government support, the unit was disbanded by the War Office in October 1842. On disbandment the officers were the Commandant, Capt. W. Rayner, Lt. Thomas Beasley, LL.D., 2/Lt. J. Harman, and Ensign John F. De Salis. The Colour remained in the possession of Capt. Rayner's family until presented to Capt. W. Garner who commanded "E" (Uxbridge) Company of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment), 1895-98. It was presented to him by the widow of Dr. Rayner of Uxbridge, the son of Capt. W. Rayner. Capt. Garner eventually commanded the Battalion and was the Commanding Officer of the 8th Battalion when it went to France in 1915.

Colour of the 24th Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Corps

The Colour is dark green, with a crown in the centre. Over the crown is "Uxbridge Volunteer Rifle Corps" and under the crown is "24th Middlesex" followed by "Sole Deo Salus" and "February 1860" all in white lettering.

The 24th Middlesex R.V.C. became "E" (Uxbridge) Company of the 8th (Imperial Service) Battalion of the Regiment. The first commander of the unit was Lt. W. E. Hilliard whose commission, as commander, was dated March 20, 1860, and the other original officers were: Lt. J. F. W. de Salis, Ensign B. H. W. Way, Asst. Surgeon C. H. Macnamara, and Hon. Chaplain R. W. C. Price, M.A. Here was a unit prepared for all eventualities; officers to care for the training in arms, for the body and for the soul. Lt. Hilliard and Ensign de Salis were presented to Queen Victoria at her reception to officers of the Volunteer Corps on March 7, 1860.

This unit from the very first had an extremely good Corps of Drums of which it was very proud, and was led by Bugle-Major S. P. Baker whose magnificent beard attracted much attention and admiration. He was a strong and well-built man, full of fun, and had a great sense of humour. In 1865, when the unit were marching through Brighton ready for the Easter Review, he caused great merriment to the children who had followed the marching column, by, during the period of a halt, putting his beard on his head and his shako on top and looking through his beard! Quite a character.

In the early days of the unit, Easter camps and reviews

were the annual highlight. It was shortly after Easter Monday, 1915, that the 8th Battalion had another kind of parade. The letter, written by Col. Garner, of the fighting on April 25, at St. Julien, tells the story. The old "B" Company had been the Brentford Company before the four-company system was introduced. Now the men of Brentford and Uxbridge were to fight under the same company commander and the story will explain why these Colours were in the Brentford Church of St. George; the saint himself being a valiant soldier and Christian.

The following is an extract from Col. Garner's letter referred to above:—

"It was shortly after Easter Monday, 1915, and the 8th, which had already been initiated into front-line work, were in reserve on the arc of the Ypres salient at Vlammingtona. Two companies were sent forward in attachment to Battalions of the 85th Brigade, Major Ruston's Company going with the 3rd Middlesex, Capt. Isaacson's Company with the 23rd East Surrey. The Battalion Headquarters and remaining companies shortly afterwards moved up to a point within the salient, and Capt. Woodbridge's Company joined that of Capt. Isaacson's with the 2nd East Surrey's. The position of these two companies was right in the nose of the salient as the Brigade had just taken over this part of the line from the French. Battalion Headquarters (2nd East Surreys) were in an embankment just off the railway, east of Zonnebek, the companies of Capts. Isaacson and Woodbridge (which included the Brentford men) were in a reserve trench just behind the line held by the East Surrey's. Major Ruston's Company was with the 3rd Battalion further north. The salient was five miles long and, at the nose where these three companies of the 8th met, the German line was some 30 yards in front of us, whilst German artillery shelled us from front, each flank, and the points of the salient in our rear.

"It was in the battle consequent upon the first gas attack that the 8th got involved. The trenches were shelled, the men gassed and the reserve line troops were ordered to occupy the front line. What happened to Major Ruston's Company will never be clearly known. They went forward into the haze of battle, few were seen again, but no Germans came through! How many of the names of this little company commanded by Major Ruston are to be found on the panels of the Menin Gateway Memorial!

"Meanwhile the Germans had practically obliterated that part of the front line held by the East Surrey's and destroyed the men themselves. The Germans came in a wave out of their trenches across into our destroyed front line and up again towards our reserve line. There they stood in a long line, the only troops between them and Ypres at that part being the two companies of the 8th. During that moment's hesitation they lost. Both Capt. Woodbridge's and Capt. Isaacson's Companies leapt out of the reserve line and, with bayonets fixed, charged the Germans across the open. The Germans gave way and the 8th recovered as much of the old front line as they could hold and enfiladed the Germans in them left and right. The men who actually regained and held this section of the line against the Germans

were the original Territorials of the 8th Section of the County. It was the one and only battle of the old peacetime Battalion, for there were only 150 rifles assembled after that day: 83 of Capt. Isaacson's and Capt. Woodbridge's Companies were buried behind the trench they recaptured, that night. Capt. Isaacson and three of his four officers were shot that day, Capt. Woodbridge and one of his came through, none were seen again of Major Ruston's.

"For 11 days did the 8th hold their recaptured section of the line until eventually relieved by the 3rd Battalion, and during the whole of that period there was daily and nightly fighting.

"The result was that the 8th ceased to function as a Battalion and were drafted away to a quieter part of the line to nurse their strength back and heal their wounds."

W. GARNER, Lt.-Col.

Late Commanding 8th Battalion,
The Middlesex Regiment.

Side-drum Shell and Hoops

This side drum was carried by the Drummers of the 11th (Service) Battalion, 16th (Service) Battalion (Public Schools'), and the 2nd Battalion, in that order.

The 11th Battalion, the first "Service" Battalion of the Regiment in the Great War of 1914-19, was raised on August 26, 1914, and went to France on May 31, 1915, its first set battle being the Battle of Loos, September 25 to October 8, 1915. This was followed by tough fighting in the action of the Hohenzollern Redoubt, October 13 to 19, 1915. The Battalion was disbanded February 6, 1918. The first Commanding Officer, Adjutant and Quartermaster were Lt.-Col. W. D. Ingle, Lt. L. L. Pargiter, and Lt. (Q.M.) J. English, respectively.

The drum appears to have been given to the 16th (Service) Battalion (Public Schools') on its arrival in France.

The 16th Battalion was raised on November 1, 1914, by Major J. J. Mackay as chairman of a committee under "certain conditions of the War Office whereby the organisers became responsible for feeding, clothing and accommodating the Battalion at specified rates pending it being taken over by the War Office." The unit was comprised solely of Public School men who would serve together. The first order, by telegram, was received on September 12 by every successful applicant. It read: "Parade Waterloo Station 11 o'clock Tuesday morning. Bring enough kit for 10 days and one blanket—Officer Commanding Public Schools' Battalion."

The first Commanding Officer, Adjutant and Quartermaster were Lt.-Col. J. H. Hall, The D.C.O. (Middlesex Regiment), Capt. W. R. Carey, 53rd Sikhs F.F., and Lt. A. d'Alpuget, late Queen's Surrey Regiment, respectively.

The Battalion were unique in having a Pipe Band which came into being as follows. Major Mackay asked the War Office for authority to form a Pipe Band to commemorate the 77th Regiment originally being a Highland Regiment. Two previous Regiments numbered the 77th had, in fact, been Highland Regiments. The 77th (Montgomery's) 1st Highland Battalion was raised in 1757 during the Seven Years' War, and dis-

tinguished itself at Fort-du-Quesne, Cuba and Martinique, being disbanded in 1763. The 77th Atholl Highlanders were embodied in 1778 and disbanded in 1783. Neither of these two Regiments had any connection with the 2nd Battalion Middlesex Regiment, who were raised as the 77th Regiment of Foot in 1787. However, Major Mackay claimed that the 16th Battalion was really a Service Battalion of a Regiment which was in direct succession to two Highland Regiments and, being himself a Scotsman, asked and was granted permission from the War Office to recruit a band of pipers and thus preserve the Highland origin and association of the 77th Foot.

The Pipers were equipped at the expense of the original officers of the Battalion and, out of compliment to Major Mackay, were dressed in Mackay tartan kilts. Later they wore the Murray tartan, which is the clan tartan of the Atholl Highlanders.

When the Battalion was disbanded in early 1918, the Pipers were transferred to the 2nd Battalion, then under the command of Lt.-Col. C. A. S. Page, who had succeeded Col. Hall on his promotion to Brigadier-General. The Pipers and Drummers took part in the battle of October 11, when Brigadier-General Grogan, V.C., and the then Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. E. E. F. Baker, personally led the assault. They played the 2nd Battalion into Douai after the town was captured on October 17, 1918. The leading platoons on that occasion were again led by General Grogan and Lt.-Col. Baker. Again, on the official entry into Mons in November 1918 the Pipers led the 2nd Battalion with swirl of pipe music and a crash of drums. Where the 4th Battalion of the Regiment had fought in the opening battle of the war, so had the 2nd Battalion with their Pipers and Drummers celebrated its finish.

Standing in the same case in the Museum with this historic drum, is a drum left on the field of Mons by the 4th Battalion in 1914 and returned by a Canadian officer after the town was recaptured in 1918.

They might well be named "Alpha" and "Omega."

Designation Boards, etc., 2nd Battalion

Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., presented to the Museum on May 17 two boards, a German automatic and a number of other small relics of World War I.

The first is the name board of the Commanding Officer 2nd Battalion, and was fastened to the billet occupied by him. All Commands, Company H.Q.s, etc., had similar boards bearing the Brigade and Divisional signs, plus the old 77th badge of the Prince of Wales's plume and the two sevens. The 23rd Brigade sign and that of the 8th Division are on either side of the regimental crest.

The second board is that used to mark Battalion Headquarters and is painted with a yellow background and maroon lettering, etc. It has the badge of the Regiment plus the 17 pre-1914 battle honours. This board was used at Battalion H.Q., 1917-18.

The automatic is a Luger-Parabellum 9-mm. pistol with a holster specially modified to Brigadier Baker's design. Instead of the awkward wooden case, this is of

leather, but has the fitting at the end to take the pistol butt to allow it to be used as a shoulder-controlled weapon. With the weapon is an additional magazine holding 32 rounds and a hopper or loader to charge the magazine. The pistol was taken from a German N.C.O. at the capture of the Drocourt-Queant line, October 11, 1918. Reference to this fight is made above in the story of the side drum. The War Diary of the 2nd Battalion says: "At 4 p.m. No. 15 Platoon, 'A' Company, led by

Brigadier-General Grogan, v.c., and Lt.-Col. E. E. F. Baker, crossed the river and outflanked the garrison of those heights, thus enabling the Canadian Corps to advance."

After modifying the holster, Brigadier Baker used it as his personal weapon until the end of the war.

As soon as the two Colours have been netted to aid their preservation, they will be on show in the Museum, as are the other items already. R.W.J.S.

CORRESPONDENCE

Royal Caledonian Schools,
Bushey, Hertfordshire.
May 1961.

DEAR SIR,

I have pleasure in advising you that there are several vacancies at these schools for boys and girls whose parents through death, disablement or other misfortune are unable to make provision for them.

Children must be at least five years of age and must be of Scottish descent, i.e., one or both parents must have been born in Scotland.

I am enclosing a leaflet from which you will note that the schools have always been closely connected with the Armed Forces and that most of the children now resident at the schools are the sons and daughters of Scottish Servicemen. Nevertheless, the schools can, in certain circumstances, help children whose parents have separated or who through no fault of their own have been deprived of a normal home life.

I am also enclosing a copy of the form which has to be completed when application is made for a child to be admitted to the schools, and with this form it is usual to forward the birth certificate of the applicant, the birth certificate of one parent establishing the Scottish connection, and educational and medical reports on the child.

I would be grateful if the above-mentioned information could be circulated as widely as practicable.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE DEANS,
Secretary.

NOTE.—The application forms and leaflets can be obtained from the Editor.

301 East Garfield Street,
Enterprise,
Oregon, U.S.A.
June 23, 1961.

DEAR SIR,

During a sea trip from Aden Colony to America in April this year, our ship called at Yokohama, Japan, and my wife and I were able to visit the British Commonwealth War Cemetery at Yuenchi Park where many members of The Middlesex Regiment are buried. Earlier, I had been in touch with Capt. W. G. A. Crumley, of Inglis Barracks, London, and he had very

kindly sent detailed directions which made it quite easy for us to find our way to the cemetery from the dock area. Capt. Crumley suggested that, as Editor of the Regimental Journal, you would be interested in hearing of the visit, so I have enclosed with this letter a few negatives and two prints which may be of use to you or your staff. I am sorry that the negatives are not of the best quality, but my main effort was to obtain a series of colour transparencies for my family in England and in this we obtained some measure of success. Incidentally, our visit to the cemetery was to pay our respects at the graveside of my brother, Pte. W. Sullivan (6213591) 1st Middlesex Regiment, captured at Hong Kong and who later died as a P.O.W.

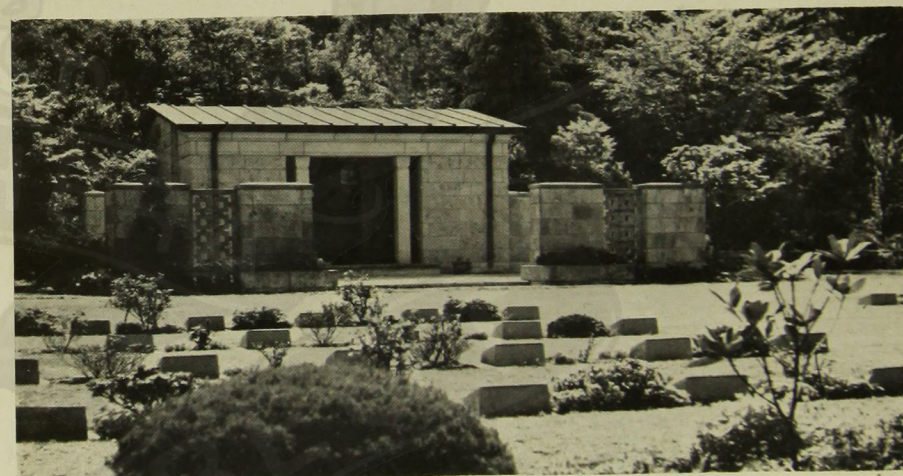
For the benefit and consolation of relatives of the 1,518 ex-P.O.W.s who lie buried there, I would like to give a brief description of our visit. Of the short, six-mile trip from the dock along the Tokaido Highway and Karibo Cho Road I need say little, but for anyone intending to make the trip I should point out that the small signpost on the left of the latter road is not easily seen.

From this turning an unpaved road winds uphill for about a quarter of a mile and then suddenly you are looking down through the trees into a small valley speckled with flowers and flowering shrubs. The first impression I had was of the complete simplicity and beauty of this setting and, on reaching the caretaker's house at the end of the gravel driveway, we came to the cemetery itself. We walked into these grounds and immediately a great sense of peace came to us, and we knew from that moment that much love and care was going toward the tending of this, the last resting place of those to whom we owe so much. The silence of the countryside was broken only by the many tongues of the birds who continuously flitted amongst the trees and shrubs that enclosed the valley, and it was many moments before we could bring ourselves to break this silence by calling at the caretaker's house to enquire for the plan of the cemetery.

Although the flat bed of the valley is the main British section of the cemetery, other sections are terraced into the slopes of the hillsides and have been grouped as Australian, Canadian, Indian and Pakistani plots. Each of these sections has a memorial in the form of a Cross of Sacrifice and, in addition, a small memorial chapel has been erected close to the British section and every



Cross of Sacrifice (British Section)



Memorial Chapel

year visitors, including officials of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, arrive to attend a service in honour of the dead at this chapel.

We had brought two small azalea plants with us with the intention of planting them on the grave itself but, although the caretaker very kindly made arrangements later to carry out our wishes it certainly was not necessary, for plants were already blooming in abundance. Perhaps I should explain that, basically, the British section is a large, close-cropped lawn with 16 plots containing the individual graves. Each grave is marked by a small stone plinth with a bronze plaque containing the appropriate record, and between gravestones there are azalea plants and rose-bushes which, in April, were a blaze of colour. Between plots there are rectangular flower beds with many flowering shrubs and primroses, daffodils, lily of the valley and other colourful plants.

Unfortunately the caretaker, Mr. L. Harrap, who

incidentally is a Professor of English at a nearby university, was away in Tokyo on the day of our visit, but he very kindly telephoned to the ship on his return to explain that he would gladly arrange to carry out our wishes. My wife and I left Yokohama happy in the knowledge that everything possible is being done to honour the memory of so many loved ones, and yet sorry also that many of their relatives would never have the opportunity of making a visit.

I would like to thank all members of the War Graves Commission for the wonderful work they are doing, and I would be most grateful if you could pass on any information which might comfort the friends or relatives of those who rest in peace.

Yours sincerely, D. C. SULLIVAN.

P.S. We visited the Commonwealth cemetery at Singapore and can confirm that here, too, there could be no improvement.

OLD COMRADES' NEWS

MILL HILL BRANCH

Many readers, I feel sure, will have noticed in the last issue spelling mistakes in the names of Brigadier B. B. Rackham, Col. F. Walden, the initials of Major G. A. H. Bower, and the title of Mr. W. Hurst and Mr. J. Prager, to them all my apologies—but fortunately it was not the fault of the writer.

Our New Home

The first meeting at H.Q.s 5th Battalion, T.A. Centre, Edgware, on June 24, was a great success—far beyond expectations—a total of 74 members with wives and friends being present, and how delightful it was to have the company of Brigadier and Mrs. B. B. Rackham, Col. F. Walden, Major E. L. Heywood and Major R. D. Hutchings. There is no doubt whatever that the presence of officers under whom we served makes a tremendous difference; it gives the club a sort of "face-lift" and puts the older "Die-Hards" in a good frame of mind, knowing they are still remembered by the officers; and to my mind it is the basis of a happy and contented club.

Quite a number who, for various reasons, could not attend at Mill Hill, are now able to do so at Edgware, but there were three notable absentees in Bill Haines, "Dasher" Crouch and our dear friend, Mrs. N. Kerswill, but there is always a next time.

For such a good start thanks are due to the O.C. 5th Battalion (Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton) for his personal interest in the movement of the club from Mill Hill, and placing the recreation room and bar at our disposal, and to Capt. M. J. Beaumont for ensuring that the bar was stocked with all good things including "lemon" for gin and tonic. It must not be forgotten these officers have a full-time civilian commitment in addition to their T.A. duties, and for the help they have given and are still giving to make us comfortable deserves our grateful thanks, which is freely given.

Not to be forgotten is Mr. P. Perry who managed the bar with great efficiency and ensured the many thirsty "Die-Hards" were happy and contented after the first "pint."

Will all ex-members of the Sergeants' Mess please note that R.S.M. F. Webb and the members of the Sergeants' Mess 5th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) T.A., extend to them an invitation to use the Mess on Saturday evenings and at Sunday lunch time. Thank you Mr. Webb for such a kind thought, which is greatly appreciated.

DRIVE FOR NEW MEMBERS

From time to time I am asked why so few ex-"Die-Hards" are members of the Regimental Association. I do my best to give an answer, but sometimes it is given to me in no uncertain words.

I am now delighted to be able to tell them that a Big Drive is being arranged by the Association to bring back to the fold those "Die-Hards" who, for various reasons over the years, have "lost touch."

This gigantic task has been placed in the capable hands of Col. F. Walden, Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton and Major R. D. Hutchings, who will no doubt require from us all the help we can give in persuading ex-"Die-Hards" to join the Association, so do keep a check of names and addresses in case they are required.

To this end the following suggestions from the Mill Hill Branch were put forward at the Committee Meeting of the Regimental Association on June 29:

Suggestion

That to help the drive to increase the membership of the Association which naturally will take a long time, a Regimental Reunion (in the form of a parade) should be held on the Sunday before Albuhera Day.

To be held at one of the following places: Horse

Guards, Duke of York's H.Q., Inglis Barracks, or in a park within the County of Middlesex, such as Hendon, Acton, Willesden, or perhaps a football stadium with a grandstand.

All men and women who have worn our cap badge to attend—parade to be inspected by the Colonel of the Regiment or his Deputy, followed by a march past with bands playing and standards flying.

Remember what other Regimental Associations have done, we can do better.

The suggestion was accepted in principle and a committee composed of Col. F. Walden, Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton and Major P. F. Newman was asked to study the suggestion and report back to the Association. The first meeting of this committee is being held on August 1.

BADGES, ETC.

A reminder here would not be out of place in respect of blazer badges, Regimental ties, comrades badges and the Regimental Journal. These items are available from the Secretary, who would be delighted to send them to you on receipt of cash for same.

It is quite true the reports one hears of ex-members being recognised by the wearing of a Regimental badge or tie.

Have you obtained one yet?

OBITUARY

Mr. J. H. Bratby, late 4th Battalion, who died on May 1, 1961.

The following is an extract of a letter received from his brother who also served in that Battalion:

"I have to regretfully report the passing of my brother, J. H. Bratby, who served in the 4th Battalion and was in action at Mons, August 22 and 23, 1914.

"L/Cpl. J. H. Bratby was with Lt. L. F. Sloane-Stanley's machine gunners away in front of Obourg, the eight Maxim guns having been brigaded to enable the Battalion to consolidate. We had little or no idea of the opposition except to learn we were up against Von Kluck's V army, and it was too late to reorganise.

"The clatter of M.G. and rapid rifle fire went on through the night August 22 and 23, until daybreak—yes the attack was on and those years of rapid fire practice paid off a hundredfold—but not before the M.G. sections were overrun through the water-cooled guns fading. Learning that the 4th Battalion were indeed in the breach, my platoon was pulled back to the bridge on the Mons-Conde Canal. Casualties were greater than expected but fortunately the 4th Royal Fusiliers came to our aid, and the break-through was stopped, but not before gallant Lt. Sloane-Stanley and his men had given us a break, although they themselves were in the 'bag.'

"Farewell gallant comrades of Lt. Sloane-Stanley's Maxim guns of August 22 and 23, 1914—we lived to fight again.

"I certainly didn't realise I should pass that way again, years later. But with gratitude to men like L/Cpl. J. H. Bratby who quietly fades away I say farewell brother, it's been nice to know you."

Sincerely,

W. D. BRATBY.

No greater tribute could be paid by one brother to another. We also say farewell, knowing his task was completed in accordance with the high tradition of a "Die-Hard."

P. NEWMAN.

NOTE.—An interesting letter has been received by Major Newman from Mr. E. W. H. West, now aged 74, who served in the 20th Battalion during the First World War. It is regretted that the length of the letter prevents it being published, but it can be sent to anyone interested in the 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd Battalions.—The Editor.

HORNSEY BRANCH

Before we get down to other things let us wish Col. Walden every success in his new appointment to the Association. The year 1961 sees a new era in the Territorial Army as far as the 7th, 8th and 9th Battalions are concerned. These three Battalions now become the 5th Battalion, and we feel sure it will uphold the same traditions as their forefathers in 1886.

Our member Bob Ferguson, and a few more, recently went to Belgium and laid a wreath on the War Memorial out there.

The Hornsey Branch still continues to welcome new members, thanks to those who get around and sift the old ones out, such as Olly Bliss, Harry Thornton and Eddie Kenton. We still have room for more, so let us all get together and rope them in.

A.E.S.

HONG KONG BRANCH

On May 5, 1961, we held our annual meeting, and discussed the Albuhera Day celebrations. At this meeting it was also decided to arrange for two "get togethers" each year, and to include the ladies in the latter.

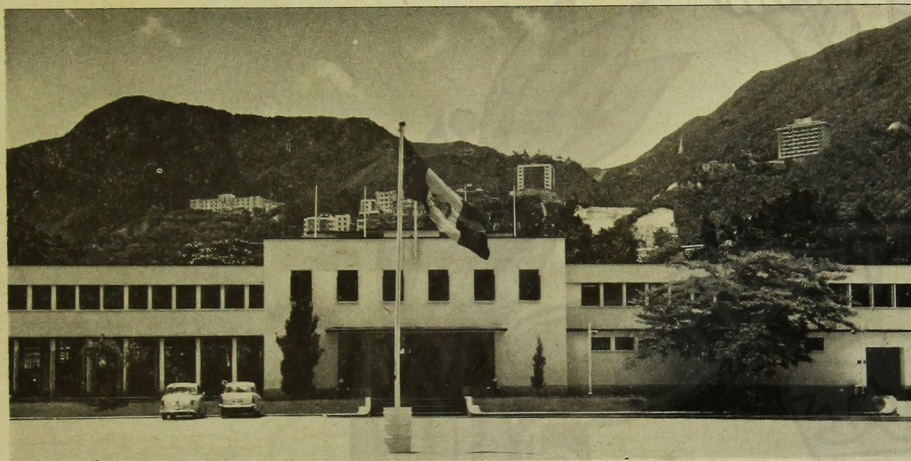
It was also proposed that some regimental ties be purchased. This matter has now been taken up and orders placed.

We are all very pleased to welcome Major E. A. H. Jeffcoat, and are sure of his good support.

As in the past years, it was decided that the past and present members of The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) would celebrate Albuhera Day in true form. On the Sunday before Albuhera Day, which also coincided with the Commonwealth Youth Day, watched by H.E. Governor and the Commander British Forces, they proceeded through the cathedral led by Capt. W. T. J. Lane, M.B.E., who laid the wreath at the foot of the Regimental War Memorial. The Rev. Frank Roe was kind enough to quote during his service the outstanding service given by men of the Middlesex Regiment during the Peninsular War and World War II.

After a gathering in the R.H.K.D.F. Sergeants' Mess the party spent the afternoon visiting Sai Wan and Stanley Cemeteries, at each of which a short service was held by the Rev. Frank Roe and a wreath laid. Major E. A. H. Jeffcoat laid the wreath at Sai Wan and Mr. Howell, M.B.E., at Stanley.

On May 16, by kind permission of Lt.-Col. T. A. M. Twaddle, T.D., Commanding the Hong Kong Regiment, the flag of The Middlesex Regiment was flown. In the evening a dozen "Die-Hards" met for dinner in the Officers' Mess of the Volunteer Centre, and by all



May 16, 1961. H.Q. R.H.K. Defence Force

accounts the occasion was very thoroughly celebrated.

The only guest this year was the Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. T. A. M. Twaddle, T.D. We look forward to welcoming Brigadier J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E., to the colony, and wish him the very best in his new appointment.

IS HE THE OLDEST LIVING "DIE-HARD"?

When publicity was given to the Territorial Battalion being numbered as 5th Battalion a letter was received from an old "Die-Hard" who can surely claim to be the grandfather of this Battalion. Not only can he be given that title, but the writer is convinced he must be our oldest living "Die-Hard."

To many an old soldier who reads this article, the name "Docherty" Taylor will bring back memories of the small, smart, erect figure whose voice was the envy of men who were giants to him physically.

William George Taylor will have passed his 94th birthday by the time this article appears, although to see him pottering around tending the plants in his garden it is difficult to realise he is that great age. He enlisted into the 1st Battalion in 1886 when Lt.-Col. S. G. Huskisson was commanding, and with them served in England and Ireland. In 1892 the Battalion went to Gibraltar, by which time "Docherty" was a Sergeant, having been promoted in 1891. His reputation as an instructor was high and his word of command second to none. After the Battalion returned home in 1895, a demonstration squad was sent to Olympia from Aldershot for the Military Tournament, and, as an earlier writer said: "Who else should be in command but Sgt. 'Docherty' Taylor who had the loudest and clearest word of command in the home garrisons?"

He was complimented by Lt.-Col. H. T. Hughes-Hallet, who was then commanding the Battalion, and was—and still is—spoken of with pride by his Regiment.

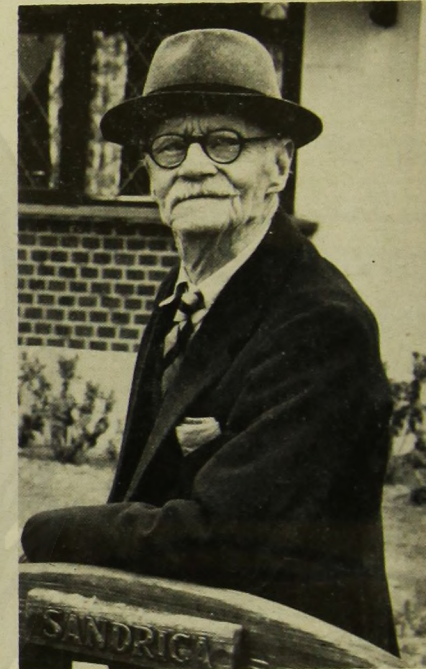
The following year, Sgt. Taylor went with the Battalion to South Africa where he served for two years before going to India. His job of instructing drill and discipline to his soldiers must have been remarkably well done as the following event shows. A draft from the 1st Battalion had left South Africa to join the 2nd Battalion who were then serving in India and were on board the *Warren Hastings* when it was wrecked on the island of Reunion on January 14, 1897. The occasion recalled the famous wreck of the *Birkenhead*. A report at the time says: "Only the remarkable courage and exemplary discipline displayed by the troops under most trying circumstances prevented a grave disaster." In a General Order published in March 1897, Lord Wolesley, the Commander-in-Chief, praised them and said: "It was a good example of the advantages of subordination and strict discipline." The Kaiser Wilhelm, Emperor of Germany, was so impressed that he ordered that the narrative of their behaviour should be read out at the head of every unit in the German Army.

April 1898 saw Sgt. Taylor on his way to India, where he served until the following year when he was posted to the 3rd (Militia) Battalion (Royal Elthorne Light Infantry Militia) and promoted to Colour-Sergeant. At this time the Depot, 3rd (Militia) and 4th (Militia) Battalions were at Hounslow where they remained until 1905. In 1900 the 3rd (Militia) Battalion was renumbered the 5th (Militia) Battalion and, in the following year, C/Sgt. Taylor was promoted to Sergeant-Major, equivalent to the present rank of Regimental Sergeant-Major. As Sergeant-Major of the 5th Battalion, he, and his wife, became widely known as their activities made the Battalion an efficient and very contented unit.



Sgt.-Major W. G. ("Docherty") Taylor, 5th Battalion
The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment),
1902

The 5th Battalion went to South Africa in 1902 to take part in the Boer War, where already two Battalions the 2nd and the 6th, were serving. For his services in South Africa, Sgt.-Major Taylor was awarded the Queen's South African Medal with three bars. He was later awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and, on the occasion of the Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary in 1911, he was awarded the Coronation Medal. The following year he left the Regiment after 26 years of irreproachable and trojan service. At this time the Sergeant-Majors of both 5th and 6th Battalions were named Taylor; "Docherty" of the 5th and Len Taylor of the 6th. This old "Die-Hard" has been known as "Docherty" Taylor for many years and the origin of his nick-name has been forgotten by most people. He had a very good singing voice and was always in demand to liven up the "soirees" held in the Messes. It was in 1889 when he was a Corporal serving with the 1st Battalion in Buttevant, Ireland, under the command of Lt.-Col. A. L. Tickell, that he sang the song with the ending line:



Capt. W. G. Taylor, August 1961 (aged 94 years)

"And it was Michael Docherty the Tailor." Soldiers being what they are, and "Die-Hards" being the best of soldiers, he was immediately christened "Docherty" and "Docherty" Taylor he will always be.

At the annual camp held at Shorncliffe in July 1913, he was invited, with Mrs. Taylor, to visit his old Battalion, where they were given a rousing reception and cheer of recognition from the men, a reception they must have felt very gratified to receive. Mrs. Taylor is herself a member of an Army family, her father having served in the Suffolk Regiment, fighting with them in the Kaffir War, 1851-53. She is now 88 years of age and these two grand veterans have been happily married 69 years. A prized possession in their home is the telegram from H.M. The Queen on the celebration of their diamond wedding anniversary.

Soldier and soldier's wife and daughter, it is only natural that their two sons should be soldiers and, as is a natural hazard of soldiering, both unfortunately fell; in the Great War of 1914-19. William David (TF 3374) was killed in action whilst serving with the 7th Battalion on September 16, 1916, at Bauleux Wood during the Battle of Flers-Courcellette, the fight that resulted practically in the end of the original 7th Battalion. Arthur

George was first reported missing and afterwards as killed whilst serving with the Royal West Surrey Regiment. He held a regular commission and was actually on the ship to return to England and posting to The Middlesex Regiment as a result of an application by Lt.-Col. C. S. Collison, D.S.O., when all troops were hurriedly disembarked to fill in a gap in the line during the German advance, April 22, 1918.

During the 1914-19 War, our old "Die-Hard" rejoined the Colours in 1914 as a Regimental Sergeant-Major and, on the expansion of the Regiment, he was R.S.M. of the 14th (Reserve) Battalion on its formation. He, with 14 old soldiers—an apt number—were the nucleus at Chatham in October 1914. The Thames-Medway Reserve Brigade commander, under whose command the Battalion came, was an old Middlesex officer, Brigadier-General F. D. Lumley, C.B., C.B.E., whose H.Q. was at Chatham. General Lumley knew R.S.M. Taylor of old and expressed his approbation of the work done in training the Battalion to fit men for active service. In appreciation of his services, R.S.M. Taylor, on disbandment of the 14th Battalion on September 1, 1916, was commissioned as Lieutenant Quartermaster, the appointment on the strength of the General List being effective from August 31, 1916. He was then posted to a P.O.W. camp in Durham. Owing to ill health, he finally retired on August 16, 1918. In addition to the South African, Coronation, and Long Service and Good Conduct Medals, he also holds the Meritorious Service Medal.

Capt. and Mrs. Taylor have lived since their retirement at Leigh-on-Sea. Their daughter also lives very near them and is always at hand taking a part in their activities, which are many and varied. The old couple are up and about taking an interest in all local functions and travel a good deal during the summer months. When I visited them with Bill Cheeseman, who was a Sergeant in 1902 in South Africa in the same Mess as the old "Die-Hard," we were surprised to see the alacrity of the old soldier dashing from one room to another to show his interesting relics and photographs. I feel that in six years time, September 8, 1967, it will be the Regiment's pleasure to congratulate our oldest "Die-Hard" on completing his century.

R.W.J.S.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, 1961

The Christmas card this year is a reproduction in colour of an oil painting of Lt.-Col. R. V. Straton, C.B., 77th, with his charger, in the Crimea.

The card will have the regimental crest on the outside, will be tied with ribbon in regimental colours, and will have the greeting and picture inside.

In the U.K., these will cost 1s. each. (The cost of the colour block (£55) is being paid from regimental funds.)

A small quantity of cards of previous years are also available from R.H.Q. at 1s. each or 10s. a dozen, plus postage of 1d. on each card up to 24, thereafter a further 6d. on each dozen.

As a reminder, these cards are:—

- Card 1. Col. Egerton on the ramparts at Portsmouth.
 " 2. A Pioneer of the Peninsular War period.
 " 5. Steady the Drums and Fifes.

" 6. Col. Egerton at Montreal, in the snow (last year's card).

" 7. The 1961 card—Lt.-Col. Straton, C.B. Postage as above.

Also available is No. 4 which is a single card—like a small post card—with regimental crest and suitable greeting.

These cost 3d. each, plus postage of 6d. a dozen

(There are only a few of both cards 6 and 1; an alternative should be given. Card 3—77th guard room verandah scene—is out of print.)

Please send the money to cover the cost of cards and postage with your order.

It is anticipated that the 1961 cards will be ready about the end of September.

NOTE.—The address to write to is: Regimental Headquarters, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

REGIMENTAL STATIONERY

Small crested writing pads and crested envelopes are available from Regimental Headquarters.

BIRTH

HAYWARD.—On June 25, 1961, at the Louise Margaret Hospital, Aldershot, to Margrit and Capt. Michael Hayward, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), a daughter (Susan Margrit).

ENGAGEMENT

WOLLOCOMBE—HADDOW.—The engagement is announced between Martin, youngest son of the late Col. T. S. Wollocombe and Mrs. Wollocombe, of 27 Shortheath Road, Farnham, Surrey, and Julie, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Haddow, of 22a Jan Path, New Delhi.

DEATHS

HILL.—Suddenly on May 11, ex-Pte. Sidney Hill who served with the 3rd Battalion Band and later in the 2nd Battalion Band.

JOSEPHS.—On Albuhera Day, 1961, Major L. H. Owen Josephs died at Canterbury. His funeral was attended by Major E. L. Heywood and Lt. M. F. Deakin.

TIDBURY.—Brigadier O. H. Tidbury, M.C., died at his home in Layer de la Haye on July 14. Officers of the Regiment were present at the cremation.

CORKE.—On July 21 in Jersey, at the age of 69 years, Trafford Dudley, late Colonel the Royal Army Dental Corps and formerly of The Middlesex Regiment.

OBITUARY

Brigadier O. H. Tidbury, M.C.

Brigadier Ord Henderson Tidbury died on July 14, 1961, in his 73rd year. He was the son of the late Col. James Tidbury, O.B.E., of North Bend, Woking, Surrey, and was educated at Wellington and the R.M.C., Sandhurst.

He was gazetted to the Regiment as a Second Lieutenant on October 9, 1907, and promoted to Lieutenant on February 1, 1911.

Major L. H. Owen Josephs

The death occurred on May 16, 1961, of Major Owen Josephs, who was an old 6th Battalion (Militia) Officer. Unfortunately nobody now alive seems to know much about his military service, but he always took the greatest interest in Regimental affairs and was a most regular attender at all dinners.

In retirement he was a staunch supporter of the British Legion and a considerable number of his local branch attended his funeral.

He was always pleasant and friendly to everyone. We shall miss him at Regimental functions and have no doubt that others at Otterden Place, where he lived recently, will also miss his cheery company.

E.L.H.

SUBSTANTIVE ROLL OF WARRANT OFFICERS, COLOUR-SERGEANTS AND SERGEANTS AS AT JULY 15, 1961

Bde. Pos.	Appt. or A/Rank	Name	Last Known Station
WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS I			
2	W.O.1	T. McMillan	1 Mx.
7	W.O.1	J. Thom	Bde. Depot (H)
10	W.O.1	R. Budden	4/5 R.W.K.
WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS II			
5	W.O.2	F. Firman	3 Queen's Surreys
6	W.O.2	A. Cooper	1 Mx.
10	W.O.2	R. Dodkins	1 Mx.
11	W.O.2	W. Thorogood	1 Mx.
27	W.O.2	P. Soper, B.E.M.	S.M.F.
36	W.O.2	K. Beale	1 Mx.
37	W.O.2	W. Wright	5 Mx.
42	W.O.2	A. Da Costa	1 Mx.
50	W.O.2	S. Michel	1 Mx.
52	W.O.2	M. Eastap	4/5 R.W.K.
56	W.O.2	G. Simmons	1 Mx.
COLOUR-SERGEANTS			
12	C Sgt.	J. Potter	1 Mx.
15	C Sgt.	P. Dive	1 Mx.
16	A/W.O.2	J. Moyse	5 Mx.
33	A/W.O.2	E. Steward	4/5 R. Sussex
SERGEANTS			
2	A/W.O.2	E. Thompson	22 S.A.S.R.
9	Sgt.	G. Palmer	Bde. Depot (H)
19	A/C Sgt.	D. Walters	1 Mx.
21	Sgt.	J. Dickie	1 Mx.
27	A/C Sgt.	A. Nicholson	1 Mx.
28	Sgt.	B. Warner	1 Mx.
29	Sgt.	M. Butler	1 Mx.
32	Sgt.	A. Gibbs (O.R.C.)	1 Mx.
33	A/C Sgt.	W. Smith	1 Mx.
40	A/C Sgt.	J. Martin, M.M.	1 Mx.
49	Sgt.	R. Davies	1 Mx.
62	A/C Sgt.	P. Amor	22 S.A.S.R.
67	Sgt.	R. Clements	1 Mx.
74	Sgt.	R. Power	1 Mx.
76	Sgt.	K. Lloyd	1 Mx.
77	Sgt.	C. Partridge	1 Mx.
80	Sgt.	D. Lagden	1 Mx.

He served throughout the Great War in France, Belgium and Italy and for his services was awarded the M.C., the Order of the Crown of Belgium (4th Class) and the Order of the Crown of Italy (5th Class). He was wounded twice and mentioned in despatches three times.

He went out to France with the 4th Battalion on August 25, 1914, and was promoted Captain in December of that year.

After holding various junior staff appointments in France and Italy between 1915 and 1918 he was made a Brevet Major on June 3, 1918.

On February 24, 1919, he was promoted a temporary Lieutenant-Colonel and appointed Assistant Quartermaster-General to the British Military Mission to Berlin. He held that post until January 1920, when he was employed under the Foreign Office in a similar capacity for two years with the Silesian Plebiscite Mission.

He then graduated at the Staff College, Camberley, and rejoined the 2nd Battalion (77th) at Ahmednagar in India early in 1926 for a short spell of Regimental duty before being seconded for staff duty in Egypt from November 1926 to December 1929.

He received a Brevet Lieutenant-Colonelcy on July 1, 1933, and was promoted to the substantive rank on January 1, 1936, when he took over command of the 1st Battalion (57th), then stationed in Egypt. Shortly after his arrival the Battalion moved to Singapore as part of the increased garrison and occupied the newly-built Gilman Barracks, overlooking Keppel Harbour. In 1937, owing to the emergency caused by the Sino-Japanese War, the Battalion was again moved, this time to Hong Kong. It was here in 1938 that he gave up command of the 57th on his promotion and appointment to command 18th Infantry Brigade stationed in Palestine.

Soon after the outbreak of the 1939-45 war he was appointed to command the British Troops in Crete, but was not destined to be there at the time of the German invasion and capture of the island. Later in the war he returned to England to command a District in Wales.

He retired on April 12, 1944, and went to live in Essex, where he indulged in fruit growing.

He regularly attended Regimental functions. His last effort—at the official opening of our new Regimental Headquarters on May 17, 1961—was particularly courageous, since he had only a week previously got up after a very serious operation and came against his doctor's orders.

The following comments, taken from our own Regimental History, sum up Ord Tidbury's character well and form a fitting conclusion to these notes:

"Knowing Tidbury's character and dauntless courage in battle, we can be sure he was very depressed at handing over the island (Crete) whose defences he had almost completely built and reorganised after all the available Greek forces had been withdrawn. . . Those who knew Ord Tidbury well admired his sterling and dauntless character, for he never failed to press what he knew to be the truth, and no half measures would ever satisfy him."

F.W.

Bde. Pos.	Appt. or A/Rank	Name	Last Known Station
87	Sgt.	C. Orme	1 Mx. (A.I.O. Kentish Town)
92	Sgt.	M. Elston	M.T. School
102	Sgt.	H. Horder	1 Mx.
108	Sgt.	R. Ford	1 Mx.
109	Sgt.	C. Shinn	Inf. Jnr. Leaders Bn.,
114	Sgt.	N. Taylor	1 Mx.
120	A/C/Sgt.	H. Males	Admin Unit, Episkopi
121	Sgt.	C. Blackwell	1 Mx.
150	Sgt.	J. Patterson	Bde. Depot
152	Sgt.	B. Tarry	1 Mx.
160	Sgt.	S. Speakman	1 Mx.
163	Sgt.	W. Argent	1 Mx.
164	Sgt.	L. Plumb	1 Mx.
172	Sgt.	H. Turner	5 Mx.
176	Sgt.	J. Williamson	21 S.A.S.R.
178	Sgt.	B. Edey	R.M.A.S.
190	A/C/Sgt.	W. Turner	Infantry Records Exeter

ORDERLY ROOM SERGEANTS

7	O.R.C./Sgt.	G. Cripps	1 Mx.
		BANDMASTER	
8	B.M.	J. McShane	1 Mx.
		BAND SERGEANT	
5	Sgt.	A. Probert	1 Mx.
		SERGEANTS (BAND)	
3	Sgt.	D. Carson	1 Mx. (B.M. Course, R.M.S.M.)
7	Sgt.	G. Beechey	1 Mx.
		DRUM MAJOR	
3	C/Sgt.	J. Lewis	1 Mx. (D.M.)

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT OFFICERS' CLUB HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 1961

Present: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L. (Chairman), Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Col. S. F. Hedgecoe, Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E., Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

In attendance: Col. F. Walden (Secretary Designate). Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton, Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major E. L. Heywood, Major R. D. Hutchings.

1. *Minutes of Previous Meeting.* The Minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were signed by the Chairman as correct.

2. *Secretary's Report.* The Secretary's Report, which had been circulated with the Agenda, was accepted by the Committee.

3. *Club Accounts for 1960.* (a) The accounts for 1960, which had been circulated with the Agenda, were adopted. (b) It was agreed that from 1962 onwards the Club should make a grant of £50 per year to the Regimental Association Fund.

There being no further business the meeting closed at approximately 5.15 p.m.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, October 26, 1961.
F. WALDEN, Colonel,
Secretary, Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club.

T.A. Centre,
Deansbrook Road,
Edgware, Middlesex.
July 17, 1961.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 1961

Present: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L. (Chairman), Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Col. S. F. Hedgecoe, Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E., R.S.M. F. Webb, Mr. J. Trunley, Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

In attendance: Col. F. Walden (Secretary Designate).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L. (Hospital), Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton, Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major R. D. Hutchings.

It was agreed that a telegram should be sent to Col. Browne wishing him a speedy recovery.

Departure Overseas of Colonel of the Regiment. In view of the fact that the Colonel of the Regiment was sailing on June 30, 1961, to take up a Staff Appointment in the Far East, the Secretary was instructed to send him, on behalf of the Association, a telegram of good wishes.

Presentation of Retiring Secretary. Before beginning the business the Chairman mentioned that the last occasion on which Major Clark would act as Secretary and, on behalf of the Regimental Association, thanked Major Clark for his loyal service and devotion to duty during his term of office. To mark the occasion he was presented with a framed and suitably inscribed copy of "Steady the Drums and Pipes" and an autographed copy of Lt.-General Horrocks' book, "A Full Life".

1. *Minutes of Previous Meeting.* The Minutes of the previous meeting, which had been circulated, were signed by the Chairman.

2. *Secretary's Report.* The Secretary's report, which had been circulated with the Agenda, was accepted by the Committee.

3. *Finance Committee's Report.* (a) The Committee's recommendation that, from 1963 onwards, the subsidy to the Regimental Journal should be restricted to £100 per year was approved.

(b) In regard to the War Memorial Fund, Lt.-Col. Roberts pointed out that it was imperative to build up a reserve fund so that income will be available from it for maintenance and repairs after the housing grant has ceased.

(c) It was proposed by Brigadier Rackham and seconded by Col. Man that the Association Accounts for 1960 be approved for submission to the Association General Meeting. Carried.

4. *War Memorial Committee's Report.* (a) Brigadier Rackham stated that he had nothing to report.
(b) Col. Walden made the following report on his visit to the W.D. Land Agent, London, in connection with the War Memorial Cottages located at Mill Hill:

(i) The Cottages are the subject of two leases, and the rental payable under each lease is £12 per annum i.e. £24 in all.
(ii) *Boer War Memorial Cottages.* The lease for these was granted on March 29, 1907, and was for 99 years calculated from December 25, 1906. The lease is determinable at any time by the War Office on giving 12 months' notice with the provision that, if the lease is determined, the War Office shall pay us 1/100th part of the original net cost for each year of the unexpired lease.
Net cost of these cottages had to be not less than £500.

(iii) *1914-18 War Memorial Cottages.* The lease for these was granted on July 28, 1916, and was for 70 years calculated from December 25, 1915. The lease is determinable under the same condition as for the Boer War Cottages, except that the War Office shall pay us 1/70th part of the original net cost for each year of the unexpired lease.
Net cost of these cottages had to be not less than £1,250.

(iv) Although there is no provision made for the lessee to determine either of the leases W.D. Land Agent considers that, if we put forward a case to sell the cottages, it might receive sympathetic consideration.

(c) Based on Col. Walden's report it was agreed that the Deputy Colonel should be asked to approach the Quartermaster General with a view to seeing what the War Department would do by way of compensation for the sale of the Cottages at Mill Hill.

(d) It was proposed by Brigadier Rackham and seconded by Col. Clayton that the Chairman should see the Deputy Colonel of the Regiment with a view to approaching the Lord Lieutenant regarding a limited appeal in the County for the building of extra Flats at Enfield. Carried.

(e) It was proposed by Brigadier Rackham and seconded by Major Newman that the Architect should be asked to inspect the cottages at Enfield with a view to ascertaining whether it was practical to convert one or two of the existing cottages into flats. Carried.

5. *Journal Committee's Report.* Col. Walden stated that he had nothing to report.

6. *Branches Committee's Report.* (a) It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Col. Hedgecoe that a sub-committee consisting of the following should be appointed to consider the report submitted by Col. Clayton and circulated with the agenda:

Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Major R. D. Hutchings, Col. F. Walden (Secretary).

It was further agreed that if the sub-committee had to incur any expenses these should be notified to the Committee with a view to their being refunded.

7. *Subscriptions to Association.* (a) It was proposed by Lt.-Col. Roberts and seconded by Brigadier Rackham that the Chairman and Secretary redraft the Appeal circulated with the Agenda on the lines discussed at this Meeting. Carried.

(b) Arising from the discussion over the Appeal it was agreed that:

(i) The Officers' Club should be asked to contribute to the Association Funds.
(ii) The sum of £25 should be invested in premium bonds, to be held in the name of the Secretary in trust for the Regimental Association.

8. *Other Business.* (a) *Revision of Association Rules.*

(i) It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Col. Hedgecoe that the revised rules should provide for the election of a Vice-Chairman in the same manner as the Chairman. Carried.

(ii) It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Lt.-Col. Roberts that the Colonel of the Regiment should nominate a serving officer, other than the Officer Commanding the 1st Battalion, as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee. Carried.

(iii) It was agreed that the revised rules should provide for both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman to be ex-officio members of the Executive Committee.

(d) *Albuhara Sunday Parade.* As a result of a suggestion made by Major Newman it was decided that a sub-committee consisting of the following should be formed to advise on the possibility of holding a Parade and Church Service on the Sunday nearest to Albuhara Day: Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton, Major P. F. Newman, Col. F. Walden (Secretary).

(e) *Appointment of Secretary.* The appointment of Col. F. Walden as Secretary vice Major A. W. Clark with effect from July 1, 1961, was confirmed.

(d) *Sergeants' Mess—5th Battalion.* R.S.M. Webb stated that the Sergeants' Mess of the 5th Battalion at the T.A. Centre, Edgware, was available to all ex-Sergeants' Mess members of the Regiment on Saturday evenings from 8 p.m. onwards and on Sundays from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.45 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, October 26, 1961.

Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association.

T.A. Centre,
Deansbrook Road,
Edgware, Middlesex.
July 17, 1961.

In the interests of economy it has been decided to print only an abridged form of the Association Accounts which have been approved by the Association's Auditors. Copies of the full accounts are in the hands of each O.C.A. club secretary and may, of course, be inspected by any member.

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

BALANCE SHEETS, DECEMBER 31, 1960			
	Charitable Fund	War Memorial Fund	Cottage Homes
Accumulated Funds	41,165	37,616	3,208
Creditors	539	108	2
Bank Overdraft			38
Provision for Maintenance—Mill Hill and Enfield	109		
Mrs. Renny Legacy	2,722		
Site Improvement Account		382	
Loan Redemption Reserve		6,488	
Loan Account (Secured)			552
Property Amortisation Fund			
	£44,535	£45,106	£3,800
Investments at cost or valuation	41,339	2,263	1,595
(Mid-market value, December 31, 1960)	(31,932)	(2,247)	(1,270)
Property		42,191	1,653
Furniture and Fittings at nominal value	1		
Stocks at Cost	108		
Debtors	13	78	
Cash at Bankers	207	574	
Cash in Hand of O.C.A. Clubs	70		
Regimental History—cost not yet recovered	15		
Mrs. Renny Legacy investment	2,722		
Amortisation Fund Investment			552
	£44,535	£45,106	£3,800

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1960

	Charitable Fund	War Memorial Fund	Cottage Homes	Diehards Journal
INCOME:				
Grants and Donations	1,038			
Subscriptions	532			226
Interest on Investments	1,663			58
Income Tax recovered on Covenants	46			
Profit on Ties and Badges	20			
Rents		328		
Maintenance receipts		52		
Advertisements				197
Grant from Charitable Fund				501
Excess of Expenditure over Income	208	221	79	
	£3,507	£601	£137	£924
EXPENDITURE:				
Grants and Allowances	1,639			
Administration Expenses	972	105	30	71
Repairs and Maintenance		496	107	
Cost of Printing				853
Wreaths	45			
O.C.A. Reunion	145			
Grant Diehards Journal	501			
Grant Enfield Branch	25			
Grant Albuhara Day	30			
Legal Expenses	23			
Renovating Memorial Table in Mill Hill Church	27			
Cottage Homes Amortisa- tion Fund	100			
	£3,507	£601	£137	£924

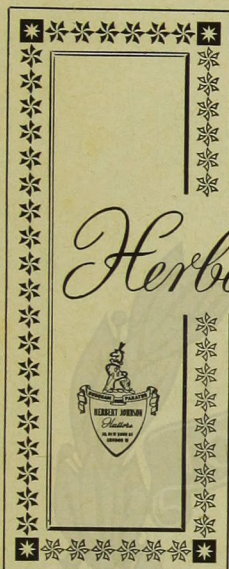
In the interests of economy it has been decided to print only an abridged form of the Club's accounts which have been approved by the Club's auditors. Copies of the full accounts may be inspected at the office of the Secretary of the Regimental Association.

OFFICERS' CLUB THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

BALANCE SHEETS, DECEMBER 31, 1960			
	Officers' Club	Officers' Club Charitable	
Accumulated Funds	4,394	1,530	
Creditors	27	2	
Funds held in Trust for 3rd Battalion	512		
	£4,933	£1,532	
Investments at Cost	4,207	1,519	
(Mid-market value December 31, 1960)	(4,090)	(1,334)	
Cash at Bankers	115	13	
Stocks	9		
Investments held in Trust for 3rd Battalion	512		
	£4,933	£1,532	

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS

	£	£
INCOME:		
Subscriptions and Entrance Fees	432	
Interest on Investments	121	
Profit on sale of Club ties	2	45
Refund of Income Tax	8	
Excess of Expenditure over Income	*	6
	£593	£51
EXPENDITURE:		
Donations	24	49
Net Expenses: Cricket week	178	
Golf meeting	28	
Dinners	96	
At Home	28	
Cocktail Party	28	
Tennis	6	
M.C.C. Season Tickets	10	
Administration and Sundry Expenses	106	2
Provision for Income Tax	12	
Excess of Income over Expenditure	55	
	£593	£51



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