

The Die Hards

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



VOL. XV No. 2

DECEMBER 1961

PRICE 1/-

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN)

(57th and 27th)

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," "Ciludad Rodrigo," "Badajo," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivello," "Nive," "Peninsula," "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1900-02."

World War I—46 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "La Bassée, 1914," "Messines, 1914," "17, 18," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915, 17, 18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Bellewaarde," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos, 1916," "18," "Albert, 1916, 18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Fiers-Carcellette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916, 18," "Bapaume, 1917, 18," "Arras, 1917, 18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917, 18," "Arleux," "Pilekem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917, 18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrouck," "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," "Suva," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordon," "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 Escourt," "Ypres—Comines Canal," "Dunkirk, 1940," "South-East Asia, 1941," "Hong Kong," "North Africa, 1942-43," "El Alamein," "Advance on Tripoli," "Mareth," "Akarit," "Dybel Roumana," "Sicily, 1943," "Francoforte," "Sfero," "Sfero Hills," "Italy, 1944-45," "Anzio," "Carreoto," "Gothic Line," "Monte Grande," "North-West Europe, 1944-45," "Normandy Landing," "Cambes," "Breville," "The Odon," "Caen," "The Orne," "Hill 112," "Bourguibus Ridge," "Troarn," "Mont Pincon," "Falaise," "The Seine, 1944," "The Nederrijn," "Le Havre," "The Lower Maas," "Venrai," "Meijel," "Geilenkirchen," "Venlo Pocket," "The Rhineland," "Goch," "The Reichwald," "The Rhine," "Lingen," "Brinkum," "Brenen."

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

Colonel of the Regiment Brigadier J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E.

Deputy Colonel of the Regiment Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C., D.L.

Regimental Headquarters

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

R.O.II: Col. F. Walden.

R.O.III: Major E. L. Heywood.

Curator, Regimental Museum: Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E.

Regular and Territorial Battalions

1st Battalion

O.C.: Lt.-Col. I. H. Battye, M.B.E.

Location: B.F.P.O. 29.

5th Battalion (T.A.)

O.C.: Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton.

Locations

Battalion H.Q. T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware,

"H.Q." Company Middlesex.

"A" Company T.A. Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8.

"B" Company T.A. Centre, Churchfield Road, Ealing, W.13.

"C" Company T.A. Centre, Old Park Avenue, Enfield,

Middlesex.

"D" Company T.A. Centre, Hanworth Road, Hounslow,

Middlesex.

Allied Units

CANADA

31st Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, Ontario.

21st Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, Ontario.

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

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

Ontario.

The Royal Rifles of Canada, Quebec.

NEW ZEALAND

The Wellington Coast and Taranaki Regiment, Toki, Taranaki.

HONG KONG

The Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers).

Home Counties Brigade

H.Q.: Wemyss Barracks, Canterbury.

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

D.A.A.G.: Major C. N. Claydon.

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Officers Location Statement	58	Hong Kong Regiment Notes	89
Editor's Comments	60	Berlin Visit	92
Personalia	61	Short Articles	93
Regimental Functions	61	Obituary	96
Regimental Museum	63	Correspondence	98
1st Battalion Notes	64	Regimental Association Branches	101
5th Battalion Notes	84	Minutes of Meetings	106

Officers Location Statement

REGULAR OFFICERS

Major-General	G. P. L. Weston, C.B.E., D.S.O.	Director, Land/Air Warfare, The War Office
Brigadier	J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E.	Chief of Staff, Land Forces, Hong Kong
Col. (T/Brig.)	C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C., M.A.	Commander, 125 Infantry Brigade (T.A.)
Col.	W. P. M. Allen, O.B.E., M.C.	A.A.G., H.Q. Western Command
Lt.-Col. (T/Col.)	J. W. G. Ormiston	Colonel G.S., A.F.C.E.
Lt.-Col.	A. G. Hewitt, M.B.E., M.C.	A.A. and Q.M.G., 42 (Lancs.) Div./North West District
Lt.-Col.	D. C. L. Nolda, O.B.E., B.A.	G.S.O. 1, Western Command
Lt.-Col. (T/Col.)	A. R. Waller, M.B.E., M.C.	Colonel "Q" (Movements) N.E.A.R.E.L.F.
Lt.-Col.	I. R. Burrows, O.B.E., M.A.	G.S.O. 1, Joint Services Staff College
Lt.-Col.	I. H. Battye, M.B.E., B.A.	Commander, 1st Battalion
Major	G. C. Dawson	M.C.T.C., Colchester
Major	E. F. Thompson, M.C., T.D.	D.A.A.G., Malta
Major	P. L. Crutchfield	D.A.Q.M.G., 54 (East Anglian) Div./District
Major	P. L. Pearce Gould, M.B.E., M.A.	Military Planning Staff, Federal Forces, Trinidad
Major	R. D. Hutchings	The War Office (P.R. 1)
Major	D. Sax	T.S.O. 2, Inspectorate of Armaments
Major	P. W. Galvin	2IC, 1st Battalion
Major	C. N. Clayden	D.A.A.G. and Brigade Adjutant, Home Counties Brigade
Major	E. A. H. Jeffcoat	D.A.Q.M.G., Land Forces, Hong Kong
Major	J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.	1st Battalion
Major	C. H. Mievill, M.C.	1st Battalion
Major	P. G. V. Bellers	Home Counties Brigade Depot
Major	K. J. Carter	1st Battalion
Major	B. A. M. Pielow	G.S.O. 2, Aden Garrison
Major	H. J. A. Moore	D.A.Q.M.G., Scottish Command
Major	R. M. Cain, B.A.	Adjutant, Hong Kong Regiment
Major	B. K. Clayden	Training Officer, 5th Battalion (T.A.)
Capt. (T/Major)	J. I. D. Pike, M.C.	1st Battalion
Capt. (T/Major)	G. G. Norton	4th Battalion Queen's Own Royal Nigeria Regiment
Capt.	B. H. Marciandi	Staff College, Camberley
Capt.	C. L. Lawrence, M.C.	Adjutant, Home Counties Brigade Depot
Capt.	P. A. S. Wollcombe	Staff Captain (Q), Aden Garrison
Capt. (T/Major)	I. S. Rutherford	The War Office (P.R. 1)
Capt.	J. S. B. Pollard	Adjutant, 1st Battalion
Capt.	R. D. Fisher	Staff College, Camberley
Capt.	M. V. Hayward	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst
Capt.	A. E. McManus	1st Battalion
Capt.	J. M. Hewson, M.C.	3rd Battalion, Parachute Regiment
Capt.	I. M. E. Lloyd	All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment, Tonfanau
Capt.	W. G. A. Crumley	Staff Captain (Q), MIDEAST (Aden)
Capt.	H. M. du V. Lohan	1st Battalion
Capt.	M. C. D. L. Gilham	Adjutant, 5th Battalion (T.A.)
Lt.	P. Mallalieu	1st Battalion
Lt.	M. D. Legg	1st Battalion
Lt.	P. V. Cheesman	1st Battalion
Lt.	M. F. Deakin	Army Air Corps Centre
Lt.	P. D. J. Clarke	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.)
Lt.	M. Julian	1st Battalion
Lt.	G. Bullock	1st Battalion
Lt.	G. Goring	1st Battalion
Lt.	A. B. Cowing	1st Battalion
Lt.	R. C. Pitman	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	J. G. Lofting	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	P. J. Monypenny	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	B. K. Finch	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	P. J. Hubert	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	R. A. Bartlett	1st Battalion
Capt. (Q.M.)	S. C. W. Weller, M.M.	5th Battalion (T.A.)
Capt. (Q.M.)	A. E. F. Waldron, M.B.E.	1st Battalion
Capt. (Q.M.)	P. Donovan	1st Battalion
Capt. (Q.M.)	F. L. Griffiths	2nd Ghana Regiment

SHORT-SERVICE OFFICERS

Capt.	A. R. F. Smith	S.O.P.T., MIDEAST (Aden)
Lt.	M. H. Rose	1st Battalion
Lt.	H. S. Grant	5th Battalion King's African Rifles
Lt.	P. M. Dubbery	1st Battalion
Lt.	D. M. Everard	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	G. N. Freeborn	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	G. A. Dudson	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.)
2/Lt.	J. A. Cockburn	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.)
2/Lt.	N. J. Bryant	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.)
2/Lt.	P. B. Armitage	11th Battalion Kings African Rifles
2/Lt.	M. N. Collins	Ghana Military Forces
Capt. (Q.M.)	E. J. Pike	6th Battalion King's African Rifles
Lt. (Q.M.)	F. Redpath, B.E.M.	2nd Battalion Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment
Lt. (Q.M.)	M. Wild	1st Battalion Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment

EXTENDED SERVICE OFFICERS

Major	L. G. Lohan, M.B.E., T.D.	Ministry of Defence
Major	A. E. Peasley	Adjutant, Home Postal Depot R.E.
Major	C. E. Rome, M.B.E.	The War Office (M.G.O.)

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICERS

2/Lt.	N. J. Chandler	Federal Defence Force Training Depot, Jamaica
2/Lt.	R. K. W. Thomas	4th Battalion King's African Rifles

5th BATTALION (T.A.)

Hon. Col. Brig. E. E. F. Baker, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., D.L., J.P.

T.A. OFFICERS

Lt.-Col.	I. D. Brotherton	Battalion Commander
Major	S. W. Webber, T.D.	2IC
Major	P. J. Hall	O.C. "D" Company
Major	J. D. Gunnell, T.D.	O.C. "C" Company
Major	C. W. Davies	O.C. "B" Company
Major	R. J. Leighton, T.D.	O.C. "A" Company
Major	P. Davidson	O.C. "H.Q." Company
Capt.	B. A. Skinner	2IC "B" Company
Capt.	J. K. E. Slack	2IC "C" Company
Capt.	B. B. Pollecoff	2IC "A" Company
Capt.	M. J. Beaumont	2IC "H.Q." Company
Capt.	D. W. Hogg	2IC "D" Company
Capt.	H. E. Couch	I.O.
Capt.	S. le M. Enthoven	Signals Officer
Lt.	G. J. Young	M.T.O.
Lt.	K. G. Price	Platoon Commander "C" Company
Lt.	S. L. J. Henshaw	Platoon Commander "B" Company
Lt.	D. H. S. Herriott	Recce. Platoon Commander
Lt.	A. W. Hunt	Platoon Commander "C" Company
Lt.	J. V. Rawson	Platoon Commander "B" Company
Lt.	J. S. Richards	Platoon Commander "B" Company
Lt.	P. J. Ottino	Platoon Commander "A" Company
Lt.	K. D. Murray	Platoon Commander "D" Company
Lt.	D. O. M. Thomas	Platoon Commander "C" Company
Lt.	J. M. Robertson	Platoon Commander "A" Company
Lt.	J. A. Van de Pol	Platoon Commander "A" Company
Lt.	J. C. Parkinson	Platoon Commander "D" Company
Lt.	M. J. S. Doran	Platoon Commander "A" Company
2/Lt.	R. G. Tett	Platoon Commander "B" Company
2/Lt.	T. D. Jones	Platoon Commander "B" Company
Major	D. P. Winstanley, R.A.M.C.	Medical Officer
Capt.	B. A. Hennah, R.A.P.C.	Paymaster

PERMANENT STAFF OFFICERS

Major	B. K. Clayden	Training Officer
Capt.	M. C. D. L. Gilham	Adjutant
Capt. (Q.M.)	S. C. W. Weller, M.M.	Quartermaster

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

Editor's Comments

Readers are reminded that this is the last of the quarterly issues of the Regimental Journal. In future *The Die-Hards* will be produced twice a year—in April and October.

Lt.-General Sir Brian Horrocks has very kindly made available to the Regiment a draft of an article on the Peninsular War, which he had prepared at the request of the *Sunday Times*.

It is proposed to publish this article in serial form in the Regimental Journal beginning with the April 1962 issue.

In the last issue I commented on the fact that two ex-members of the Regiment had been 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, Yorks.

I now find that a third ex-member has been chosen this year—ex-Sgt. W. A. G. MacGregor, who served in 2/7th Battalion in the 1914-18 War, as Mayor of Southgate.

Although somewhat belated we congratulate him on the honour conferred on him and wish him a successful tour of office.

Those who read the Minutes of the Officers' Club Meeting, which are reprinted on page 106, will observe that the Regimental "At Home" held on July 1, 1961, was so badly attended that the Executive Committee

FOR SALE

A plain gold brooch with "77" in pearls, which was originally a gift to his wife from the late Col. G. W. W. Savile, C.B.E., D.S.O., who commanded the 77th from 1905 to 1909.

Proceeds will be given to the Regimental Association Charitable Fund.

The brooch is valued at £5 and will be sold to the highest bidder.

Offers should be made in writing to Regimental Headquarters by not later than 28th February, 1962.

have proposed, subject to the views of members, to discontinue it in future. Before a final decision is taken it would be appreciated if Club members would send their views in writing to the Secretary by not later than February 17, 1962.

The additions to the existing memorial plaque in St. Paul's Church, Mill Hill, to commemorate the 1939-45 and Korean Wars, have now been made.

At the suggestion of the Vicar a special Service, including appropriate prayers, will be held in St. Paul's Church after the usual Morning Service on Sunday, April 29, 1962, which it is hoped many past and present members will attend.

Further details will be notified to all concerned by Regimental Headquarters.

Readers may be interested to know that it is proposed to hold a special parade and church service, for past and present members of the Regiment, at Edgware on May 13, 1962, the Sunday nearest Albuhera Day.

A special Sub-Committee of the Regimental Association has been set up to work out details.

It has been suggested that readers should be encouraged to write to the Editor about matters of Regimental interest.

Whether the items are historical or just amusing anecdotes, it does not matter. Please let me have them.

CHARITY COMMISSION

CHARITIES OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)
Schemes for the Amendment of Previous Schemes

The Charity Commissioners propose to establish schemes for this and other purposes. Copies of the proposed schemes will be supplied on written request to the Charity Commission, 14 Ryder Street, London, S.W.1 (quoting reference No. 136,034/137,796), and may also be seen at that address.

Objections and suggestions may be sent to the Commissioners within one month from today.

Personalia

Lt.-Col. Ian Burrows has now returned from Moscow, where he was Military Attaché, and has joined the staff of the Joint Services Staff College as a G.S.O. 1.

Major "Nick" Carter has completed his tour of duty as a G.S.O. 2 at Headquarters, Southern Command, and has rejoined the 1st Battalion.

2/Lt. N. J. Chandler, one of our few remaining National Service officers, has been transferred from the 1st Battalion West India Regiment, to which he was seconded in 1960, to the Federal Defence Force Training Depot, Jamaica, as Training Officer.

Congratulations to Major and Mrs. Norman Clayden on the birth of their son and heir on December 5, 1961.

Lt.-Col. Hervey del Court writes from South Africa to say that he hopes to be in England for a short stay next August. He is booked to sail back in the *Cape Town Castle* from Southampton on September 6, 1962. As usual he appears to be enjoying life to the full.

Lt. Mike Deakin completes his tour of duty at the Home Counties Brigade Depot during the latter half of December and, by the time this issue of the Journal is published, he will have "taken to the air," and started a tour of duty with the Army Air Corps.

John Grove, who joined the 2/8th Battalion as a newly-fledged Second-Lieutenant in Portrush in May, 1940, and left later that year on posting to the 70th Battalion, has, we discover, been Editor of *Soldier* since 1957. He is doing a first-class job in producing such an attractive magazine.

Enquiries have been made as to the present whereabouts of Major George Goulden, who joined the 1st Battalion at Aldershot about 1924 or 1925. Any information would be gratefully received at Regimental Headquarters.

Capt. John Hewson is due to complete his tour of duty with Airborne Forces in April, 1962, when he will rejoin the 1st Battalion.

We are very glad to hear that Major Roy Hutchings

has been selected as Assistant Director Public Relations in Aden from next March. The appointment, of course, carries with it the temporary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Capt. Chris Lawrence is vacating the appointment of Adjutant of the Home Counties Brigade Depot in January next, and is due to leave shortly afterwards to take up a Staff Captain's appointment at H.Q., M.E.L.F.

Capt. Ian Lloyd, whose previous posting to the Hong Kong Regiment, as Adjutant was cancelled, has gone as Training Officer to the All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment, at Tonfana.

Major John Moore, who returned from the Cameroons in the Autumn, has now taken up a Staff appointment as D.A.Q.M.G., at Headquarters, Scottish Command.

Capt. Ernest Pike left on September 20, for Dar-es-Salaam, where he joined the 6th Battalion King's African Rifles as M.T.O.

Col. Rex Waller, whose appointment as Military Attaché in Baghdad was cancelled, has now gone as Colonel "Q" (Movements) N.E.A.R.E.L.F.

In October we heard from Mr. H. Austin (ex-Sergeant, 11th (Service) Battalion) who is living in Southern Rhodesia. He was asking after his old Company Commander of 1914-18 War days, Capt. (now Lt.-Col. retired) W. H. Samuel.

Our heartiest congratulations to ex-Col./Sgt. George Hockley, B.E.M., on the award of the Meritorious Service Medal. Altogether he served 27 years in the Regiment, 22 of which were as a member of the Sergeants' Mess—a fine record. It was whilst serving in Japan between September, 1952, and April, 1954, that he was awarded the British Empire Medal. His last appointment, until he was discharged on pension in 1960, was as Colour-Sergeant in the Q.M.'s Stores at the Depot. He is now employed as a civilian Quartermaster with an R.E. unit of the Territorial Army at Twickenham.

57/77th OFFICERS' DINNER

As everybody will appreciate, the above title is incorrect. The dinner is open to ALL officers who have served at any time with any Regular or Militia Battalion, and is NOT confined to regulars.

Any officers who qualify and who would like to be informed about next year's dinner are asked to notify Regimental Headquarters.

The dinner for 1961 was held at the United Service Club on Thursday, November 23. It was a small gathering, and there were a few last minute cancellations on account of illness. Some came from afar, and it is hoped they considered their journeys worth while: everybody seemed to enjoy themselves.

Those present were:—

Col. W. P. M. Allen, Lt.-General G. C. Bucknall, Lt.-Col. I. R. Burrows, Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey, Major

C. N. Clayden, Major B. K. Clayden, Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Lt.-Col. D. Y. Cubitt, Lt. M. F. Deakin, Lt. R. T. Douthet, Brigadier A. E. Green, Capt. R. E. Guest, Capt. M. C. D. L. Gilham, Lt.-Col. T. A. Hall, Major E. L. Heywood, Major G. W. Kempster, Capt. C. L. Lawrence, Major F. A. L. Lawrence, Brigadier C. M. M. Man, Col. A. M. Man, Capt. B. H. Marciandi, Major H. N. Macleod Martin, Capt. A. E. McManus, Major P. F. Newman, Lt.-Col. F. G. Parker, Brigadier B. B. Rackham, Major R. W. J. Smith, Col. F. Walden and Col. A. R. Waller.

A notable absentee was Col. Maurice Browne who was, unfortunately, in hospital.

Next year it is hoped the 1st Battalion may be stationed in this country, which should give an opportunity for many National Service and Short Service officers to meet friends with whom they served in the past.

ARGYLL AND SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS' BALACLAVA DINNER AND DANCE

The Deputy Colonel of the Regiment had the honour to attend this traditional occasion on October 28, 1961, and was entertained most hospitably by our old friends.

All ranks 57/77th Regiment will be glad to hear that the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders are in their usual sparkling form. There were many enquiries for our Regiment and good wishes were exchanged.

Older members of the 57/77th will remember Miss Tucker, the popular manageress of the NAAFI at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, from 1924 to 1926. She married R.Q.M.S. J. McLaghlan, A. and S.H., and was kind enough to recount happy times at Mill Hill.

G.C.B.

CEREMONY AT THE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

On Saturday, November 11, past and present members of the Regiment assembled at the Middlesex Regimental Memorial Plot in the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey for a simple service in memory of those of the Regiment who gave their lives in the two World Wars and Korea. In the First World War alone the Regiment lost 12,694 all ranks killed.

Prayers were read by the Rev. L. D. Milliner, Chaplain to the Forces, after which Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C., D.L., Deputy Colonel, laid a wreath on behalf of the Regiment. This was followed by the Two Minutes' Silence, after which crosses were planted.

In addition to their own members the Regiment was honoured by the presence of many civic dignitaries who braved the heavy rain in order to pay homage to the fallen. These included the High Sheriff and Mrs. Ross, the Clerk to the Lieutenantcy, the Mayors and, in many cases, the Mayoresses, of Acton, Brentford and Chiswick, Ealing, Enfield, Finchley, Harrow, Hendon, Hornsey, Southgate, Twickenham, Uxbridge and Wood Green, and the chairman of Friern Barnet, Potters Bar and Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Councils with their wives.

The Lord Lieutenant was, unfortunately, unable to attend owing to illness.

After the ceremony the chairman of the Middlesex County Council (Col. Sir Joseph Haygarth, C.B.E., J.P.), who had also been unable to attend, owing to a broken ankle, held a reception in the Guildhall, Westminster.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Although the Depot of the Regiment is no longer at Mill Hill, the War Memorial is, and Lt.-Col. J. Turver, O.B.E., R.E., Commanding the Home Postal Depot R.E. and his staff gave us every assistance to enable us to hold a service in the Chapel in Inglis Barracks, followed by our customary ceremony at the Memorial itself.

The Rev. L. D. Milliner, who was our Depot Chaplain, took the service, which was so well attended that some were unable to get into the Chapel. The lesson was read by the Deputy Colonel, Lt.-General G. C. Bucknall.

After the Chapel Service all present assembled around the War Memorial—"H.Q." Company, 5th Battalion

and 32nd (Middlesex) Cadet Company on the south side, Mill Hill Branch on the east, and 9th Battalion Branch on the west. Others were on the road at the north-east corner.

The Chaplain then read the Exhortation, Last Post was sounded, the guns boomed, and the Two Minutes' Silence was observed before the sounding of Reveille.

Then General Bucknall, deputising for the Colonel of the Regiment, laid a wreath on behalf of the Regimental Association. He was followed by representatives of the 1st Battalion; 2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalions and the Depot; 5th and 6th (Militia) Battalions; 5th Battalion (T.A.); 7th, 8th and 9th Battalions (T.A.); Mill Hill Branch O.C.A.; 9th Battalion Branch O.C.A.; 32nd (Middlesex) Cadet Company A.C.F.

The various detachments on parade then formed up and marched past the Deputy Colonel, who took the salute. At his side on the Saluting Base was Pte. Robert Ryder, v.c., who gained his award with our 12th (Service) Battalion in 1916. It was a splendid effort on his part to turn up from Hucknall, Nottinghamshire, especially as he has to walk with the help of crutches.

Transport was arranged to take all those without it to our new Regimental Headquarters at Edgware where the Officer Commanding "H.Q." Company of our 5th Battalion had provided splendidly for our refreshment. There was an excellent gathering of Old Comrades, which continued until late in the afternoon, and it is hoped that all who had come from afar felt that the day had been worth while.

On this day, perhaps, more than on any other, we mourn the loss of what had been the home of the Regiment for so many years, but the Home Postal Depot showed that they fully understood our feelings, and could not have been more kind and co-operative. We would like them to know how much we appreciated this.

In closing this short account of a memorable ceremony we must congratulate Cpl. G. Chacksfield of the 5th Battalion on his excellent bugling.

REGIMENTAL REUNION, 1961

The annual reunion was held at the Seymour Hall, London, W.1, on Friday, November 17, 1961.

The Deputy Colonel of the Regiment, Gen. Bucknall, presided, in the absence of Brigadier Willoughby, who is now in Hong Kong. We were very glad to see Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks with us again. Altogether there were 575 present this year as opposed to 546 last year—an encouraging increase, which we hope will be improved on next year. We were particularly pleased to welcome one of our two surviving V.C.s, ex-Sgt. James Ryder, who travelled all the way from Hucknall, in Nottinghamshire, and back the same night. As he now has to walk with crutches he certainly showed the "Die-Hard" spirit.

Dance music was provided by Harry Temple and his band. Although there seemed a certain amount of shyness earlier on, the dance floor was filled before the end of the evening, and many were sad when the time came to close down.

B.B.C. Television appeared during the course of the evening to get material for a short programme about the Regiment, which was shown in "Town and Around" on Tuesday, November 21, 1961. That South African War veteran, Lt. "Bob" Douthet, was excellent in his interview on the screen, and seemed quite unperturbed by his sudden plunge into the TV world!

REUNION OF BANDSMEN AND DRUMMERS

A reunion of the Bandsmen and Drummers, the first of its kind, was held at the Regimental Headquarters on Saturday, October 21, 1961. This event was the result of a suggestion of ex-Bdsm. A. R. Drane, known to the 2nd Battalion Bandsmen as "Brewer" Drane. His indefatigable work of eight months writing to newspapers, musical journals, works news sheets, advertising on the programmes of famous football clubs and to numerous individuals paid a dividend of which he can be proud.

Over 60 ex-"Die-Hards," with their wives and families, attended and the period covered was from 1898 when Jack Ellis enlisted into the 2nd Battalion to Bandsmen still active in the Regiment today. The total of friends gathered together was well over 100. The catering was excellent and caused many favourable comments on the activities of Capt. Beaumont of the 5th Battalion and his staff. The success of the meeting was such that various suggestions were made from making the reunion an annual event to the forming of a club within the Regimental Association so that Bandsmen and Drummers can meet at the drill halls, etc., used by the existing Branches. If readers who are interested would get in touch with Regimental Headquarters and give their views, it would be appreciated.

The silver bugle presented by the W.O.s and Sergeants of the Depot to George Pocock was officially handed over. This bugle was originally carried by Drum-Major Phillipson of the 1st Battalion and had also been used by another silver bugler of that Battalion who was present, ex-Drum. Albert Windows.

As well as having the two holders of the silver bugles there were representatives of all fields of sports including those in the champion class. Ex-Bandmasters were represented by Mr. C. Trowt, whilst five others were unable to attend and sent their apologies. Each of the four regular Battalions, two special Reserve Battalions and the four Battalions of the Territorial Forces were represented, and also one from the 13th (Service) Battalion. An old "Die-Hard," "Boss" Barter, who enlisted on New Year's Day, 1903, had also served in the bands of the Honorable Artillery Company and the Coldstream Guards during his 29 years service. Instruments played and the ability may have differed but the salient feature was the eagerness of those present to meet again and re-live those pleasant days when a bandsman or drummer was a chosen man who led his regiment both on the march and in his conduct at all times.

Col. Walden and Major Heywood were two officers who had in the past had a lot to do with the Band and Drums and had been invited to join the gathering. At future meetings it is hoped other officers will be able to

attend and talk over the different aspects of Staff Parade. Many hilarious references were made to the days when senior officers were young subalterns and balding and stout old soldiers were smart and trim young "Badgies."

In conclusion, all present on this memorable occasion wish to express their heartfelt appreciation of the tremendous amount of work done by Mr. Drane to ensure such a happy and successful evening.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Two sets of medals of the First World War have recently been presented to the Museum—those of Major L. H. Owens and of Cpl. C. H. Harris.

The medals of Major Josephs are the 1914 Star with clasp, the British War medal, and the Victory medal. As published in the last issue of the Regimental Journal, Major Josephs originally joined the 6th (Militia) Battalion. He was a qualified instructor of musketry, and on transfer went to France in 1914 with the 4th Battalion, landing on August 14. He was with "D" Company at the Battle of Mons, August 23, being made a prisoner when the Company were fighting at Obourg. He made the pilgrimage to Mons on many occasions and in 1952 was our senior officer at the annual ceremony to commemorate the battle.

The second set of medals, those of 2508 Cpl. Charles William Harris (although shown in some records as T.F. 293431) are the 1914-15 Star, British War medal and Victory medal.

Cpl. Harris enlisted in August 1914 in immediate response to Lord Kitchener's appeal. He joined the 9th Battalion at Pound Lane, Willesden, and after finishing his training was transferred to the 2/10th Battalion when a complete company was drafted to fill vacancies and bring the unit up to strength for active service. He went with the Battalion to the Dardanelles, landing at Suvla Bay in August 1915. He served throughout this short-lived campaign and, when all troops were evacuated, he sailed with the Battalion and landed at Alexandria on December 19, 1915.

The 2/10th were in the area east of the Suez Canal during the Battle of Ruman, but did not take any active part in it. Cpl. Harris moved with the unit from Egypt to Palestine and it was during the Second Battle of Gaza in April 1917 that he was killed.

Another item of interest which has been given to the Museum is a menu card printed in English and Chinese and entitled "Welcome Entertainment to the 25th Middlesex Regiment" at the Yuen Restaurant, Hong Kong, on April 30, 1917.

This card was found by one of the soldiers of 4/5th (Cinque Ports) Battalion The Royal Sussex Regiment (T.A.) whilst pulling down an old house in the Lewes area, and was handed over by him to W.O.2 E. Steward of our Regiment, who is a Permanent Staff Instructor of this T.A. Battalion.

R.W.J.S. 7

1st Battalion Notes

SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM LT.-COL. I. H. BATTYE, M.B.E., Commanding 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own)

The Battalion has now become a completely motorised unit. Each company has its own support platoon and both rifle and support platoons have their own armoured personnel carriers, one per rifle section and support weapon detachment.

Companies are mobile self-contained battle groups trained to work closely with armour, artillery and engineers.

A greater number of specialists than ever before is now required in the Battalion. It is my aim to train all regular soldiers as specialists: mortarmen, anti-tank gunners and signallers. With over a hundred vehicles in the Battalion I can now promise that every soldier within a few months of joining a company will be taught to drive.

The Battalion urgently requires intelligent, capable men who are able to train successfully as specialists and drivers. If all members of the Regiment, past and present, bear in mind the fact that this long-promised new equipment is now with this Battalion I believe it will help in attracting the modern young man. Every single recruit helps us maintain our strength and standards now.

The summer of 1961 has seen revolutionary changes in the infantry soldier's "battle" in Europe. For centuries the "Die-Hard" has not only fought on foot, but has been required to march to the scene of the battle, albeit from time to time he has been provided with transport of one kind or another. Now he is a motorised infantryman. Speed of movement, both mounted and dismounted, flexibility in deployment, and the ability to be self-contained for long periods are the hallmark of the motorised infantryman. No longer need he envy the trooper, gunner or sapper in their ability to carry "bivvie and brew can" into battle.

The first armoured personnel carriers arrived in April. Unhandsome hybrids with unpredictable performance. Disparaging comments were plentiful. In fact, the worst forebodings were not fulfilled and, despite certain shortcomings, our A.P.C.s have done well. Interesting developments emerged from the advent of these creatures. Hitherto a multitude of cars—tangible evidence of the affluence of the regular soldier—were to be found parked around the barrack circuit. A.P.C. driver training on the circuit achieved in one day what neither admonition nor threat had accomplished in two years! Capt. Pat Donovan, our M.T.O., once perhaps the biggest proprietor of military equipment in the Battalion, has almost completely sold out to the recently-created Company M.T.O.s and, with consummate skill, is transforming himself into an urbane staff officer.

In July a reorganisation of the Battalion disbanded Support Company and gave the rifle companies a support platoon comprising both mortars and anti-tank sections. Support Company, which has been part of the Battalion since machine-gun days, had a character of its own and a very fine spirit, and when required in Cyprus was able to turn its hand to straightforward infantry work with distinction. It was sad to witness the passing of Support Company. The decision to disband was not taken by the Commanding Officer until it became evident at the end of an exercise that the time had come to implement the new organisation.

August was a quiet month despite international tension. Platoons carried out marches lasting several

days in preparation for the forthcoming formation exercises. Fitness and ability to march are as important in the motorised battalion as they have been hitherto. Meanwhile as many as could be spared took leave, especially the married and resident who had children home on school holidays. Holland, Switzerland, Italy, Spain and Yugoslavia seemed to provide the most attractions this year.

By the beginning of September 1 British Corps Exercise "Spearpoint," which for some time had been in the back of our minds, began to loom large. We knew that it would entail rapid movement by balanced forces of all arms over long distances, across several major water obstacles and low-lying boggy country. Consequently Exercise "Autumn Folly," a Battalion exercise designed to practice the techniques required for "Spearpoint," was held during mid-September. Our direct support battery of gunners, 28 Medium Battery, and squadron of Engineers, 25 Field Squadron, took part and representatives of our affiliated "A" Squadron of the 14/20 Hussars, the R.A.F. and Army Air Corps also participated. A long advance was carried out, two assault crossings of rivers were made, the sappers built a heavy ferry for the vehicles and much bootleather was worn out in spite of our ownership of A.P.C.s—proving that old habits die hard. The Commanding Officer was able to view the battlefield from a helicopter and seemed pleased with what he saw!

And so to Soltau for the second time this year in preparation for Exercise "Spearpoint." Soltau normally offers either dust or mud. We were lucky. We had dust but it was tempered by recent rain. The first week was a busy one. "A," "B" and "C" Companies, each with "A" Squadron, 14/20 Hussars, were set a company/squadron exercise. These were in all cases a success and showed how quickly the Companies were back into their stride after the August break. Later in the week a Battalion exercise with "A" Squadron was held which was attended by the Commander-in-Chief, Gen. Sir James Cassels, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C. The Commanding Officer "bear led" the Commander-in-Chief and the 2IC had his moment of glory as Exercise Battalion Commander. An interesting development

occurred towards the end of the exercise when the Commanding Officer enlisted the services of Jove and struck the Battalion and Company Commanders with thunderbolts. Command of the Battalion devolved on Capt. Tony McManus and command of Companies on Lt. Paul Mallalieu, Lt. George Goring and Capt. John Durnell. The "younger set" took over their duties with alacrity and zest and with a minimum of delay the advance was continued and the exercise brought to a successful conclusion.

The second week at Soltau began with 11 Infantry Brigade Group Exercise "Battleaxe." In spite of the extremely bad going we pressed on along thickly-mudded tracks with enormous pools of water every few hundred yards to cross the imaginary river mentioned in the exercise narrative. The latter part of the week was devoted to striking camp and preparations for Exercise "Spearpoint," the highlight and culminating point of the year's training.

Personality Column

Major Norman Clayden, Battalion Second-in-Command, left during August on posting to the Brigade Depot as Deputy Assistant Adjutant General. Major Clayden, a keen trainer and great sportsman, and Mrs. Clayden, the secretary of the Wives' Club, will both be missed very much in the Battalion. We send them both our very best wishes for a happy tour of duty at Canterbury, and the remainder of their kit which would just not go into their car. Major Peter Galvin has taken over as Second-in-Command.

W.O.1 T. McMillan, R.S.M. since 1958, left during the current quarter to become R.S.M. of 4th Battalion the Buffs (T.A.). We all wish "Mac" and Mrs. McMillan the best of luck and happiness in the new job. W.O.1 R. Dodkins is now R.S.M. and is congratulated on his promotion.

Capt. Allan Cowan left early in September to retire. For several years he has been P.R.I. and Messing Officer. We shall miss him and his wife, and wish them good fortune in civilian life.

Capt. Ronnie Fisher has gone to Shrivenham for three months prior to his Staff College course at Canterbury which begins in the New Year. Other recent departures include Lt. Chris Allanson of the Queen's Surreys, who stayed with us for support-weapon pre-course training, 2/Lt. "Rod" Pickis (R.A.E.C.), our unit Education Officer and Officers' Mess garden member, who left us in September on National Service release, C.S.M. Simmons posted to the Brigade Depot, and C.S.M. "Thundercloud" Thorogood, who has departed to civilian life. We also miss W.O.2 Edwards (R.A.P.C.), whom we congratulate on his promotion to W.O.1, and Sgt. "Dickie" Butler who has joined the personnel selection staff at the Brigade Depot. Sgt. Brereton has been posted to an R.A.S.C. company in B.A.O.R., and S/I. Poole has returned to Aldershot.

To all we wish well in the future.

We welcome:

Lt. Harry Lyons, R.A.E.C., now an "expert" on the rear link, 2/Lt. Bob Bartlett from Sandhurst, C.S.M. Wildgoose and Sgt. Cakebread from the Queen's Surreys, C.S.M.I. Issit, A.P.T.C., from Aldershot, who



WO.2. V. Edwards at his "Farewell Dinner"

replaces S/I. Poole, and S/Sgt. Harrison, R.A.P.C., who replaces W.O.2 Edwards.

We congratulate Major David Pike on his promotion and his excellent choice of champagne, and Padre "Bill" Crawte and Mrs. Crawte on the birth of a daughter. Also to be congratulated are O.R.Q.M.S. Cripps and C.S.M. Walters on their promotion to Warrant rank, C/Sgts. "Clem" Clements, Power and Cakebread, S/Sgt. Probert and Sgt. Miles on their recent promotions.

During July we were visited by Major David Lansana of the Sierra Leone Army. He has been well acquainted with the Regiment for a long time, having served with Lt.-Col. Hewitt and Major Galvin in Sierra Leone many years ago. More recently he attended a course with Capt. Donovan and has served with Lt. Kenrick, who is now attached to the Sierra Leone Regiment. Major Lansana so obviously enjoyed his stay with us that we were very sorry to see him leave and hope he will be able to visit us again.

Two Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officers, Capts. Pilbader Rana and Tombasing Gurung, visited the Battalion in August. There was not a lot of the more interesting type of training for them to see but they appeared to enjoy their visit and we were pleased to have them.

Finally, on "Spearpoint" we were umpired by officers and N.C.O.s of the 1st Battalion the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, led by Major Frank Mead. We liked our umpires very much, nevertheless we gave them "a run for their money" and at times they were hard pressed to keep up with us. They are to visit us in barracks later this month, when both Officers' and Sergeants' Messes look forward to entertaining them.

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

The nerve centre of the Battalion has been carrying on in its usual industrious way during the last quarter, and has managed to unravel the awkward tangles it usually gets into.

The chief brain, O.R.Q.M.S. Cripps, has kept his underlings well under control and managed the office in his usual efficient manner. Congratulations are offered on his recent promotion; perhaps he is now overpaid as well as overworked.

The Parts I, II, III Orders departments are running smoothly in the capable hands of Sgt. Gibbs and Cpl. O'Gorman. Sgt. Gibbs is at the moment once more on leave, no doubt a deserved rest. Perhaps he is trying to surpass Cpl. O'Gorman's record of 1959. Cpl. O'Gorman, since his return from Exercise "Spearpoint" has joined the "Order of the Sling"—undoubtedly the result of too much typing.

A welcome addition to our team is Pte. Bennis, ex-Support Company clerk. He has brought some of his old company's light-heartedness to us and has settled down quite happily as Documents Clerk during the absence of L/Cpl. Gower on leave.

L/Cpls. Buckridge and Gower were promoted while the Adjutant was on leave—behind his back so he says—and the least of his threats was to put them both on a cadre. Pte. Waller, apart from his duties as i/c filing and despatch, spends any spare time he has inventing gadgets and labour-saving devices for his desk. These seem to work fairly well, and are probably the reason why he has so much time to spare.

Pte. Painter returned from an extended extension of leave and found that he had been posted to "H.Q." Company stores. He took the news philosophically. Pte. Fordham, who has spent the last six months at the Adventure Training Centre in Norway, will be returning to us shortly, but his future with us has still not been decided.

The movements department, under the management of L/Cpl. Buckridge and Pte. Hill, have been busy trying to please everyone. Pte. Hill has remained constantly at great heights but comes down occasionally for NAAFI breaks, nevertheless he is doing a good job.

When the next issue is brought to press, there will undoubtedly be more news of changes, as three of our staff will have departed for the joys of civilian life.

Intelligence Section

The event of greatest importance during this quarter has been the departure of Sgt. Butler. We shall miss the omniscient presence, wreathed in cigarette smoke, dispensing wisdom and knowledge to all in need. He has gone to join the ever-growing Middlesex clan at Canterbury, as P.S.O. Sergeant. We all wish him the best of luck under Capt. Lawrence and hope to see him back with us again soon.

In his place we welcome Cpl. Dickens. He was thrown into the mill just before Exercise "Spearpoint" but came through the ordeal with his moustache twirled high. During our winter hibernation he will have plenty of time to "get aboard" the section.

Just before "Spearpoint," Pte. Clarke finished his National Service and made his own way home. By now

he should be well settled in to the boring routine of good food and no guards.

Reference mention of I.O.'s new car in the last issue—delete "so far unscratched."

Church

It is now a year since the present chaplain took the "Die-Hards" under his wing. The rank and file are still resisting his spiritual overtures with as much tenacity as the men of Albuhera resisted the enemy of old. Whether the minority will come out victors in this particular campaign remains to be seen.

One is reminded of the Old Testament story of Elisha consoling his rather fearful servant when face to face with overwhelming odds. Opening his spiritual insight so that he might see the forces of God arrayed with him, he said: "Fear not; for they that be with us are more than they that be with them."

We all need such a revelation from time to time, and none more than a chaplain to the Forces. It's a pity that Elishas are so hard to come by.

With so many "breaks through" in other spheres, it's nearly time we had a "break through" in the spiritual realm—through the invisible barrier that cuts off the desire for worship from the average soldier.

With most of his generation he is still looking for what he can get out of it in the way of tangible "perks"—and, of course, the Church just doesn't lend itself to that any more. Certainly not to the well-paid and well-cared-for modern soldier.

"H.Q." COMPANY

Since our last notes there have been a series of major changes.

First, we welcome the "Bearded Wonder" and his merry men to the Company on the break-up of "S" Company. Being very elusive, we decided to take them to Sennelager with the rest of the Battalion to classify. This was done successfully with the aid of C/Sgt. Clements, who fed us very well. He even had the buckets well organised. "Well done, 'Colours'."

Having recovered from Sennelager and the fact that we had lost C.S.M. Dodkins, who had been promoted to R.S.M. on the departure of R.S.M. McMillan, we then had to say good-bye to Captain Fisher, off to Staff College, and welcome Lt. Rose, who is to act as Company Commander until the arrival of Major Carter.

The new C.S.M. is W.O.2 Walters, who may or may not be a loss to the Signal Platoon. We must say good-bye to one other, Sgt. Argent, our Provost Sergeant, who is off to the Junior Leaders' Battalion. His replacement is C/Sgt. Cakebread, a new addition to the Battalion, who has been hiding away in the Q.M.'s Stores. We congratulate him on his promotion to Colour-Sergeant.

Before we close we would like to ask the "Bearded Wonder" why, when on Exercise "Spearpoint," he asked the Company Commander if he could shave his beard off. Could it be that he thought the S.A.S. was after him?

We wish to all those who have left, or are leaving, the very best of luck and success in their new appointments and to those now joining the best of luck. We hope that they will enjoy their stay.

Signal Platoon

The Platoon has had a very busy quarter, although quite an enjoyable one. During the Company training weeks it had the responsibility of maintaining communications with the companies wherever they went. This turned out to be no easy task but, as usual, the Platoon excelled themselves and by the use of "Sky Wave" managed to get through each and every day, sometimes over distances of up to 70 miles. Without doubt the Platoon was hard pressed to keep up with its heavy commitments during this period; some of our members did not see barracks for over a month. One of these was the R.S.O., who, though not on duty, took off to the terrible haunts of "Les Paris" (France) and points south, returning very haggard and drawn, and giving the excuse that "It was a long drive back."

During the Company weeks the Platoon set up what was termed as the ideal control station on the "Piper's Hill." It was so well situated in fact that it had a Gasthaus 100 yards due north and another due west, plus the added attraction of Berlin tourists on holiday. This, together with L/Cpl. Anderson's cooking, made more than one singular remark that they had never tasted "Compo" so good.

The Battalion Exercise, "Autumn Folly," went very well for most of us. The R.S.O., however, had the misfortune to lose his champ at one stage and was wandering around for 8 hours, complete with an A41, muttering under his breath.

This was followed by Infantry/Tank training at Soltau for the period September 25 to October 5, where many of us renewed old acquaintances at Schneverdingen and then on to Exercise "Spearpoint" after a three-day pause for breath in a rest area. L/Cpl. O'Riordan managed not to last quite so long for he very carefully tore a shoulder ligament playing rugby at Soltau.

After moving to the concentration area the exercise began at 0600 hrs. on Monday, October 9, and went well. For the Platoon it proved very successful and, as we maintained our usual good communications, there were "No complaints" from above. (Of course C/S 16 was, as always, invaluable as the step-up and relay link.)

While we remember, who was the person who couldn't manage to get over the tail-board of his three-tonner and so spent the night under it lightly covered by the canvas of a 160-lb. tent? Who was the officer who led the charge on an "enemy" road block midst heavy small-arms fire only to find out that it was the American Battle Group of our own allies who were occupying the village? Who, using very correct army target procedure, wiped out the American Battle Group (yes, the lot) and still maintains that it was the K.S.L.I. and that the umpires were not playing the game?

Who was it who charged through what they thought to be enemy lines with the C.P. and Battalion H.Q. Group and got them all killed off for six hours. Guess who the enemy turned out to be; "Yup," it was the American Battle Group again. Those Yanks were everywhere.

We were unlucky with our D.R.s on this exercise. Both Ptes. Stephenson and Stewart had unfortunate accidents. Luckily neither was very serious; Pte.



Lt. Rose manning the Command Post A.P.C.

Stephenson broke his shoulder and Pte. Stewart pulled a muscle. We hope they have a speedy recovery. "Steve" is at present wandering around barracks with his arm in a sling chuckling to himself that it is good for the C.I.V. and administrative inspections. Pte. Stewart went one better and managed to talk himself out of hospital so that he could get away to Sweden for some leave.

The Platoon is now back in barracks once again and we are busy cleaning up after the exercise before getting down to the preparations for the annual administrative inspection.

During the past quarter we have said farewell to quite a number of our old members. C/Sgt. Walters has left us on his promotion to W.O.2. We offer our congratulations and hope he enjoys wearing his red-banded, peaked cap. Cpl. Phillips, L/Cpls. Jones and Challenor, Ptes. Joel, Clayton, Gibbons, Masoero and Heslin have left us for the joys of "Civvy Street." We wish them all the best of luck.

We have also welcomed some new members to the Platoon: Ptes. Stewart, Phillips, Morly, Kingham and Munns. I understand they actually volunteered to join us. They must be mad!

The Platoon would like to congratulate Cpls. Stewart and Dowsett on doing so well on their Hyte course, and L/Cpl. Dowsett and Pte. Howell on their promotions to Corporal and Lance-Corporal respectively.

M.T.

The writing of these notes marks the end of the training year and, for the M.T. Platoon, a very successful one. We now appear to have mastered the Humber 1-tonners. For Exercise "Spearpoint" we had a 100 per cent. turnout. All members of the Platoon gave a good account of themselves and, due to the untiring efforts on the part of Sgt. Pritchard, L/Cpl. Jamieson, Ptes. Stimpson, Barnett, Williams and Smith to get the P.O.L. through, of Sgt. Peacock (R.E.M.E.) and his fitters who worked non-stop to keep the vehicles running, and Sgt. Hawes, who, with L/Cpl. Butler and Pte. Holland provided the spares, all wheels were kept

turning. Thus we helped our victorious Redland Army to success. Cpl. Brennan managed to clock over 1,900 miles in providing the rations, thus accounting for the satisfied look on his face upon return. L/Cpl. Butler was seconded to the 14th/20th for a night only and ended up on the end of a tow chain some two miles inside enemy territory, and Pte. James claims that he ended the exercise with the aid of two candles, having had his generator pack up.

Looking back on the past three months, we have said good-bye to many of the old faces, chief of whom is Sgt. Eldridge, who has departed to the wilds of Africa. Pte. Padgett from the "tech." stores and Ptes. Page and Rowland have gone to civilian life, Cfn. Truedell to Cyprus. We welcome C/Sgt. Power, who, for the first couple of weeks was only to be found deep in course manuals and handbooks from which there emerged a more than casual knowledge of M.T. matters. We wish him every success on his course at the Army M.T. School. Also Ptes. Dann, Flowerdew, Syme, Casey, Hackney, Lovell, Brown and to the R.E.M.E. "Att." Cfn. Truesdell who had the shortest tour of Cyprus ever known, having found that on arrival in the U.K. his services were not required. We also welcome Ptes. Russell and Thomas who have returned to take charge of the unit servicing bay, and, after a couple of guards, were soon looking normal again.

Our congratulations to Cpl. Brennan on his marriage, and may we point out that the Platoon are still waiting for the stag night, which is now a little overdue, also to Pte. Goulding. To both we wish many years of bliss. Congratulations also to L/Cpls. Jamieson, Butler and Smith upon their appointments.

A large number of the Platoon have, we hear, subscribed to evening dancing classes being run by that master of the ballroom, Pte. "Victor" Dann. We are still trying to connect the M.T.O.'s appointment as Group Scoutmaster in Hameln with the amount of three-finger saluting and the loud cries of "Akela we will do our best," now practised by members of the Platoon. Provided that shorts do not become compulsory on muster parade, we don't mind.

Cpl. Puckey has taken up fishing, the whole Platoon receiving a detailed account day by day. Pte. Whitehouse is having a very restful time at the moment, being a believer in the motto "Early to bed." Pte. Yeoman returned from an extended U.K. leave looking none the worse and Cpl. Minett returned from his N.C.O.'s cadre looking shattered.

So to the future. We hear that our Platoon Sergeant, Sgt. Pritchard, will be leaving us in the New Year, which is sad news indeed, but at least we will have his guiding hand to see us through the C.I.V. on which all efforts are concentrated at the moment. Limitless amounts of paint, AL3, kero., rags, overtime and effort are being thrown into the battle, from which we are confident we will emerge with a 100 per cent. success!

Wishing our readers a Happy Xmas and New Year, we bring this edition to a close.

Q.M. Platoon

The heading of these notes is very misleading; it should read the "Q.M.'s Few."

We welcome to the "Few" the Assault Pioneer Section and hope that we shall see more of them than the members of Support Company did. They even tried to avoid coming to pay parade; this was soon cured, no appearance, no money.

We were given another spell of Soltau. The Q.M. and Sgt. Langford departed for a further fortnight's holiday with the three stalwarts, Jones (63) (the Q.M.'s hungry batman), "Speedy" Constantine and "Flapper" Partridge (first time he has seen the inside of a tent). From there they went on Exercise "Spearpoint." Prior to the exercise a few more of the staff were dragged from their bug holes, namely, L/Cpl. Kelly, Ptes. Allen, Whitmore, Jones (28) and Cfn. Mellor. A word also for the four drivers attached for this period, namely, Cpl. Brennan, Ptes. Beal, Garner and Ross. They all drove well and we are grateful for their hard work and safe driving. Our D.R., Pte. Innes, was first class, and, to the Q.M.'s chagrin, he would not fall off when coming through a very muddy wood in the dark. Pte. Williams (A.C.C.) fed us well and we thank him for his efforts. The hours were long but the weather was good, which helped to keep all in a cheerful mood.

The following amusing incident must be recorded. Whilst staying at a farm "Speedy" Constantine was heard to say: "Just had a bit of luck, found three eggs." Sad to relate, the eggs were "china." "Speedy's" nickname, needless to say, is now "china."

At one stage during the exercise, "B" Echelon had the audacity to overtake the Battalion, but this was only for a short time.

Sgt. Cakebread is temporarily attached to the staff and rapidly made a name for himself by bringing all the Q.M.'s pamphlets up to date.

It is with regret that we have parted with the following members to civilian life. All were National Servicemen and gave of their best: Cpl. Kirkpatrick, L/Cpl. White, Ptes. Lewin, McSweeney, Ward, Simpson, Jones (63) and Partridge.

L/Cpl. Cousins has arrived from "A" Company to assist the married quarters' increment and Cfn. Mellor to the armourer's shop from U.K. Pte. Gordon joined from Support Company and is accommodation stores "nig."

Assault Pioneer Platoon

We have been busy throughout this quarter.

Our first task was the building of the assault course. It is now complete except for a 6-ft. wall, which is now to be started.

Half-way through July we set out on the first half of our well-known boating trip down the Weser. We used Mk. III collapsible assault boats. We started at the source at Hann Munden and travelled north to Hameln, a distance of 85 miles, which took us four days. We were accompanied by representatives from all branches of the Battalion: A total of 16 others besides us "Chunkies." On the return we went straight to Sennelager, where we had a change of weather and rain all the time.

We returned from Sennelager on the Friday and left on the Sunday to complete the last 12 days of our boating trip. This leg was from Hameln to Verden, a distance of

130 miles. During this stage "A" Company were on standby so our numbers fell slightly. We had good weather all the way and finished looking very sunburnt.

We all wish Pte. Berg the best of luck on his carpenters and joiners course. We will all need some instruction from him when he returns.

On the break-up of "S" Company we moved to "H.Q." Company block. We wish all Anti-Tank and Mortar Platoon wasters and former "S" Company comrades good luck in their new companies. We have settled in well and are glad to have the Drums as our next-door neighbours, but oh those bugles!

Finally, to the Company Commander, C.S.M., Q.M. and all other mighties we issue this warning: "Be Booby Trap Minded."

Corps of Drums

Most of the period to be covered was spent by the Drums on leave. However, one or two things of note have happened. The massed bands parade at Minden, on August 4, gave us our chance to prove weeks of training and a very fine performance was given by everyone. Drum-Major Lewis, leading three bands, was very impressive and the Drum Fantasy performed by the drummers with The South Wales Borderers was very well received. The whole parade was very impressive and memorable.

The Commanding Officer's bugle competition was held and L/Cpl. White headed the list with Dmr. Bright a close second and Adjutant's Bugler. Congratulations to both. Then leave intervened and we split up and went our many ways. Some went for longer than others as Pumfrey and Randall will recount. Pumfrey has painful recollections of getting a cup of tea! Randall just met a friendly doctor! Lawn has not yet appeared and is probably spending the proceeds of his vast fortune.

Since our return many things have been done other than musical training. A quick jaunt on "Autumn Folly" and then an exercise with the Green Howards, which occasioned a long walk through impenetrable woods. Butler, Silvester and others have good recollections of a very live wire fence and Davidson was nearly rendered impotent by its effect—at least he says so!

Then on to Soltau and "Spearpoint." Training on our own gives rise to some queer activities, including jumping off moving vehicles. A certain drummer reckons he was pushed—Players! So on to "Spearpoint," which gave rise to many differing emotions, from the near mutiny on the Tuesday morning after the Weser to the incident of Butler V.C. (well, perhaps he'll tell you in his own words) at a village. The Press arrived and when the writer was interviewed, allowed him to speak to certain members only. Mason's comments weren't worth recording, anyway, and Davidson did not have any; he was captured! On then to the destruction of Andy Force, which separated us all and gave rise to heated comments. Watts joined the Americans and L/Cpl. Dawson disappeared altogether for a period and, after some nuclear clashes, the exercise ended—only after an enemy platoon was captured intact without a shot being fired.

"Chalky" White has retired to Norway and will, no doubt, come back with colourful stories based on his experiences. "Nobby" Clarke has been admitted to hospital with his knee—perhaps he won't come back (what a nasty thought), but perhaps some teeth would improve his appearance. Lake, Butler and Davidson play for the Battalion football team and were missed when the Drums played the Signals at Soltau. Freeland continues his honeymoon. Cement for Mason seems delayed, but Kendall has some hay for the winter. Watts and Catherine are thinking of starting a casino with Parker as stooge! Oliver keeps his hair well forward for future beatnik activities in Civvy Street and with Gunn's arrival Campy and Elliot now have competition in accent.

Band

After having a successful tour of U.K. and collecting ex-Bdsm. Yates, who has re-enlisted, the Band returned to Hameln to re-join the Battalion and its familiar surroundings. We took part in the 2nd Division annual massed bands parade on August 4. It was the third year we had taken part in this parade, and we were the only band there from the 1959 parade. Our old friends, The South Wales Borderers, were present, along with The York and Lancaster Regiment, and quite a few old acquaintances were renewed! The Scottish Pipers and Dancers were the star attraction of the show, with the massed staff bands and the massed line bands fighting for second place. It is hard to say who received the greater ovation, the line bands with their rendering of "Berliner Luft" or the staff bands with their version of "When the Saints Go Marching In." However, the whole parade was warmly received by an extremely large German audience, and, despite having had to work tremendously hard for once, the bands enjoyed it too!

Soon we found ourselves confronted by yet another move, but this time in a different direction; to Berlin for two weeks in September in preparation for the Berlin Tattoo. The tattoo itself was quite successful, and the trip to Berlin was appreciated by all as it gave us a chance to see some of the famous and some of the not-so-famous sights!

On return to Hameln we found many tasks. One of these was a march through Hameln in a local procession for the annual "Schutzenfest." After the march we gave a concert in the Festzelt and the rest of the evening was spent in merry-making. We also took part in another civic ceremony, the dedication of new Hameln, Bakers professional H.Q. The old H.Q., which was built in 1284, was destroyed by bombing during World War II.

We were very sorry to lose Cpl. Gutteridge, L/Cpl. Adkin and Bds. Andrews earlier this month and we wish all three of them the very best of good fortune and every success in their respective civilian occupations, and trust that they will not forget the good times while they were with the Band.

We would also like to take this opportunity of offering hearty congratulations to Wilf Cooper and his wife on the addition to their family of a daughter, Belinda.

We welcome Bds. Nash, who, at long last, fills the vacancy on the percussion section created by Bds. Taylor's "departure." We trust he will find life here a little more interesting than at Canterbury.

Very shortly the Band will be losing two more Bandsmen, "Saff" Saffery and "Huggsy" Hughes. Both of these have an individual character, as we all well know, and will not be forgotten for many years. We hope their short stay in the Band has been enjoyable and not too tiring and wish them both the very best of luck for the future in civilian life.

We are now battling with Franz Liszt's "Les Preludes" Symphonic Poem No. 3, with the hope of playing it on a proposed broadcast programme to be performed later this year. "Mars," from the Planet Suite, is also suffering under our ministrations.

We are also preparing for another tour in England next year, which we hope will be a little more extensive than last year's. We have already received a few tentative offers but, as yet, nothing definite. Perhaps we will be able to give more information in the next journal notes.

"A" COMPANY

One of the effects of mechanisation has been to thrust new roles on the individual members of Company H.Q. Cleasby has qualified for the rating driver/cook/wireless operator. Brandon doubles as Major Mievill's batman and A.P.C. driver. There is not space enough to mention all the things each individual can do, but there is no doubt that living as vehicle crews on training has brought out hidden talents in all of us. Driving, operating and cooking skills are high all round, in addition to the conventional infantry jobs.

Farewell to Pte. Abrey—"Ron" to a very wide circle of friends—who, before going, was presented with a beer tankard in appreciation of the excellent way he has looked after the inner man of the Company.

Pte. Stockley, for long a Company H.Q. driver, has also come to the end of his service. His place is now taken by Pte. Green.

L/Cpl. Hayman has taken over as Company clerk now that Cousins has left us for the Q.M. stores. We have L/Cpl. Hayman to thank for our petrol and ration resupply during "Spearpoint"—a new job for the Company clerk, but performed with great success over difficult routes and amid considerable fog of war as well as the other kind.

Pte. O'Brien has forsaken the ranks of the rifle platoons at long last and now drives the O.C.'s champ. He also wanted to forsake the sports field, but Mrs. O'Brien, whom we welcome to Hameln, very sensibly wouldn't let him.

Finally, we must mention a little man who does a big job. Pte. Norman has stepped into McDowell's place in the stores. He may not know all the answers yet, but he soon will.

No. 1 Platoon

We are very sorry to say good-bye to Kirnon and Taylor, two well-liked and prominent members of the team. The former was an able wireless operator, the latter an efficient batman, in fact, so efficient that he was

pinched by the Commanding Officer during his last few weeks in the Army.

Since the last notes we welcome to the Platoon Maxwell, McDaid and Lock. Maxwell comes from Dublin and McDaid is an "Orangeman," but they seem to get on well. Maxwell made his name when, on being told by Sgt. Parnell to give an A 40 wireless to Kirnon, he gave it to the Commanding Officer, who apparently took him to his camp and showed him that he had lots of lovely big sets and really did not want another.

Since the last notes the Platoon has been on Exercise "July Jump" when we were transported in helicopters. We had an excellent, if wet, Platoon week in August and, once again, we did much to improve Anglo-German relations to such an extent that Leworthy was seen on the dance floor in boots C.W.W. Immediately after this exercise Sunray "skived" off to the South of France and Italy, and the chaps were left to soldier as enemy for the N.C.O.'s cadre. Sgt. Parnell had again been stolen from us to help run this cadre. As a result of the cadre we welcome back to us Murphy, now as a Lance-Corporal commanding No. 1 Section. In his section he has much to deal with, including the "National Servicemen's Amalgamated Society" which is presided over by "machine-gun" Hawkins and ably subscribed to by Goodchild, Lock and Skelton. The section driver, Jim Allen, is an amused onlooker.

After "Autumn Folly," when we distinguished ourselves by getting behind the enemy lines for a whole day, we returned to Soltau for a 10-day work-up prior to Exercise "Spearpoint." Soltau appeared much the same as usual except by now we were "old soldiers." Jim Allen will remember it well, as, one night while wending his weary way back to his bivvy, he fell into a "B" Company thunder-box pit.

After Soltau we travelled north to our concentration area for "Spearpoint" which was in a little village called Dangersen. Here, the local people could not do enough, and helped to make it a memorable three days for many of us. "Spearpoint" was, if hectic, an enjoyable exercise, and we were very fortunate with the weather. The Platoon did very well, and an enemy S.A.S. champ and officer were captured by L/Cpl. Goodall and his men, L/Cpl. Murphy bringing down the officer with a flying rugby tackle. It should be mentioned that Ted Palmer found himself commanding a section on this exercise, a task he carried out extremely well.

As we go to press everyone is rushing madly about, getting ready for "Admin." A prize has been offered for the best vehicle on the C.I.V. They say Jim Allen bulls his in his sleep while he dreams he is on the Monza circuit. Our other driver, Lindsay, has even been seen to smile recently.

No. 2 Platoon

During the last quarter the Platoon reached a new peak of fitness on land and water. We provided five members of the Battalion athletic team which went to Berlin to see the sights as well as to compete in the B.A.O.R. athletics competition. Pte. Salara, who seemed to creep round the track was always just out of reach of L/Cpl. Nicholson, who proceeded along behind

him. Sgt. Young reached great heights in the pole vault.

For two weeks we paced the jungles of North Germany as enemy for the potential N.C.O.'s cadre. Few escaped our eyes though we had frequently to receive late-night visitors, saying: "We're lost." Even "Tracker" Felton, who evaded capture till the last, could not resist sleeping in an open lorry.

Our final turn of speed came with the inter-company swimming. No one let us down by sinking. "Paddy" Grimes was nearly talked into taking part, until it was found out that he could not swim. Cpl. Holland recently returned from foreign fields, found the heated baths of Hameln an improvement on Norway's icy wastes, where he and L/Cpl. Goodhall had been climbing mountains for pleasure. Lt. Lofting and Sgt. Davis took over the Platoon for "Spearpoint" and the two weeks at Soltau. We survived this with all hands intact. Platoon H.Q. and the Platoon Commander all lost one of their nine lives, when their vehicle almost turned over into a stream. The Platoon are all highly-skilled altitude egg-finders, Ptes. Thurlow, Clarke and O'Brien could be seen lowering steel helmets full of eggs from the rafters of a barn on the last morning of the exercise. Pte. Elphick was awarded the best driving-housekeeping prize of the year. His wife must have an easy life. On this subject we hear Ptes. Smith, Meehan and Hutch all make "nesting noises."

We have said good-bye to "Scarlet-Beret-Benny" Brannan and "Nosher" Mishkin, now civilians, and we wish them the best of luck as we struggle onwards towards the administrative inspection.

Support Platoon

Our last notes finished with the announcement that the Support Company platoons were to be formed into Support Platoons, each consisting of a section of mortars and a section of anti-tank guns. This has now been done and over the last three months we have been settling down and finding out how a composite support platoon should function.

When we arrived back in barracks after the Soltau training period, the following week was devoted to transferring our stores to "A" Company and the winding up of Support Company.

Exercise "July Jump" was our first occasion to operate as a composite Support Platoon and the Mortar Section had its first lesson in being "helicoptered" into battle. It was during this exercise that Sgt. Partridge became so weary of pushing his motor-cycle, that someone else had to start it for him, and O.C. "Z" Platoon led the Mortars into a glorious attack on the Battalion harbour area. Following "July Jump" the Company held platoon weeks, during which the Mortar Section was attached to No. 2 Platoon and the Anti-Tank Guns to No. 1 Platoon. Cpl. Barnes won No. 1 Platoon patrol competition and was awarded an old German steel helmet as a trophy.

Our next exercise was "Autumn Folly," during which we were used as ferry parties for the crossing of the rivers Weser and Leine. At one stage the Mortar and the Anti-Tank Sections found themselves leading the column instead of trailing along at the rear.

We then moved to Soltau for two weeks' training in preparation for the major exercise of the year, Exercise "Spearpoint." While we were at Soltau the Mortar Section went to Hohne Ranges for Exercise "Counter Bombard" with 94 Locating Regiment, R.A., which proved to be much more realistic and enjoyable for us than in previous years. There was much speculation as to what we would do if one of the drones employed against us came down near our position, as they were equipped with very fine cameras. However, although one drone did come down it was too far away!

Cpl. Willis rounded off "Counter Bombard" by falling down Hohne NAAFI steps and being taken away to hospital. He still maintains he was only in the NAAFI for a brief half-hour.

Exercise "Spearpoint" was mainly an advance to contact exercise in which the Support Platoon had not a lot of opportunity to operate. However, the Anti-Tank Section ferried the Battalion over the Weser, and during the crossing of the Mittelland Canal the Mortar Section formed a defence section for Company Headquarters, marching about 10 miles on its feet. Quite against Union Rules!!

We say farewell to the old-established members of the Anti-Tank Section, Cpl. Haffner, Ptes. Toner, Budd, Sharp, Patmore and Jones (76), and welcome Ptes. Sutherland, Boyden, Marshall, Terry and Tabone.

With the administration parade approaching, and all that goes with it, we say farewell until next time.

"B" COMPANY

In the first week of July we left the dust and heat of Soltau. Most of us believed it was the last time we would see this military "Garden of Eden," so a tear running down a blackened cheek was understandable. It is now exactly three months later and we are once more surveying the heather, pine, birch and tank tracks through dust-reddened eyes. On our return to Hameln in July, our interest was focused on the new Company organisation. We were given a complete block to ourselves, our own armoured vehicles and a Support Platoon.

The Support Platoon, commanded by Lt. Cowing, has already proved very useful to us in training and sport. The Platoon is divided into two camps. One camp uses its stove pipes horizontally, the other vertically. The horizontals are tended with loving care by Sgt. Raffael, who used to instruct on their use at Netheravon. The verticals come under our recently-promoted Sgt. Miles. So many of the Platoon were in "B" Company before, that we congratulate ourselves on a successful marriage. We have had an excellent three-month honeymoon and are now well adjusted. The vast number of "Maculate wagons" which we found on our doorstep earlier in the year, flourish under the care of Cpl. Da Costa, and are now very much part of us.

Promotions

We congratulate Sgt. Miles, Cpl. Forde, L/Cpls. Harris, Hedges, Meehan and Warnock on their promotions, and wish them every success.



"B" COMPANY A.P.C. MAINTENANCE
Ptes. Pash, Smoker and Smith (05)

Training

"July Jump" was a great success for us. We were commanded by Capt. Lohan who reappeared between pentathlon meetings. The German Army were pleased to lift us by helicopter, which was the main feature of the exercise, and a new experience for most of us.

"Autumn Folly" was a warm-up for "Spearpoint." We had a day of advance to contact until we reached the River Weser, which we were to cross under the care of the Sappers. Owing to the ferry giving trouble, most of our transport did a "night" crossing under the warming rays of the sun. Without transport, we had several long night marches in poor weather—a feature of the exercise which we shall cherish in our heart for many years. No. 5 Platoon fared better than most, having persuaded a farmer's wife that two tins of "bully beef" were easily worth steaming coffee for the whole platoon.

Shortly after the last exercise, we moved to our old camp site at Soltau. For a fortnight we thoroughly prepared for "Spearpoint," stampeding all over the dusty badlands. If names ever get scorched on blackened souls, then surely Deimern, Kreuz-B, Point 119 and Tutsberg are white-hot (read the other way round if moving south).

Sport

We won the swimming shield again, thanks to the hard work of Cpl. O'Rawe in building up a strong team.

The inter-company athletics match was an exceedingly close-run competition. We feel we should have won the shield, but the day was marred by our disqualification in the 5,000 metres, which lost us the match by one point to "H.Q." Company. However, we were quite happy to see our rivals, "A" Company, just one point behind us.

The seven-a-side rugby competition earned us a cup with very little effort on our part. This was largely due to Lt. Cowing's training sessions before the day. We met "A" Company in the finals, and were satisfied to dismiss them 20—0.

We congratulate Capt. Lohan, Ptes. Finnis and Seatory for their very fine efforts in this year's pentathlon meetings.

Exercise "Spearpoint"

Definitely a good exercise from our point of view, and we were lucky to have such a pleasant concentration area before "Spearpoint" began. We spent three days of easy living in the area of "Zur Eiche" guesthouse in Steinbeck, enjoying the hospitality of Herr Stuver and his family. The weather was pleasant and morale was kept high by L/Cpl. Joliffe's hot-dog stand.

At last, on the evening of Sunday, October 8, we moved out, and the exercise began. We motored during that night and most of the following day. There was great excitement in Rotenburg while the Company Commander viewed his first "blown bridge." We managed to detour and made good progress down to Verden and our first crossing, the Weser.

Rather sadly, the men left the comfort of their armoured 1-ton and trudged off afoot with Major Shipster and C.S.M. Jessup well to the fore. The 2IC stayed with his drivers and transport, and brewed up another cup of tea.

There was action on the river crossing, and many prisoners were taken by the platoons. The transport moved over on a heavy raft at dawn on Tuesday. Congratulations to the happy band of drivers on their skilful driving. We spent the day eating and resting, waiting to move on.

On Tuesday night, alert sentries bumped an enemy O.P. who had come into our village for resupply. The enemy ran away, but within an hour our patrols had captured four members. The same night we moved off south again. After taking up defensive positions in a small village by 0400 hrs., we moved on again by 0630 hrs. We arrived at Bassum later that morning and rested till night.

Gradually we moved southwards, resting by day and moving by night. From Bassum we motored down to Strohen. We crossed canals, avoided "blown bridges," and moved on foot from Fiessel in order to make the last big move to the Wiehengebirge Feature.

We enjoyed the exercise because we knew what was going on. The weather was good to us and the terms of barter always favourable. We are glad it's over, but who wouldn't prefer to be roughing it rather than be in barracks?

"C" COMPANY

Company H.Q.

The Company Office is still buzzing with activity—life is very hectic.

Arrivals.—We welcome Major Pike from "S" Company as our new Company Commander and hope he can stand the pace and chatter of the Company clerk, Pte. Rappoport. We also extend a hearty welcome to C.S.M. Wildgoose who has just joined us from Home Counties Brigade Depot at Canterbury. Already his vigilant eye has caused alarm to a few Company characters.

Departures.—We say "au revoir" to Major Galvin, who is now Battalion 2IC, and C.S.M. Michel, who has just left us for "D" Company (W.T.W.O.).

"Spearpoint."—The general layout and purpose of "Spearpoint" has already been covered elsewhere in this edition, so it will be fruitless to repeat it all again. However, like everyone else, "C" Company played its small role in this large cast of 30,000 set on a stage 150 miles by 30 miles. A large amount of time was spent stationary, but when we moved the Company sprang to life and traversed the Weser, Grosse Moor and the Mittelland Canal without scorn or criticism. Our only exercise loss was Cpl. Stevens, who was "captured" just at the end of the exercise whilst taking rations to the "Sharp End." Despite no sleep, no food, and no peace, everyone enjoyed the five days and learnt to live as conventionally as possible under exercise nuclear conditions.

No. 7 Platoon

At the start of the summer period No. 7 Platoon was training intensively at Soltau. We spent two long and hard weeks attacking Kreuz-B and bumping along in our armoured personnel carriers in the dust clouds thrown up by the tanks of 14th/20th Hussars. Little did we think, as we drove wearily but thankfully back to Hameln, that in less than three months, prior to "Spearpoint," we would be back at Soltau.

The Platoon was involved in two Battalion schemes during this time—"July Jump" and "Autumn Folly," both of which involved night marches, the latter being of immense length and crossing countless fences along the side of the Weser, many of which provided the added hazard of an electric current. Pte. Hill, struggling under the burden of a light machine-gun, caught his sling hook around an electric wire from which he could not extricate himself. His rescue developed into a full-scale operation for which the Platoon was ill-prepared, and the fiendish wire, allied to darkness and fatigue, caused many casualties before it was overcome.

Fortunately we had been well prepared for the fate of seeing our vehicles left behind at the riverside and of marching away into the night, because we had previously covered 50 miles on foot in three days during the Platoon marches south of the Harz Mountains.

During the first week in September the Platoon was attached to "A" Company and remained at immediate notice to be called out for an emergency. Unfortunately this week was marred for us by an injury. L/Cpl. Murphy, swimming energetically in the Hameln indoor swimming pool, collided with L/Cpl. Young. Alas, L/Cpl. Murphy dislocated his shoulder for the third time. He now resides in Rinteln and we have lost him, we fear, for several months while he has a pin put in his shoulder to keep it in place permanently.

In the middle of September the Platoon acted as enemy to the 1st Battalion the Green Howards for an exercise during their pre-"Spearpoint" training. At least, we thought, we will be able to sit in position and watch the others running up the hill towards us. However, to our dismay, we found that they were all in defensive positions and it was we who ran into the attack and they who sat and watched. The Platoon now boasts nine drivers for the armoured personnel carriers, one of whom, Pte. Casey, has been posted to the M.T. Platoon and another, Pte. May, to Company H.Q.

No. 7 Platoon now lies fifth in the Battalion basketball ladder, but we will improve on that this winter.

Ptes. Vaughan, Hill, Hearn, Dennis, Flack and Kyne and L/Cpl. Foster were all regular members of the victorious "C" Company cricket team this year, and the first two of the Battalion team. L/Cpl. Murphy and Pte. Vaughan went with the Battalion athletics team to Berlin. Once again, Sgt. Ford represents the Battalion at soccer and L/Cpl. Foster has won a place, as a front-row forward, in the Battalion rugby side.

The past few months have seen a number of changes within the Platoon. Ptes. Holly, Lovesey and our all-round sportsman, Vaughan, have left on "demob," Pte. Gray left us at Winterberg to become Major Galvin's batman and he, too, has since followed the others out of the Army. Pte. Clarke has given up his Bren gun for a ladle in the cookhouse, and he has been followed by Pte. King (23). Pte. Whitt transferred to the Company M.T. and was appointed a Lance-Corporal. Congratulations! Pte. Weston has also gone to the Company M.T. as a 3-ton driver. Pte. Morley has left us for the Signal Platoon: The R.S.O. has already had him on the rugby field. Finally, Pte. O'Keefe has become the Commanding Officer's batman.

Meanwhile, the following soldiers have joined No. 7 Platoon: Pte. Walsh from "S" Company, Pte. Lake from "H.Q." Company, Ptes. Sampson, Baisden, Reed, Watson Miller from Canterbury and both the Wilkins twins.

Sgts. Ford and Taylor still cannot decide which of them owns No. 7 Platoon. We cannot tell from one day to the next which of them will be chasing us. Perhaps each is trying to disown us and leave us to the mercy of the other!

2/Lt. Bartlett has arrived from Sandhurst and takes over the reins in mid-October. We wish him luck.

No. 8 Platoon

The period started towards the end of the annual training at Soltau. There the Platoon achieved great distinction by being lost for over two hours on a tank. Whilst trying to locate the rest of the troop we had a minor casualty going over a bump, when Pte. Hood injured his knee. This was, fortunately, not very serious, and we eventually reached the rest of the Company. It was clear from the anxious faces of the Company Commander and Commanding Officer that they were both very pleased to see us for a change! At this time the Battalion athletes were training for the B.A.O.R. meeting in Berlin and the Platoon sent Sgt. Blackwell, Ptes. Whyte, Evans and Wills. During Sgt. Blackwell's absence the Platoon was fortunate in having the services of Sgt. Taylor.

On return from Soltau, Ptes. Moyle and Watson attended a Battalion N.C.O.'s cadre, and the Platoon was well represented on the training staff, sending Sgt. Blackwell and Cpl. Burrows as permanent cadre instructors.

Immediately after the cadre No. 8 Platoon joined the "A" Company group on a standby exercise. All our armoured 1-ton Humbers were permanently loaded and standing by on the square ready to move off at a moment's notice. No one was allowed out of barracks,



"C" COMPANY CRICKET TEAM

Winners 1961 Albuhera Shield

Top row (left to right) : 2/Lt. Finch (scorer), Ptes. May, Wardle, L/Cpl. Foster, Pte. Hodges, 2/Lt. Monypenny (umpire)
Front row: Ptes. Kyne, Rappoport, C/Sgt. Potter, Major Pike, Ptes. Hill, Dennis, Hearn

so the A.K.C. cinema was well patronised during this particular period. When this standby exercise finished the Platoon was glad to get its freedom, but perhaps some of us missed the excitement of wondering when the "general alarm" would next sound.

The next major excitement was the Battalion exercise, "Autumn Folly," which was an obstacle-crossing exercise. Having paddled across the River Weser, we landed safely on the other side without so much as a wet boot. We then marched along the axis, whilst the vehicles crossed over on a ferry built by the Royal Engineers. All ranks certainly came across more obstacles than expected, as the route was hindered every hundred yards or so by wire fences, some of them electric. However, we finally met our transport and, having crossed the River Leine, the Platoon finished the exercise with nothing worse than a few blisters!

The following weeks we acted as enemy to the 1st Battalion the Green Howards on a nuclear-defence exercise. The Platoon's task was to motor to the opposite side of the River Weser and make "assault-crossing noises" within ear-shot of the listening posts. This we did quite successfully, being well practised in the art after the first Battalion exercise. The next morning, in conjunction with a squadron of the 1st Royal Tanks, we attacked platoon and company positions, until returning to the base camp for the well-earned breakfast.

In conclusion, we have been once more at Soltau, training for Exercise "Spearpoint." We acted as "Fantasians" for one day, armed to the teeth with red

signal cartridges, which somehow managed to kill enemy tanks. The only other achievement of note was finishing a Battalion exercise three hours early, which must surely go down in history.

As the period came to a close No. 8 Platoon said good-bye to four National Servicemen, Ptes. Thompson, Mercer, Merrall and Wardle, and we wish them all success in the future.

Cricket

Our sporting news begins on a happy note—namely that the Company won the 1961 Albuhera Cricket Shield. This event marks the first major sporting trophy that we have won for over two years, and so we are rightly proud of this achievement.

The first match was against "H.Q." Company which was won by three wickets. "H.Q." batted first and were dismissed for 31 (Major Pike sending them down quicker than he sends soldiers out of his office). When "C" Company batted, a few early wickets caused undue alarm, but, thanks to a patient 18 runs by Major Pike, "H.Q." Company's score was soon passed with three wickets in hand.

"B" Company were our opponents for the second match and, although our "B" Company friends with half the Battalion team seemed very confident of winning, their optimism perhaps proved their undoing. Winning the toss, "B" Company decided to bat first, but after one hour they were all back after scoring 67 runs. Major Pike took seven wickets and was well

supported by Pte. Hill. Mention must also be made of the run-out of Lt. Cheesman by Pte. Whyte. Then Ptes. Hill and Vaughan opened the "C" Company innings and, after a chanceless display of aggressive batting, knocked off the runs without loss of a wicket. Both these soldiers are to be congratulated on their excellent batting and running between the wickets.

Unfortunately, the third match against "A" Company was not played owing to pressure of training, but, as both "H.Q." Company and "B" Company had beaten "A" Company previously, it was eventually decided that "C" Company would be granted the shield.

With regard to personalities, Major Pike bore the brunt of the bowling, being ably supported by the wicket-keeping of Pte. Rappoport and, also, by that old stalwart of the cricket field, C/Sgt. Potter, who can still bowl "fast and true." Batting was really our weakest skill and, except for the match against "B" Company, was never really capable of making a big score. But the fielding was generally good, and several "non-cricketing" soldiers who played to make up the side are to be congratulated on holding on to some impossible catches.

The following played for the Company team; those marked with an asterisk also played for the Battalion XI:

*Major J. I. D. Pike, m.c.	Pte. May	Pte. Dennis
C/Sgt. Potter	Pte. Wardle	Pte. Hearn
L/Cpl. Foster	Pte. Hodges	Pte. Kyne
*Pte. Hill	*Pte. Rappoport	

Rugby

In mid-September the Battalion held the seven-a-side rugby competition. Time allotted for training was limited, but we managed to scrape together a scratch team. In the first round we were beaten 6-3 by "B" Company, thus ending our very short seven-a-side season for this year. The Company team was:

2/Lt. Monypenny	L/Cpl. Foster	Pte. Hill
Sgt. Taylor	Pte. Reed	Pte. Wills
Sgt. Blackwell		

Athletics

In early September the inter-Company athletics meeting took place at the German stadium in Hameln. "C" Company were at a great disadvantage, as we are only 70 strong as opposed to other companies with 120 and 300 plus in "H.Q." Company. However, we managed to compete fairly successfully in the occasional event but, on the whole, the opposition from the other teams was too strong for our small numbers. One notable event occurred in the discus throwing—2/Lt. Finch threw a discus which landed on the roof of an A.P.C. Spectators scattered in all directions, and we are wondering if the vehicle will need a misuse, neglect and damage report.

Track Events

100 m.	2/Lt. Monypenny, Cpl. Stevens, Pte. May, Pte. Sampson.
200 m.	Pte. Barber, Pte. May, Pte. Nagle, Pte. Wills.
400 m.	2/Lt. Finch, Capt. Durnnell, Pte. Wills, Pte. Watson.
800 m.	Pte. Bousquet, Pte. Walmsley.

1,500 m. Capt. Durnnell, L/Cpl. Lodge.
5,000 m. 2/Lt. Finch, Pte. Allen.

Field Events

Shot	Pte. Hudson, Pte. Allen.
Discus	2/Lt. Finch, Pte. Miller.
Javelin	Cpl. Stevens, Pte. Wills.
High-jump	Pte. Westgarth, Pte. Jones (18).
Long-jump	Pte. Sampson, Pte. Hill.
Hammer	Pte. Walsh, Pte. Miller.

"D" COMPANY

The training season has come and gone and once again "admin." fever is setting in.

Since the last notes we have been busy with the potential N.C.O.'s cadre and Exercise "Spearpoint." First the cadre. This began on July 18 with 27 eager, potential N.C.O.s anxious to prove that they were budding Regimental Sergeant-Majors. Of the original 27 men, three were returned to their companies in the first week as unsuitable. The remaining 24 soldiered on to complete the course, most of them successfully.

On July 25 the Battalion set off on an exercise, leaving the cadre in barracks. It was heard that the Battalion would be lifted by German helicopters at the beginning of the exercise. The Company Commander, with his cadre staff of Lt. Rose, Sgts. Parnell, Scott and Taylor, went off to hitch a lift. This was achieved and a rather frightening flight followed as the German pilot whisked us to the dropping zone and back.

July 27 saw us on another journey—this time with the cadre—to Hohn Ranges to see "A" Squadron 14th/20th Hussars going through a battle run with live firing. This was very interesting and we saw tank tactics in the pure form, uncluttered by infantry. The speed and accuracy with which the tank crews picked up the targets and hit them impressed everyone.

The week August 21-26 saw the cadre away from barracks for field training. In fact, some thought they would never get back. The first two days were spent in conventional training of tactics but after this the emphasis changed to initiative, self-discipline and map-reading. The cadre were dropped off at night in pairs and had to make their way for about 50 km., stopping at check points and R.V.s on the way.

The weather was extremely bad for the whole exercise, being wet and cold throughout. This produced the usual crop of softening and sore feet, but none gave up and full credit goes to those who carried on with bad feet. Special mention must be made of Pte. Butler, late of the water cart. In spite of his bulk and bad feet, he did very well and was a cheerful inspiration to all with whom he came in contact. At the final check point he was asked: "What is the calibre of a 3.5-in. rocket launcher?" To which he replied: "I'm afraid I'm not very good at weapon training. I don't know." It was in a state of utter weariness that most of the men arrived. One notable exception was Pte. Meehan who must now be getting used to these capers. Pte. Murphy (39) distinguished himself on the first day by losing his map. He was a little disappointed when he was told he could carry on with someone else who had a map.

On the final day two Queen's Gurkha officers visited

us and watched the men come in. They were most favourably impressed by the standard of map-reading and the high morale of the men, who, whenever they were met, though wet, tired and hungry, always managed a smile. When each pair reported to base they were asked a few questions to check that they could still use their brains and work out simple problems. The question: "What decorations has the Commanding Officer?" produced some odd answers. I think the Commanding Officer would be somewhat embarrassed to find himself the possessor of, among others, the M.M., D.F.C. and D.C.M.

After Exercise "Just Reward" there merely remained the tying up of loose ends and the final tests before another batch of young junior N.C.O.s were launched in time to cope with Exercise "Spearpoint."

Under the new Battalion organisation, "D" Company finds itself involved in exercises administering Az Echelon, the O.C. commanding the Harbour Party and A1 Echelon. This entailed all the Company except Ptes. Gregory (clerk) and Utton (arms storeman) being out. The exercise did not prove too rigorous, particularly as the echelons had six hours' enforced rest after being "nucleated."

Comings and Goings

We extend a hearty welcome to C/Sgt. Dive who has joined us on the disbandment of "S" Company. It is certain that he will find plenty to do keeping track of "D" Company equipment, which seems to find its way all over the Battalion.

Sgts. Lloyd and Tarry are also newcomers. Sgt. Lloyd has already been employed on the cadre but Sgt. Tarry, to his amazement, finds himself with little to do at the moment, but awaits the 3-in. mortar cadre with trepidation. For the first time in many years he has been "left in barracks" and missed Exercise "Spearpoint."

We congratulate C/Sgt. Power on his promotion and at the same time bid him a fond farewell as he leaves us to go to Bordon on a M.T. course.

L/Cpl. Robertson is also to be congratulated on his promotion to Lance-Corporal. He works very hard as ammunition storeman and certainly has earned his stripe.

Pte. Belvoir has now left us for the doubtful pleasures of civilian life and we wish him well.

Pte. Thomas has joined us from the "I" Section as projectionist and storeman. He replaced Pte. Lock whose long weekend lasted so long that a replacement had to be found. Pte. Lock is now at the sharp end in "A" Company.

SERGEANTS' MESS

On relatively calm reflection, amid preparations for another jaunt to Soltau, the past quarter appears to have been somewhat uneventful. We have, however, seen the departure of R.S.M. McMillan to 4th Buffs (T.A.), Canterbury, S.Q.M.S. Edwards to H.Q. Home Counties District, Shorncliffe, C.S.M. Simmons to the Home Counties Brigade Depot at Canterbury, Sgt. Brereton, R.A.P.C., for 130 Company R.A.S.C. Bielefeld, and Sgt. Poole, A.P.T.C., has gone to 29th Field Regiment R.A.

We have been joined by C.S.M. Wildgoose from the Home Counties Brigade Depot and Sgt. Cakebread from 6th East Surreys (T.A.).

Lest it be thought that we are now without muscles and financial advice, it must be recorded that we have also been joined by C.S.M.I. Issitt, A.P.T.C., and S/Sgt. Harrison, R.A.P.C.

A cordial welcome is extended to our newcomers and our best wishes for good luck and success go to those who have left us.

The main social events of the quarter have been a very successful social evening to bid farewell to C.S.M. Thorogood, and a Mess dinner. The exigencies of training and other circumstances prevented us holding a dinner for "Thundercloud" which he would, no doubt, have preferred, but the evening was generally enjoyed by all present and it is hoped that "Thundercloud" was not too disappointed.

A Mess dinner was held on August 12 primarily to dine-out R.S.M. McMillan and S.Q.M.S. Edwards.

There have been two sporting and social encounters with the W.O.s and Sergeants H.Q. 2 Division. On their home ground, at Lubbecke, they defeated a Mess cricket team, but recently we were able to avenge this by thrashing them on the hockey pitch at Gordon Barracks.

We continue to hold whist drives on Wednesdays alternately with the Station Sergeants' Mess, which receive varying degrees of support. They seem, however, to be enjoyed by those who do attend and they have uncovered, or produced, a number of whist fanatics.

The one-man band, who has been mentioned previously in these notes, continues to enjoy general popularity and has entertained us several times during the quarter. As a change, we are shortly to be afforded entertainment by a group from the Regimental Band, with the forbiddingly alcoholic title of "The Intemperate Six."

A recent issue of the Journal recorded the departure of a "heavily laden little Austin A40." The same Austin A40 returned to Hameln recently bringing Bill Wright, Cyril Orme, Ernie Colebeck and Basil Lemaitre on another pilgrimage. It is hoped that they enjoyed their stay as much as we did.

These notes would be incomplete without extending congratulations to our new No. 1, R.S.M. Dodkins, C.S.M. Walters, C/Sgts. Clements, Cakebread and Power, S/Sgt. Probert and Sgt. Miles on their promotion.

The writer is acutely aware of the failings of these notes but is secure in a measure of anonymity and a hope that he will not be required to write them again for some time.

CORPORALS' CLUB

During the last quarter we have had more than the usual change of faces. Chief of these has been the departure of Cpls. Brumwell and Rose to the Home Counties Brigade Depot, where we wish them a very successful tour of duty. Gone also to the wilds of "Civvy Street" is Cpl. Kirkpatrick, a past P.M.C. of the Club. In order to maintain a balance, we had pleasure in welcoming L/Cpls. Creaser, Meehan, Jamieson, Fletcher, Goodall, Etherington, Hindmarch, Close, Butler, Harris, Hayman, Hedges, Howell, Murphy, Nicholson, Smith, Ward, Whittington and Dawson.

We would like to remind each of the custom of buying drinks all round. Our congratulations go to Cpls. Rahmatullah, Dowsett, Mitchell and Adams, R.A.P.C., upon their well-deserved promotion. Cpl. Brennan managed to pull a fast one by getting "hitched" whilst he was on leave and has taken up residence locally, where we wish both him and Mrs. Brennan all the best.

Our social calendar has been full. In July we held an informal dance which was supported by the staff of the British Military Hospital. This resulted in Cpl. Flanagan joining the British Military Hospital Fan Club. At most weekends the married members and their wives drop in for tombola and a chat. The darts team appeared to have entered into a marathon competition with their friends in 29th Field Squadron Royal Engineers.

The main event of the quarter was without doubt the tramps' ball. The Club was converted to look like a corner of Epping Forest. On that evening everyone turned up in the appropriate costume, though it is said that Cpl. Barnes was in his Sunday best. We must say that Cpls. Rogers, DaCosta, Brumwell and L/Cpl. Clarke played their parts well. We were happy to be able to welcome as our guests some members of the Royal Army Service Corps from Bielefeld who appeared to have a most enjoyable time. It was at this time that the Hannover Police received disturbing reports of tramps in their fair city. We wonder if there could have been any connection between this and the fact that the transport, arranged for the collection of the Club members living in that city, failed to appear. We regret the departure of R.S.M. McMillan, who paid us his last visit on that eventful evening. To mark the occasion, the members of the Club subscribed to the purchase of an inscribed silver tray which was presented by the P.M.C., Cpl. DaCosta. The R.S.M. then "toasted" the occasion by drinking a "Brumwell Special." We wish both R.S.M. and Mrs. McMillan all the very best of luck for the future. We welcome with all due respect our new Regimental Sergeant-Major, W.O.1 Dodkins. We only hope that the fact that he arrived armed with a camera did not indicate a search for documentary evidence! Also present was Lt. Bullock, who has never failed to lend a hand to the Club's activities. A good night was had by all, thanks to the time and efforts of Cpls. DaCosta, Stopp and L/Cpls. Clarke and Lucas, and many others, not forgetting the members of the A.C.C. who supplied the fish and chips (suitably served from dustbins).

And so to general gossip. Cpl. "Earholes" Mullender parted company with a Mobat during a recent exercise; however, A.F.s P1954 were not required. Cpls. Stewart and Dowsett recently returned from a signals course in the United Kingdom and for several evenings the Club resounded with "Hello all stations, signals, over." Cpl. Stubbings and L/Cpl. Kelly, R.A.O.C., of the Q.M.'s Department, have again volunteered (?) to prove their ability in the field by getting off Exercise "Spearpoint." The cookhouse has again begun serving thick porridge for breakfast to mark the return of Cpl. Simpson, A.C.C. Cpls. Manser and Borford have the guardroom, if not under control, under many coats of Regimental paint. Cpl. Dickens has been promoted to

the Intelligence Section but still has not passed the B.P. map stage! Cpl. Long has taken over the Battalion sports store, and Cpl. Stopp is the chief stamp licker, having moved into the post office.

Now we are looking forward to Christmas and the New Year, when, under the direction of Cpl. "Chippy" Wood, our new P.M.C., we hope to be able to arrange a full programme for what is going to be our last Christmas in B.A.O.R. It is rumoured that some of the Club funds are to be contributed towards buying "Minnie" a present. So far there have been many suggestions, the most popular of which has been a wooden spoon. To all readers we wish a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

SPORT

Since the last edition of *The Die-Hards* the accent has been on military activities rather than sport, the latter being severely curtailed. The only activities of note have been the inter-Company swimming and athletics competitions and the commencement of the rugby season. Hockey players have been seen on the square and some matches within the Battalion have been played.

The cricket season carried on spasmodically with a few matches, but ended in a blaze of glory with an excellent victory over the Brigade Commander's XI in the Brigade Cricket Week.

Now that the exercise season is behind us we will be able to settle down to some serious activities on the sports field with our eyes once again on the Army Cup.

One sport which must be mentioned is modern pentathlon, in which our team of Capt. Lohan, Pte. Finnis and Pte. Seatory have brought fame to the Regiment in England and, in the case of Pte. Finnis, in many other parts of the world as a member of the British team.

Cricket

Summer cricket was started with good intentions but, as many teams cancelled fixtures, we played only three matches in addition to those reported in the last issue. These, however, produced some good performances. Our match against 19th Field Regiment Royal Artillery had a very good result. The Gunners, batting first, were 53 for 4, when Lt. Pitman came on and in three overs took five wickets for eight runs, the Gunner's final score being 68 all out. We batted quite steadily and then came up against a good bowler and, in the same way as the Gunners, were dismissed for 68—match tied.

We then played the Royal Air Force Scharfoldendorf and, batting first, scored 118, Sgt. Horder carrying his bat for 64 not out. In reply the Royal Air Force scored 67 (Lt. Pitman 5 for 23). The last match was a very good one, notable for the steady bowling which dismissed the Brigade Commander's XI for 120. In reply we were soon 3 for 4, but Sgt. Raffael joined Major Pike and the 120 was passed without further loss, Major Pike scoring 47 not out and Sgt. Raffael 52 not out.

The Albuhera competition was run on a league basis this year. Companies had difficulty in fielding the same team for any two matches. The competition was finally won by "C" Company with a well-balanced team whose standard was rather above that of the other companies.

Detailed Results

19th Field Regiment Royal Artillery, 68—1st Middlesex, 68 (Lt. Pitman, 5 for 8). Match tied.

Royal Air Force Scharfoldendorf, 67—1st Middlesex, 118 (Lt. Pitman, 5 for 23; Sgt. Horder, 64 not out). Match won.

Brigade Commander's XI, 120—1st Middlesex, 121 for 3 (Sgt. Raffael, 52 not out; Major Pike, 47 not out). Match won.

Swimming

The major part of the season has been taken up with military training and athletics with the result that there has been little activity in the swimming pool. No outside matches took place, but a very successful Albuhera competition was held in the town bath of Hameln. Much new talent came to light and, as most of the competitors will be available next year, we look forward to a successful season.

"B" Company made most use of available training periods and won the event by 3 points over "A" and "H.Q." Companies' teams, which were second equal. The "B" Company free-style team were outstanding, with Pte. Seatory as the main strength. Pte. Davey, of "H.Q." Company, proved to be an able back-stroke swimmer. The plunge event was won by Lt. Cheesman, "H.Q." Company, and the Diving Cup by Sgt. Brereton (R.A.P.C.), "H.Q." Company.

Mrs. Battye kindly consented to present the Albuhera Swimming Shield to the winning company and the Diving Cup to Sgt. Brereton.

Athletics

The inter-Company athletics were held this year on September 2. The unusual date was brought about firstly by a full military training programme and secondly in an attempt to maintain interest in the sport throughout the summer. In the event, an enjoyable day's meeting was held and the Athletics Officer was seen to note a few names to be watched for next season. The result of the closely-contested competition was a win for "H.Q." Company, entering one team only, with "B" Company in second place and "A" Company and "C" Company in third and fourth places respectively.

These meetings can only take place with a considerable amount of hard work on the part of the P.T. staff. This seems a suitable time to acknowledge S.I. Poole's untiring efforts during the past three seasons to ensure that the several tracks we have used have been correctly and clearly laid out and marked. We wish him well in his posting to 29th Regiment Royal Artillery and, in turn, welcome C.S.M.I. Issitt, who not only laid out the arena for this meeting but also showed himself a very able competitor. If Sergeant-Major Issitt had any plans to retire and play golf I fear he will have to postpone them. Both as coach and competitor he will be fully occupied in maintaining the steady improvement in Battalion athletics shown during the past few seasons.

Rugby Football

So far this season we have played three games, won all, and have had our line crossed only once.

We started the season by playing 26 Company Royal Army Service Corps at Wouldham. It was a hot and sunny day and the pitch was in good shape. Indeed, the conditions were ideal. We played to rule, moving the ball out to the wing, and it does the team great credit that both wingers scored. L/Cpl. O'Riorden on the left wing did exceptionally well in his first game for the 1st XV. 2/Lt. Bartlett, also playing for the Battalion for the first time, proved to be very fast once on the move, and hard to stop. Pte. Jones (86) again proved to be a good player, but found it hard to keep up with Lt. Lofting's breaks on the inside. The pack had a very hard and rough game, but gave as good as they received and, due to superior fitness, wore the other side down.

Valuable lessons were learnt which paid off in the next game. The final score was 15—0. Tries were scored by Lt. Goring, 2/Lt. Bartlett and L/Cpl. O'Riorden. Lt. Goring converted two and Lt. Cheesman one.

The second game was against 2nd Signals Regiment whom we meet later in the Army Cup. We won this game 19—3, again in ideal conditions. In the forwards we were well matched, but we were well on top outside. The scoring in this game was shared between forwards and threes and gave the team a good run around.

Our last game to date was a Sunday-morning fixture prior to Exercise "Spearpoint," when we played 6th Field Regiment, one of the best Gunner sides in Germany, at Munsterlager. We had five changes in this game and went there hoping to be able to give them a run for their money. The ground was wet and at the kick-off it was raining. At half time the score was 6—3, all tries, in our favour and it was anyone's game. However, we closed the game up and worked on their mistakes and scored another try.

Without any shadow of a doubt, this year the Battalion has the strongest team it has had so far in Germany. In our first year we had a good pack and no outsiders, last year good outsiders and no pack, and this year we have both. A fuller report will appear in the next issue of the Journal, when we shall know how we fared in the Army Cup and on our tour to Berlin in December.

Soccer

We started the season with a meeting in "D" Company Lecture Room to which ALL enthusiasts were invited. We discussed training policy and captaincy, which was given to Pte. Duke, of "H.Q." Company, and late of the Regimental Depot.

We have entered the 1st XI in the Westphalia Local Services League and have many fixtures booked against old friends and foes.

The 2nd XI are entered in the Border League and look forward to a good season.

The Battalion has not seen a stronger soccer side for a long time and we hope for success. To date we have played a mixed 1st and 2nd XI against 54 Company Royal Army Service Corps and lost 6—2, and against 11 Infantry Workshops, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and won 7—1. As this was in the concentration area for Exercise "Spearpoint," and played on grass in P.T. shoes, the results are encouraging.

Pentathlon

The Pentathlon season has now come to an end. Our Regiment has done well, considering this is our first year of competition.

The main power behind the team has been Pte. Finnis, who has had a brilliant season. As these are the last pentathlon notes for some time an overall review will be given.

Our first match was in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' Tetrathlon (all events less riding). The individual winner was Pte. Finnis and the Regiment won the team championships. Out of 34 starters, including Cambridge University, Cheltenham Club and Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, we produced 1st, 7th and 22nd.

In the same month, May, we took part as individuals in an Inter-Services' Tetrathlon Trials. This was won by Joe Busko, the ex-Hungarian international, of the newly-formed Cheltenham Club. Finnis was 2nd, Lohan 8th, Seatory 19th. If this had been a team championship we would have been placed first.

Our next competition was in July at Sennelager in the British Army of the Rhine Championships. This was won by Pte. Finnis. As a team we were placed second to The 10th Royal Hussars (P.W.O.).

Finnis then went to England to start training with the British team. After one or two minor international matches he went with the British team to Moscow for the World Championships. He was placed 30th (a month later he beat Alan Jackson, number one in the United States and ninth in the world).

The team then reunited in the United Kingdom for the Army Championships. The competition was very strong as there were invitation teams representing the United States, Combined Universities, Cheltenham, Royal Air Force and Navy. The competition was won by Finnis and the team was placed third to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and the Royal Military Police teams. Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks, himself an Olympic pentathlete, gave away the prizes.

Finally, Finnis and Capt. Lohan went on to the British Championships. Finnis was number one for the Army team and Lohan Army reserve. Teams were of six men for the Inter-Services and three for the British Championships. The two matches being combined in one, it was also rated as an international as there were teams from France, Italy and Sweden. Finnis had very bad luck by drawing a below-average horse in the riding event and was not able to get any points. Capt. Lohan had to retire half-way round. However, despite this handicap, Finnis managed to pull up to the front. There were three results: International, British and Inter-Services Championships. Finnis finished 11th, 7th and 5th respectively, Capt. Lohan 17th, 12th and 9th.

The team is most grateful for the support it has received throughout the Battalion and for the time and money given towards training. Pentathlon is rather an individual sport and the effort expended in getting the team fit and good enough to travel to the United Kingdom is perhaps out of proportion to the small size of the team.

THE CHALLENGE OF AFRICA

Sentry: "Alt. Who dat?"

Reply: "Who dat?"

Sentry: "Who dat, who say who dat?"

Reply: "Nah me!"

Sentry: "Nah you. Who say nah me. Why you say who dat when I say who dat. Why you NO say nah me?"

We understand that officers are urged to respond to the challenge of Africa by volunteering for the African Forces.

EXERCISE "SPEARPOINT"

General

"Spearpoint," 1 British Corps exercise, was the largest held in B.A.O.R. for seven years; a two-sided exercise, which covered an area of some 150 miles by 30 miles between Hamburg in the north and Lippstadt in the south.

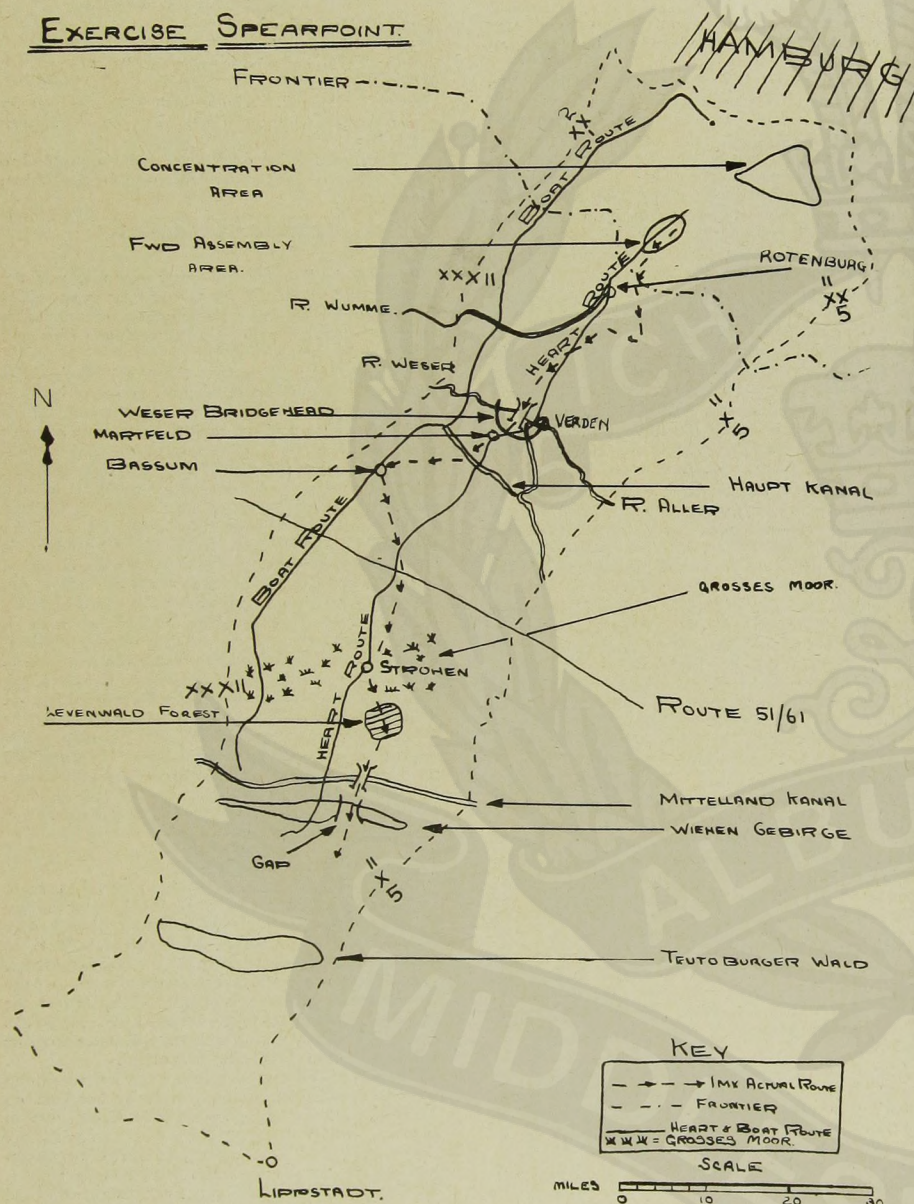
The contesting armies were those of "Blueland," a Western European state determined to defend itself, if necessary, by the use of nuclear weapons, and "Redland," the aggressor from the east, possessing superior conventional forces and preferring to fight a non-nuclear campaign, but with adequate nuclear capability.

The ground presented interesting problems to both sides. As the Battalion formed part of the Redland forces the problems of the latter concerned us. After crossing the frontier (see sketch map) Redland forces were confronted with a number of major water obstacles, including the rivers Aller and Weser and the Haupt and Mittelland Canals. Between these major obstacles the ground varied from low-lying fields interspersed with minor rivers and streams, which offered excellent opportunity for demolitions but bad cross-country going for vehicles; to the peat bogs of the Grosse Moor, which were impassable to any form of wheeled transport. Some three miles beyond the Mittelland Canal lay the Wiehengebirge, steep wooded and with only a few narrow passes over it. Behind the Wiehengebirge stretched open country for about 10 miles to the Teutoburger Wald, also steep sided, wooded and with few routes across. In all a distance of about 130 miles from the forward assembly area.

Redland Plans

Commander 1st Redland Division planned to secure crossings over the Teutoburger Wald by advancing quickly with his infantry brigades to seize crossings over the Aller and Weser Rivers, the Haupt and Mittelland Canals and the passes through the Wiehengebirge. United States helicopter-borne troops were to seize certain of the bridges across these obstacles and the infantry brigades were to be preceded by recon groups whose task was to link up with the helicopter drops or seize any bridges not already demolished.

The plan of Commander 11th Infantry Brigade Group was to seize the lateral route 51/61 by last light on Tuesday, October 10. The Brigade Group was to advance on two routes, left "Heart" with 1st Middlesex Group and right "Boat" with 1st Camerons Group leading and the South Wales Borderers in reserve. Leading the Brigade on both routes were armoured

EXERCISE SPEARPOINT.

Lt.-Col. Battye briefing officers and N.C.O.s for Exercise "Spearpoint"

squadron/infantry company groups. These groups were to be initially under command of Regimental Headquarters 14th/20th Hussars with the task of bypassing opposition and linking up with the helicopter landings or seizing any bridges they found intact. They were to revert to the command of the infantry battalions at the appropriate time. In addition to the recon troops controlled by Divisional Headquarters and the squadron/company groups, a multitude of vehicles numbering many hundreds, and ranging from bridge-carrying lorries to nuclear artillery, were routed along the two brigade axes and had to be co-ordinated by the battalion commander concerned.

Concentration and Preparation

On October 5 the Battalion moved into its concentration area with "A" Company in the village Dangersen, "B" in Steinbeck, "C" in Meisen and Battalion H.Q. and "H.Q." Company in Dibbersen. The villagers proved to be most hospitable and, wherever possible, provided covered accommodation for the troops. Final preparations were made which included detailed planning for the crossing of the Weser in the event of the bridges being demolished, and the briefing of all ranks. There is no doubt that much of the success of this operation was due to detailed planning and careful briefing.

After dark on Sunday, October 8, we left the concentration area and moved to the forward assembly area about three miles behind the frontier. We left with the goodwill of the villagers, who were delighted with the discipline and behaviour of the Battalion, and to the regret of the local girls and the village innkeepers, whose takings had reached record heights during our short stay.

The Advance

At 0600 hrs. Monday, October 9, the Redland forces crossed the frontier and the advance began. It soon became clear that the Blueland Sappers had put a great effort into destroying bridges and culverts, not only on the main route but also on the diversions which we were forced to take. However, by bringing forward engineer equipment and finding further diversions, the advance was continued and the River Wumme was crossed south of Rotenburg by midday. After a move back on to the planned axis south-west of Rotenburg further demolitions on the main route made more diversions necessary—this time to the right of the axis—and by about 1500 hrs. "A" Squadron/"C" Company Group had reached the Weser north-west of Verden. The main problem had been finding a real class 50 route for the Centurion tanks and the armoured bridge-laying vehicles with which we had been provided were invaluable.

The Weser Crossing

When reconnaissance elements reported that the main road bridge at Verden was demolished, the Commanding Officer decided to carry out an assault crossing of the Weser after dark at a point north-west of the confluence of the Weser and Aller. He planned to establish a bridgehead some two miles deep to include the village of Amedorf on the left, Reher in the centre and Intschede on the right. A quick "O" group was held at last light to confirm previous orders and "A" Company with the Assault Pioneers and assault boats slipped quietly down to the river to prepare the boats for crossing. Meanwhile the Drums in their role of recon platoon appeared on the bank about a mile downstream and began to make very obvious preparations for a

crossing. When this did not arouse the enemy's interest they were ordered to make maximum noise. In doing this, they drew enemy artillery fire and "A", "C" and "B" Companies were able to slip across without the enemy realising what was happening. The river was 450 ft. wide at this point and the whole operation went without a hitch.

"A" Company initially formed the close bridgehead to cover the crossing place and cleared or captured a number of small bank posts and patrols. "B" Company moved inland to Reher and "C" Company to Intschede on the right, where it was appreciated that the main enemy strength might be. The recee platoon, having successfully completed its task of creating a diversion to the north, moved south to the crossing place, crossed and prepared to relieve "A" Company of the close defence of the crossing site which the heavy ferry was to use later. In the event, the main enemy strength was found to be on the left and, as "A" Company moved off towards Amedorf, a whole enemy company attempted to move in behind it and threaten the heavy ferry crossing site. In addition, enemy tanks could be heard moving up into the area.

Meanwhile, on the near side of the river, engineer equipment was brought forward and two heavy ferries were in the process of construction. Somewhat later, work also began on a class 30 floating bridge, as we were responsible for opening and developing the divisional maintenance route.

As the heavy ferries neared completion at about 0330 hrs. the situation on the far bank became critical. Enemy infantry had succeeded in infiltrating the close bridgehead, the ferry site was threatened, and enemy tanks appeared to be close behind! "A" Company, with the recee platoon under command, carried out a clearing operation on the far bank and restored the close bridgehead as the heavy ferries became ready to operate. Vehicle priorities were scrapped, the tanks were loaded on to the ferries as fast as this could be done, they crossed and joined forces with "A" Company on the far bank and the situation was stabilised for the time being.

However, the enemy appeared determined to contain the Battalion bridgehead and stiff opposition by tanks and infantry was encountered by "B" Company at Amedorf, where it was opposed by an enemy company and two squadrons of armour, and suffered heavy casualties. By midday Tuesday, October 10, the enemy either had been dealt with or had withdrawn, and plans for the continuation of the advance were being made.

Crossing the Haupt Canal

In the meantime, orders were received from Brigade. The crossing on the right route had not been successful and 1st South Wales Borderers were to pass through our bridgehead, link up with United States helicopter-borne troops at Marfeld, and advance and seize the crossings over the Haupt Canal on Heart Route. We were to remain in reserve.

The Commanding Officer then ordered the reconnaissance section of 14th/20th Hussars, which was operating with "A" Squadron, to investigate the numerous small bridges across the canal to the right and north of the Borderers' advance. One of these bridges was found to

be intact, although enemy armour and infantry were reported to be on the near side. Immediately the recee platoon was despatched to reinforce the scout cars and plans were made to move the Battalion around the flank, cross the bridge and take up a position on the far side of the canal in the village of Uenzen. "A" Squadron was unable to cross the bridge and had to wait until the South Wales Borderers had cleared a larger bridge on the main axis. This stratagem was a complete success, and by 0200 hrs. the whole Battalion was firm in the village and prepared for the enemy counter attack which, in fact, did not materialise.

On hearing of the success of this outflanking move the Brigade Commander ordered the Battalion at first light on Wednesday, October 11, to secure the town of Bassum on "Boat" route. Due to their unsuccessful crossing of the Weser, the Cameronians had to cross into our bridgehead on "Heart" route and then move back on to "Boat." Consequently they were some distance behind us.

A Day in Bassum

In Bassum, demolitions were found and by-passed and the recee platoon exploited forward to Twistringen.

Although both enemy and ground had failed to hold up our advance the enormous capacity of our tanks for consuming petrol brought us to a halt. We had outrun the "tail" and delay in resupply was inevitable. A plea was made that we be permitted to purchase petrol from local sources—simulating requisitioning in war—but the request was refused. As the Commanding Officer did not feel that his personal budget ran to refuelling a squadron of tanks, we were denied the splendid sight of "A" Squadron lining up at the local Aral pump.

Most of Wednesday was spent in or about Bassum, awaiting further orders, all ranks restless to go and chafing at the delay. Shortly after mid-day the Cameronians passed through Bassum and took over the lead on "Boat" route. Meanwhile the Quartermaster, travelling with "B" Echelon under Brigade control, moved forward of Bassum and set a precedent by "leading the Battalion" in the advance. We were approaching the Grosse moor area, which had no lateral roads of any consequence and the Brigade Commander's intention was to keep us poised to go on any route ordered, as Bassum was a key communication centre.

After dark we were ordered south, back on to "Heart" route, and to harbour for the night in the area of Strohen.

The Mittelland Crossing and Wiehengebirge Gap

During Thursday Blueland started using nuclear weapons. The Battalion was moved forward to a concentration area with companies well dispersed in the Lever Wald Forest in preparation for the crossing of the Mittelland Canal and seizing of passes through the Wiehengebirge.

The outline Brigade plan was for 1 Middlesex to cross the canal, penetrate deeply and seize the pass south of Holtzhausen, and for 1 South Wales Borderers to carry out a similar operation further west. The Cameronians were to secure local bridgeheads for the operation of heavy ferries on both battalion fronts. The Commanding Officer planned to cross the canal silently with



BOATING ON THE WESER

Left to right: Ptes. Casey (M.T. Platoon), Pollard (Assault Pioneers), Sampson ("C" Company), Johns ("B" Company)

"A", "B" and "C" Companies, to build a class 2 raft and group the anti-tank guns, champ towed, under Lt. Andy Cowing, and ferry "Andy Force" across the obstacle on the raft. The Assault Pioneers were to build the raft and the Recee Platoon provide local protection on the far bank. "A", "B" and "C" Companies were then to cross the hills avoiding obvious approach routes, appear at the rear end of the pass and "roll up" the enemy from rear to front. Having gained their objectives they were to get themselves into good tank-proof positions in the woods on the sides of the gap and await the arrival of our armour. In addition two United States helicopter-borne companies were to approach the gap from the south. "Andy Force," having crossed the obstacle, was to hide until called forward to join the main body. "A" Squadron was to be given priority over the heavy ferry and, as soon as it was across the obstacle, to link up with the Battalion.

In the event the plan was a success, no doubt because the F.U.P. at Benkhausen was situated by chance in the Roman Catholic Retreat Home and everyone must have inhaled at least a little of the odour of sanctity before H-hour. As a result "A" Company was inspired to discover the only bridge over the canal in the whole divisional sector which was not properly demolished; this enabled all troops and light vehicles, including "Andy Force," to cross the obstacle in a very short time.

The Companies reached their objectives after quite long night marches without major incident, passing through enemy infantry positions and close to enemy armour without detection. In the gap the enemy reacted strongly. "A" Company attacked an enemy company well dug in and supported by tanks, suffering heavy casualties, but inflicting severe losses on the enemy. "B" and "C" Companies were heavily engaged and gave a good account of themselves, inflicting casualties on the enemy and suffering losses themselves. "B" Company at one stage being supported by a Company of American Infantry. Contact had been made with them in the dark and for once, although pronunciation differed, we had

a common bond with the password "Goodness Gracious."

Disagreement among the umpires over details of engineer exercise play with regard to the heavy ferry delayed the arrival of "A" Squadron but by first light it had linked up with the Battalion.

By this time Blueland's nuclear strikes were beginning to have an effect, but by wide dispersal, frequent moves and good fortune the Battalion escaped damage of any significance.

Enemy armour and infantry from the south counter-attacked the gap in considerable strength. Due in the first instance to reluctance by higher authority to grant us a nuclear strike and later to umpiring problems connected with it, our breakout beyond the Wiehengebirge was much delayed. During this period our "Pronto" decided to try his hand at calling down artillery fire on a large body of infantry marching to a flank and succeeded in inflicting considerable casualties on our American allies!

As we began our breakout from the gap, armour from 7th Armoured Brigade arrived without notice to pass through, and we moved forward to limited objectives on the plain beyond. Late in the afternoon a nuclear strike had been planned to assist the breakout. Unfortunately the nuclear umpiring team tended to appear after a strike. At the appropriate hour 5 R.T.R. were set to pass through "A" Squadron, 14/20 H/"A" Company Group and were met by a strong force of enemy tanks. There was a magnificent head-on melee for a short while with tanks moving really tactically until the arrival of some umpires in helicopters declared a complete cease fire to sort it out. By nightfall the situation was still confused. Numerous nuclear strikes by Blueland had caused casualties and blocked routes, and battles were raging in several villages, some remaining in enemy hands, others in ours. "A" Company found itself sharing a village with a squadron of enemy tanks. For the sake of the local inhabitants, who appear to bear such intrusions with great fortitude, a local truce was arranged! "B" Company had enemy between itself and "A" Company but held a secure company position, as did "C" Company further east.

The Commanding Officer decided to withdraw "A" Company and "A" Squadron back to the south end of the gap, leaving "B" and "C" Companies forward, and to position Battalion H.Q. in the gap for the night. This operation was successfully completed when the end of the exercise was announced.

Conclusion

From our point of view the exercise had been an undoubted success. In five days the Battalion advanced some 120 miles (the Q.M.'s speedometer registering 1948 miles), successfully crossed three major and a host of minor obstacles and fought numerous actions against enemy tanks and infantry. Movement was extremely good, both mounted and dismounted, communications were excellent and the Battalion machinery proved entirely satisfactory. In particular company training, enthusiasm and morale were of a high order. Exercise "Spearpoint" has been a most satisfactory culmination, not only to the 1961 training season, but to three years' training in Germany.

5th Battalion (T.A.) Notes

The period following annual camp is always a difficult one. The holiday period steals up silently and Company Commanders find suddenly that their soldiers are scattered far and wide. The permanent staff, harassed by Brigade and Division to produce officers and soldiers for this and that, wonder what they have done to deserve such a horrid fate.

This year, however, many appeared not to take their holiday during the traditional months. "A" and "C" Companies classified at Pirbright a week or so after camp and before we knew it the tough training season was upon us all once again.

Companies trained hard for many weeks, some harder than others. The Battalion tough training competition, excellently run by Major Jerry Gunnell and the P.S.I.s, was held in the Pirbright and Aldershot area in mid-August.

"D" Company's 1st team, led by Capt. Dan Hogg and Sgt. G. Young, were clear winners from "C" Company. "A" Company came third, with "D" Company 2nd team and "B" Company close behind. "H.Q." Company for many reasons were unable to produce a team.

The Association Tough Training competition was launched with splendid publicity in the national Press on the first weekend in September. This year the competition was not confined to units in the county as the detailed results will show.

In this type of competition there is simply no short cut to success. Those units who selected their teams early and trained them hard weekend after weekend stood a chance of completing each phase. Those who made poor or faulty appreciation or treated the competition as a "jolly" were soon disillusioned.

The teams that were fit, had the guts and the will to go hard all the way and were led, not driven, by their officers, did well.

From the Battalion point of view the results were good. All our teams finished in the top half and three in the first seven. It was a pity that Capt. D. Hogg misinterpreted the rules, otherwise his team would probably have been clear winners by more than 40 points. As it was they made up a leeway of over 70 points to come in second, only seven points behind the eventual winner. Major P. Hall is to be congratulated on providing two very good teams, well and ably led by Capt. Hogg and Lt. Parkinson respectively.

The full results are shown below:

Position	Unit	Score
1st	562 Company R.A.S.C. (Para. Bde.)	721
2nd	"D" Company, 5 Middx.	714
3rd	3rd Bn. The Queen's Royal Surrey Regt. (T.A.)	707
4th	917 Company, R.A.S.C. (M.T.), T.A. No. 4 Company, 10 Bn. The Para. Regt. (T.A.)	698
6th	"B" Company, 5 Middx.	689

Position	Unit	Score
7th	"A" Company, 5 Middx.	677
8th	Honorable Artillery Company (Infantry Bn.)	647
9th	57 (Middx.) General Hospital, R.A.M.C. (T.A.)	645
10th	"C" Squadron, 47 Signal Regt. (Middx. Yeomanry)	636
11th	"R" Battery, 254 Field Regt., R.A.	625
12th	"D" Company 2nd team, 5 Middx.	617
13th	44 (Para.) Ordnance Field Park (T.A.)	609
14th	"C" Company, 5 Middx.	603
15th	167 Infantry Workshops, R.E.M.E. (T.A.)	583
16th	302 Para. Field Park Squadron, R.E.	75
17th	1st Bn. The Herts. Regt. (T.A.)	571
18th	Det. 1, Stores Company, R.A.O.C. (T.A.)	570
19th	"S" Battery, 289 Para. Regt., R.H.A.	561
20th	"B" Company, 1st Bn. The London Scottish	546
21st	130 Corps, Field Park Squadron, R.E.	496
22nd	"Q" Battery, 254 Field Regt., R.A.	493
23rd	1st Bn. London Irish Rifles	455
24th	1 and 2 Troops, 222 Field Squadron, R.E.	453

Perhaps the 1st Battalion can be persuaded to enter Company teams next year.

Due to the re-organisation of the Territorial Army the Association Rifle Meeting this year was open only to Company, Squadron and Battery teams. It is a sad fact that the Battalion is now the only major unit left in the county.

The results were quite good and are shown below:

Champion Unit—"D" Company.
Inter-Unit Rifle Competition—"B" Company.
Runners-up—"D" Company.
Runners-up, L.M.G. Competition—"D" Company.
Individual Rifle Champion—Lt. J. S. Richards ("B" Company).

Runner-up—Sgt. G. Young ("D" Company).
Winners, L.M.G. Pairs Competition—Sgt. Brown and L/Cpl. Dillon ("D" Company).

During all this excitement Capt. Sam Weller, who had only recently joined us from the Depot, was quietly and efficiently preparing the Battalion vehicles, weapons and other stores for the annual A.D.M.E.'s inspection. Due entirely to his and all the P.S.I.'s hard work, we received good reports. The M.T., the downfall of many in the past, was graded "good" with a high percentage mark.

"A" and "C" Companies' arms received an excellent report. The other Companies, however, were not quite so good.

"C" Company again represented the Battalion at the Enfield Show. The Band and Drums were invited to Beat Retreat and we received many words of praise on their smartness, bearing and musical ability. W.O.1 Fifth and Drum-Major Holdford, B.E.M., are to be congratulated.



56 (LONDON) BRIGADE RIFLE MEETING, OCTOBER 14-15, 1961
Maj.-Gen. I. H. Freeland, D.S.O., and the C.O.



COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX T. AND A.F.A. RIFLE MEETING, SEPTEMBER 24, 1961
"B" Company—Winners Inter-Unit Rifle Competition
Standing (left to right): Lt. R. G. Tett, Lt. J. S. Richards, Cpl. Hutchings, Lt. J. V. Rawson
Kneeling (left to right): L/Cpl. McDonald, Pte. Bowell



COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX T. AND A.F.A. TOUGH TRAINING COMPETITION

"D" Company 1st team, led by Capt. D. Hogg and Sgt. G. Young, marching through Edgware on September 3, 1961

On a wet, windy and thoroughly miserable day in late September the Battalion shot in the T.A.R.A. decentralised competition. The results were poor but this was hardly surprising. A fouler day could not have been chosen by the Training Officer, even if he had tried. However, the M.M.G. Platoon, formed from the old 9th Battalion and all ex-L.A.A. Gunners, produced the best results of the day. Although their score has no chance of carrying off the match trophy, many fully-trained teams have done far worse under better conditions. Lt. Herriott and Sgt. Mortimer are to be congratulated upon doing so well in such wretched weather.

At the beginning of October, Battalion Headquarters and skeleton Company H.Q.s assembled on Hankley Common in preparation for the Brigade Signal Exercise. On the first day we ran our own exercise and from all reports this was a success and everyone enjoyed themselves. On the second day we joined the rest of the Brigade.

In mid-October we entered a team for the Brigade rifle meeting. It was unfortunate that fog on the first day delayed the start by some two hours and on the second day practically brought the meeting to a standstill. However, our S.M.C. 1st team, represented by the C.O., the R.S.M., L/Cpl. Smyth ("D" Company) and Pte. M. Barton ("A" Company), were runners-up, whilst, to the astonishment of all, L/Cpl. Graham and L/Col. Foord (both from "A" Company) were runners-up in the L.M.G. pairs competition. Major Jerry Gunnell, with the help of Sgts. James and Elderfield ("A" Company), ran the main rifle range without fuss or bother.

To return to the harsh realities of everyday life a brief note on our recruiting may dispel any feeling of complacency.

On April 1 of this year, on the formation of the Battalion, our strength was 461 all ranks. Inevitably, after a major reorganisation, many Territorials have found that they cannot carry on with the additional travelling involved. The Battalion is nevertheless taking a very firm line with all who cannot carry out their commitment, and is discharging all non-effectives. As a result of this policy we are now reduced to the order of 400 all ranks, and our top priority is to build up this first rate "hard core" with equally good recruits until we have reached our full establishment. The problem is a real and urgent one. It can only be solved by hard work, imagination and enthusiasm on the part of all officers and N.C.O.s in the Battalion. We must go to camp next year with at least 450 all ranks.

To end on a more cheerful note, we welcome Lt. J. McMasters ("D" Company) and Lt. Hume ("C" Company) to the Battalion.

We hope their stay with us will be a long and happy one.

"H.Q." COMPANY

Since annual camp the activities of "H.Q." Company have been many and varied and, despite the counter-attractions of holidays and Bingo, the good attendance on drill nights continues. After an absence of several weeks it is good to be able to record the return of W.O.2 Vaisey to the Company after his illness, and we all hope his present good health will continue and that he will be carrying out his duties as C.S.M. for a long time to come.

Post-camp training has been proceeding apace and all sections and platoons of the Company have their own individual training at least once a week. Although we were sorry to lose Capt. Slack from the Intelligence Section to "C" Company, it is with great pleasure that we welcome Capt. Couch to "H.Q." Company; he is already making his presence felt in our basketball team. As has been previously recorded, Capt. Lobb had to relinquish his position as M.T.O. owing to pressure of work, which has meant that for some time the M.T. Section has somewhat resembled a vehicle without a steering wheel! The posting of Lt. G. Young to the Company has now rectified the position and the M.T. is, once again, an efficient section.

Numerous weekends have been spent training both as a company and also with the Battalion, and there is little doubt that our most enjoyable training has been on those occasions when we have "roughed it" in bivouacs. One shooting classification weekend stands out particularly

in this respect, as, although torrential rain fell the whole weekend, we were still able to continue as though nothing had happened. In fact, everything except our spirits were dampened.

During July the Company held an intensive recruiting campaign in and around the Edgware district, and the local young men of the neighbourhood were invited (with gentle persuasion at times from Capt. Beaumont!) to the T.A. Centre to shoot for a free pint of beer. A considerable number of young men came into the drill hall to see what the T.A. has to offer, but only half a dozen actually became volunteers—nevertheless, it was generally considered that even if only one recruit had signed on then the exercise had been worth while. It is most important that a steady influx of new blood is brought into the Territorial Army and potential recruits may be sure of a warm welcome and an interesting time in "H.Q." Company. Unfortunately, W.O.2 Duff has had to leave the Company after a long and brilliant career in the Territorial Army. Although he would be the first to deny the fact, W.O.2 Duff was one of the keenest members of the Company, and as Commander of the Assault Pioneers he built up his Platoon to a very high level of efficiency. He will be sorely missed, not only by "H.Q." Company but by the whole Battalion, and we wish him every success for the future. Sgt. Birmingham is to be congratulated on his recent promotion and he is fortunate indeed in taking over command of the Platoon so recently vacated by W.O.2 Duff.

An interesting weekend was spent by "H.Q." Company in the Surrey Commons training area, when we took part in 56 Brigade Signals exercise. The Signals Platoon functioned remarkably well and C/Sgt. Hawkins, in his capacity as Signals Officer, fully justified his promotion in August. This Platoon is invariably consistent in its good work, despite the fact that it is considerably below strength, and more keen men are urgently required to be trained as signallers.

We have now embarked on winter training, and the months ahead promise to be full of interest with activities such as basketball, shooting and social events well to the fore, in addition to our normal infantry training.

"A" COMPANY

During the period immediately after annual camp a unit usually feels a certain degree of reaction, when training and attendance tends to slacken off for a few weeks. We certainly did not escape this effect at Hornsey, but successful efforts were made to maintain and build up momentum as much as possible and at no time did training actually cease.

Soon after returning from Norfolk in July a start was made by the holding of a company social evening organised by our new second-in-command, Capt. Pollecoff—a very welcome reinforcement from the old 7th Battalion who is now officially on "A" Company's strength. The social, held in the canteen at Hornsey, was attended by all ranks and a vast number of Old Comrades together with wives or girl-friends. A very festive spirit lasted well into the early hours of the morning.

In September we held a training weekend to practise the platoons in patrolling. As usual on patrol training, a good time was had by all—again lasting well into the night. Sgt. Stack's reconnaissance patrol came marching briskly back to camp at 0200 hrs. having nearly been run down by at least two murderous civilian cars. We all enjoyed the experience of sleeping out without tents on a sweltering, almost sub-tropical September night in a Surrey wood. All ranks—without discrimination—equally suffered the persecution of mosquitoes throughout the sleeping hours.

At the end of October a recruiting weekend was organised at Hornsey by Lt. Doran. While an impressive display of infantry weapons was manned at the drill hall, teams went out into the streets to seek volunteers. Ten men were found—a good score—and it looks as if eight of these may be attested. Our publicity has been greatly helped by the co-operation of the Hornsey Journal which has published photographs and articles describing the Company's activities.

"B" COMPANY

The period since camp has been an eventful one for the Company.

In August Capt. B. A. Skinner succeeded Capt. H. E. Couch as acting Company commander. We said farewell to Capt. Couch in an appropriate fashion and, although sad to lose him, we wish him the best of luck as I.O. and also in his "finals" next year.

Shortly after Capt. Skinner took over Lt. J. S. Richards joined the Company as No. 5 Platoon commander.

We have attracted many recruits recently and are naturally making an all-out effort to recruit to our full establishment. Recruits present many problems, of course, but their keenness and willingness to learn make light of most difficulties.

In September at the T.A.F.A. Shooting Meeting the Company team, captained by Lt. R. G. Tett, won the inter-unit rifle competition and failed by only six points to win the combined rifle and L.M.G. trophy which was won by "D" Company. Lt. Richards won the Cheylesmore Cup for the highest individual rifle score.

With the coming of the basketball season the Company team shows plenty of promise and are full of confidence. The U.S.A.F. at Denham, Bucks., have been a tremendous help to the team with coaching and practice matches. The team, led on the court by "Butch" Foster, is very enthusiastic and the members seem almost never out of basketball kit!

Late in October the Company went to Hatfield, Herts., for infantry training. The highlight was the night-fighting patrol, led by Lt. J. S. Richards, over some tricky country. The objective, to "snatch" a sentry, was successfully achieved, although at least one member of the patrol got rather more than his feet wet! In spite of a truck breakdown on the return journey the weekend was a great success and we look forward to more like it.

We now look forward to the next training year, aware that a lot remains to be done and learnt, but confident that in a year's time we shall be a useful infantry company.



COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX T. AND A.F.A. RIFLE MEETING, SEPTEMBER 24, 1961

"D" Company—Champion Unit and Winners L.M.G. Pairs Competition
 Standing (left to right): Lt. K. Murray, Sgt. Brown, Major P. Hall, Lt. J. McMasters, L/Cpl. Smyth
 Kneeling (left to right): L/Cpl. Dillon, Sgt. Kemp, Sgt. Young

We extend best wishes to ex-members of the Company serving with the 1st Battalion, and our congratulations go to L/Cpl. Hetherington on his promotion.

"C" COMPANY

"C" Company, after the customary but very-short-lived post-camp lethargy, has settled down to training.

A few members of the Company have left but we are pleased to welcome Ptes. Levitt, Glenn, Kerr and Martin to Enfield.

The Company followed on the traditions of the 7th Battalion by exhibiting at the annual Enfield Show, and much interest was shown in the exhibits displayed on that occasion. It was regrettable, however, that such interest mainly emanated from those too young to enlist in the T.A., but it may be that the benefit of such display will be apparent in two or three years time. One of the most amusing and significant features of the show was the interest shown in the various weapons displayed by a considerable number of young people who ostensibly supported nuclear disarmament. "Was it possible," we asked, "that they were seeing that our non-nuclear weapons were up to scratch?"

Many ex-"Die-Hards" appeared intrigued by the S.L. rifle and many were the regrets and compliments paid to its predecessors.

Our 2IC, Capt. Skinner, left the Company after camp to join "B" Company, and our loss is very much their gain. We understand that they have already savoured the delights of the Hertfordshire countryside.

Capt. Slack has descended from the rarefied atmosphere of I.O. at Battalion Headquarters to take Capt. Skinner's place, and Sgt. Turner, our P.S.I., manages to do a number of jobs, including his own, without audible complaint!

The Company dance, which was held on October 28, was extremely well attended, and was at least responsible for one officer rejoining us. Whether his return is attributable to the attractions of T.A. or to those of the ladies who graced the Company's dance remains to be discovered.

It would be wrong to conclude these notes without mentioning the admirable performance of L/Cpl. Roberts at the ranges and the very real enthusiasm shown by the regular attenders on drill nights. If only . . . !

"D" COMPANY

Activity has been intense but rewarding in the period which ended on September 30, and we thoroughly recommend all companies to get out at weekends at least once a month.

There were some amongst us who did not believe Major Hall when he said we were to march to the field-firing range at Hångmoor on the weekend July 15-16, but the moment of truth came when we said good-bye to our transport at Chertsey. On the Sunday we spent a pleasant day firing 2-in.-mortar smoke and getting further acquainted with the S.L.R. Was it by happy chance that this weekend coincided with Airborne Forces Week? Anyway, old acquaintanceships were renewed in Maida Gym. on Saturday evening, and it was reported that Sgt. Alec Kemp's sense of direction was a little impaired on his walk back to the company lines!

Dual operations were carried out on August 19-20, when, with two teams competing in the Battalion tough training, the rest of us did some shooting at Henley Park. With splendid opposition offered by the other rifle companies, we managed to get the first and fourth places in the Battalion tough training.

Team training continued on one evening per week, and September 2 dawned with two "D" Company teams entered in the County Tough Training event, our No. 2 team masquerading as "H.Q." Company! With accurate compass work by Capt. Dan Hogg and terrific pace setting by Sgt. Gordon Young, our No. 1 team pulled up from a position of 70 points to 7 points behind

the winners and came second. The photograph shows this team marching through Edgware on the Sunday afternoon, being used as (unwilling) pacemakers by the winning team. Our No. 2 team came 12th. The composition of the teams is shown below:

No. 1. Capt. Hogg, Sgt. Young, Cpl. Taylor, Ptes. Edwards, Tabrar and Taylor.

No. 2. Lt. Parkinson, Sgt. Ward, L/Cpl. Dillon, Ptes. Benham, Lee and Ratcliffe.

As an innovation to the usual Company dance a cheese and wine party was held on September 15 for officers and N.C.O.s, their wives and girl friends. This function was a success, and we were delighted to have as guests the I.O., Capt. Harold Couch, and Lt. Bob Tett from "B" Company.

Making a habit of concurrent activity, we did some more field firing at Hangmoor on September 23-24 and entered a team for the Middlesex T. and A.F.A. meeting. While the rest of us carried out section and platoon attacks under Lt. John Parkinson and C/Sgt. Jack Vaisey, our team carried off the Champion Unit Trophy and the best L.M.G. pairs cup. The team was composed of: Sgt. Young (captain), Major Hall, Lts. Murray and McMasters, Sgts. Brown and Kemp, L/Cpls. Dillon and Smyth, and the photograph shows the team with both awards.

THE HONG KONG REGIMENT

(The Volunteers)

The arrival in Hong Kong of Brigadier J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E., Colonel of The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), to take up the appointment of Chief of Staff Land Forces has been the event most likely to interest readers in our allied Regiment.

Brigadier Willoughby arrived on the troopship *Netasa* on July 28. He was welcomed back to the colony by Col. H. A. de Barros Botelho, M.B.E., E.D., Honorary Colonel, Lt.-Col. T. A. M. Twaddle, T.D., Commanding Officer, and Majors Jeffcoat and Cain of his own Regiment. It was a typical Hong Kong summer morning, both hot and humid, and would have been recognised immediately by anyone who has served in the Far East.

A few days later, on August 4, the Brigadier visited the headquarters of the Regiment in Sports Road, Happy Valley, and, after touring the main building and the stores, met the permanent staff. At once the ties between the Regiments were evident, since, apart from the Adjutant, Major Cain, who is, of course, from The Middlesex Regiment, there was also Major W. T. J. Lane, M.B.E., at one time a R.Q.M.S. in the 1st Battalion, and C.S.M. Rogers, now Queen's Surrey, who had until recently The Middlesex Regiment as his parent Regiment. Memories of the Korean campaign were also revived by the introduction of R.S.M. J. C. Robertson,

B.E.M. (A. & S.H.) and Sgt. W. Burns (Gordons), both of whom served in the 1st Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in Korea.

On September 20, at a simple ceremony at Regimental Headquarters, Brigadier Willoughby presented the silver and ebony mace, a gift from the officers of The Middlesex Regiment, to the Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers). The Brigadier was greeted by a fanfare from the silver state trumpets, followed by the Regimental Quick March of The Middlesex Regiment played by the Band and Drums. After a slow march the Band and Drums broke into quick time to "Mechanized Infantry," in which the silver bugles were displayed to advantage, and then the Brigadier made a presentation address to which Col. de Barros Botelho replied. During the reception which followed the string orchestra played under the direction of Major F. E. C. C. Quah, E.D., Director of Music.

The Officers' Mess guest night, which was held on September 26, was noteworthy for several reasons. It was the first opportunity the Volunteers have had to dine a Colonel of the allied Regiment. It was also the occasion of dining-in Col. Botelho as Honorary Colonel, dining-in Lt.-Col. K. C. P. Ive (17th/21st Lancers) as Commanding Officer, and dining-out Lt.-Col. Twaddle who has left us on retirement from the Army.

It is thus with great pleasure that we can report that the ties between the two Regiments have never been stronger.



OFFICERS' MESS GUEST NIGHT

Left to right: Lt.-Col. Ive, Col. Botelho, Brigadier Willoughby, Lt.-Col. Twaddle, Major Oblitas



Brigadier J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E., hands over the Middlesex Mace to Drum-Major Chung Tung-Fung

BERLIN VISIT, AUTUMN, 1961

A few months ago I opened up the paper and there, printed across the front page, were the headlines "Khrushchev Threatens East German Peace Treaty in Autumn." For me it was the beginning of a strong desire to visit Berlin, and in particular the Soviet Sector, before the barriers between the two sectors might possibly be closed for ever.

Since then events have moved fast. Berlin is today a truly divided city. A solid concrete wall runs between the western and eastern sectors; road blocks have been placed across all roads, trees have been cut down to provide fields of fire and the whole patrolled by green-uniformed tommy-gunners of the Deutsche Democratic Republic. Such was the situation when a party of six of us motored from Hameln to Berlin on Friday, October 20.

Tonight, just a few days later, as I try to put a few impressions of our visit on to paper, I hear on the news that tension is mounting in Berlin—American civilian officials have been denied the formerly acknowledged right of motoring into the eastern sector, without means of identification—American tanks, backed by mechanised infantry, have been positioned at the only remaining crossing place on the Friedrichstrasse—the British have moved tanks and infantry to the Brandenburg Gate.

Having only a few days previously motored three times through "American Check Point Charlie" on the Friedrichstrasse into the Soviet Sector and tried unsuccessfully to photograph the Brandenburg Gate from the Soviet side, the Berlin news has taken on a new significance for me.

There is a great deal that one could write about our visit which might possibly be of interest, but I intend to put the main emphasis on the Soviet Sector rather than the Western Sector, particularly as it is becoming increasingly difficult to visit it. Berlin has been headline news for many months now but, in case some readers of this account may be as ignorant as I was concerning some aspects of Berlin history, the following short account will not, I hope, be out of place.

Berlin History

Berlin originally consisted of two fishing villages on the River Spree. In 1307 the two villages were united for purposes of defence and subsequently, due to their favourable position, became a trading town of considerable importance. Around 1600 a series of plagues left the town with a greatly reduced population. During the next two centuries Berlin grew rapidly in stature and many renowned architects and sculptors were enlisted to design and erect stately buildings in the vicinity of Unter den Linden. Frederick the Great, as patron of the arts, science and trade, had by the end of his reign built Prussia into a great power in Europe with Berlin as a major capital city.

Even Prussia's defeat by Napoleon's armies in 1806 did not affect Berlin's development to any great extent, and slowly Berlin was transformed into one of the most beautiful cities on the Continent. It officially became the capital of Germany in 1871 when the German Empire was formed at the end of the Franco-Prussian War. (In my ignorance, I had always looked upon Berlin as having

been the capital of Germany for many hundreds of years in the same way as London has been the capital of England.)

The beginning of the last war saw Berlin as the most important city in Central Europe, both as regards industry and the arts. A few years later it contained more rubble than all the other German cities put together.

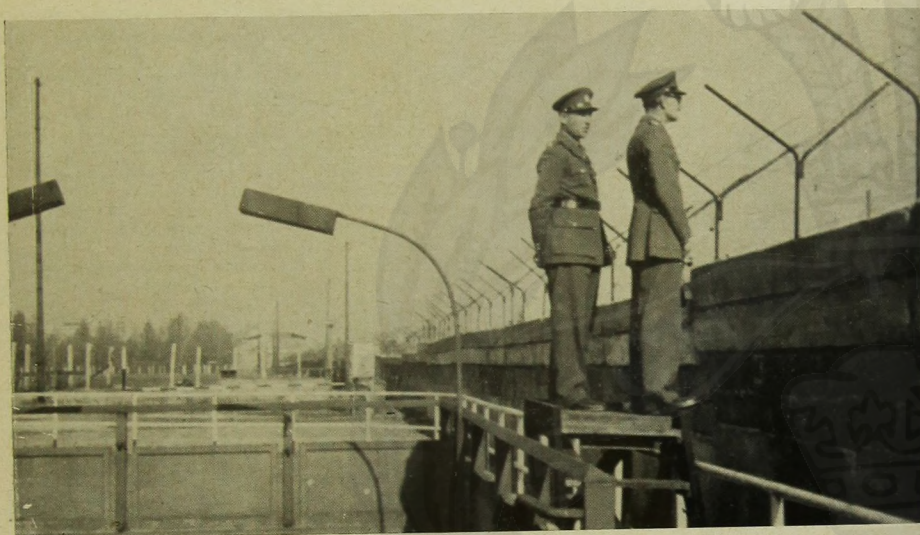
In 1945 there were no communications, the supply of electricity and water had collapsed, and half the available housing space had been destroyed. Today, West Berlin has arisen from the former mass of ruins and a brand-new city of bright shop windows, neon lights, wide streets and every sign of increasing prosperity has taken its place amongst the important cities of the Western World. It contrasts vividly with the drabness and squalor still existing in the eastern part of the city.

Immediately after the last war Berlin was divided into four sectors—American, British, French and Russian. It is the division of the city which I think makes it one of the most interesting cities in the world. Democracy and Communism working alongside each other, and yet in direct opposition to each other, in the same city.

The Trip

It was a typical windy autumn day as the six of us—three wives included—headed westward along the Cologne/Berlin Autobahn towards the Helmstedt check point and entry point into East Germany. Our military papers, identity cards and passports all seemed to be in good order and, having reached the border, we expected to be through in about 20 minutes. This was not, however, to be so. On close inspection of our documents it was found that there were minor differences between the documents; a full stop and a hyphen on one and not on the other, a decoration included on one and not on the other. Differences of no importance to western imperialists such as ourselves, but, to a suspicious Russian Ivan who could only read the Russian alphabet, they might be interpreted as providing an excuse for forbidding us entry. Our protests to the British Military Police were of no avail, so back we went like naughty children to have our documents retyped at the British Police H.Q. a couple of miles back down the road. Once again depression descended when it was remarked that the Russians would be unlikely to accept my identity card as it was of 1954 vintage and in a bad state of repair—too late to get another one, so all hands got to work to beautify it and a helpful Colour-Sergeant produced a new plastic holder in which to put it. Back to the check point to find that our one-fingered typist had now made a fresh error in leaving out an initial somewhere. A hurried council of war, and it was decided that we would risk it and move on through to the Soviet military check point and trust to luck. I think that the Military Police were glad to see the last of us.

A Soviet soldier, in typical ill-fitting jacket, peaked cap with prominent red star, picked us out from the rest of the traffic and signalled us to halt by the side of the road, and we presented all our papers to a hatless and quite pleasant Soviet Captain who probably had little idea what they were all about. In the meantime, we took a stroll around, looking at a large selection of propaganda



"WHO GOES THERE"

Majors Shipster and Peckham looking over the wall into East Berlin

posters extolling the virtues of Communism in general and the warlike intentions of Western Germany, Adenauer's Junta in particular. Much to our relief, all went well, our papers were handed back, Ivan saluted us, and we were on our way through the remaining barrier manned by East German Volks Politzei Tommy-guns.

I have often had the feeling that in travelling from one country into another that there should be sudden changes in scenery, both artificial and natural, and have become disappointed when these changes are not abrupt but are slow and gradual. Here, for me, there was no disappointment, for although the North German flat countryside, with its occasional woods and cultivated fields, continued as before, one immediately felt that one was in a different world; a world of half values and only half activity. Traffic on the autobahn was almost non-existent, except for West German cars going to and from West Berlin. East German traffic seemed only to consist of vintage cars, an occasional lorry and a few farm vehicles on the roadside.

No movement is allowed off the autobahn. We could see the outline of Magdeburg and smoke from its various factories away to our right, but very little else. Entry into Western Berlin was uneventful and I think that we all with unvoiced relief greeted once again the familiar bustle of vehicles, flashing neon lights, large modern buildings and the wide-open well-kept streets. Seeing West Berlin for the first time by night only helped to emphasise its virility in contrast to the half world which surrounded it.

Soviet Sector

In all we paid three separate visits to the Soviet Sector, each through the only remaining check point in the Friedrichstrasse. To me it seemed like the setting for "The Third Man" less zither music and the Russian military occupation of Budapest, after the Hungarian revolt, rolled into one; plus concrete slab, wire-topped wall, through which one had to pass. Frankly, I never once came back through the road blocks, with their attendant youthful shabby Tommy-guns, without a feeling of relief.

The great showpiece of East Berlin is as most people know the much-vaunted new buildings astride the Stalin Allee. It is certainly an imposing highway but still, after eight years of construction, nowhere near completion. Those buildings that have been completed are in the typical new Moscow style and are already showing signs of wear and tear. Imposing new shopping centres have been constructed but, without exception, they are all State owned and poorly stocked. Prices of goods are high by East German standards (one West German Mark equals five East German Marks, while the official rate of exchange in East Germany is one for one).

The main cultural centre is around the Marse Engels Platz and is still in many places in ruins. This must have been extremely imposing before the war but now resembles an empty shell. On one side of the Platz is the Pergamon Museum, where the world-famous Pergamon Altar can be viewed by the public. Unfortunately, we only decided to visit the Museum on the last day of our visit, on Monday, and found it to be closed.



"THE PEOPLE'S POLICE"

View of East Berlin through a hole in the wall. Note the barbed-wire, placed in position during our visit, and the crash barrier beyond the policemen

I would like to end this account by relating some incidents which occurred when visiting the Russian War Memorial. This visit we made with an official party by bus from the British Sector. While viewing the Memorial our British drivers and guide were approached by five different people, offering sums of about DM 1,500 if we could smuggle them back with us to the British Sector. To them a last desperate effort to try to escape. The pity of it is that we were powerless to do anything to help. But to me these incidents more than any others brought home the utter misery and desperation that so many people must be experiencing, who have the misfortune to live in a communist state and yet know what the West has to offer.

J.N.S.

FOUR DIVISIONS OF "DIE-HARDS"

As Remembrance Day approaches each year, thousands of men who have worn our cap badge automatically introduce into their conversations the memories of the days they served in close bond and comradeship with their fellow men in a particular battalion or company of the Regiment.

To those who served in the First World War of 1914-19 there are 46 battalions and numerous labour units to which they could have belonged. The Army List shows the Regimental Honours in four groups: (a) those honours won prior to 1914, (b) those won between the years 1914-19, (c) the honours for the War 1939-45, and (d) those of Korea. The second group are shown after the introduction "World War I—46 Battalions."

The writer, who has read a certain amount of Regimental History, has never seen published a full list of these battalions and hopes the following brief details will be of interest to the reader.

When war was declared in 1914, the Regiment had four regular battalions (in itself a rare thing as there were only five regiments in the army with four battalions), two Special Reserve battalions, and four battalions of the Territorial Forces. On August 5, the day after war was declared, Field-Marshal Lord Kitchener was appointed Secretary of State for War. Foreseeing that the war would last at least three years, he organised a new British force of 70 divisions, promptly named "Kitchener's Army." By the end of the year, the Regiment had 11 new battalions and 25 more were to join them. This great regiment was to fight on every battle front of the war, and were to suffer 12,694 fatal casualties.

The following is the list of the Regular, Special Reserve, Territorial and New Army Battalions:-

Designation	Date formed
1st Battalion	Regular
2nd Battalion	Regular
3rd Battalion	Regular
4th Battalion	Regular
5th Battalion (Special Reserve) ..	
6th Battalion (Special Reserve) ..	
1/7th Battalion (Territorial Forces) ..	T.F. Act, '07
2/7th Battalion (Territorial Forces) ..	Sept. 2, 1914
3/7th Battalion (Territorial Forces) ..	Feb. 9, 1915
4/7th Battalion (Territorial Forces) ..	May 10, 1915
1/8th Battalion (Territorial Forces) ..	T.F. Act, '07
2/8th Battalion (Territorial Forces) ..	Sept. 5, 1914
3/8th Battalion (Territorial Forces) ..	Feb. 9, 1915
4/8th Battalion (Territorial Forces) ..	May 10, 1915
1/9th Battalion (Territorial Forces) ..	T.F. Act, '07
2/9th Battalion (Territorial Forces) ..	Sept. 14, 1914
3/9th Battalion (Territorial Forces) ..	Mar. 20, 1915

Designation	Date formed
1 10th Battalion (Territorial Forces) ..	T.F. Act, '07
2/10th Battalion (Territorial Forces) ..	Sept. 16, 1914
3/10th Battalion (Territorial Forces) ..	Mar. 20, 1915
4/10th Battalion (Territorial Forces) ..	May 10, 1915
7th (Reserve) Battalion (T.F.) ..	Sept. 1, 1916
11th (Service) Battalion ..	Aug. 26, 1914
12th (Service) Battalion ..	Sept. 5, 1914
13th (Service) Battalion ..	Sept. 13, 1914
14th (Reserve) Battalion ..	Oct. 8, 1914
15th (Reserve) Battalion ..	Oct. 8, 1914
16th (Service) Battalion (Public Schools)	Sept. 1, 1914
17th (Service) Battalion (1st Football) ..	Dec. 12, 1914
18th (Service) Battalion (1st Public Works Pioneers) ..	Mar. 25, 1915
19th (Service) Battalion (2nd Public Works Pioneers) ..	Mar. 25, 1915
20th (Service) Battalion (Shoreditch) ..	June 4, 1915
21st (Service) Battalion (Islington) ..	May 20, 1915
22nd (Service) Battalion (Bantams) ..	June 30, 1915
23rd (Service) Battalion (2nd Football) ..	Jan. 15, 1916
24th (Reserve) Battalion (Public Schools)	Sept. 25, 1915
25th (Garrison) Battalion ..	Aug. 8, 1915
26th (Service) Battalion (3rd Public Works Pioneers) ..	Aug. 9, 1916
27th (Reserve) Battalion (Footballers) ..	Oct. 1, 1915
28th (Reserve) Battalion ..	Nov. 25, 1915
29th (Infantry Works) Battalion ..	July 26, 1916
30th (Infantry Works) (Aliens) Battalion ..	July 12, 1916
31st (Infantry Works) (Aliens) Battalion	Sept. 8, 1916
32nd (Reserve) T.F. Battalion ..	Jan. 1, 1917
33rd (Labour) Battalion ..	Mar. 31, 1917
1st (Home Service) (Garrison) Battalion	May 20, 1916

In addition to the above, the 63rd Provisional Battalion had been formed on June 16, 1915, but was disbanded on January 1, 1917, when it became the 32nd (Reserve) T.F. Battalion. Also for a time there was a 34th Battalion, but this became the 20th Battalion and existed in name only.

Of the Labour and Works Companies, all bearing the title "The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment)" in their designation were the following:-

Labour	Designation	Formed
1st ..	Infantry Labour Company	Mar. 5, 1917
2nd ..	Infantry Labour Company	Apr. 2, 1917
3rd ..	Infantry Labour Company	Feb. 24, 1917
4th ..	Infantry Labour Company	Feb. 24, 1917
5th ..	Infantry Labour Company	Apr. 18, 1918
6th ..	Infantry Labour Company	Apr. 20, 1918
7th ..	Infantry Labour Company	July 17, 1918
8th ..	Infantry Labour Company	Dec. 24, 1918
	(after the Armistice)	
9th (HS) Labour Company ..		July 26, 1919
	(after the Armistice)	
10th ..	Infantry Labour Company	July 26, 1919
	(after the Armistice)	

Works	Formed
1st (Infantry Works Company) ..	Feb. 1, 1916
Became 27th (Infantry Works) Company, Devon Regt.	
2nd (Infantry Works Company) ..	April 1, 1916
Renumbered 8th Became 331st (H.S.) Labour Coy.	
3rd (Infantry Works Company) ..	April 1, 1916
Renumbered 18th Became 338th (H.S.) Labour Coy.	
4th (Infantry Works Company) ..	June 12, 1916
Renumbered 23rd Became 341st (H.S.) Labour Coy.	
5th (Infantry Works Company) ..	June 12, 1916
Renumbered 22nd Became 340th (H.S.) Labour Coy.	
6th (Infantry Works Company) ..	June 13, 1916
Renumbered 9th Became 339th (H.S.) Labour Coy.	
7th (Infantry Works Company) ..	June 20, 1916
Renumbered 26th Became 342nd (H.S.) Labour Coy.	

In addition to the above the following Battalions were formed from the existing training organisation on February 8, 1919 (after the Armistice) for duties with the British Army of Occupation on the Rhine:

51st Battalion—from 51st (Graduated) Battalion originally known as 97th Training Reserve Battalion.
52nd Battalion—from 52nd (Graduated) Battalion, previously known as 101st Training Reserve Battalion.
53rd Battalion—from 53rd (Young Soldiers) Battalion, previously known as 102nd Training Reserve Battalion.

No. 1 Special Company was formed on April 3, 1919, under the command of Major C. D. Drew, and went to Murmansk with the North Russian Expeditionary Force in April, 1919.

With the inclusion of the Depot, which in itself was of battalion strength, there was a total of 46 Battalions, 10 Infantry Labour Companies, 7 Infantry Works Companies, and 1 Special Company—65 units—from each of which can be found names on the Roll of Honour. When looking at this figure, it should be remembered that in August 1914 the Home Forces of the first six Divisions had a total strength of 72 Battalions. The Regiment itself eventually had sufficient Battalions for four Divisions.

In later issues it is hoped to tell the stories of the raising of the units, how they came by their names—including some unofficial ones—a brief account of their service and of their Colours, the locations of which appear in another article of this issue.

R.W.J.S.

NOTE—The Curator of the Regimental Museum would be grateful for any information in respect of the different Battalions, especially of the variation of cap badges and insignia similar to that worn by the Public Works Battalions and the "German Middlesex."

IT IS NEVER THE SAME!

(Reproduced by courtesy of The Editor, *The Kensington*.)

It was in June, while attending a course on a new type of work, that we were given a practical exercise which involved visiting one of the many Garrison Works Offices dotted around the London area. We were told where they were situated and left to put in bids for which we would like to visit. Well, as soon as I saw the list and saw Mill Hill Barracks as one of the locations, I put in for it. For it was there, some 21 years ago, that I spent my first four or five months in the Army. And I had not seen the place since that date in August, 1940, when I shook its dust off my ammunition boots!

So, one pleasant June Monday, I walked up Bittacy Hill from the tube station with some sense of expectation. Even as I approached, however, it did not look the same: memory had indeed dulled over the years. It was a longer walk up the hill than I remembered and the main entrance gate seemed somehow insignificant—not the awesome portal of the past. No longer a guard or regimental policemen on duty, no sign of khaki on the long walk down the drive in—how different it used to be as one rapidly ensured all buttons secure, no dust on the boots and cap at correct angle to satisfy guard commander or police sergeant. All seemed dead: yet it was 9.30 in the morning—a time when the barracks would be brimming over with activity in the old days.

To find a soldier in order to ask the way proved surprisingly difficult: eventually we ran one to earth in one of the offices. From him we obtained approximate directions and continued on to the drill square. Memory gives this the site of many trials and tribulations but actuality revealed an unoccupied asphalt waste which seemed to have shrunk with age from the huge expanse of a rookie's recollection to a very ordinary dimension. Over on my left, I could see the barrack blocks which had housed the unwilling call-up of 1940—now they looked well kept and reasonable accommodation rather than the prison they had felt so long ago.

But the real change was the lack of regimental activity and the general atmosphere of desuetude. I was later to find that the more technical arms, which now inhabit the site, were mainly active in the lower hutted camp but the absence of the sound of bugles, marching feet and shouted words of command produced a real sense of loss.

With the past there was only one connection. This I found when lunching in the Officers' Mess—a place I had never entered even on fatigues, during my previous sojourn at the barracks. Here, sitting at the head of the table as he must have done for so many years, was Col. Maurice Browne. The Colonel is an institution both in the Middlesex Regiment and in Mill Hill. Indeed, although his beloved regiment no longer has its depot there, Col. Browne still has an office in the barrack area and lunches and dines in Mess. Of course, in 1940 he was Commandant of the Depot and I a very raw recruit and, apart from impersonal parade ground meetings, we had no contact then. Nevertheless, he kindly said he remembered me at the depot—a most phenomenal feat of memory! Much more likely however was a memory of our meetings at post-war O.C.A. dinners. The Colonel does not seem to change though

he seems to tend slightly towards fading away. Nevertheless it was a pleasure to meet him and find some link with the past.

But, as I look back on that visit, I find a sense of disappointment. What I had mainly remembered seemed to be there no longer. It just was not the same but, then, it never is, is it?

OLD COLOURS

As a result of enquiries and visits, made on behalf of the Regimental Council during the past year, it is known that the following Old Colours are lodged in the places shown:—

Regimental Museum

- 57th Foot, 1803-13 (see Note (a))
- 57th Foot, 1813-18
- 57th Foot, 1818-38
- 57th Foot, 1867-1908
- 2/57th Foot, 1803-15
- Royal Eastern Regiment, 1760-1806
- Royal East Middlesex Militia, 1806-90
- Loyal Uxbridge Volunteer Infantry, 1831-42
- (see Note (b))
- 24th Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Corps, 1860-80
- (see Note (b))
- 19th (Service Battalion (Public Works Pioneers))
- (see Note (c))

St. Paul's Cathedral

- 57th Foot, 1853-67
- 77th Foot, 1835-76

Middlesex Guildhall

- 1st Battalion, 1908-37
- 2nd Battalion, 1876-1925
- 3rd Battalion, 1902-22
- 4th Battalion, 1902-22
- 9th (T.A.) Battalion, 1913-50

St. Mary's Church, Hornsey

- Loyal Hampstead Volunteers, 1803-13
- 25th (Reserve Garrison) Battalion
- (see Note (d))

All Hallows Church, Tottenham

- 2/7th (T.A.) Battalion, 1914-18 (see Note (e))

St. Nicholas Church, Chiswick

- 1/10th (T.A.) Battalion
- 2/10th (T.A.) Battalion (see Note (d))
- 3/10th (T.A.) Battalion (see Note (d))

St. Paul's Church, Mill Hill

- 11th (Service) Battalion (see Note (d))
- 12th (Service) Battalion (see Note (d))
- 13th (Service) Battalion (see Note (d))
- 16th (Service) Battalion (see Note (d))
- 17th (Service) Battalion (see Note (d))
- 19th (Service) Battalion (see Note (c))
- 23rd (Service) Battalion (see Note (d))
- 26th (Service) Battalion (see Note (d))

St. Leonard's Church, Shoreditch
20th (Service) Battalion (see Note (e))

St. Mary's Church, Islington

The King's Colours of the 21st (Service) Battalion, which was lodged in this church after the First World War, was destroyed when the church was demolished by enemy action in the Second World War.

Notes: (a) Frail section approximately 6 in. x 6 in. (Albuhera Colour)

(b) One Colour only, which was until recently lodged in St. George's Church, Brentford.

(c) The colour staves have the crown and lion finial. The King's Colour of this Battalion lodged at St. Paul's Church, Mill Hill, appears to be a duplicate.

(d) King's Colour only without battle honours.

(e) King's Colour only with battle honours.

In order that a complete record can be made it would be appreciated if any reader, who knows of the whereabouts of any other Colours formerly carried by units of the Regiment, would send details to Regimental Headquarters.

OBITUARY

Col. C. J. Fisher, C.B.E., D.S.O.

Cecil James Fisher died in Truro Infirmary on September 1, 1961, aged 71.

He was appointed to a Territorial Force commission in the 10th Battalion (T.F.) on November 11, 1911, and promoted Captain in 1914.

The First World War took him to India, Mesopotamia and Afghanistan. Immediately after the war he became a D.A.A. and Q.M.G. in India, and went on to the Reserve in 1921.

September, 1939, found him on the active list again in France, and in October that year he transferred to the Royal Pioneer Corps. In May, 1940, he was commanding a Battalion which assumed an Infantry role during the withdrawal from East of Rouen.

After serving with 23rd and 24th Groups of the Royal Pioneer Corps he went to Headquarters IV Corps in November, 1941, where he became a Temporary Colonel. Thereafter he saw service in Burma and later on worked with the Defence Department of the Government of India.

He relinquished his commission in 1946.

For his services he was mentioned four times in despatches (1916, 1918, 1940 and 1944), was awarded the D.S.O. in 1917 whilst serving in Mesopotamia, and the C.B.E. in 1945.

Major M. C. D. King, M.C., T.D.

Monty King, who died on August 7, 1961, at the age of 51, was educated at Marlborough and commissioned into 8th Battalion Middlesex Regiment in 1931. He served first in "C" Company at Staines and then as Battalion Transport Officer. The transport was horse-drawn: a totally unfamiliar form of progression to Monty. However, like all else he did, he applied him-

self with the utmost determination to his duties, which he carried out with great efficiency. Next he commanded "A" Company at Hampton, and then once again he was posted to "C" Company: this time as Company Commander.

At the outbreak of war he was appointed Staff Captain 25 Infantry Brigade. He remained with them until after their evacuation from France in 1940.

After a spell at the Depot he returned to 1/8th Battalion Middlesex Regiment in the summer of 1941. A few months later he became Adjutant, an appointment which he filled until taking over command of "A" Company for the rest of the war. He won an immediate Military Cross for gallantry in the campaign in North-West Europe.

After the war he returned to his work in civilian life with the Union Discount Company in the City of London. At his death he held a position of considerable importance in that firm.

He was a man with great strength of character combined with quiet simplicity and a fine sense of humour. Devotion to his family—he leaves a wife and a young son—loyalty to his friends, and a high sense of duty were his innate qualities for his religious feelings were deeply held.

The shadow of his final illness lay over his last two years. But he went on his way undaunted; happy with his family and, when his health allowed, doing his job; seeing his friends; and working in his garden.

He died, as he lived, bravely, faithfully and beloved.

T.L.M.

Capt. G. Johnson

George Johnson died on October 2, 1961, aged 82, and was cremated at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip, on October 4, 1961.

He was born at Fulham on July 10, 1879, and joined the Middlesex Regiment, on November 2, 1896. After his recruit training he was posted to the Provisional Battalion at Shorncliffe.

He joined the 2nd Battalion on February 13, 1898, after it had arrived home from India. Two months later he received his first step in promotion—to unpaid Lance-Corporal—and in October he was awarded his first-class certificate education, which was to be such a help to him in getting further promotion.

He was appointed a paid Lance-Corporal in January, 1899, and was promoted Corporal in March that year whilst employed as a clerk in the Orderly Room.

On December 2, 1899, he embarked with the 2nd Battalion for South Africa.

During the Boer War he fought at Spion Kop, Vaal Kranz, Polgieter's Drift, Tugela, Pieter's Hill, Relief of Ladysmith, Van-Wyk, Almonds Pass and Laing's Walk. He was invalided home in July, 1900, and later was posted to the newly-formed 4th Battalion.

He was appointed a Lance-Sergeant in March, 1901, and promoted to Sergeant the following month.

In September, 1902, he obtained a "Distinguished" certificate on a Musketry course at Hythe, and afterwards moved with the Battalion to Dublin.

On August 1, 1903, he was posted for a tour of duty to the Depot, which was then located at Hounslow. On

completion of this tour he returned to Ireland and served there until the 4th Battalion moved to Tidworth in February, 1908.

On September 16, 1908, he embarked in H.M.T. *Soudan* to join the 3rd Battalion in Singapore and served with that Battalion in Malaya and India until October, 1914. He was promoted to Colour Sergeant on December 15, 1908, and to Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant on July 19, 1913.

He embarked with the 3rd Battalion for England in October, 1914, to join the 28th Division, and in January, 1915, he was commissioned as a Second-Lieutenant. He was promoted to Lieutenant on September 27, 1915, with the temporary rank of Captain. He was seriously wounded in the early days of the Battle of the Somme in 1916 and from that day until he died he had to have his wound dressed daily.

He had a phenomenal knowledge of Regimental history, and as a drill and musketry instructor, he was far above the average. A strict disciplinarian he was nevertheless a fair man who would tolerate no injustice to his subordinates.

Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E., represented the Regiment at the funeral.

Capt. G. Chipperfield, C.B.E.

Guy Chipperfield died on August 2, 1961.

He joined the Public Schools Company attached to the 18th Battalion Royal Fusiliers on September 5, 1914. He served in France until 1916 when, in July of that year, he gained a commission in the Regiment and was posted to 24th (Reserve) Battalion at Aldershot.

In September, 1916, he was posted to the 11th Battalion in France as a Second Lieutenant. He was promoted to Lieutenant at the beginning of 1918, and to Captain later in the year.

He served in France with the Regiment until the end of the war, soon after which he was demobilised.

He became the Chairman of the British Oil and Cake Mills, and President of the International Seedcrushers' Association.

He was awarded the C.B.E., in 1957 for his services to agriculture.

Capt. Colin Campbell

Information has been received that the above officer, late of the 5th (Militia) Battalion, died in an Exeter Nursing Home on September 7, 1961, aged 66.

No further details are at present available.

Capt. G. C. Druce

Only recently have we heard, with regret, of the death last May of Capt. Gilbert Cary Druce.

Records of his service at present available are somewhat scanty, but some reader may be able to supply further information.

He served with the Special Reserve, and was commissioned into the Regiment in 1911.

He became a Lieutenant in May 1914 and, when war was declared on August 4 that year, he went overseas with the 4th Battalion. Whilst fighting with that Battalion at Mons he was captured on August 23, 1914, and

spent practically the whole of the war in captivity. He was released on November 18, 1918.

After the war he served with the 3rd Battalion in the British Army of Occupation on the Rhine until 1922, when he retired and was transferred to the Regular Army Reserve of Officers.

On the outbreak of the 1939-45 War he was recalled and became Staff Captain at Aldershot Command. He served until September 1947 when, having exceeded the age limit, he ceased to belong to the Reserve.

The news of his death was given by his son, Capt. H. C. Druce, who served with the Regiment in the 1939-45 War, and was awarded a D.S.O. He now lives in Canada.

R.Q.M.S. W. J. Hall

William John Hall died on May 11, 1961, aged 83 years.

He was born on September 17, 1879, and was a grandson of Sergeant-Major Fallon, of the 57th Foot, who was killed at Sebastopol in 1855.

As a boy he went to the Royal Hibernian Military School in Dublin, from which he enlisted into the Regiment as a tailor at the age of 14. He was posted to the 1st Battalion and served with it in Gibraltar from 1893 to 1895, Aldershot 1895-96, South Africa 1896-98, and India from 1898 until he joined the 5th (Militia) Battalion later, as a Corporal instructor.

He went to the Transvaal in February, 1902, and was promoted Sergeant the following month. After the Boer War he joined the 2nd Battalion, where he remained until July, 1914, when he was posted to the Home Establishment prior to discharge. Before, however, his discharge could be completed, the First World War broke out and he was sent to join the 5th (Militia) Battalion at Chatham as an acting C.S.M. Whilst there he re-enlisted on a fresh engagement for the duration of the war. Transferring at once to the 13th (Service) Battalion he served with them in France until his final discharge in 1919 with the appointment of R.Q.M.S.

After the death of his friend, C.S.M. Dorricot, he married the widow.

During his service he was a Battalion footballer, schoolmaster, paymaster, musketry and bayonet-fighting instructor.

He was in possession of the Queen's South African medal with three bars, the General Service and Victory medals of the First World War, and the Long Service and good Conduct medal.

C/Sgt. G. Allison

Information has been received that the above-named, late of the 4th Battalion, died on May 22, 1961.

Apart from the fact that he fought at Mons on August 23, 1914, no further details about him are at present available.

C Sgt. H. W. Miller

Henry William Miller died on September 17, 1961, at Knebworth, Herts., aged 79, after a long illness.

He joined the 2nd Battalion in 1900 and served in the Boer War. He also served at the Depot and again with the 2nd Battalion in the 1914-18 War. On leaving

the Army he became the village postman at Knebworth and an active member in the Salvation Army at Stevenage. For many years he was the caretaker at Knebworth Congregational Church.

In the 1939-45 War he was a drill instructor in the local Home Guard.

His funeral took place at Knebworth on September 27, 1961, and was attended by Major E. L. Heywood and Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E., as representatives of the Regiment.

A special tribute to his memory was paid at his funeral by an officer of the Salvation Army and the Minister who conducted the Service.

Drum-Major R. B. Flatman, D.C.M.

The following notice has been taken from *The Kensington*, by kind permission of the Editor:

Bob Flatman died at Ramsgate in May 1961.

He was a regular soldier and was transferred to 2/13th London Regiment in 1918 when the 2/10th Middlesex Regiment, with which unit he won the D.C.M., was disbanded in Palestine.

When the 13th London Regiment was re-formed in 1920 he was appointed a P.S.I. from the Middlesex Regiment.

Sgt. J. H. Quick

John Henry Quick died in his sleep on August 29, 1961, aged 55 years, and was buried on September 1, at Hove.

He was born in 1906, a son of Barney Quick, who served in the Boer War with the 2nd Battalion, and later with the 3rd and 4th Battalions as their Pioneer Sergeant.

He enlisted at Mill Hill on May 7, 1925, to be, as he said, in time for the Albuhera Day Celebrations.

During the Sino-Japanese trouble in 1927 he went with the 1st Battalion to China and, from there, joined the 2nd Battalion at Ahmednagar in October of the same year, as a Regimental pioneer. He moved with the Battalion to Madras at the end of 1928, and again to Khartoum in April, 1931. Very shortly after arriving at Khartoum he was promoted to Pioneer Corporal and was put in charge of the Pioneer's Shop, since the Pioneer Sergeant had reverted to the Home Establishment for discharge. In this capacity he was a complete success and his eventual promotion to Pioneer Sergeant was back-dated to April 23, 1931.

In December, 1931, he came home with the 2nd Battalion and remained on the Home Establishment until 1937 when he was posted to the 1st Battalion, which had recently moved from Singapore to Hong Kong. In Hong Kong he became a very enthusiastic yachtsman and spent almost all his spare time at sea, either racing or fishing.

On Christmas Day, 1941, when the Japanese took Hong Kong, he was made a prisoner of war with the remainder of the 1st Battalion, and subsequently suffered considerably at the hands of his captors. He was on board the *Lisbon Maru* when she was sunk by a Japanese submarine with considerable loss of life.

He returned home in January, 1946, having been released as a prisoner of war, to suffer a great blow to his domestic happiness. Such, however, was his character,

that he fought and won this battle against adversity, and re-married happily.

After leaving the army his great hobby became sea fishing, in which he indulged freely from his home at Hove.

He served actively with the Regiment for nearly 21½ years, of which over 14 years were spent in the East. He was a "Die-Hard" through and through, and one of those rare men of whom no one spoke ill. He had a delightful personality and will be much missed by a host of friends he has left behind to mourn his loss.

Unfortunately notification of his death and details of the funeral arrangements were received too late for the Regiment to send either a representative or a floral tribute.

Sgt. W. D. Fox, D.C.M.

William David Fox died on September 29, 1961, aged 79.

He enlisted into the Regiment on March 20, 1901, and served with it in South Africa, India and France.

In April 1919 he was transferred to the Royal Fusiliers and served with a special unit of that Regiment in North Russia. It was whilst serving with this unit that he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

He was finally discharged on December 10, 1919.

His funeral took place at Kensal Green on October 7, 1961, and was attended by Major E. L. Heywood, on behalf of the Regiment.

Sgt. W. Hook, D.C.M., M.M.

Information has been received that the above-named died on April 29, 1961, aged 86 years.

He served with the 1st Battalion in August, 1914, and was at Mons.

No further details are at present available.

Cpl. E. N. Roscoe

Edward Newby Roscoe died early last October and was cremated on October 10 at Hendon Park Crematorium.

His service was spent with the 1st Battalion, in which he was for the most part employed as batman, groom and signaller.

He served in Germany, Upper Silesia and China, transferring to the Army Reserve in 1927.

Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E., attended the funeral as the representative of the Regiment.

CORRESPONDENCE

90 Queen Street,
Melbourne C.I., Victoria,
Australia.
September 16, 1961.

DEAR SIR,

I am an ex-Middlesex Regiment Sergeant, having served 14 years with the Regiment, the 1st and 2nd Battalions in England, Singapore and Hong Kong, and Europe, both in peace and war.

I have always been proud of the Regiment and its achievements and, therefore, would still like to keep in

touch, and would be grateful if you would send me the monthly magazine *Die-Hard*.

I wish to send my kindest regards to all the officers and men of the Regiment and Depot, especially to those with whom I served in my old Battalion (1st) and who may still be serving. There are several old Middlesex Regiment men in Victoria and they ask me to pass on their regards.

Thanking you in anticipation.

I am,

Yours truly,

(Signed W. J. S. DEE.
(6584880 Sgt.)

Remembrance Day,

Anno Domini, 1961

SIR,

We of the 20th Battalion have taken this liberty of writing to thank you most sincerely for your great kindness in giving us that beautiful Chaplet and Badge from the Middlesex Regiment to place on our Memorial in the Parish Church of St. Leonards, Shoreditch, and we also want to thank Major Richard Smith, the Regimental Historian for visiting our Battalion's Memorial and for his great interest in the 20th. We know we have the wish of the whole Battalion that was, in sending you this humble letter of appreciation with our grateful thanks.

Yours in Remembrance,
Regimental signallers of 20th,
F. ROGERS
F. BARCLAY
W. C. GILLSON
EDWARD W. H. WEST.

1 Elstree Hill North,
Elstree,
Herts.

28th November, 1961

DEAR SIR,

The photograph on page 38 of the "Die-Hards" Journal for September, 1961, showing the unusual event of having three stands of Colours on parade, reminds me of an incident in the ancestor unit of my old Battalion, the 7th, in which I had the honour to serve for many years.

One of the outstanding recollections of the 1st Volunteer Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment, was when I, as a boy of eight years of age, living in Highgate Village, saw my first military funeral. I can recall the different detachments of Volunteers from Highgate, Hampstead, Hornsey, Enfield and others including those from the City Rifle Volunteers, forming up at Northfield Hall, North Road, for the funeral of the Hon. Colonel, Col. Josiah Wilkinson, who died in October, 1903.

Many years have passed since then, but what I had seen brings back that picture of the procession, the bands, drums and fifes, buglers, and Volunteers in scarlet and braided uniforms and spiked helmets. The

gun-carriage drawn by the noble looking horses, the Pioneers with their very brightly polished axes, spades and turfing tools. I believe it was that section of the Pioneers that attracted my attention most, although one of the Volunteers, Mr. C. E. Saunders, a marksman of many years standing, wore many large badges on the sleeve of his tunic, which were very outstanding at that time. The procession proceeded at a slow march towards St. Michael's Church where the service was held.

I believe there are still a small number who took part as Volunteers alive today who can perhaps give fuller details.

Yours faithfully,

R. H. FERGUSON.

c/o Barclays Bank, D.C.O.,
Adderley Street,
Cape Town,
South Africa.
November 10, 1961.

The Editor,

"Die-Hards" Journal,
Edgware,
Middlesex.

DEAR SIR,

I recently received the September issue of the "Die-Hards" Journal and, as usual, read it with considerable interest.

As a member of the 9th Battalion Branch of the Regimental Association, news from that branch has been conspicuous by its absence for a long time and it would certainly appear that following the reorganisation and amalgamation of the T.A. Units and the transfer of the Headquarters from Kingsbury to Edgware, members are becoming less interested in the O.C.A. Branch activities and, in view of the reduced numbers attending the annual general meeting and dinner, this would certainly appear to be the case.

It is unfortunate that the 9th Battalion, in common with other T.A. Units, has now been completely deprived of its identity, but this is something that was inevitable and unavoidable. Nevertheless, such a change should not cause an attitude of apathy among members of the Association.

It is to be hoped that the recent letter circulated by the hon. secretary of the 9th Battalion Branch to members will have the desired effect and that the time is not too far distant when the branch will, once again, become more active and that more news of members and the branch generally will appear in future issues of the Journal.

I am confident that our hon. secretary will do all he possibly can to achieve this object.

Yours faithfully,

H. G. EDEN,

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

It is interesting to note that in August, before the article on Capt. "Docherty" Taylor appeared in the Journal, an ex-officer of the 5th (Militia) Battalion, who wishes to remain anonymous, wrote of him in these words:

"And now of another who deserves much from his Regiment, viz. Sergeant-Major Taylor, now Captain.

"I have often revisualised Taylor, lean, well-proportioned, erect, clear-eyed, strict, with a huge golden moustache; and he had one of the finest words of command I had ever heard, and I had heard a great number . . .

"I never once saw him behave, even to the rawest recruit (and they were, poor chaps, very raw) in any but a temperate way, no shouting, no bad language, no threats; by his personality and example he not only got the results he aimed at, but I am convinced he had their great respect and reliance, and even affection: he certainly had mine.

"If he did as much good in private life as he did when soldiering, he is indeed to be envied."

This same person writes, also, in most glowing terms of C.S.M. Rosam ("A" Company, 5th (Militia) Battalion).

"'A' Company was always top of the tree, due to a most wonderful C.S.M.—Rosam, who was not only a character in all respects, but an incentive to one and all in the Company, and therefore for the Battalion and Regiment as a whole."

Speaking about the recruits at that time he says:

"... the majority of them were true Cockneys, as plucky as the devil, and given encouragement and a lead did their best, which was very very good. And this is where a man like Rosam shone, he was the example, and also their father; and yet one who was able to mix utter discipline with deep understanding—a very rare gift."

65 Rosslyn Hill,
Hampstead,
London, N.W.3.
September 21, 1961.

DEAR EDITOR,

In sending you your copy of the annual report of the Royal Soldiers' Daughters' School for 1960 may I draw your attention to a recent development which has made our school financially more attractive to the serving soldier.

Army parents with daughters at the school can now draw Service Education Allowance at boarding-school rates. This amounts at present to £150 per annum for one child (rising to £186 for the third child) and the allowance is free of income tax to soldiers serving overseas. By setting these sums off against the school fees—for service parents these are at present £62 per term—it will be seen that continuity of education can be obtained at very low cost. Children of ex-soldiers are charged special rates.

The girls, of whom the school can take up to 100, attend as day pupils the Hampstead Parochial School (5-11 years) or Haverstock Secondary School (over 11 years).

Anything you can do to make the school better known to your readers would be much appreciated by the governors.

Yours sincerely,

C. J. G. DALTON, MAJ.-GEN.

Chairman, Royal Soldiers' Daughters' School.

A HOME OF YOUR OWN

Take advantage of the new Army House Purchase Scheme especially designed to make it possible for soldiers to acquire a house immediately on leaving the Service. This scheme is explained in detail in the pamphlet "Save while you Serve."

You know the difficulty in obtaining a council house because of the long waiting lists, and the difficulties often caused through living with relatives or in rooms until a house does become available. Indeed in some areas it appears that waiting lists are so long that you may never be offered a council house at all.

The Army has obtained special terms from many Building Societies for soldier savers whereby purchase of your own house becomes not only possible but a comparatively simple matter.

How you can buy a house costing £2,000

Deposit £400	Legal Expenses £100	Total Required £500
10s. a week saved while you serve	12	
years amounts with interest to	£394 0 0	
Your gratuity after 12 years' service is	£130 0 0	
		Total available £524 0 0

How you can buy a house costing £3,000

Deposit £600	Legal Expenses £130	Total Required £730
15s. a week saved while you serve 12 years		
amounts with interest to	£590 0 0	
Your gratuity after 12 years' service is	£130 0 0	
		Total available £720 0 0

In both cases you would pay back the balance owing over a period of 15 or 20 years but the house would be your own property. After this period you would have no further payments to make other than about £1 per week for rates and taxes plus 5s. or 7s. 6d. per week upkeep. You then have a real asset and your family will never be without a home of their own.

If you want to move from one part of the country to another you can always sell your house and buy another one. If you rent a house you will pay on an average £3 a week for the rest of your life with nothing to show for it at the end.

The longer you serve the more you will save and the less you will have to borrow and pay back.

JOIN THE ARMY HOUSE PURCHASE SCHEME
NOW AND SOLVE ALL YOUR HOUSING
PROBLEMS FOR THE FUTURE

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

The Middlesex Regiment



(Duke of Cambridge's Own)

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

President: Brigadier J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E.

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

Vice-chairman:

Secretary: Col. F. Walden.

BRANCHES

Branch	Hon. Secretary	Meetings	Place
Ealing	Mr. F. Hutchings, 2 Longhook Gardens, Grange Estate, Northolt, Middlesex.	Monthly, on 2nd Friday.	T. A. Centre, Churchfield Road, Ealing, W.13.
Enfield	Major A. T. Jones, M.B.E., T.D., 4 Morley Hill, Enfield, Middlesex.	Monthly, on 1st Friday.	T.A. Centre, Old Park Avenue, Enfield, Middlesex.
Hong Kong ..	Major W. T. J. Lane, M.B.E., H.Q., Royal Hong Kong De- fence Force, B.F.P.O.1.		
Hornsey	Mr. C. Holdford, T.A. Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8.	Quarterly, usually on a Wednesday.	T.A. Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8.
Hounslow ..	Mr. J. Castree, 20 Heldman Close, Heath Road, Hounslow, Middlesex.	Monthly, on 2nd Friday.	T.A. Centre, Hanworth Road, Hounslow, Middlesex.
Mill Hill .. .	Mr. H. Hull, M.M., 32 Shuttleworth Road, Battersea, S.W.11.	Monthly, on last Saturday.	T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.
Uxbridge .. .	Mr. J. R. Bell, M.B.E., 88 High Street, Uxbridge, Middlesex.	Four per year, at irregular intervals, plus an annual dinner.	T.A. Centre, Whitehall Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex.
2/7th Battalion ..	Major R. E. Robotham, M.C., T.D., 39 Cyprus Avenue, Finchley, N.3.	Yearly, on 1st Friday in October.	Varies from year to year. Dinner Club only.
9th Battalion ..	Mr. H. J. Fisher, 180 Purves Road, Kensal Rise, N.W.10.	Monthly, on 1st Friday.	T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.
12th Battalion Home Guard	Capt. S. R. Bonnamy, 3 Claremont Road, Ealing, W.13.	Two per year, on 1st Friday in May and November.	Varies.

EALING BRANCH

The Branch is now in full swing for the winter and we have arranged several darts matches with local clubs.

At our last meeting we had a visit from the Chairman and Secretary of the Uxbridge Branch. Accompanying them was Col. A. R. Waller, who has returned from Germany prior to going out to a new staff appointment in Cyprus. It was, I believe, at Ealing that Col. Waller first joined the Regiment, and we were glad to see him back again.

Some of our members attended the Uxbridge Branch supper on November 3, and others met a number of old faces at the Reunion at Seymour Hall on November 17.

We are holding another "Open Night" for members, their wives and friends on Friday, December 8, 1961, and we hope that this will be well patronised.

"BUTCH"

ENFIELD

The Branch was first formed about 18 months ago and in that time has grown until we now have 56 members. It was hoped that all those who lived in the area and who have served with the Regiment, whether they had been Regulars, Territorials or Home Guard, would have considered joining and if they had we should have needed some place much bigger than the drill hall at Old Park Avenue to accommodate them all, for many hundreds—possibly thousands—of ex-members of the Regiment live within easy travelling distance of our meeting place and all would be welcome. So far recruitment has been through the medium of the local press and by personal letters but it is quite obvious that these methods have not touched the vast numbers of ex-members of our Regiment and it seems that the best method will continue to be through the medium of the personal friend.

There may be many who, reading this article for the first time, are quite unaware that we even exist. If there are, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at my home (address below). I am certain you will not regret it and as a result you may meet again that old and trusted friend whom you have not seen for many a long year.

Meetings are held in the Club Room at the T.A. Centre, Old Park Avenue, Enfield, on the FIRST Friday in every month at 8 p.m. Membership is open to everyone who, at any time, has worn the badge of The Middlesex Regiment.

A. T. Jones, Major,
4 Morley Hill, Enfield. Mx.

HORNSEY

With Christmas and the New Year almost on our doorstep, we take this opportunity of sending our hearty greetings to all past and present members of the Regiment, and to all our old Comrades wherever they may be.

Over 150 members gathered at the T.A. Centre, Hornsey, for the Remembrance Parade on November 12, 1961—truly a great turnout on this memorable day. We thank one and all for this great effort. Many of the spectators admired their smartness and bearing as they

marched to and from the Service, which was held at St. Mary's Church.

Refreshments were served at the T.A. Centre, where the members quickly quenched their thirst, and the next few hours were happy, memorable and extremely pleasant.

To keep on the same happy note, I would like all members to note, that Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, T.D., who was the Commanding Officer of the 7th Battalion prior to the amalgamation of our three T.A. Battalions, has visited us many times, and has been greatly impressed by our efforts. We think and hope that the Colonel will take over as Chairman of the Hornsey Branch. Our members have already given him their full support.

Our Vice-Chairman, Mr. Alf Clarke, has arranged numerous visits to the London Theatres, with the coach bearing down under the weight. Knowing the difficulties this involves, bookings, coaches, suppers, I am sure that the effort on the part of our Vice-Chairman is greatly appreciated. Well done, Alf, where next?

One of our staunch members has recently retired from his work, and has ventured to a country cottage which we all often think of when our time comes. We would like to say, Bob and Nancy Ferguson, we miss you very much, and we hope that you will continue to be happy in your new home. We will always look forward to seeing you again.

In conclusion, we thank Major R. J. Leighton for his very kind invitation to "A" Company Social on November 4. A very pleasant and entertaining evening was had by all, and we thank Sgt. Moore for his excellent buffet.

C. HOLDFORD.

O.C.A., 7th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT, 1914-18

The O.C.A. of the 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, 1914-18, will hold their annual reunion and dinner at Messrs. Beales, Holloway Road, N.7, on Friday, April 13, 1962. Details from Mr. S. V. Edge, 2 Croft Close, Mill Hill, N.W.7.

PRESENTATION OF THE BANNER TO THE VETERANS OF KING ALBERT I

On the occasion of the presentation of the Banner to the Veterans of King Albert I, the London Branch invited the British Legion and Old Comrades of those units who had fought in Belgium to take part in the ceremony and march-past on Sunday, June 18, 1961. The ceremony was held at the Belgium Memorial on the Embankment.

Col. F. Walden and a small detachment from the Mill Hill Branch attended the parade, in addition to other members of the Regiment such as Old Contemptibles and veterans of World War I, who were on parade with their own groups.

MILL HILL BRANCH

The numbers attending the monthly meetings are still being maintained, but it is unfortunate that so many old members cannot make the journey to Edgware as easily as they could to Mill Hill, to say nothing of the



MARCH PAST, JUNE 18, 1961

Left to right: Mr. H. Hull, M.M., Mr. S. Turner, Mr. G. Low, Mr. L. Johnson, Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E., Mr. A. Mason and Major P. Newman, M.B.E.



cost of fares. The result of course is that they are not seen as often as one would wish.

The branch annual general meeting was held on October 28, 1961, when the attendance was not as good as anticipated, due, no doubt, to the fact that the previous week there had been a reunion of ex-bandsmen and drummers, at which a number of our members attended, so perhaps it would be unfair for me to expect them to attend two weeks in succession.

After much discussion Mr. L. Johnson was elected chairman. He is no stranger to the club and has, during the past year, run the entertainments side, with much zeal and great efficiency. To help him in a task which is far from being easy he has the support of all members, together with their best wishes for a successful year of office.

The unanimous decision of members to hold the Albuhera Dinner in 1962 was a great comfort to me, having been the prime mover for it four years ago. Two slight alterations—to the good, I think—have been made. It will now be called the Annual Albuhera Dinner, and will be held on the **Saturday evening preceding Albuhera Day.**

Arrangements have already been made to hold the dinner on Saturday, May 12, 1962, at the White Lion Hotel, Edgware, when it is hoped that the number will exceed last year's total of 113—and, say what you will, to my mind there is NO better sight than to see many of the older "Die-Hards," bedecked with glittering medals sitting at a table tastefully laid with regimental silver, taking a meal with their ladies. On second thoughts, however, one thing would make an improvement. It would be to see some of the younger generation of "Die-Hards" dining with us. Here and now a hearty welcome is extended to them to join us—and a promise we will NOT worry about medals, neither will we pass the old-fashioned remark: "It was not like that in my day." So should you be passing our way, any last Saturday in the month, do drop in for a drink and a chat.

Readers will by now have read the story of "Docherty" Taylor. For the September meeting he and Mrs. Taylor travelled from Leigh-on-Sea, to spend a little time with us. May many of us hope to be able to do the same when we are 94 years of age.

Shan and Mrs. Furniss travelled many miles to meet "Docherty," as did old "Die-Hard" C. Cox, who had a story to remind him of the time a barrel of beer was captured from "Buster" Lee. This happened, of course, about 60 years ago. What memories these chaps have—nothing seems forgotten!

On October 27 I attended a meeting at Gt. Portland Street and who should I meet but Bill Davies, M.M. and bar.

Really, I cannot say which of us was the more surprised, but I do know it was not long before I had to answer dozens of questions about the Regiment.

Many will remember that he won the M.M. at Louvain in 1940, and a bar round about D-Day. He was selected, about three years ago to represent the Regiment at the unveiling of the Dunkirk Memorial.

I am delighted to report that Ted (Dasher) Crouch has been discharged from hospital after having his right

eye removed. He is now feeling on top of the world; at least from the waist upwards. He tells me his legs are a little weak after being in bed so long, but anyone who knows "Dasher" will agree that such things as weak legs will not prevent him from doing anything he wants to—nice to see you up and about again.

News of Old Friends

George Duffield, who is well known to pre-1914 old-timers of 3rd, 4th and 6th Battalions. He meets "Darkie" Froude, Bob Guscott and Charlie Donaldson occasionally and also mentions old soldier Baldry, Shan Furniss, Bill Cheeseman and a host of others. He lives at Knebworth and is as lively as ever.

It was delightful to see so many old faces at the reunion of bandsmen and drummers. Many of them were boys in the Band and Drums when I was C.S.M. at Catterick and amongst them were a few who nearly "drove me up the wall." Yes, names like Boys Goulding (brothers), Dench, Hodgson, Phillips, Windows and a host of others; nevertheless, it was great fun meeting them again. P.F.N.

UXBRIDGE

The Uxbridge Branch of The Middlesex Regimental Association held its fourth annual supper at the Crown and Old Treaty House on Friday, November 3, 1961, at which 35 members were in attendance.

Owing to the indisposition of Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., the president of the branch, the chair was taken by Lt.-Col. T. A. Hall, T.D.

The guest of honour was Col. F. Walden, the Secretary of The Middlesex Regimental Association, and the branch was honoured by the presence of its vice-president, His Worship The Mayor of Uxbridge, Major Alderman G. Hartley, T.D., D.L., who commanded the Uxbridge Company from 1937 to the outbreak of war.

Col. Walden gave a brief résumé of the Regimental Association's work, including its wide activities in the charitable field to members in want, and its many social activities.

The following Uxbridge members attended:

Cols. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., and J. D. McFarlane, O.B.E., T.D., Vice-President B. R. Phelps, and Messrs. J. R. Bell, M.B.E., H. Gardner, D.C.M., W. Smith, M.M., R. Bennett, A. Bond, J. Duffell, G. Eggleton, F. Edginton, B. Hancock, J. Keen, T. Owen, H. Osguthorpe, R. Turner, C. Williams, E. A. Williams, W. Hamlin, and were supported by the following from the Ealing Branch: F. Hutchings, their hon. secretary, W. Crump, H. Bartlett, A. Manister, L. Dulne, W. House, H. Bentley and F. Winter.

2/7th BATTALION

The Annual Dinner of the 2/7th Battalion Branch took place at the Victory (Ex-Services) Club, 73 Seymour Street, London, W.2, on Friday, October 6, 1961.

Sixty-four members attended and the guests of the evening were the Lord Lieutenant (General Sir John Crocker, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.), the Deputy Colonel of the Regiment (Lt.-General G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C., D.L.), the Chairman of the Regimental Association

(Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L.) and the Secretary (Col. F. Walden). Lt.-Col. S. Mirams, M.C., T.D., D.L., presided.

During dinner, in accordance with custom, a collection was made for the War Memorial Cottages at Enfield, and the handsome sum of £10 18. was realised. As this fell short by some 7s. od. of the amount collected for the same purpose last year, Mr. L. Baynard, an ex-soldier of the Battalion, made good the deficit by most generously presenting a cheque for 10 guineas—a really wonderful contribution!!

In 1962, the Dinner will take place on Friday, October 5. If any ex-member of the 2/7th Battalion, who reads this, would like to attend, he should get in touch with Major R. E. Robotham, M.C., T.D., 39 Cyprus Avenue, Finchley, N.3 (Tel. FINchley 1649).

9th BATTALION

I am pleased to inform those members who, for various reasons, were unable to attend the Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, on November 12, that there was a very good attendance in the Garrison Church followed by a short service at the Regimental War Memorial. After the service our President, Major H. Sherwood, T.D., led the parade past the Deputy Colonel.

The party then adjourned to the T.A. Centre at Edgware where we were amply supplied with liquid and solid refreshments.

The highlight of the day's proceedings was the presentation of the Lamont Memorial Statuette to Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton, 5th Battalion (T.A.), by Major Sherwood. As you all know Col. Lamont was, throughout his service, a very keen and enthusiastic soldier. He was commissioned into the 9th Battalion in March 1914, commanded it from 1933 to 1937, and was its Honorary Colonel from 1951 to 1957.

At the presentation ceremony I was very pleased to see Col. Fox and particularly his wife, who was Col. Lamont's sister.

In closing these brief notes I extend to all you old 'uns and your wives, from Lt.-Col. Gray and the Committee, a cordial invitation to the monthly social at the T.A. Centre, Edgware, on Saturday, January 27, 1962. W.D.F.

THE BRITISH UNITED PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION

The above Association, which is non-profit-making and whose president is Viscount Nuffield, has formed a Group for serving personnel in the Army in order to help those people who, in the event of serious illness, would like to be able to have private treatment for themselves and their families.

Private treatment in nursing homes, hospital pay-beds and specialists' consulting rooms does not come under the National Health Service and the patient has to pay the full cost. The function of B.U.P.A. is to help to the greatest possible extent with the expenses of such treatment.

The two main advantages of joining through a Group are as follows:

(a) The standard rates of subscription are reduced by 20 per cent.

(b) A member of the Group is entitled to benefit immediately on acceptance and is not subject to the normal three months' "waiting period."

The Group terms are available for wives and children of serving personnel even though, because of service facilities, such personnel do not want to enrol themselves.

Subscriptions are graded according to age and to the amount of benefits selected. There are five scales of benefit to meet varying individual requirements and to provide adequate cover in any part of the United Kingdom. For example, a man between the ages of 30 and 49, by paying an annual subscription of £9 16s. od. can obtain grants of up to 24 guineas a week for accommodation in a hospital or nursing home, 80 guineas for each major operation and many other benefits, up to a maximum in any one year of £650. In addition the subscriber can include his wife in the registration for a further £4 17s. od. per annum and all his children under 18 years of age for an additional £3 5s. od. per annum. All these dependants will severally be entitled to the full range of benefits. Other scales provide higher or lower benefits at appropriate subscriptions.

Although a person must normally be resident in the United Kingdom to be eligible for membership, protection is given to a subscriber and his dependants if they are temporarily serving abroad, or on pleasure.

Cover against the cost of private general practitioner treatment can be secured by payment of an additional subscription.

If you are already a member of B.U.P.A. and under 65 years of age, you may apply to transfer to the Group. A refund will then be made of any balance of your current individual subscription. In order that your transfer may be effected a Group application form should be completed, quoting your existing registration number.

If you are registered under one of the closed scales 2-5, on transfer to the Group it will be necessary for you to select one of the open scales 7-11.

Payment of subscriptions are annually in advance by Banker's Order and there is a 5s. charge per annum to cover the cost of administration.

Full details of the scheme can be obtained from:

The Group Secretary, B.U.P.A. Army Group,
c/o Group Management Ltd.,
10 Essex Street, London, W.C.2.

*Have you placed a regular order for
a copy of the Journal?*

Why not do so NOW?

**AN ORDER FORM IS PROVIDED
AT THE FRONT OF THIS JOURNAL**

MIDDLESEX REGIMENT OFFICERS' CLUB MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.1, ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 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, Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major E. L. Heywood, Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E., Col. F. Walden (Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting were passed and signed by the Chairman.

2. Secretary's Report

(a) The Secretary made the following report:
(i) At Home, July 1, 1961. Although 49 members notified their intention of attending, and catering arrangements were accordingly, only 22 actually came.
Details of the cost were:

Catering by NAAFI	£ s. d.
Floral decorations	20 0 0
Transport for Band	10 0 0
E.D. Pay—Mess Sergeant	1 0 0
Total	£43 10 0

(ii) Officers' Club Dinner, July 21, 1961. A total of 71 members attended.

Details of the cost were:

Catering by United Service Club ..	£ s. d.
Car Hire for transport of silver ..	151 4 6
E.D. Pay—Mess Sergeant	3 0 0
E.D. Pay—Mess Sergeant	1 10 0

Total charges £155 14 6
Less: Members' dinner charges 51 12 6

Net charge to Club Funds 94 2 0

(b) Arising from the above report it was proposed, in view of the lack of support, not to hold the "At Home" again.
Before taking a final decision the Secretary was instructed to arrange to publish details in the next issue of the Regimental Journal of what happened in connection with the "At Home" on July 1 and ask for any views on the above proposal to be sent to him.

3. Officers' Club Functions for 1962

(a) Dinner. The date provisionally arranged with the United Service Club—Wednesday, June 27, 1962—was confirmed.
(b) Cocktail Party. It was agreed that the next Cocktail Party should be held after the 1st Battalion returns to the U.K.
(c) Golf Meeting. It was proposed that the secretary should write to Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton and ask his views on Regimental Golf Meetings to be held in 1962.

4. Other Business

(a) Royal School for Daughters of Officers of the Army. As a result of an appeal by the Chairman of the Board of Governors, it was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Major H. K. Hardcastle that £20 should be given to help clear off the debit balance which exists in the Chapel Fund of the above school. Carried.
(b) Grant to Officers' Club Charitable Fund. It was proposed by Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts and seconded by Col. S. F. Hedgecoe that a grant of £20 per annum from the Officers' Club General Fund to the Charitable Fund should be made from 1962 onwards. Carried.
(c) Purchase of Premium Bonds. It was proposed by Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts and seconded by Major H. K. Hardcastle that the sum of £25 should be invested in Premium Bonds. Carried.
(d) Next Meeting. It was agreed that the next meeting should take place at 1400 hours on Thursday, February 22, 1962.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,
Secretary, Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club.

T.A. Centre,
Deansbrook Road,
Edgware, Middlesex.
November 14, 1961.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1961

Present: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L. (Chairman), Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., Col. A. 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 H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major E. L. Heywood, Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E., R.S.M. F. Webb, Col. F. Walden (Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton, Mr. J. Trunley.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

(a) The minutes of the previous meeting were passed and signed by the Chairman.
(b) Arising from the minutes the Chairman stated that he had had a letter from the Colonel of the Regiment thanking the Association for their telegram of good wishes on his departure for Hong Kong.

2. Secretary's Report

(a) The Secretary's Report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, was adopted.
(b) Arising from this report it was agreed that, if possible, before the Ceremony at the Field of Remembrance, a short service of prayers should be held in St. Margaret's, Westminster, and that our Chaplain (The Rev. L. D. Milliner) should conduct it.
The Secretary was instructed to try and arrange this.

3. Finance Sub-Committee

(a) The Chairman reported that this Sub-Committee had been unable to meet, as it had not been possible to obtain a quorum owing to the absence of one member abroad, and the termination of the appointment of the O.C. Depot. He had, therefore, been acting on his own and had obtained a report from Messrs. Mullens on a scheme to take advantage of the powers to invest in equities under the Trustee Act 1961. He had decided that this matter could be deferred until December when the Sub-Committee would meet to make recommendations to the Executive Committee. It was deemed necessary a special meeting of the Executive Committee would be called to consider the Sub-Committee's proposals in this matter.
The overall cash position was reported and deemed satisfactory.
(b) Donations. After discussion the Secretary was instructed to prepare a summary of each charitable organisation to which the Association makes a grant and to have it ready for the next meeting. Meanwhile the subscriptions normally paid annually were to be withheld.

4. Journal Sub-Committee

(a) The Chairman of the Sub-Committee stated that the Sub-Committee had ceased to exist since the Depot was closed, and asked that it should be reconstituted.
After discussion it was agreed that the Sub-Committee should in future consist of the following:
Editor (chairman)
Sub-Editor, 1st Battalion
Sub-Editor, 5th Battalion (T.A.)
A branch representative (to be nominated)
(b) As a result of a proposal by Lt.-Col. Roberts it was agreed that the Editor, in his comments in the Journal, should encourage individuals to write letters to the Editor.
(c) At the request of Major Newman it was agreed that the locations of officers in the Seniority Roll published half-yearly in the Journal should give full information.

5. War Memorial Sub-Committee

(a) The Chairman had no comments other than to ask for the reconstitution of the Sub-Committee.
It was agreed that the proposal in Minute 4 of the Housing Committee meeting dated February 17, 1961, should be adopted, and that the Secretary should ask branches for the name of a representative.
(b) The Chairman of the Executive Committee reported on the progress of the efforts which he had made to raise more for the additional flats at Enfield, and first read out the following letters which had been received by the Depot: Colonel in response to the two approaches which he had been asked to make:
(i) D.O. Letter No. QMG/1/3 dated October 1961 from the Quartermaster General (Gen. Sir Cecil Sugden, G.B.E., K.C.B., A.D.C.) relating to the disposal of the four cottages at Mill Hill.
(ii) Copy of an appeal by the Lord Lieutenant to boroughs for money to build additional flats at Enfield.
Both replies were considered to be most encouraging.
He had also applied to the London Parochial Charities, the British Legion and the Thomas Lilley Memorial Trust. Their decisions were awaited.
He had, in addition, approached the Trustees of the 27th and 9th Battalions, and was pleased to report that the 27th had promised £400, and the 9th Battalion £1,000, towards the flat scheme should it be possible to proceed.
(c) In view of these generous promises the Chairman asked the committee to decide whether they would be prepared to make a capital grant if need be out of the Charitable Funds of the Association, and, if so, how much. Thus it would be possible to settle the target for raising money from outside sources.

Such action was strongly opposed by Major Hardcastle, who proposed that this decision should be postponed until it is known whether:

- The War Office is prepared to buy any of the War Memorial Cottages at Mill Hill and, if so, the price offered.
 - The Mayors of Boroughs are willing to launch the appeal which the Lord Lieutenant had asked them to make.
- This proposal was seconded by Brigadier Rackham and carried.

6. Branches Sub-Committee

(a) The Chairman read out the minutes of the Sub-Committee's first meeting held on July 28, 1961.
(b) The Secretary reported that:
(i) The visits were undoubtedly appreciated and Branch hon. secretaries were most helpful in giving him the information required. Far from being apprehensive at his personal approach and evident interest in Branch affairs they welcomed the thought of some leadership and closer co-operation.
(ii) As a result he had been able to compile the table of details placed before members of the committee.
(iii) In carrying out his fact-finding tour the following main points were noted:

- There is no up-to-date roll of branch members with the Regimental Association. The only roll is that kept of members and ex-members who have registered direct with the secretary of the Regimental Association.
Complete rolls of branch members are now being obtained with a view to embodying them in the Association Roll.
(b) Very few of those leaving the Service now join the Regimental Association, due mainly to the fact that there has been inadequate liaison between the Association and the Battalions.
It is now proposed to get the Battalions to forward the names and addresses of soldiers as they leave the Service so that arrangements can be made with the branch secretaries in whose locality they live to follow them up.
(c) Branches are not all properly constituted. It is suggested that each branch should have a chairman, in addition to a secretary and treasurer, and rule 48 amended accordingly.
(d) Hon. secretaries of Branches would like to meet under the chairmanship of the Secretary of the Regimental Association well before each Executive Committee Meeting so that they can bring to notice any suggestions, etc., which they consider should receive the attention of the Executive Committee.
The report was adopted and the Chairman of the Executive Committee thanked the Sub-Committee for their work.

7. Special Sub-Committee on Alhambra Day Parade

(a) The report circulated with the agenda was adopted.
(b) Arising from the report the sum of £10 was authorised now for advertising and the Sub-Committee, which is to remain in being until further notice, was requested to put up an estimate for further expenses at the next Executive Committee meeting.

8. Other Business

- Nominated Members. The election of the following to represent the disbanded 7th and 8th Battalions was noted:
7th Battalion: Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D.
8th Battalion: Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L.
(b) Part-time Gardener, Memorial Cottages, Mill Hill. It was agreed that the employment of the part-time gardener to look after the gardens in Nos. 3 and 4 cottages should cease with effect from November 1, 1961, and that the Secretary should decide if and when a gardener should be employed in these gardens in 1962.
(c) Extra Land at Enfield. The instructions given by the Chairman for the completion of the conveyance of the extra piece of land at Enfield were confirmed.
(d) Next Meeting. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Executive Committee should be held on Thursday, February 22, 1962.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,
Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association.
T.A. Centre,
Deansbrook Road,
Edgware, Middlesex.
November 14, 1961.

SECRETARY'S REPORT ON BENEVOLENT WORK

1. During the period from June 1, 1961, to September 30, 1961, the sum of £371 14s. 0d. has been used to assist 49 cases.

2. Convalescent Holidays. Fourteen cases were assisted in co-operation with the British Legion and the Welfare Departments of the County Councils of Middlesex, London, and Surrey.

In one of these cases the husband, owing to his condition, had to go by car. Whilst the couple could, and did, pay for their holiday, they could not afford to pay for car hire in addition. This charge was met by the Association.

3. Housing. (a) A man allocated a new house was assisted with removal expenses.

(b) An elderly man, who had been living in a caravan and was given notice to quit, because he was no longer able to work for the owner, was allotted an unfurnished cottage free by the local vicar. The Association assisted in the purchase of certain essential items of furniture for the cottage.

4. Clothing Grants. Ten cases were assisted. All were elderly or sick people living on retirement pensions, or widows, except one. The exception was a girl who had qualified for a place in a grammar school and whose father was in hospital with little hope of his recovery. Assistance in this case was given towards the purchase of a school uniform.

5. Fuel Grants. Seven cases were assisted. All were elderly and some were stricken with T.B.

6. Gas and/or Electric Light Bills. A grant towards the settlement of these was made in four cases of sickness (two with T.B.).

7. Miscellaneous. (a) Assistance was given towards rent arrears to a man who had given the weekly rent to a son for payment. After a considerable period it was discovered that the son had pocketed the money and failed to pay the rent. As a result the son is now in a remand home.

(b) A couple who suffered considerable loss when their home was broken into whilst they were away were given financial assistance.

(c) The cost of the funeral of a still-born baby, and other small debts, were paid by the Association for a couple who are going through a very difficult time.

(d) A grant, requested by the Almoner, was made to a wife towards her travelling expenses, to enable her to visit her sick husband daily in hospital.

(e) Through a probation officer help was given to an ex-member of the Regiment to enable him to clear up his affairs in London and to go to work in Wales, where his wife had gone with their children. It is hoped that the assistance given resulted in a reconciliation, though no confirmation of this has yet been given.

(f) The wife of a soldier in the 1st Battalion was assisted when she lost her purse whilst shopping.

(g) The wife of another soldier in the 1st Battalion was assisted with her fare to Germany with their two children. A reconciliation had been effected after the wife had left her husband and returned to England alone.

(h) A continuing grant was made to the Chelsea Hospital for In-pensioners of the Regiment.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE SEYMOUR HALL, SEYMOUR PLACE, W.1, ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 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, D.L., Col. S. F. Hedgecoe, Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. H. W. Gray, M.B.E., T.D., Major C. N. Clayden, Major W. R. Dawe, Major E. L. Heywood, Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E., Major G. Parr-Head, Capt. S. R. Bonnamy, Capt. H. A. B. Claypole, Mr. D. Cavill, Mr. A. Drake, Mr. R. H. Ferguson, Mr. A. W. Havard, Mr. L. Johnson, Mr. E. S. Mangold, Mr. C. Poole, Mr. A. E. Sills, Mr. R. W. Stokes, Mr. J. Trunley, Mr. E. A. Turner, Mr. S. F. Turner, Pte. C. de S. Clayton, Col. F. Walden (Secretary).

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

Mill Hill Branch	Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E.
Hornsey Branch	Mr. A. E. Sills
Enfield Branch	Mr. J. Trunley
Hounslow Branch	Mr. J. Castree
Uxbridge Branch	Nil
Ealing Branch	Mr. D. Stockman
9th Battalion	Mr. T. R. Bennett
Home Guard (12th Bn.) ..	Capt. S. R. Bonnamy

The Chairman explained that, as there was no quorum in accordance with Rule 24(c), there would be no election, and that, as laid down in Rule 34(d), he nominated the following to serve on the Executive Committee for the ensuing year:

Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E. (already serving on Committee, having been elected in 1961).

Mr. D. Stockman.
A vote of thanks was given to Mr. J. Trunley, Enfield Branch, the retiring Branch representative.

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

3. *Accounts.* It was proposed by Mr. A. E. Sills and seconded by Mr. S. F. Turner that the audited accounts for the year ended December 31, 1960, which had been circulated to the Branches prior to the meeting and published in the Regimental Journal, be received and adopted. Carried.

4. *Revision of Association Rules.* The Chairman explained that as there was now no Depot, it was necessary to make certain alterations to the existing rules regarding the appointment of a Vice-Chairman and the composition of the Executive Committee.

This matter had received careful consideration by the Executive Committee, and the following resolution passed at their meeting held on June 29, 1961, was submitted for confirmation in accordance with Rule 53:

"Minute 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.

It was proposed by Mr. L. Johnson and seconded by Mr. R. H. Ferguson that the above resolution be confirmed. Carried *nem. con.*

5. *War Memorial Cottages, Enfield.* The Chairman explained in general terms the steps which are being taken through the Lord Lieutenant to launch an appeal in the county for up to £13,000 to enable the Regimental Association to build six flats at Enfield, and stated that already a gift of 100 guineas had been received from Mr. Page Taylor, a Deputy Lieutenant of Middlesex.

6. *Vote of thanks.* The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chair proposed by Major P. F. Newman.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,
Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association.

December 1, 1961.

Widely Known Throughout the Services

Hawkes have supplied Service uniform and equipment for nearly two hundred years. But they are equally well known as civilian tailors, modern in their methods, while traditional in their spirit. Hawkes Department for Immediate Wear is the natural resort of men who wish to maintain the Savile Row standard without undue strain on their pocket.

- LOUNGE SUITS FROM £22/0/0
 - OVERCOATS FROM 19 GNS
 - SPORTS JACKETS FROM 11 GNS
- ALL UNIFORMS AND SERVICE
EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED

*For Bespoke Tailoring, patterns and prices will
be gladly supplied on request*

Hawkes of Savile Row

Regimental Tailors and Outfitters
Established 1771

1 SAVILE ROW, W.1
(Telephone: REGent 0186)

12a LONDON RD., CAMBERLEY
(Telephone: Camberley 829)

Hillings Ltd FLORISTS

for Flowers, Plants, etc.

MEMBERS OF INTERFLORA



(Flowers by wire, any
time and anywhere
throughout the world)

DAY PHONES: MILL HILL 1387 STONEGROVE 8081

NIGHT PHONE: MILL HILL 1324

1 BROADWAY, MILL HILL, N.W.7
296 HALE LANE, EDGWARE

"NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR EMPLOYMENT OF REGULAR SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN"

CALLING ALL REGULAR SOLDIERS



DO YOU KNOW

that there is a Branch of this Organisation operating in
the locality of your home?

It is only waiting for a personal call from you, or a ring
on the telephone or a postcard, to get busy with your
employment problem.

You can always get the address of your Area Jobfinder
from your local Post Office or from your Regimental
Association.

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT
ASSOCIATION

62 VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1