

The Die Hards

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(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



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THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN)

(57th and 77th)

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

"Mysore," "Seringapatam," "Albuhera," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajos," "Vittoria," "Pyrenes," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsula," "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1900-02."

World War I—46 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "La Bassée, 1914," "Messines, 1914," "17," "18," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "17," "18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frenzenberg," "Bellevue," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "18," "Albert, 1916," "18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Fiers-Courcellette," "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," "Aves," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrück," "Bailleul," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suvla," "Landing at Suvla," "Scimitar Hill," "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 Escaut," "Ypres-Comines Canal," "Dunkirk, 1940," "South-East Asia, 1941: "Hong Kong," North Africa, 1942-43: "El Alamein," "Advance on Tripoli," "Mareth," "Akarit," "Djebel Roumana," "Sicily, 1943: "Francoforte," "Sierro," "Sierro Hills," Italy, 1944-45: "Anzio," "Caraceto," "Gothic Line," "Monte Grande," North-West Europe, 1944-45: "Normandy Landing," "Cambes," "Breville," "The Odon," "Caen," "The Orne," "Hill 112," "Bourgeois Ridge," "Troarn," "Mont Pincon," "Falaise," "The Seine, 1944," "The Nederrijn," "Le Havre," "The Lower Maas," "Venruij," "Meijel," "Geilenkirchen," "Venlo Pocket," "The Rhineland," "Goch," "The Reichswald," "The Rhine," "Lingen," "Brinkum," "Bremen."

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

Colonel of the Regiment Major-General J. E. F. Willoughby, C.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.

Affiliated Cadet Units

16th (Hornsey)	Cadet Company
32nd (Edgware)	Cadet Company.
72nd (Hounslow)	Cadet Company.
75th (Staines)	Cadet Company.
77th (Feltham)	Cadet Company.

Regular and Territorial Battalions

1st Battalion

O.C.: Lt.-Col. F. de R. Morgan, M.C.

Location: Lee Metford Barracks, Lydd, Kent.

5th Battalion (T.A.)

O.C.: Lt.-Col. G. W. Webber, T.D.

Locations

Battalion H.Q.	T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.
"H.Q." Company	"
"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.

County of Middlesex Army Cadet Force

Headquarters: 30 Pont Street, London, S.W.1.

Commandant: Lt.-Col. P. L. Cooper, T.D.

Cadet Executive Officer: Major A. T. Jones, M.B.E., T.D.

Allied Units

CANADA

7th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, Sarnia, Ontario.
50th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery (The Prince of Wales Rangers), Peterborough, Ontario.
102nd (Wentworth) Field Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery, Dundas, Ontario.
The Royal Rifles of Canada, Quebec.

NEW ZEALAND

The Wellington West Wanganui Coast and Taranaki Regiment.

HONG KONG

The Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers).

Home Counties Brigade Depot

H.Q.: Wemyss Barracks, Canterbury.

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

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

Officers Location Statement

REGULAR OFFICERS

Major-General	G. P. L. Weston, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.	Director, Land/Air Warfare, The War Office
Brig. (T/Major)	J. E. F. Willoughby, C.B.E.	G.O.C. 48 Div. (T.A.)/West Midland District
Col. (T/Brig.)	C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C., M.A.	Head, British Commonwealth Liaison Mission and M.A., Korea
Col.	W. P. M. Allen, O.B.E., M.C.	
Col.	J. W. G. Ormiston	Colonel G.S., M.I. 1, The War Office
Col.	A. R. Waller, M.B.E., M.C.	G.S.O. 1 (Col.), H.Q. Southern Command (Increment), for work arising from C.I.C.C. (West)
Lt.-Col. (T/Col.)	A. G. Hewitt, M.B.E., M.C.	Army Liaison Officer, B.D.L.S., Australia
Lt.-Col.	D. C. L. Nolda, O.B.E., B.A.	A.A.G., H.Q. Land Forces, Hong Kong
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.	G.S.O. 1, H.Q. NORTHAG
Lt.-Col.	F. de R. Morgan, M.C.	Commander, 1st Battalion
Lt.-Col.	P. L. Pearce Gould, M.B.E., M.A.	Commander, 1st Battalion The Trinidad and Tobago Regiment
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	G.S.O. 2 (Int.), G.H.Q., FARELF
Major (T/Lt.-Col.)	R. D. Hutchings	A.D.P.R., Joint Public Relations Service, MIDEAST, Aden
Major (T/Lt.-Col.)	D. Sax	T.S.O. 1, School of Infantry
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	1st Battalion
Major	J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.	B.M., 125 Infantry Brigade (T.A.)
Major	C. H. Meiville, M.C.	A.M.A. to U.K. High Commissioner, Pakistan
Major	P. G. V. Bellers	Home Counties Brigade Depot (P.S.)
Major	K. J. Carter	1st Battalion
Major	B. A. M. Pielow	1st Battalion
Major	H. J. A. Moore	D.A.Q.M.G., Scottish Command
Major	R. M. Cain, B.A.	Staff Captain (Q6), The War Office
Major	G. G. Norton	4th Battalion Queen's Own Royal Nigeria Regiment
Major	B. K. Clayden	1st Battalion
Major	J. I. D. Pike, M.C.	A.C.C. Depot and Training Battalion
Major	B. H. Marciandi	G.S.O. 2, H.Q. Tanganyika Rifles
Major	C. L. Lawrence, M.C.	Staff Captain (Q), H.Q. MELF
Major	P. A. S. Wollocombe	3rd Battalion King's African Rifles
Capt.	J. S. B. Pollard	G.S.O. 3 (S.D.), H.Q. 2 Division
Capt.	R. D. Fisher	G.S.O. 3 (Ops./Trg.) H.Q., MELF
Capt.	M. V. Hayward	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst
Capt.	A. E. McManus	Adjutant, 5th Battalion (T.A.)
Capt.	J. M. Hewson, M.C.	Adjutant, 1st Battalion
Capt.	I. M. E. Lloyd	All Arms Junior Leaders' Regiment, Tonfanau
Capt.	W. G. A. Crumley	1st Battalion
Capt.	H. M. du V. Lohan	1st Battalion
Capt.	M. C. D. L. Gilham	1st Battalion
Capt.	M. D. Legg	Joint School of Nuclear and Chemical Ground Defence
Capt.	P. V. Cheesman	1st Battalion
Capt.	P. Mallalieu	Royal Sierra Leone Military Forces
Capt.	M. F. Deakin	Army Air Corps Centre
Capt.	P. D. J. Clarke	1st Battalion
Lt.	G. Bulloch	The Jamaica Regiment
Lt.	G. Goring	Home Counties Brigade Depot (P.S.)
Lt.	A. B. Cowing	1st Battalion
Lt.	R. C. Pitman	1st Battalion
Lt.	J. G. Lofting	Home Counties Brigade Depot (P.S.)
Lt.	P. J. Monypenny	1st Battalion
Lt.	B. K. Finch	1st Battalion
Lt.	P. J. Hubert	1st Battalion

Lt.	R. A. Bartlett	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	P. F. Packham	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	J. B. Hawkins	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	D. J. Daniell	1st Battalion
Major (Q.M.)	S. C. W. Weller, M.M.	5th Battalion (T.A.)
Capt. (Q.M.)	A. E. F. Waldron, M.B.E.	Home Counties Brigade Depot (P.S.)
Capt. (Q.M.)	P. Donovan	1st Battalion
Capt. (Q.M.)	F. L. Griffiths	H.Q. Singapore Military Forces

Short-Service Officers

Lt.	M. H. Rose	Depot R.M.P.
Lt.	G. N. Freeborn	1st Battalion
Lt.	N. J. Bryant	Royal Sierra Leone Military Forces
Capt. (Q.M.)	E. J. Pike	6th Battalion King's African Rifles
Capt. (Q.M.)	F. Redpath, B.E.M.	1st Battalion
Lt. (Q.M.)	M. Wild	1st Battalion

Extended-Service Officers

Major (L/Lt.-Col.)	L. G. Lohan, M.B.E., T.D.	D.D.P.R., Ministry of Defence
Major	A. E. Peasley	Adjutant, Home Postal Depot R.E.

5th BATTALION (T.A.)

Honorary Colonel

Brigadier E. E. F. Baker C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P.

T.A. Officers

Lt.-Col.	G. W. Webber, T.D.	Battalion Commander
Major	P. J. Hall	2IC
Major	J. D. Gunnell, T.D.	O.C. "H.Q." Company
Major	E. J. Naish	O.C. "C" Company
Major	R. J. Leighton, T.D.	O.C. "A" Company
Capt.	J. K. E. Slack	I.O.
Capt.	B. B. Pollecoff	Pending transfer to TARO
Capt.	M. J. Beaumont	2IC "H.Q." Company
Capt.	D. W. Hogg	O.C. "D" Company
Capt.	S. L. J. Henshaw	O.C. "B" Company
Capt.	G. J. Young	2IC "A" Company
Capt.	D. W. Hume	2IC "C" Company
Capt.	K. G. Price	M.T.O.
A/Capt.	H. E. Couch	2IC "D" Company
Lt.	D. H. S. Herriott	Platoon Commander "A" Company
Lt.	J. S. Richards	Platoon Commander "B" Company
Lt.	K. D. Murray	2IC "H.Q." Company
Lt.	P. M. Duberry	Platoon Commander "C" Company
Lt.	M. J. S. Doran	Signals Officer
Lt.	D. O. M. Thomas	Platoon Commander "C" Company
Lt.	J. M. Robertson	Recce. Platoon Commander
Lt.	J. McMaster	Platoon Commander "D" Company
Lt.	P. I. Phillips	Platoon Commander "C" Company
Lt.	J. A. Van de Pol	Platoon Commander "A" Company
Lt.	J. C. Parkinson	Platoon Commander "D" Company
Lt.	R. G. Tett	Platoon Commander "B" Company
2/Lt.	T. D. Jones	Platoon Commander "B" Company
2/Lt.	J. S. Walker	Platoon Commander "A" Company
2/Lt.	F. J. Hamilton	Platoon Commander "D" Company
Major	D. P. Winstanley, R.A.M.C.	Medical Officer
Capt.	R. L. McQueen, R.A.M.C.	Medical Officer
Capt.	B. A. Hennah, R.A.P.C.	Paymaster

Permanent Staff Officers

Major	J. A. George, Queen's Surreys	Training Officer
Capt.	A. E. McManus	Adjutant
Major (Q.M.)	S. C. W. Weller, M.M.	Quartermaster

ROLL OF WARRANT OFFICERS AND SENIOR N.C.O.s

(Corrected to September 4, 1962)

Bde. Pos.	Appt. or A/Rank	Name	Unit
WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS I			
2	W.O.1	T. McMillan	4 Buffs (T.A.)
9	W.O.1	R. Budden	4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.)
16	W.O.1	R. Dodkins	1 Mx.
WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS II			
4	W.O.2	F. Firman	3 Queens Surreys (T.A.)
5	R.Q.M.S.	A. Cooper	1 Mx.
19	R.Q.M.S.	P. Soper, B.E.M.	Singapore Military Forces
28	R.Q.M.S.	K. Beale	H.Q. 11 Inf. Bde. Gp.
29	W.O.2	W. Wright	5 Mx. (T.A.)
34	W.O.2	A. Da Costa	4/5 R. Sussex (T.A.)
42	W.O.2	S. Michel	5 Mx. (T.A.)
44	W.O.2	M. Eastap	4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.)
47	W.O.2	G. Simmons	Bde. Depot (P.S.)
52	W.O.2	E. Steward	1 Mx.
59	W.O.2	D. Walters	1 Mx.
60	W.O.2	E. Thompson	22 S.A.S.R.
62	W.O.2	P. Amor	22 S.A.S.R.

COLOUR-SERGEANTS

5	C/Sgt.	J. Potter	1 Mx.
7	C/Sgt.	P. Dive	1 Mx.
8	A/W.O.2	J. Moyse	1 Mx.
32	C/Sgt.	A. Nicholson	1 Mx.
34	C/Sgt.	W. Smith	1 Mx.

SERGEANTS

9	Sgt.	B. Warner	1 Mx.
10	Sgt.	M. Butler	S.P.S. Estab.
12	Sgt./O.R.C.	A. Gibbs	1 Mx.
16	A/C/Sgt.	J. Martin, M.M.	1 Mx.
20	Sgt.	R. Davies	1 Mx.
36	A/C/Sgt.	R. Clements	1 Mx.
43	A/C/Sgt.	R. Power	1 Mx.
45	Sgt.	K. Lloyd	1 Mx.
46	Sgt.	C. Partridge	1 Mx.
49	Sgt.	D. Lagden	A.A.S. Arborfield
55	Sgt.	C. Orme	1 Mx. (C.L.R.D.)
59	Sgt.	M. Elston	Army M.T. School
65	Sgt.	H. Horder	1 Mx.
70	Sgt.	R. Ford	Bde. Depot (P.S.)
71	Sgt.	C. Shinn	1 Mx.
76	Sgt.	N. Taylor	1 Mx.
82	Sgt.	C. Blackwell	1 Mx.
109	Sgt.	B. Tarry	1 Mx.
117	Sgt.	S. Speakman	1 Mx. (A.I.O. Kentish Town)
120	Sgt.	W. Argent	1 Mx.

Bde. Pos.	Appt. or A/Rank	Name	Unit
121	Sgt.	L. Plumb	Bde. Depot (P.S.)
129	Sgt.	H. Turner	1 Mx.
133	Sgt.	J. Williamson	1 Mx.
135	Sgt.	B. Edey	R.M.A.S.
145	Sgt.	W. Turner	School of Infantry (Hythe)
149	Sgt.	J. Raffael	1 Mx.
157	Sgt.	B. Pritchard	5 Mx. (T.A.)
160	Sgt.	A. Briggs	1 Mx.
162	Sgt.	J. Redmond	1 Mx.
163	Sgt.	D. Miles	1 Mx.
165	Sgt.	J. Young	1 Mx.
170	Sgt.	J. Kerr	Bde. Depot (P.S.)
172	Sgt.	G. Overton	1 Mx.
182	Sgt.	T. Parnell	1 Mx.
186	Sgt.	J. Leat	1 Mx.
190	Sgt.	F. O'Rawe	1 Mx.
199	Sgt.	J. Barr	Bde. Depot

ORDERLY ROOM SERGEANTS

5	W.O.2	G. Cripps	1 Mx.
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BANDMASTER

5	W.O.1	J. McShane	1 Mx.
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SERGEANTS (Band)

2	Sgt.	D. Carson	R.M.S.M.
5	Sgt.	G. Beechey	1 Mx.

DRUM-MAJOR

1A	W.O.2	J. Lewis	1 Mx.
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5th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.) T.A.

WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS II

Rank	Name	Company
W.O.2	R. G. Vaisey	"H.Q." Company
W.O.2	R. G. Roberts	"H.Q." Company
W.O.2	W. Payne	"C" Company
W.O.2	A. E. Howe, M.B.E.	Battalion H.Q.
W.O.2	J. Vasey	"D" Company
W.O.2	A. Carnie	"H.Q." Company
W.O.2	B. Stack	"A" Company

COLOUR-SERGEANTS

C/Sgt.	H. Rea	"D" Company
S/Sgt.	L. Hawkins, B.E.M.	"H.Q." Company (Sigs)
C/Sgt.	L. Salter	"B" Company
C/Sgt.	E. James	"A" Company

SERGEANTS

Sgt.	C. Holdford	Battalion H.Q.
Sgt.	E. R. Oakley	"H.Q." Company
Sgt.	A. Sills	"H.Q." Company
Sgt.	R. Birmingham	"H.Q." Company
Sgt.	M. O'Brart	"H.Q." Company

Rank	Name	Company	Rank	Name	Company
Sgt.	K. Mortimer	"H.Q." Company	Sgt.	M. Moore (A.C.C.)	"H.Q." Company
Sgt.	J. Elderfield	"A" Company	Sgt.	J. J. Byrne (R.A.M.C.)	"H.Q." Company
Sgt.	D. W. Guiver	"B" Company	PERMANENT STAFF		
Sgt.	R. Elliott	"A" Company	W.O.1	H. Boseley (R.S.M.)	Battalion H.Q.
Sgt.	D. F. Gainsbury	"B" Company	W.O.2	S. Michel (C.S.M.)	"A" Company
Sgt.	C. B. Wagner	"B" Company	W.O.2	W. J. Wright (C.S.M.)	"D" Company
Sgt.	F. W. Hawes	"B" Company	Sgt.	H. Shoebridge	"B" Company
Sgt.	D. McKerron	"C" Company	Sgt.	B. Pritchard	"C" Company
Sgt.	A. R. Kemp	"D" Company	Sgt.	A. J. Willis	"H.Q." Company
Sgt.	M. Ward	"D" Company	DO YOU KNOW		
Sgt.	G. Young	"D" Company	R.F.E.A.		
Sgt.	G. R. Brown	"D" Company	During 1962 the number of men and women from the Regular Armed Forces of the Crown placed in employment by the National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen was 15,665, which was 83 per cent. of those who registered at one or other of the Association's 49 Branches covering the whole of the United Kingdom. It is of interest that of this number 5,657 were from the Army and 10 were from one Regiment.		
Sgt.	R. J. Bartholomew	"D" Company	If, when you get home, you have mislaid the address of your Area Jobfinder, apply at any big Post Office or to your own Regimental Association. They'll be able to give it to you.		
Sgt.	G. Ashcroft	"H.Q." Company			
Sgt.	B. Lauwers	"A" Company			
Sgt.	K. G. Anderson	"H.Q." Company			
Sgt.	R. E. Ambler	"H.Q." Company			
P/Sgt.	M. C. Barton	"C" Company			
P/Sgt.	J. Graham	"A" Company			
P/Sgt.	A. Green	"H.Q." Company			
P/Sgt.	H. C. Large	"D" Company			
P/Sgt.	B. Smith	"A" Company			
Attached:					
W.O.2	C. Banks (A.C.C.)	"H.Q." Company			
S/Sgt.	E. Pincombe (R.E.M.E.)	"H.Q." Company			
S/Sgt.	G. Berry (R.A.P.C.)	"H.Q." Company			

A GRAND DERBY SWEEPSTAKE

in aid of

The Widows' Flatlets Scheme at Albuhera Close, Enfield

A Regimental Sweepstake on this year's Derby is being organised by Regimental Headquarters.

Tickets in books of five (price 2s. 6d. per book) will be sent out to the Regular and T.A. Battalions, and to all Branches of the Regimental Association.

Any member or ex-member of the Regiment who is interested in obtaining tickets, and who cannot get them from the above sources, should apply to Major E. L. Heywood at Regimental Headquarters.

It is hoped that everyone receiving books of tickets will do their utmost to sell them all—and then ask for more.

It is essential that the name and address

of the purchaser of any ticket is clearly written in BLOCK LETTERS on the counterfoil of the ticket.

The following prizes will be awarded:—

1st Prize	20% of net proceeds
2nd "	15% " "
3rd "	10% " "

In addition 5% of the net proceeds will be divided between those who draw a horse, other than the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize-winners.

The result of the draw and the amounts allocated to the Widows' Flatlets Scheme and to prize-winners will be notified to all concerned and published in Regimental Newsletter No. 2, which will be issued in July next.

Editor's Comments

We all welcome home the Colonel of the Regiment from Hong Kong and offer him our heartiest congratulations not only on his promotion but also on his being made a C.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List.

Major-Gen. Willoughby took up his new appointment as G.O.C., 48th Division (T.A.)/West Midland District on March 11.

The Deputy Colonel, as Deputy-Lieutenant for the County of Middlesex, in the absence of the Lord-Lieutenant indisposed, was commanded to attend the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at London Airport on January 31 on the occasion of their departure for the Royal Tour of Fiji, Australia and New Zealand.

The Deputy Colonel had the honour of dining as the guest of the Chairman at the Middlesex County Dinner at Grosvenor House on January 11. The guest of honour was the Home Secretary, the Right Honourable Henry Brooke, P.C., M.P.

Kind enquiries were made about the Regiment.

At 11.30 a.m. on Sunday, May 12, the Horse Guards Parade will ring to the familiar strains of "Paddy's Resource" and other music dear to the heart of every "Die-Hard."

The occasion will be the 1963 Albuhera Day parade when the Regiment will really go to town in the most impressive Albuhera Day parade for many years.

On parade will be detachments from both 1st and 5th Battalions, the Colours of both Battalions, an impressive contingent of Old Comrades, and the Band and Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion.

The Old Comrades' Standard, which has been specially designed and made, will be dedicated at the Drum Head Service and presented by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Gen. Sir Richard Hull, G.C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C., whose father commanded our 4th Battalion from February, 1912, to November, 1914, with conspicuous success.

Everything has been worked out with minute detail, including even a wet weather alternative, but the complete success of this truly Regimental occasion depends entirely on YOU. We must ensure a record turnout. Please note the time, date and place, publicise it at every opportunity and contact all your "Die-Hard" friends to make sure that they will also be there.

The Inspecting Officer will arrive at 11.30 a.m. strikes, therefore you should muster at Horse Guards at about 11 a.m., since the "Advance" will sound at 11.15 a.m. and the parade must be formed up ready to receive the V.I.P.s prior to the arrival of the Inspecting Officer. In the event of wet weather, the parade

will take place in Wellington Barracks, to which you will be directed by a guide at Horse Guards.

After the parade, detachments will march to Wellington Barracks where they will be dismissed. Refreshments will then be available in the NAAFI at Wellington Barracks at which all participants, spectators and their families, will be very welcome.

This year the Regimental Association has launched its Albuhera Close campaign to raise the sum of £12,000 to build a block of flatlets for widows and dependants of the Regiment. And this large sum of money must be raised soon. Every year building costs rise steeply. The longer work is delayed on the flats at Albuhera Close the more costly the project will become. Already Branches of the Old Comrades' Association have been successfully organising collections for this very worthy Regimental memorial, but there is still a long way to go.

There are several contributory schemes. You may wish to make a direct donation, in which case you should send a postal order or cheque, made out to the Lord-Lieutenant's Appeal, to the Secretary, The Middlesex Regimental Association, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex. If you would prefer to donate a larger sum, or subscribe by deed of covenant, the Association Secretary will be pleased to send you full details.

If you are in the 1st Battalion or 5th Battalion, why not organise an Albuhera Close collection group? This active support will help tremendously. Dances, raffles and all the usual fund-raising schemes will get us closer to that formidable target of £12,000.

So rally round "Die-Hard" readers everywhere. Make a very special effort to attend the Albuhera Day parade and please make a quick survey of the personal budget to see if it can stand a contribution, large or small, to the Albuhera Close Appeal.

All ranks will be gratified to hear of the acquisition to the Collection at Regimental Headquarters of the following three pictures:—

- (1) Lt.-Gen. Sir William Inglis, K.C.B., Colonel of the 57th Regiment 1830, by the artist Thomas Heaphy.

Presented by Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall to commemorate his Colonelcy, 1952-59.

- (2) An Officer, as yet unidentified, of the Grenadier Company, 77th Regiment, with a background of Grenadiers and the Castle, Corfu, 1840.

Presented by Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall to commemorate his Deputy Colonelcy, 1960-62.

- (3) Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, as Colonel of the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).

Presented by Capt. R. C. Bucknall, 1st The Royal Dragoons.

We are indeed most grateful to Gen. Bucknall and his son for their kindness and generosity.

The appeal made in these columns in the October, 1962, issue of *The Die-Hards* has so far been successful, for no fewer than 14 Old Comrades will benefit from the generosity of the following readers, who have so kindly paid extra subscriptions for this year: Lt.-Col. H. P. Lambert, Major C. F. Carvell, Major C. W. Donaldson (four), Major F. A. L. Lawrence, Major A. E. Morris (two), Major F. J. Nunn, Capt. O. G.

Johnson, Messrs. W. J. Gilyatt, E. H. Headley, and W. A. Stevens.

As mentioned in my Comments last October each copy of *The Die-Hards* now bears a serial number, and it has been decided that for this issue one Premium Bond will be given to the holders of three prize-winning numbers, the draw for which will take place at Regimental Headquarters on Saturday, June 29, 1963, during the monthly meeting of the Mill Hill Branch.

We hope readers will like the new cover. There are some who do not welcome changes, and to those we would say that there have been several in the cover design since the Regimental Journal first started.

Personalia

We have received information that Major-Gen. Pat Weston, Director of Land/Air Warfare, is the first president of the newly-formed Army Free Fall Parachute Association.

Col. Peter Allen has now been selected for appointment as Colonel (A.Q.), Headquarters, 1st (B.R.) Corps with effect from June 1, 1963.

Readers who served in the Regiment before the 1914-18 War will be interested to know that Major and Mrs. P. B. Allott celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on October 22, 1962.

An appropriate greetings telegram was sent to them from all "Die-Hards" on this auspicious occasion.

May they have many more years of happiness together!

Major "Hippo" Beadnell, who is farming in Kenya, writes to say that during the past two years he has been going through a difficult time, owing chiefly to the abnormally bad weather, and that he is only now getting back into production again. At the end of 1961, he says, 50 inches of rain fell in two months!

Lt. E. Holland Buckley, who served with the 2nd Battalion in 1939-45 War and recently became a member of the Officers' Club, is Secretary of the Kennel Club.

We are very grateful indeed to Capt. Blake Budden for presenting the Regiment with his sword, dress scabbard and scarlet silk sash. These items are frequently in demand, and any additions to the small pool of swords, belts, etc., kept at Regimental Headquarters, are most welcome.

Capt. Budden, incidentally, was a pre-1914 officer in the 8th Battalion. In July, 1914, he was studying the language in Germany and was trying to get back to

England when war broke out. So he was interned for the duration of hostilities.

He is an accomplished linguist, and speaks French, German and Russian fluently.

Lt. Gavin Bulloch has been seconded for a tour of duty with the Jamaica Regiment, with effect from last January.

Lt.-Col. Ian Burrows has been selected for a Colonel's appointment with S.H.A.P.E. with effect from August 31 next.

Under the heading "Dalgona Calf Takes Top Ticket at Thornhill" in the *Dumfries and Galloway Standard and Advertiser* of October 26, 1962, we read that Col. Mervyn Crawford won the local championship with a heifer calf which he sold for £54.

Well done! There must be something in this farming business.

Capt. Gordon Crumley, on completion of his tour of duty as Staff Captain (Q.), H.Q. Middle East Command (Aden), has rejoined the 1st Battalion.

We were very pleased indeed to see C.S.M. Firman at Regimental Headquarters early in March, and congratulate him heartily on the award of the Meritorious Service Medal.

He is at present a Permanent Staff Instructor with 3rd Queen's Surreys, and states that he is due to leave the Service next month.

Major Peter Galvin has been selected for the appointment of D.A.Q.M.G., Q.(A.E.) 2, at the War Office, and is due to start taking over this appointment on May 27, 1963.

This will mean, unfortunately, that he will have to cease being the 1st Battalion's Sub-Editor as well as being a member of the Regimental Journal Sub-Committee.

We are sorry to lose him, and will miss his help and advice.

We are sorry to announce that the Right Reverend John Arthur Jagoe, who was Chaplain to the 1st Battalion in Cologne in 1923, died last October.

Subsequent to 1923 he transferred to the Chaplain's Department of the Royal Air Force, and was Chaplain-in-Chief to the Royal Air Force from 1944 to 1949.

He was consecrated Bishop of Bermuda in 1949 and occupied that See until 1955 when he resigned.

He was an Honorary Chaplain to the King from 1943 to 1949.

Major "Jeff" Jeffcoat, on completion of his staff appointment as D.A.Q.M.G., at Headquarters, Land Forces, Hong Kong, has rejoined the 1st Battalion.

Capt. Mike Legg has left the 1st Battalion on posting to the instructional staff of the Joint School of Nuclear and Chemical Ground Defence.

Capt. Ian Lloyd is due to complete his tour of duty at the All Arms Junior Leaders' Regiment, Tonfanau, next July, when he is due to rejoin the 1st Battalion.

We congratulate Col. Kenneth Maitland on his appointment as a Deputy-Lieutenant for Hertfordshire, which was announced in the Press last January.

Major Chris Meiville, who recently went to Karachi as Assistant Military Adviser to the British High Commissioner in Pakistan, writes to say that he is enjoying life there immensely. He apparently has a wonderful flat and very good servants to help cope with the social whirl.

Those who served with the 2nd Battalion in Singapore in 1922 and 1923 will, we are sure, be most interested to know that Major Charlie Donaldson was recently put in touch with the Battalion's very popular Chaplain of those days, the Rev. J. H. McKew, who has now retired and is living in Winchester.

REGIMENTAL REUNION, 1962

The Annual Reunion was held at Seymour Hall on Friday, October 12, 1962. Prior to the gathering the Annual General Meeting of the Regimental Association was held in the committee room on the first floor. This was attended by members of all branches.

General Bucknall, the Deputy Colonel, presided in the absence of the Colonel of the Regiment, Major-Gen. Willoughby, who was still on service in Hong Kong. Other notable members of the Regiment present were General Sir Brian Horrocks (Black Rod), ex-Sgt. Robert Ryder, v.c., and In-Pensioners Carvell and Meatcham. In all, there were some 600 present, an increase of 25 over last year. Although the numbers were approxi-

We are indebted to Major Donaldson for allowing us to publish the following extracts from a letter he received last February from "Padre" McKew:

"The Regiment was always very kind to me. No Padre could ask for better friends, and I often think of the welcome you all gave me when I called at Admednagar on my way home from Singapore in 1924. For a long time I had a photograph of a group of soldiers, with me in the middle, and written on the back 'The Rummy King and some of his Subjects!' What fun we used to have! . . .

"I still hear from Bill Clayden at Christmas, but I have not seen anyone from the Battalion for many years; but I shall never forget you. God bless you all."

By all accounts no more popular or well-loved Padre has ever served with the Regiment.

We congratulate Lt. Peter Monypenny on obtaining an "A" (outstanding) grading on a Unit Instructor's Course at the Joint School of Nuclear and Chemical Ground Defence last February; and also Sgt. R. C. Davies of the 1st Battalion on obtaining the same grading on an Assistant Unit Instructor's Course at the same school last December.

Lt.-Col. Clinton Nolda has now given up his staff appointment at Headquarters, Western Command, and gone to the Far East to become Assistant Adjutant-General at Headquarters, Land Forces, Hong Kong.

Our congratulations to Cpl. and Mrs. O'Gorman on the birth of a daughter (Nicola Margaret) at the Kent Canterbury Hospital on December 30, 1962.

Major David Pike left the 1st Battalion in February on being posted to the A.C.C. Depot and Training Battalion to command the Military Training Company.

Col. Rex Waller returned from Cyprus at the end of last year to take up the appointment of G.S.O. 1 (Col.), H.Q. Southern Command (Increment), for work arising from C.-in-C.'s Committee (West).

mately the same, the personnel were different, quite a notable feature being the number of the younger generation now attending. This caused the dance floor to be used more than has been usual in past years, although a steady pressure was kept up at all bars during the evening.

There were requests from one or two members that a dinner be held as before the war. This question has been put forward before but the majority of members prefer the present type of reunion, as it allows more time for people to meet than would be possible at a formal dinner. The first reunions after the war could not be dinners, as previously, owing to restrictions in force at the time—rationing, etc. Later, those attend-

ing said they preferred to meet in a free and easy manner round the bar as more people could be contacted and the wives, some of whom had lived as neighbours in married quarters, could also join in and enjoy talking over old times. This course was adopted, whilst the various branches and clubs hold dinners for their own members, generally at the weekend nearest Albuhera Day.

This year was the first time for many years that the Regimental Band had been able to supply the music, and they played a programme appreciated by all who were able to listen.

During the evening an appeal was made from the floor of the dance hall for the proposed widows' flatlets at Enfield, and the sum of £20 was collected. The appeal began with a parade of the two Chelsea Pensioners and ex-Sgt. Ryder, v.c., who started the subscription by donating a Treasury note.

Many old friendships were renewed and addresses exchanged and, in the case of ex-C.S.M. Carvell, he met a friend he had not seen for 54 years!

Although so many people met after a lapse of many years, there were quite a number who failed to find friends for whom they were looking. This was not always a case of the friend not being there, but because it was quite easy to pass by groups in the bar where the crush was heavy and not see the person for whom one was looking, although he was in fact there at the time.

This can be rectified by coming next year, starting early, and if necessary asking a member of the committee for assistance. Each year the numbers are increasing and the joy of reunion with old friends tides one over until the following year where the hall is big enough to hold the bodies but not nearly large enough to hold the spirit of comradeship engendered.

R.W.J.S.

CEREMONY AT THE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

On Saturday, November 10, the Regiment paid honour to its dead of all wars.

In the past, it has been customary to hold a short service on the pathway near the Regimental plot in the Field of Remembrance, but this was never really very satisfactory for various reasons.

This year the Middlesex County Council kindly allowed us to hold a brief service at the War Memorial to Men of Middlesex and the Middlesex Regiment just inside the entrance to the Middlesex Guildhall.

The prayers were read by Rev. W. E. B. Jones, M.A., who was Chaplain to the 1st Battalion in Korea, 1950-51, and Hong Kong, 1952-53, and a wreath was laid at the memorial by the Deputy Colonel, Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C., D.L., who then read "The Exhortation." The "Two Minutes' Silence" was observed, after which the assembled company went over to the Field of Remembrance.

After saying the words "We plant these crosses today in memory of our fallen comrades of the Middlesex Regiment," Gen. Bucknall planted the first cross. He was followed by Gen. Sir John Crocker, the Lieutenant of the County, representatives of Battalions, the High Sheriff of the County, the Clerk to the Lieutenantancy,

and the Mayors of Acton, Hendon, Hornsey, Twickenham, Uxbridge, Brentford and Chiswick, the Deputy Mayors of Finchley and Wood Green, and the Chairmen of the Urban District Councils of Feltham, Potters Bar and Sunbury-on-Thames. Almost all the above were accompanied, and together with serving and retired members of all ranks of the Regiment there was a good representative gathering. The weather, though damp, was mild.

After the ceremony the Vice-Chairman of the Middlesex County Council (Alderman Mrs. Frances Simpson), deputising for the Chairman who was unwell, kindly held a reception in Guildhall.

E. L. H.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

This year Remembrance Sunday fell on the true anniversary of the signing of the Armistice for the First World War—the day when hostilities ceased at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Originally that date, on whatever day of the week it fell, was observed with two minutes' silence. Now the nearest Sunday to that date is observed as the day of remembrance for those killed in the two world wars and in our case for our dead in Korea too. It may be just the association of ideas, or thoughts, but the Silence at the Regimental Memorial seemed more intense this year than it has in some others.

Again, as for last year, Lt.-Col. J. Turver, O.B.E., R.E., commanding the Home Postal Depot, R.E., and his staff gave us every assistance in preparing the Gymnasium for the church service, followed by our ceremony at the Regimental War Memorial. This pleasant liaison between the two units is largely due to Major A. E. Peasley, a long-serving "Die-Hard" who is extra-regimentally employed as the Adjutant, Home Postal Depot, R.E. To all who so nobly assisted us, we tender our grateful thanks.

The service was taken by the Assistant Chaplain-General, London District, the Rev. L. W. Matthews, O.B.E., T.D., M.A., whose address was clear and listened to intently, so much so that the younger generation of soldiers and cadets who were standing at the back of the Gymnasium remarked about it after the service. The Lesson was read by Brigadier B. B. Rackham. Last year the Chapel was filled to overflowing; this year the Gymnasium, a much larger building, was similarly filled.

The ceremony at the Memorial, as in previous years, followed the indoor service. Here detachments from the 1st Battalion, 5th Battalion (T.A.), 32 Company Middlesex Army Cadet Force, Christ's College Combined Cadet Force, the Mill Hill Branch and the 9th Battalion Branch of the Regimental Association paraded in a square, facing inwards towards our Memorial.

The Chaplain read the Exhortation, the words "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old" being emphasised by the ageing faces of the congregation and the thin wisps of greying hair lifting in the cold breeze that always keeps us company on this November day. Then the "Last Post" followed by the thump of a gun from the Tower and the Two Minutes' Silence. In our thoughts the Vanished Army

marched by, 14,000 of them, in topees, S.D. caps and steel helmets on their way to every continent and across every sea. Our thoughts were then interrupted by the same brazen tongue that so often interrupted our sleep in bygone days, "The Rouse" or "Reveille."

A Prayer, and the laying of wreaths began with Brigadier Rackham, representing the Colonel of the Regiment, placing the tribute on behalf of the Regimental Association, followed by representatives of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalions and the Depot; 5th and 6th (Militia) Battalions; 5th Battalion (T.A.); "H.Q." Company, 5th Battalion (T.A.); Mill Hill Branch of the Regimental Association; 9th Battalion Branch of the Regimental Association; and representatives of other Branches and lastly private individuals.

This ceremony was followed by the march past of all formations on parade, the salute being taken by Brigadier Rackham, who had standing beside him ex-Sgt. Robert Ryder, v.c. The music was played by the Corps of Drums of Christ's College C.C.F., the leading detachments being the Mill Hill Branch and the 9th Battalion Branch, followed by the uniformed detachments, each striving to outshine the other in bearing, but all one in their pride of corps.

Transport galore was available to take those wishing to return to Regimental H.Q. at Edgware, including a coach hired specially for the occasion. On arrival in the Drill Hall the first thing that caught the eye was the attractive and plentiful buffet very tastefully prepared and laid out by W.O.2 Banks and his cooks, and provided by the Regimental Association.

It was here that all were able to see the band from Kneller Hall who had played so well during the service in the Gymnasium. This band was under the baton of Mr. D. Carson, late of the 1st Battalion, who has recently qualified and been promoted to the rank of W.O.1 (Bandmaster), and is now awaiting posting to a unit. The variety of the uniforms of the members of the band was catching to the eye, especially those of the colonial units, with their colourful jackets and head dress. These prospective Bandmasters were a credit in the rendering of the music, and evoked complimentary remarks from the many Regimental musicians present. Very few units this day could have had such an orchestra.

In concluding this brief account of our most solemn of parades, we congratulate the two Drummers of the 1st Battalion, Drms. Davidson and Kendall, who rendered the "Last Post" and "Reveille" so well.

R. W. J. S.

GOLF

Regimental Autumn Meeting

The Regimental Autumn Golf Meeting was held at Littlestone-on-Sea on Saturday, October 27, 1962.

Entries were disappointing. Only three of the "old and bold" turned up, one of whom, Brigadier Green, came up from Somerset, which was a sterling effort.

Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Morgan very kindly invited all visitors who were in Lydd on Friday evening to supper in their house, as well as numerous others from both

the 1st and 5th Battalions. A sumptuous feast was provided, and this most cheerful party made a very good start to the weekend which, from the point of view of the weather, looked unpromising, to say the least. However, we were greeted on Saturday morning by glorious sunshine, and so it remained for most of the day.

The first pair went off at 9.30 a.m., and it was not long before the last to start vanished into the distance. As time went on, however, we at the club house began to wonder whether the competitors had been swept out to sea by a tidal wave, or some other tragedy had befallen them, because the afternoon was fairly advanced before familiar figures hove in sight. Eventually all starters arrived back safely.

After a quick drink and a belated lunch only two foursomes set out in the afternoon because three competitors from the 1st Battalion had to attend a christening. The results of the various competitions were:

SINGLES MEDAL COMPETITION (18 HOLES)

Scratch and Handicap			
	Gross	Hcp.	Nett
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey (winner, scratch and handicap)	85	14	71
Major C. N. Clayden (runner-up, handicap)	105	24	81
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton (runner-up, scratch)	93	9	84
Brigadier A. E. Green	103	18	85
Lt. G. Bulloch	112	24	88
Lt.-Col. F. de R. Morgan	116	24	92
Capt. J. M. Hewson	118	24	94
Lt.-Col. I. R. Burrows	125	24	101
Lt. P. J. Monypenny	133	24	109
Lt. A. B. Cowing	134	24	110
Major K. J. Carter	154	24	130

STABLEFORD FOURSOMES

	Points
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey and Lt.-Col. F. de R. Morgan (winners)	29
Major C. N. Clayden and Capt. J. M. Hewson (runners-up)	27
Brigadier A. E. Green and Major K. J. Carter	22
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton and Lt.-Col. I. R. Burrows	21

Apart from winning all the main competitions, Lt.-Col. Tom Chattey also won the secondary competition on six hidden holes as well as the sweep. He therefore cleared the board. Obviously something had to be done about this and, willy nilly, he was deprived of some of his spoils to the benefit of the next on the list. Needless to say, his handicap is under the most careful scrutiny!

In spite of the small numbers those taking part thoroughly enjoyed the day, and the general opinion seemed to be that efforts should be made to hold the Spring Meeting at the same place.

It was very nice to see Col. W. D. Coles, who came over from Tunbridge Wells. He apparently last played in the Meeting held in April, 1939. He still looks remarkably fit.

Our sincere thanks are due to the 1st Battalion for so kindly accommodating the visitors.

Home Counties Brigade Meeting, 1962

The Brigade Meeting was held at Littlestone-on-Sea on Monday, November 5, 1962, and, although unavoidably late in the year, produced an entry of 20.

In the morning round—Inter-Regimental Singles Medal Competition on full handicap—the Regimental representatives made the following scores:—

	Score	Placing
Major C. N. Clayden	77	2nd
Lt. G. Bulloch	88	9th
Lt.-Col. F. de R. Morgan	96	12th
Lt. A. B. Cowing	102	14th
Capt. P. V. Cheesman	106	16th
Major K. J. Carter	128	19th

The team result in this Competition, decided on the four best net scores, was as follows:

	Score	Placing
Queen's Surreys	332	1st
Queen's Own Buffs	336	2nd
Middlesex Regiment	363	3rd
Royal Sussex Regiment	—	4th

The afternoon round—an Inter-Regimental Green-some Stableford match—was cut down to 12 holes on account of light. In this the Regimental representatives made the following scores:—

	Score	Placing
Lt.-Col. F. de R. Morgan and Major C. N. Clayden	19	4th
Lt. A. B. Cowing and Lt. G. Bulloch	13	8th
Major K. J. Carter and Capt. P. V. Cheesman	7	10th

The team result in this competition, decided on the two best net scores, was as follows:

	Points	Placing
Queen's Own Buffs	44	1st
Queen's Surreys	39	2nd
Middlesex Regiment	32	3rd
Royal Sussex Regiment	30	4th

57/77th OFFICERS' DINNER

The 57/77th dinner was held at the United Service Club on Thursday, November 22, 1962.

Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, the Deputy Colonel, presided. Others present were: Col. W. P. M. Allen, Major F. J. Bennett, Major K. R. McK. Biggs, Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey, Lt.-Col. D. Y. Cubitt, Major R. M. Cain, Major K. J. Carter, Major B. K. Clayden, Major C. N. Clayden, Lt. A. B. Cowing, Lt. R. T. Douthet, Lt. P. M. Dubbery, Major H. J. Evans, Capt. R. D. Fisher, Capt. J. S. C. Flavell, Lt. G. N. Freeborn, Brigadier A. E. Green, Major P. W. Galvin, Major J. de Gaye, Capt. R. E. Guest, Col. S. F. Hedgecoe, Major E. L. Heywood, Major G. Kent, Capt. M. D. Legg, Col. A. M. Man, Major H. Marsh, Lt. P. J. Monypenny, Lt.-Col. D. C. L. Nolda, Col. J. W. G. Ormiston, Lt.-Col. F. G. Parker, Brigadier B. B. Rackham, Major J. N. Shipster, Col. F. Walden, Col. A. R. Waller and Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton.

Although there were seven late cancellations the number present exceeded the 1961 attendance by six.

It was good to see a few Short Service Officers at this dinner and it is hoped that many more, who may have served with the Regular Battalion, will make a point of attending the next one later in the year.

7th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER

The 7th Middlesex Officers' Club held their 35th Annual Dinner at the United Service Club on Thursday, November 8, 1962. Col. J. K. Maitland, M.C., T.D., D.L., presided.

Those present were: Major G. A. H. Bower, Major D. G. Buxton, Capt. M. J. Beaumont, Lt. C. W. Bower (guest), Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Major K. J. Carter, Major J. M. Cossar, Lt. M. J. Doran, Col. W. D. Ellis, Capt. S. de M. Enthoven, Lt.-Col. The Lord Grenfell (guest), Major Sir Harold Gillett, Bart., Lt.-Comdr. R. Gillett, R.N.R. (guest), Major J. D. Gunnell, Major A. J. Hughes, Capt. F. Stafford Hodge, Lt.-Col. A. K. Johnson, Major R. J. Leighton, Brigadier H. A. D. Murray, Col. A. M. Man, Lt.-Col. F. W. Mackenzie, Lt.-Col. J. P. Moore (guest), Lt. A. C. S. Meynell, Major E. J. Naish, Brigadier J. A. Oliver (guest), Col. W. E. Pringle, Major M. F. Pearson, Capt. B. B. Pollecoff, Brigadier B. B. Rackham, Lt.-Col. G. C. D. Scott-Lowe, Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, Lt.-Col. V. H. Sykes, Major R. F. Sykes (guest), Lt. J. R. Spooner, Col. F. Walden, Major H. N. Wigan and Major J. H. Williams (guest).

OLD CONTEMPTIBLES

I recently attended an "Old Contemptibles" annual reunion dinner, and a remark made by my neighbour, a Cathedral Dean, who had been an Army Chaplain in the 1914-18 War, stuck in my mind.

"You know," he said, "the old Regular Army of 1914 were a race and breed apart, and quite unique."

I have pondered over this for some time, and how right he was. I joined the Army three years after the Boer War had ended. The Battalion which I joined in Dublin still had a fair proportion of men with the South African war medals. They still used the Boer War slang, and odd phrases such as "voetsack" for go away, "scoff," food, "ikona" for no, no good, "trek" for a march, etc. Much as I liked and respected the private soldier of those days, few of them enlisted for patriotic motives.

A large number joined because their fathers and even grandfathers had served in the Regiment and they were brought up in it. Others because they could not get employment, or had got into some trouble in civilian life.

A great many, I am afraid, because they were on the verge of starvation.

But after a few months in the Army they began to acquire an affection for the Regiment, a toleration of their officers and N.C.O.s, and a withering, though quite unmerited, contempt for all "civilians."

A uniform, full dress, a well-fitted scarlet tunic, blue "strides" and polished badges added a cachet, and there is no doubt that a soldier, walking out, looked and felt that he was different to others. And, of course,

the girls loved a colourful uniform and brass buttons!

Another attraction, of course, was the free sport provided. Cricket, football, hockey, swimming and athletics were open to all, and you need not be an expert to have taken part in them. Many men had never had the chance of games when young.

Food, though plain and monotonous, was plentiful and good of its kind. Pay was 1s. a day, but the money went much further then. Beer 1d. a pint, 10 cigarettes for 3d., a seat in a music hall gallery 1s. Of course a man could earn a bit more by being a 1st class shot, or having some specialised trade in the Army. But a bob a day was the usual pay. Extras such as jam, pickles, cake, etc., were provided by grants from the President, Regimental Institutes. There was no NAAFI, the canteen and grocery shops were run by a contractor. The whole way of life of a Regular soldier was quite different to that of his civilian counterpart in shop, mill or factory.

Off parade he was pretty well his own master, though certain necessary disciplinary restrictions on his pass out of barracks had to be complied with.

To marry a man had to be of good character, have so much in the savings bank, a wife of reputable character and various other conditions. Once accepted on the married roll he was allotted a free quarter, rations and fuel for his wife and family (if any) and was pretty well settled wherever he went. But only a small percentage of men were married in those days.

A married subaltern was anathema to his Commanding Officer and none too popular with his brother officers. "A soldier married is a soldier married" was a popular saying of the time.

In an Infantry Battalion there were few technicians. Pioneers, Signallers and Machine Gunners were aloof aristocrats. Machine Gunners talked loftily of "Infantry Companies." Band and Drums were also trained as stretcher bearers. But everyone, whatever his employment, had to learn to use a rifle, and to use it well. They were all highly trained in this weapon, and the results were well shown in 1914. Even an indifferent shot could fire his 15 aimed rounds a minute. And this needs a great deal of training.

The ability to march long distances with rifle and equipment was a *sine qua non* then. Very few men ever fell out on the line of march, unless for a very good reason. Even the cavalry man was often made to dismount, march on foot, leading his mount, to rest the horses.

The children of the "married families" were educated in a Regimental school under an Army schoolmaster, usually of Warrant Officer status. I am quite sure that an Army education was far superior to anything that those same children would have received in civilian life.

They all got individual attention, and every Company officer knew and was expected to be interested in his unit's married people and their children.

Regimental entertainments were periodically organised for them, especially at Christmas.

The effect of the monastic life—at any rate in barracks—led by the men showed itself in their outlook.

The hard-bitten, cynical, tough soldier, trained to

kill his enemy, to avoid being killed himself, developed a Rabelaisian sense of humour. In any account of the British Armies' many campaigns this sense of humour factor always crops up. No temporary defeat or hardship was proof against it, and it saved many a desperate situation. Even during the retreat from Mons, half starved, marching until they literally fell asleep on their feet, you could hear the grim jokes made by men, who by every known standard had met with a series of defeats.

Nothing could quell their spirit. And the old-time Regular felt no hatred for his enemy. His enemy always became a "target" and usually referred to as Jerry. The hate was whipped up by politicians and press.

One day a decimated unit had received reinforcements, who had never been in action, in the early days of the first Ypres. The Battalion was marching up to the Salient and passed a grimy, battle-scarred Private, sitting by the roadside and endeavouring to bandage a wounded arm. He looked up as the Battalion passed him and growled out, "What's this mob?"

"We are the 'Die-Hards,'" was the answer.

"Die 'Ard, are yer? You'll die flipping easy up in the Salient," came the reply.

Troops constantly sang on the line of march music hall tunes adapted to bawdy verses. "Mademoiselle from Armentiers" as sung by the troops was quite unprintable. But crooners, thank heaven, had not been invented. There was a swing and lilt in every tune.

One priceless remark was made by a surviving private soldier during the appalling Battle of Passchendaele. After 24 hours without food, some few rations were got up with great difficulty, and had to be split up to feed those who could be reached. An orderly corporal dishing out as and where he could was greeted by an old sweat who said, "Wots this 'ere, Corporal." Answer: "Your bread ration." "Oh! is it, I thought it was 'oly Communion!"

The old Regular Army practically ceased to exist as an Army in being in November, 1914. Those left alive were used to train new troops and helped to infuse the Regimental spirit into them.

With the old Regular soldier his Regiment was his whole life. His Regiment was always right. Other Regiments were all right up to a point, but usually referred to as "mobs." You could make any remarks you liked about the Army as a whole, the War Office, or his superior officers and this was never resented. But make a derogatory remark about a man's Regiment, and a fierce oath and probably a blow followed.

I consider that the troops used and sacrificed on the Somme were some of the finest ever put into the field by this country. They were mostly well educated and joined for patriotic reasons. They lacked training but were as brave as lions. But they were different to the old 1914 Regular, chiefly in their outlook.

The same applies to the soldier of today. He is just as good a fighting man as ever, but has a different view of things to the old-timer. For one thing, more often than not he is married, and is naturally full of family affairs and cares. It is difficult to assess, after

nearly 50 years, the characteristics of the old Regular soldier.

But he was definitely an individual who lived in a world of his own. Wherever he served, from Portsmouth to Peking, he was always part and parcel of his own unit. Every Regiment differed slightly from others. Each had its own customs, its own outlook and frequently its own prejudices. This the War Office never grasped. To them all Regiments were alike, and ill-feeling was frequently caused by the suppression of some little peculiarity or custom.

I can remember the days when the 20th Hussars proudly called themselves "Nobody's Own." The Somerset Light Infantry sergeants wore their sashes over the same shoulder as the officers, in memory of a battle in which all the officers became casualties and the sergeants took command.

The Minden Regiments all wear a rose in their caps on "Minden Day." The men plucked roses and stuck them into their head-dress before going into battle on that occasion. Royal Welch Fusiliers still wear a black flash on their napes, to keep the powder from their pigtail's soiling the tunic! The Gloucesters wear a "fore and aft" cap badge in memory of a battle when they were surrounded, and turned the rear rank about.

These are only a few odd examples of Regimental customs. Some of these curious habits are lost in the mists of antiquity, but they always persist and troops are very proud of them.

Anyone who has read "The Letters of Private Wheeler" cannot fail to be impressed by the overweening pride in, and love for, his Regiment, the K.O.Y.L.I. And that in the days of harsh discipline, poor pay and rations and plenty of flogging! This spirit was still very much in evidence in 1914.

I remember the case of a man brought up in front of me for being drunk and creating a disturbance in the town. He pleaded "Guilty" but modified his plea by saying, "It was only Civvies as I knocked about, Sir." Poor civilians, they mattered little to the old Regular!

Some Regiments had long-standing feuds, and it was never safe to station them in the same place. Though the origins of the feud were quite lost, this did not prevent fierce fights breaking out, especially on pay night. One battle-cry between two of these Regiments was, "Who shopped us at Dettingen?"

Had you asked any of the contending parties where Dettingen was, when it was fought, and why, you would have been met with a blank stare!

In spite of the fact that the old-time soldier's views were absolutely matter of fact, practical and materialistic, he was capable, on occasions, of a sentimentality that was the antithesis of his normal outlook. Any one who attended a Regimental concert in those days will remember the rapt attention given to such ballads as "It was only a beautiful picture, in a beautiful golden frame," "Just give my love to Mother," and many others of a like nature. The parody "She was poor, but she was honest" was not far off the mark of the nature of the ballads.

These tough fighting men loved sob-stuff! A modern

crooner's dirge would sound like a comic song compared with them.

The humour on the other hand was decidedly broad. We often wondered what some of the officers' wives who attended thought of the Regimental comedians' songs and patter. It would be interesting to hear some of the verses of "Lillibulero" as sung by Marlborough's troops!

I am sure that one of the main reasons for the old Regular soldier's unique character and outlook was due to the fact that war, up to and including the South African campaign, was fought by the Regular Army. It was very much his own business.

War in Tirah, Afghanistan, Soudan, South Africa was a long way off. It only affected the civil population indirectly, as it had to be paid for. The soldier finished his war and returned home. Then in many cases he served on, again overseas, and looked on himself as a being apart.

Who the enemy was, why the war was being waged concerned the troops very little. It was their duty to fight and, if possible, to survive. The whole soldier's training tended to this. Politics were a thing apart and officially the Army had no political opinions.

The uniforms up to 1914 were really beautiful, well cut and individually fitted. No other Army could compare with them as regards other ranks. Hussars all wore the red forage cap. The tunic, which was blue, was frogged with yellow braid. Lancers wore the double-breasted tunic with red, white or French grey breasts. Dragoons wore the scarlet tunic.

All troopers in the cavalry wore tight, well-cut overalls strapped over Wellington boots. The heels ended in swan-necked ringing spurs.

Infantry all wore scarlet tunics with the exception of Rifle Regiments who wore dark green with black buttons. Gunners, R.A.S.C., Ordnance, R.A.M.C., all wore blue with appropriate facings.

The Army was certainly colourful and decorative. The only relics of full uniform are now worn by Foot Guards and Household Cavalry. Those days, and those colourful uniforms, have, alas, gone for ever.

But thank heaven horses no longer have to go to war and suffer for human folly.

The men of the old Army were as far removed from the present day as those of Marlborough and Wellington. They were a separate race and breed and we shall not see their like again.

The "Old Contemptibles," members of the most exclusive club in the world, are the only surviving link with the old Regular Army, who fought the enemy to a standstill and died for ever in 1914.

"DIE-HARD."

IT COSTS 6s. TO FILL THE BIGGEST

By courtesy of the Chatham, Rochester and Gillingham News

The Dean of Rochester (the Rt. Rev. R. W. Stannard) is a modest smoker—about an ounce-and-a-half of pipe tobacco a week. But he has a rare collection of pipes which he keeps in a cabinet in his study.

My picture shows him holding a giant pipe from



The Dean examines his biggest pipe which takes an ounce of tobacco for one filling

Belgium which he obtained while serving in The Middlesex Regiment in the 1914-18 War. It holds about an ounce of tobacco, but the Dean prefers to smoke one of his more modest-sized pipes, of which he has six.

In his cabinet there are more than 20 pipes for display only—artistically-carved pipes from Russia, Germany and Africa, and a long cigarette holder which once belonged to a Kaffir.

There are small cigarette holders from Germany, a twist of tobacco which dates back to the last century, and some old Arab cigarettes, which the Dean remembers buying at 10 a penny in Egypt.

Apart from these smoking objects, most of which were obtained by the Dean's father during his business trips abroad, the Dean has some interesting fossils, including an enormous shell fish and snail.

He found them at Wouldham in 1916 when, as a Lieutenant in The Middlesex Regiment he was supervising the preparation of chalk walls in a quarry for men of the Royal Navy to train for their landing at Zeebrugge Mole on St. George's Day.

(Note.—The Dean was a subaltern in the 19th (Public Works) Battalion in the last two years of the 1914-18 War. This was really a Pioneer Battalion and dealt largely with roads and bridging.

Dealing with his military service in a recent letter to Regimental Headquarters, the Dean finishes up: "We were engaged on throwing a bridge over the Scheldt when the enemy suddenly disappeared, and the war ended."

After the war the Dean went up to Christ Church College, Oxford, and studied for the church. He was ordained a deacon in 1922 and became a priest in 1923. He was Vicar of St. James, Barrow-in-Furness, from

1927 to 1934, and Archdeacon of Doncaster from 1941 to 1947.

He was Bishop of Woolwich for 12 years, from 1947 to 1959, when he resigned to become Dean of Rochester. —EDITOR.)

EALING AND THE MIDDLESEX VOLUNTEERS

In the April, 1962, copy of the Regimental Journal, the Company notes of "B" Company of the 5th Battalion made reference to the Company being together after being split up since the amalgamation of the 7th, 8th and 9th Battalions, and also that in February, 1962, the first dinner had been held. February this year, 1963, another dinner was held and the writer of these notes was fortunate enough to be a guest.

How interesting it was, on entering the Drill Hall, to read on a stone in the wall: "The first stone of this Drill Hall laid 10th May, 1875. George Tyrrell, Captain Commanding 30th Middlesex R.V.C." That makes the building 88 years old in May this year! Surely it must be one of the oldest Drill Halls still in use. I wondered what stories those bricks could have told and decided to tell the present Volunteers of Ealing the little I know of their predecessors.

The first Volunteer from Ealing to join what was eventually to become a Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment was Joseph Jupp, who, after the introduction of the Volunteer Force in 1859, joined the 16th Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Corps on January 27, 1860. He was 19 years of age and his Regimental number was No. 9 (He would have suffered many jokes in respect of that number if he had enlisted 60 years later!) Other Ealing members in the first 20 were William Harris, aged 31, No. 12, and Joseph Bradley, aged 39, No. 13. The date of formation of the 16th Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Corps was December 30, 1859, and it eventually became "A" Company of the recently amalgamated 8th Battalion of the Regiment.

The original Ealing unit was the 30th Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Corps and dates from February 29, 1960, when its first Commandant, Capt. John G. Fitz-Maurice, K.H., late Colonel Rifle Brigade, was appointed. This officer had fought at Waterloo and was subsequently appointed a Knight of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order. His subalterns were Lt. W. H. Scott and Ensign G. Tyrrell. At that time, drill took place with great energy on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The uniform was dark green, with scarlet pipings and badges, and cost each member £4 17s. 6d. All Volunteers had to supply their own uniform and equipment, and were unpaid, the Government providing their weapons only. This remained so until 1881.

On April 6, 1861, the unit became part of the 7th Administrative Battalion of the Middlesex Rifle Volunteers along with 16th (Twickenham, Brentford and Hounslow), 24th (Uxbridge), 43rd (Hampton), 44th (Staines) and 45th (Sunbury). Each of the six units retained its distinctive number in the county force, but had been grouped for drill and administrative purposes.

The ladies of Ealing, demure as they were in those Victorian days, believed in their own local soldiery

being heard as well as seen and in 1862 presented a much-prized silver bugle to the unit. It bears the inscription as being given by "the Ladies of Ealing and the neighbourhood." This trophy is as good and as resonant today as it was 101 years ago.

January, 1864, saw a change of command and the third Commanding Officer, Capt. G. Tyrrell, who had joined the unit as an Ensign on its formation, was appointed. He was a keen and efficient marksman and encouraged rifle competitions amongst his Volunteers. In the competition *versus* the Queen's Westminsters that year (they were a crack team) he not only led his team to win but also scored the highest number of points on either side. This officer was to command for 22 years, and during this time a very high standard of shooting was maintained as can be seen by the trophies gained, two of which were recently described in the Museum Notes of the Journal. The same year the uniform was changed to the darkest grey with silver pipings and badges. Whilst this change was taking place, and in the year following, 1865, the white haversack replaced the black one which had been in use so long in the Army.

All this military activity amongst their menfolk, plus the social life entailed, caused the ladies once more to loosen the latch of their Dorothy-bags, and in 1868 they presented what is now known as "The Ladies of Ealing Cup." To be sure, they did not intend one person to have all the prizes, but to give a chance to as many as possible. The winner of the prize was to be the best shot in the standard test of those who had not previously taken a prize.

The firearm, which had been issued on the formation of the Corps, was the muzzle-loading long Enfield rifle, 1853 pattern, which was issued with a cork stopper. These rifles were called in from both Regulars and Auxiliaries and the "Snider-Enfield" breech loader was introduced in 1870. This new arm made it much safer for the spectators at Reviews where blank volley-firing was part of the ceremony. It obviated the old ram-rod that had inadvertently been left in the barrel and that would come whizzing into the crowd on the command "Fire."

The unit has always drilled in the same place since its formation, except during the two world wars. In 1865 the drilling place in Ealing Down was described as "the Drill Shed." The present hall was built by, and at the cost of, Capt. Tyrrell, then commanding in 1875, and was leasehold property. The first stone is as described in the second paragraph above. Not only was it a building in which military training was exercised but an excellent public spirit was fostered and encouraged. Civic dignitaries were working in co-operation and annually attended the dinners and prize-giving.

Three years after the new Drill Hall was built, in 1878, the new pattern helmet replaced the shako, the Volunteers having grey cloth and bronzed fittings whilst the Regular Army had blue cloth and brass fittings. To change head-dress at the same time as the Regular Army did much to make the Volunteer feel he "belonged."

On March 16, 1880, the 7th Administrative Middlesex

R.V.C. became a consolidated Corps and the title borne was "16th Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Corps," of which the 30th Middlesex R.V.C. became "F" Company. September 3 the same year the title was changed to the "8th South-West Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Corps" but the letter of the Company remained the same.

The rifles by this time were showing signs of wear, this being due to the keenness and continuous firing in the various competitions, and in 1884 12 per cent. of the Volunteers were rearmed with the Martini-Henry breech-loading rifle. The receipt of the Company allocation gave great joy to Capt. Tyrrell, who had continued his marksmanship shown so ably about 20 years before.

December 19, 1887, saw the 8th (S.W.) Middlesex R.V.C. become the 2nd Volunteer Battalion The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment), and the Battalion, although still wearing their grey uniform, adopted the collar badges of the Regular Battalions except for the Albuhera scroll.

As said in the opening paragraph, the notes of the Ealing Company published in the Regimental Journal referred to the first dinner of the Company under its new title of the 5th Battalion of the Regiment, but as can be seen by the foregoing, the Volunteers of Ealing have been enjoying these under different titles for nearly 100 years. The dinner of 1893, and the prize-giving, were held in the Lyric Hall, Ealing, and were a great success and well attended by the local government officers. This same year saw a number of men of the Company, on July 6, forming part of a Guard of Honour on the occasion of the marriage of the Duke of York and Princess May of Teck (later to succeed to the throne as King George V and Queen Mary).

In May, 1894, the Volunteer Long Service Medal, first instituted that month, was recommended to be given to C. Sgt. Rowe and Pte. Baker who had 23 years and 31 years respectively in "F" Company, and the medals were subsequently awarded. These were in the first list of the awards to the Volunteers.

The Regular Battalions of the Middlesex Regiment had with all other Line Regiments been clothed in red for generations and had, since 1881, worn white facings. In the year 1896 the 2nd Volunteer Battalion changed from grey uniforms to scarlet with white facings, the same as their brothers in the Regular Battalions. The metal belt fittings and buttons, etc., were of white metal and their stripes were of silver braid, whereas the Regular wore brass fittings and gold braid. The Drill Hall was now very bright with its dashing Volunteers in their new uniform and this was worn for the presentation of Section General Efficiency Cup which was given the same year in memory of the late Commanding Officer, Capt. Bulkeley Robert Wynne-Williams, who had died in the July of the previous year. This officer had produced some most excellent "F" Company notes, issued once a year. There were about 20 pages in each copy and must have been expensive to produce. Yes, "F" Company of Ealing had indulgent and efficient commanders.

To help in the efficiency of the men the new firearm, the Lee-Enfield magazine rifle, was issued in 1897. It

was loaded with cartridges one at a time, although the magazine held ten rounds.

On the outbreak of the Boer War, the 2nd Battalion, who were sent to South Africa in December, 1899, were augmented by Volunteer Companies, and from "F" Company at Ealing went one officer, two Sergeants, one Lance-Corporal (J. Strand, who was killed in action on Christmas Day, 1901) and 12 Privates, one of whom was Pte. Hill who had been a member of the Guard of Honour in 1893. The men of Ealing were able to provide the fighting soldier as well as the ceremonial. Not only could they do this, but they could provide many. Early in 1900 "F" Company being up to establishment owing to the rush of recruits, "K" Company was formed to take the overflow. In 1904 or 1905 this Company was absorbed into "F" Company. The writer sincerely hopes that the Ealing Company will again experience such a rush of recruits, and of the same material!

From October 2 to 4 inclusive, 1902, a Military Bazaar was held in the Victoria Hall, Ealing. It was opened by Major-Gen. Trotter, K.C.V.O., Commanding the Home District, the Patron being the Duke of Cambridge. The objects were three: to raise funds to buy the freehold of the Drill Hall in order that a considerable sum might be spent on improvements; to assist the funds of "F" and "K" Companies; and to assist the funds of the Ealing Cadet Corps.

At the opening ceremony war medals were presented to the home-coming men of "F" and "K" Companies who had served in South Africa.

The originator of the efforts to better the Drill Hall was Major R. B. Pearce, who commanded from 1895 to 1906. A recreation room was added. He also started the Ealing Ladies' Volunteer League, the president (Mrs. Leopold de Rothschild) presenting the handsome "Rothschild Cup" to the Company. This cup is of very thick beaten silver and as heavy a trophy for its size as the writer has seen. The League was of great service to the Volunteers and the spirit of co-operation between the civic and the military authorities was much in evidence.

On April 1, 1908, the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act came into force and the 2nd V.B. Middlesex Regiment became the 8th Battalion The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) T.F. The white facings on the scarlet uniform were replaced by yellow, the same facings as the four Regular Battalions had worn since the restoration in 1902.

In 1909 the charger-loading Lee-Enfield rifle was issued to "F" Company who had retained their Company letter on the change-over of Battalion title. This pattern rifle was charged with two clips holding five rounds each—a lesson we had learnt from the Boers and their Mauser rifles.

On May 24, 1912, 90 per cent. of the Battalion having volunteered for service outside the United Kingdom in case of national emergency, the words "Imperial Service" were added to the name of the Battalion which shared with the 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, T.F., the honour of being one of the only two Battalions so volunteering in the whole Territorial Force. "F" Company photographs at this

time show the Territorials proudly wearing the silver badge on the right breast above the pocket.

The last training year before the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 saw the 8th Battalion take all the trophies it was possible to take in the Middlesex Territorial Infantry Brigade. The Battalion had taken the cup for the most efficient Battalion and "F" Company, under the command of Capt. A. C. Rushton, took the cup for the most efficient Company. In addition they took a cup for field firing and the Miniature League trophy. Bullets large or small made no difficulty to the Territorials of Ealing; they took whatever prize was on the board. They were the most efficient Company of the most efficient Battalion.

The story of 1914-18 is far too long to tell here, but as they trained in peace, so they fought in war. It was during the battle of St. Julian on April 25, 1915, that Major Rushton led his men against the enemy. The official historian says: "And now began a fight such as the British soldier loves. With a cheer the 'Die-Hard' Territorials went at the enemy. . . . Then ensued a regular running fight, for directly the charging party arrived at the trench into which they had chased the enemy, a turn was made to the left, and up the trench, bayoneting and shooting down all Germans who refused to surrender, they forced their way, driving the enemy back at least 150 yards." This was the battle consequent upon the first gas attack in modern warfare and casualties were terrific. The job was to recapture the ground lost due to the use of this surprise weapon. The Commanding Officer says in his letter of this action, written after the fight, "The men who actually regained and held this section of the line against the Germans were original Territorials of the 8th Section of the County. It was the one and only battle of the old peace-time Battalion," and speaking of the casualties of officers and men in the different Companies, he goes on to say, "none were ever seen again of Major Rushton's." Thus died the men of Ealing. When you inspect the names on the silver trophies, the same trophies so gleefully borne and toasted in the years prior to 1914, so see you the same names on the Roll of Honour.

The Territorial Force of the British Army was placed in suspended animation after the signing of the Peace Treaty. In 1921 a reconstruction was carried out and the title changed to Territorial Army, and officers and men engaged to serve in any part of the world on embodiment. The Drill Hall once more resounded to words of command and the rattle of rifle bolts on drill nights. The new men of Ealing who joined the veterans of the war were members of "B" Company, 8th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own), T.A. A change in both the letter of the Company and the title of the Regiment. However, "F" or "B", the efficiency was the same. On opening No. 3 of the first volume of *The Die-Hards Journal* we read as the first chapter of the Battalion notes: "'B' Company at Ealing, under the command of Capt. W. H. Parmeter, has won the position of champion Company of the Battalion for training and sport during the past training year." The June, 1914, copy of the *Regimental News* has this to say: "'F'

Company.—Once more this Company emerges at the top in the Miniature Rifle League. How is it done, Capt. Rushton?" The reader has already seen above, the Ealing men were the champion Company that year. Whether you think of the old 'uns or the youngsters, the material was good.

Not only did the Drill Hall resound to the sounds of military training, it also echoed to the sound of the band playing jazz tunes and young couples dancing the Charleston. Successful carnival dances were held; the ladies of Ealing may have changed their hair style to the Bob, but their feelings were the same for the "Tommy." The residents and tradespeople also were looking after their own local soldiers and supplying prizes for the competitions as they had done in the past. Relations with the civic authorities were also splendid, the Mayor, presenting the prize-winners with their prizes, including the Town Prize Cup. Ealing and its soldiers were well in heart.

Once more the country was going to war and in September, 1939, under the Armed Forces (Conditions of Service) Act, the Territorial Army ceased to exist as a separate organisation and the British Army became a single entity. The story of the last war is not for this article; that has already gone on longer than was intended, so will be left until later.

After a period of suspended animation once more, the area covered by the 8th Battalion of the Regiment was allotted to the 11th Parachute Battalion, who carried on the traditions and carried the Battalion Colours. This was in May, 1947. Again the Ealing Company was designated "B" Company. It remained "B" Company when the old designation of 8th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment was again the official title in 1956. (Even whilst bearing the title 11th Parachute Battalion the old name had been shown in brackets in the full address of the unit.)

On April 1, 1961, the last change took place when the Territorial Battalions of the Middlesex Regiment, the 7th, 8th and 9th, amalgamated to become the 5th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), T.A. Ealing Drill Hall houses "B" Company of this Battalion and on the wall hangs the medallion gained for the Nijmegen March in 1960, when, in addition, the Company won the "Tough Training" Trophy.

In the second paragraph I said I would try to tell the present Volunteers of Ealing a little of their predecessors. That I have tried to do and hope it has not been too boring. Many of these thoughts were flitting through my mind whilst I was a guest at their dinner in February. I watched the younger generation doing the latest dances and thought of their grandsires and great-grandsires with their Dundreary whiskers dancing the quadrille and lancers with the ladies of Ealing. There, girls with as neat a foot and as trim an ankle as ever were dancing the Madison, whilst the Twist was being executed with vigour, especially by one young recruit who was the reincarnation of Rumpelstiltskin. The generations had changed but not the spirit. The building is old and shares a wall with the mortuary, but the spirit is perennial and bodies full of life. I trust it will ever be so.

R. W. J. S.

ALEXANDRA'S WEDDING LICENCE IS SIGNED

(By courtesy of the *Evening Standard*)

The Royal special marriage licence of Princess Alexandra and Mr. Angus Ogilvy was signed today (March 14) by the Registrar, Mr. David Carey, at the Court of Faculties in the Sanctuary which is next door to Westminster Abbey.

Mr. Carey is the Registrar to the Archbishop of Canterbury who has granted the licence.

The licence itself measures 3 ft. by 2 ft. It is handwritten on vellum by Mr. Henry J. Fisher, a holograph expert, who has written several Royal marriage licences, including the Queen's, Princess Margaret's and the Duke of Kent's.

The licence has a white seal depicting the Crucifixion and a blue ribbon. "We make the seal in this office, in a press on the third floor, and blue seems the best colour for the ribbon," said Mr. Carey in his second-floor office.

(Note: Mr. Henry J. Fisher, who is referred to above, is the Honorary Secretary of the 9th Battalion Branch of the Regimental Association.—EDITOR.)

EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF HENRY SHERWOOD, 53rd FOOT (K.S.L.I.) 1805

December 5th

Andrews and myself went into the Cantonements of Dinapore to look for Quarters. We found the Cantonement a Noble place which put us in mind of some public Building at home, it is composed of two Squares the Principal one is just 750 yds. within the Barracks, it is an oblong square, the one Long Side towards the South & West is a long range of Soldiers Barracks of One Story capable of holding near 2,000 Men. The opposite side is Officers, in the Exact Center of which is the Ruin of a very large House built for the Commandant but now going to ruin as Government do not think it worth while to repair it. Government have sold all the Officers Quarters as they found it better worth their while to allow the Officers House rent than to keep up such large Quarters at their expense, a Captain Receives 90 Rupees per month to find his own Quarters which is very liberal. I hired a very nice Quarter for 60 Rupees—it contained Eight rooms, with Servants Houses and cook Houses attached, I soon got my goods on shore & I was quite settled to dine on shore, I now wrote to all my Friends in England. We heard of Peace being made with Scindeah & Holkar is driven into the upper country we have no prospect of moving soon. We like Dinapore but our Men are getting unhealthy we lost 15 Men the first 14 Days. The Weather gets very cold & we are glad to shut up our Houses & light a fire, almost all the houses have one room with a fire place in it. Dinapore is reckoned one of the Cheapest parts of India. We buy 12 small fowls for a Rupee, 3 or 4 Large Roasting Fowls 1 Rupee, a lean sheep 12 Annas, a Quarter of Fat Mutton half a Rupee. Butter forty Ounces per Rupee, Eggs 100 per Rupee. And we contract with a Gardener to furnish as many Vegetables as we want

for 4 Rupees per month, Bread is 21 small Loaves for a Rupee. My servants are the greatest expence amounting on an average to 115 Rupees per month or £14.7.6. My Pay & Allowances per 30 Day Month is 506 Rupees or £63 5. On the 16th we were invited to Dine with a Major Marsden who gave us Ice after Dinner. This Ice is actually made at Dinapore. It is of little use to write what passes each day as I scarce see anything but our own parade to which I walk in the Evening & during the day I am busy with Accounts. Mrs. Sherwood was brought to Bed of a son on the 25th December.

1806

January

My Little Boy was Baptized Henry by the Revd. Doctor Stacy Chaplain to the Station. He is an Oxford Man and rather Elderly with a family of Eleven Children, he has only been three years in India. The Weather got warmer towards the end of the Month. The Trees in Cantonement shed their leaves. A Curious instance of the Superstition of the Natives happened, I employ a Money changer to avoid receiving Bad Money this Man whose Name is Mootie Ram or the Pearl of Ram is rather elderly, he tells me that his Wife had a vision that it is necessary she should go on a Pilgrimage to the Temple of Jaggernaut which is by the sea in Orissa near the Mouth of the Hoogly. The Husband & Wife therefore set off at 12 Hourse notice on a Journey which must take them six Months. I bought a Carriage Drawn by Two Bullocks. The Bullocks of India have a Hump on the Shoulders. We hear that Holkar has made Peace & Lord Lake is returning from the Field. The end of this Month is very cold and almost all the Trees are without Leaves.

February

This Month set in with Rain very cold which is said to be unusual at this time of the Year; we begin to have greater plenty of Fowls and Vegetables. Potatoes are as good as in England. The weather gets warmer and we have frequent squalls of Wind as the Month advances, which blows the dust about. I remarked an Assemblage of swallows as it is in England at this Season. I do not recollect when I first perceived them but they are now very common. It is possible I may have overlooked them before. The Trees begin to bud. I purchased 20 Sheep the best of the Flock at 12 Annas per Sheep. I remark that all the Sheep here are black & nearly all the Cows light colored approaching to white. The heat encreases towards the end of the Month & we are preparing for the hot winds by Making what they call Tattas which are made of the Roots of a kind of Odoriferous Grass something like a thin Door Mat on a frame with these we are to close the Windows and Doors on the North West Side of the House and to keep them shut. The Wind coming through them cools the House the Hotter & Stronger the Winds blow the cooler the House will be, the Mornings and Evenings are getting very pleasant they were formerly rather too cool.

March

The Month of March set in with a few Windy Days rather warm but it got cool again. The Trees became

beautifully Green. The Principal Tree here is the same which I once & only once met with in the West Indies & Weston told me it was Lilac however it appears to be the Neem, or Melica, it is very common and has a pretty flower with a pleasant smell. On the 26th Mr. Rickets the Collector of Behan to whom we brought letters from Mrs. Dashwood in Calcutta invited me to dine, he sent over an Elephant for L. Groombridge & myself & we boldly mounted on its back. The motion is very unpleasant. At Bankipore & Miles from Dinapore is a large Granary called a Gola, it is built like the Dome of St. Pauls it has never been used and it has so good an Echo that it repeats 32 Times and it acts exactly as the Whispering Gallery at St. Pauls. We dined with Doctor & Mrs. McNabb who are mentioned in Bissets life of Burke. This is the Mahomedans Holy days called Mohurram, to commemorate the death of Hossein the Son of Ali who was starved in the desert. The Streets are full of wild looking Fellows all Drunk carrying Banners & representations of Tombs smiting their breasts & calling out in a melancholly voice, oh, Hossein, Hossein. The English Soldiers & even the Blacks when they speak English call it Hosson Jossion. Mr. Keating Chief Judge of the Court of Appeal for the Division of Behar has much scandalized the Christians by building a Mosque & openly protecting the Mahomedans & paying a number of Mahomedan Priests, he is even suspected of believing the Mahomedan Religion he is a poor Glutton who has reduced himself as much by eating as noted drunkards do by drinking. I received a Letter on the 29th from my Uncle Maskall dated London 24th Sept. all well and no News. I saw in the Newspaper an Acct. of a House having been discovered in Crowle Wood Worstershire under ground supposed to be the retreat of some sheep stealers it strikes me this house has something to do with the Ghosts which we used to hear infested Abberly Hill. A Portugese Ship arrived which saw the English Fleet entering the Bay at the Cape of Good Hope, & that as she came away she saw the French Frigate the Belle Poule driven on Shore & destroyed, this is the same Frigate that attacked our Fleet on the 6th August last. The Portugee does not know if the English succeeded, as/to use his own words he thought it best to be out of Harms way.—Vegetables are in great plenty this Month, Cabbage Artichokes Cauliflours etc. etc. & fruit is coming in.

April

Mr. Rickets invited the whole Family to spend a week at Bankipore, & we set off on the 6th in the Bullock carriage, Garden Chair & Palankeen. We met with much Civility from Mr. Rickets & the other Gent residing at Patna, Major Stuart & Doctor McNabb. Mr. Rickets has a number of men employed cutting a kind of Pebbles just like Scotch Pebbles. They are found in the River. The Weather begins to be very Warm & all wood work if not very well seasoned or covered with cloth cracks & warps astonishingly. In Mr. Hill's Shop a large Pier Glass cracked from Top to Bottom & the Glasses break on the table. We returned to Dinapore on the 12th. On the 20th the Hot North West Wind blew, but we were kept cool by the Tattas if you only

put yourself in the draft it seemed like crossing the mouth of a heated oven. On the 22nd the Wind was Easterly & not much of it, except for about half an hour every day when we have violent North West Squalls. We received a letter from Lucy brought by Capt. Thomas a brother of Mrs. Whitmore. My Old English writing desk was so much contracted by the heat that it could not be opened.

May

During the Month of May the People told us we were to have had hot winds so bad that we could not move out however we were disappointed as the wind blew from the East, with occasional squalls which brought on Showers of Rain. A large Fleet arrived from England. They took the Cape of Good Hope on their way out.

June

It began to rain in Showers on the 2nd and on the 6th it rained very violently. I wrote home Publick & Private Letters. It is reported that the Regiment is immediately to go down the River to make Room for some Regt. which is leaving the Field. On the 9th I rode over to Bankipore to see Mr. Rickets. The Rains had been so heavy that we could scarcely get our

Horses over the road between the Bridge and Bankipore. We have no official orders to go to Berhampore but the reports are as strong as ever. The Poultry during the heats of April & May get swelled heads and die. We hear that 125 Men have volunteered to the 53rd Regt. from the 75th Regt. which is ordered home. The official order at length arrived for our proceeding by Water to Berhampore as soon as Boats can be collected. Mr. Rickets was kind enough to hire me a Sixteen Oared Budgerow. This is Different from a Pinnace in being Flat Bottomed & rising high in the Water it is said to be more dangerous in Windy Weather but safer when they run aground, as they draw so little water.

June

I am to pay the Monthly Wages of 6 Rupees per Oar & to take it for the Trip that is to allow One Month. For altho we shall probably go in a week yet they calculate the distance to be One Month which is averaging with and against the Stream. Mr. Rickets has invited us to spend a Week with him, I therefore did all my business by the 30th & got leave to drop down before the Fleet. It has rained almost every day in June.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The Regimental Museum has acquired the following items recently:

Medals of Lt. N. W. Goodwin.

Holdall and Smallbook of C/Sgt. J. Gordon, 77th Regiment, 1861-1882.

Medals of Lt. N. W. Goodwin

The medals of Lt. Goodwin consist of the British War Medal, Victory Medal and the bronze medallion given to the next of kin of those killed in World War I, 1914-1919. They were presented to the Regiment by his brother, J. H. Goodwin, Esq.

Norman William Goodwin was born on September 2, 1894, and was educated at the Merchant Taylors' School and Vevey, Switzerland. He served with the School O.T.C., afterwards joining the London University O.T.C., and was undergoing the summer training in 1914 when war was declared on August 4 that year. He immediately joined the Army and was gazetted as Second-Lieutenant on August 22, 1914, and posted to 25th County of London Regiment (Cyclists) T.A. Promoted Lieutenant, June 10, 1915, whilst serving with 3/25th Battalion of the London Regiment, he studied for his Regular commission and entered Sandhurst where he passed successfully and was gazetted to the Middlesex Regiment as Second-Lieutenant with seniority dated May 1, 1917.

Although shown on the roll of the 1st Battalion, he was attached to No. 27 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, as a pilot of a bomber, with effect from June 20, 1917.

On September 16, 1917, a bombing raid was carried out on the rest billets at Hoogdele, about two miles

north-west of Roulers. The lines were crossed a few miles north of Ypres at about 4 p.m. After the bombs had been dropped, the bombers turned for home. By this time the enemy fighters were up and, being much faster than the bombers, they were able to catch the last flight in which was Lt. Goodwin. (They had tossed for place prior to the raid and his was the third flight.) He was shot down about 10 miles behind the German lines near the village of Stadem, north-west of Roulers, and was at first reported as missing on September 16, 1917, but subsequently was posted as killed on that date.

Record Book, etc., and Holdall of 968 C/Sgt. James Gordon, 77th Regiment

The record book, etc., and holdall of C/Sgt. Gordon were presented to the Regimental Museum by his grand-daughter, Miss E. Lewis.

The holdall is marked with his Regimental number on the big (bottom) pocket and also his month and year of enlistment, plus his company—"K"—and his initial and name. Each partition is marked with the letter of the article to be held, i.e. from the top, BS, BB, K, F, S, C, R, denoting button stick, button brush, knife, fork, spoon, comb and razor. Even our oldest soldier reader will notice a different order of sequence to their own Service days, and also less items. For instance there is no lather brush or tooth brush. The soldier of those days had to rub the soap—generally "Quartermaster's Erasmic," a slice of soap cut off the long bar and having more than its share of soda in it—well and truly into the pores of his face-skin to soften the stubble that had grown. To clean his teeth, if he decided they ever needed

a clean, he would wet his finger and dip it in salt so that the salt adhered along the length of it, and then give his molars a vigorous rubbing. It must be remembered that it is only in this century that the tooth brush has been taken into general use and, even up to about 55 years ago, many households that boasted of teeth hygiene only had the one brush for the family.

The record book is familiar to soldiers of succeeding generations as the smallbook and the A.B. 64, parts I and II. It tells us that James Gordon was born in Auckland, New Zealand, in 1843 and enlisted into the 77th Regiment at Chatham on January 15, 1861. He joined the Depot Company for his training, the Regiment itself at that time being in India. He was evidently a good soldier, as on December 20, 1861, he was promoted Corporal. On May 26, 1862, he is shown as having resigned his rank. It may have been due to his leaving the strength of the Depot Company as he joined the 77th on November 14 that year at Allahabad. He is warned in his book that if he "fraudulently misapplies money or stores he is liable to be transported as a felon for life."

It was a grim period for the Regiment at Allahabad as the dreaded Asiatic cholera struck. Many men were lost and the following recorded incident shows the extent to which the epidemic had subverted all the social conventionalities.

A married man had been attacked by the disease, and had died. His widow attended the funeral, and on leaving the cemetery was proposed to by a man of the Regiment, to whom she had to reply that she was engaged!

In December, 1863, he was again promoted to the rank of Corporal and upgraded to Sergeant in November, 1864, but, three years later, in January, 1867, he was again a Private. This was a time in the Regiment when promotions and reductions were a daily occurrence. The Commanding Officer, the Hon. Augustus Chichester, was a martinet who had exchanged into the Regiment. He had a keen eye for the unpolished button and was a strict but just disciplinarian. He rode in the old cavalry style of balance, and nothing was more terrifying than to see him flying down on some unfortunate junior officer with arms and legs extended and calling out to him: "Good heavens, sir, where are you going to?" It is related that one young subaltern with a sense of humour replied: "Prepare to receive cavalry!"

Pte. Gordon came home with the Regiment in 1870 and this was the first occasion a Regiment had travelled through the Suez Canal in a troopship. Unfortunately the troopship ran aground and there was great concern re-getting her afloat. Somebody had a brain-wave. The Regiment was formed up on the opposite side of the deck to the place in the canal where she had struck. They were ordered to jump together on the word of command from the Regimental Sergeant Major. The idea worked and the ship got off safely.

His stations in England were Portsmouth, Portland, Aldershot, Chatham and Woolwich. In May, 1876, the Regiment moved to Ireland and, in November, he was again promoted to Corporal. Three years later he was promoted Sergeant and had he not been promoted he would have had three "Distinguishing Marks," in

other words, three good-conduct badges. Good-conduct stripes, or badges, were one for each five years of being free of an entry on the Defaulter Book. They carried a penny a day for each, known as good-conduct pay, and is referred to as "the benefits to be obtained by Her Majesty's benevolence and gracious consideration towards the deserving soldier."

In the pay section of the book, the balance is signed monthly. If the soldier was in credit, the officer signed as to the amount due to him. If he was in debt, the soldier signed as to the amount due from him.

After 10 years' home service, the Regiment went to India again, leaving behind a splendid reputation. It was the best shooting regiment in the Army over the period 1877-80. Sgt. Gordon went to Madras with the Regiment, saying farewell to a much-loved Commanding Officer in June. Col. Henry Kent had commanded from 1868 to 1880 and had given his men great efficiency and happiness. He was succeeded by a great Christian, Lt.-Col. H. M. L. Colquhoun, who did much for the physical welfare of his men and also a great deal for their souls.

The last years of C/Sgt. Gordon's soldiering must have been years of contentment. He was in possession of the second-highest rank a non-commissioned officer could hold in those days, he had a Second Class Certificate of Education at the time when men still made their mark if they could not sign their name and he was in possession of a Musketry Drill Certificate in a Regiment noted for its marksmen.

He finished his soldiering in Rangoon in December, 1881, and was finally discharged to pension from Netley on March 7, 1882. He had 21 years' 47 days' service and was awarded eighteenpence per diem for life by the Commissioners of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, as his pension for those years of service to his Queen and Country.

R.W.J.S.

THE DUKE OF YORK'S ROYAL MILITARY SCHOOL, DOVER

General

The Duke of York's Royal Military School is a boarding school for the sons of soldiers. It is intended primarily for boys who intend to make the Army their career and whose parents or guardians desire them to do so.

The School was founded by Royal Charter in 1801, chiefly through the instrumentality of Frederick, Duke of York, son of George III, and was established at Chelsea in 1803.

In 1909 it moved to Dover, where a school was built on up-to-date lines, with separate boarding houses, school chapel, hospital, classrooms, library, workshops, gymnasium and swimming bath.

Registration of Candidates and Ages of Admission

Any boy is eligible for registration as a candidate for admission to the School who is the legitimate son of a warrant officer, non-commissioned officer or a man who is serving or has served in the Army, or of an officer who, prior to being commissioned, enlisted on a normal engagement in the Regular Army.

A boy may be registered as a candidate between the ages of 8 and 11, and early registration is advisable, but apart from certain entries between 9 and 11 years all entries are made annually (in September) at the age of 11. To be considered for admission in any particular year a boy must be registered before January 1 of that year.

Selection for Admission

Selection for admission is made by Her Majesty's Commissioners who administer the School. Preference is given to the sons of soldiers who have been killed in action or have died whilst serving, and other family circumstances are taken into account. In making their selections the career and the service of the father is considered as a principal recommendation.

Before being considered for admission candidates are required to undergo educational, general and medical tests.

Expenses

Education and essential clothing at the School are provided free. Parents who can afford to do so are required to provide certain items of games clothing. It is also desirable that boys should be provided by their parents or guardians with some pocket money, but this should not exceed between 3s. and 4s. per week. The pocket money should be sent to the boy's Housemaster, who will administer it on the boy's behalf. In the case of certain pensionable boys, pocket money up to 3s. a week is provided.

For the normal school holidays (Christmas, Easter and Summer) boys return to their parents or guardians, who are required to pay their fares from and to School, except in the case of certain pensionable boys whose fares are paid for them.

Organisation of the School

The School is organised into:

- A junior School of approximately 50 boys aged 9 and 10;
- A main School of approximately 400, which a boy normally enters at the age of 11.

The boys are accommodated in separate boarding houses, 57 boys in each house.

Education

The School is organised into three streams and provides a boy according to his aptitude and abilities with:

- A sound general education, and either
- (a) A normal academic education of the Grammar School type or
- (b) A Technical Secondary School education.

Boys following either the Grammar School or Technical Secondary School courses are expected to stay at school until they reach the age of 16, and take the General Certificate of Education, Ordinary Level, in subjects appropriate to their interests and future careers.

Boys selected as likely to benefit by further education are expected to take a sixth form course for the General Certificate of Education, Advanced Level, for at least two years after the age of 16.

The following are the subjects taken in the School:

English, History, Geography.

Mathematics.

General Science, Chemistry, Physics, Biology.

Metalwork, Woodwork, Technical Drawing.

Latin, French, German.

Art, Craft (including bookbinding, printing, pottery, linoprinting, and clay modelling).

Music.

In addition all boys are given instruction in Religious Knowledge and physical education. All boys are taught to swim.

Clubs and Societies

All boys are given opportunities, and are encouraged, to join clubs and societies in the following range:

Clubs: Archery; Aeromodelling; Art; Chess; Field Survey; Leatherwork; Life Saving; Model Railway; Modelling in wood, plastic, and metal; Photography; Pottery; Signalling; Judo; Canoeing; Rock Climbing; Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Societies: Astronomical; Classical; Debating; Dramatic; French; German; Globe Trotters (Geographical); Literary; Natural History; Philately; Toastmasters (Public Speaking); Archaeological; Mathematics and Science.

The range of clubs and societies varies from time to time.

Games

The major School games are Rugby Football (Autumn Term), Association Football (Spring Term), and Cricket (Summer Term).

In addition boys are given the opportunity of taking part in the following:—

Athletics, Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Boxing, Hockey, Sailing, Squash Racquets, Swimming, Tennis, Fencing.

Military Training

Military Training up to Combined Cadet Force standard is given to all boys, special emphasis being placed on the training of Sixth Form boys in leadership.

Boys who show sufficient aptitude are expected to take their place in the Band or Drums, which form an essential and distinctive feature of the life of the School.

Future Careers

Normally boys leaving the School join the Regular Army. Boys leaving at about age 16 join Army Apprentices' Schools or Army Boys' Unit on Boy Service, while those leaving at age 18 who reach the necessary academic standards and who show powers of leadership take the entrance examination to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

A minority of boys, not joining the Regular Army, go on to universities, or take craft or student apprenticeships in civilian life, depending on their abilities and interest.

1st Battalion Notes

When someone was heard to deplore the less frequent publication of these notes, the Battalion Editor was encouraged to discover that at least one person other than himself had actually read them. An opinion poll to rate their popularity and style might surprise some and merely confirm the views of the majority, but whatever criticism may be levelled, both purchasers and readers will agree that it is not easy to cater for a clientele ranging mainly from beatniks to Brigadiers, and in addition a few Generals, the number of whom has happily increased recently.

It may now be stated that our readers are not confined to Company sub-editors and a few recent departures anxious to keep up with the "Dirt," but they also include a staunch bunch of "Die-Hards," who, year after year with dedication and fortitude, have anxiously scanned these papers for . . . neither sex nor satire—but original thought—alas, without success!

In this age of disenchantment should the Editor still bow to the god of convention? Should he continue to select and string together colourful beads from his box of platitudes? Must homage to the image of Taurus continue, albeit in a manner more subtle than before, or should he strike out anew with daring non-conformity, so fashionable in popular media, and with imagination and originality, either real or supposed, attempt, in a new and reputedly popular style, to recount the weeks that were in the manner they appeared to be? Alas, nonconformity itself in time conforms, if only to its own pattern, and originality is transient.

Such a change of style is impossible—or too difficult—which anyhow means the same thing.

As the last edition of these notes was being compiled, the Battalion, reinforced by a contingent from the 1st Battalion The Royal Sussex Regiment, was actually moving to Greece to spend most of September training with, and under command of, 16 Parachute Brigade Group. The Royal Sussex contingent under command of Major Steve Elwood provided a Rifle Company, a Recce Platoon and a number of individual appointments.

During the preliminary training period in preparation for the main Brigade Group exercise we were stationed in Pegasus Camp—the Brigade camp—on a small peninsula opposite the town of Volos on the east coast of Greece.

During our stay in Greece a lot of interesting training was carried out about which much is written elsewhere in this issue.

The Corps of Drums, with the Band of the 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment, beat Retreat in Volos and Athens, and again in Volos by special request of the townsfolk. Bouquets were plentiful.

A large contingent attended the Arnhem Day Memorial Service on September 16, which was held in an ancient Greek amphitheatre at Volos and at which the Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Volos attended,

resplendent in his Eastern finery. Bugles of our Corps of Drums sounded the Last Post.

During our first few weeks in Greece the sun and bathing were most enjoyable, especially after the indifferent summer suffered at Lydd. The torrential rain which followed a little later was less appreciated. Athens, however, was acclaimed by all who were fortunate enough to go there.

On return from Greece the cadre season began and the majority of soldiers were given some form of cadre instruction either as potential N.C.O.s, signallers, drivers, mortarmen or anti-tank gunners. At the same time we were delighted to welcome two officers and 50 soldiers of the 5th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) among us for two weeks' training. A party of 10 officers and 25 cadets from the Middlesex Army Cadet Force also spent a weekend with us.

On November 11 a Remembrance Service and Parade were held at Lydd. The Band played during the service and the Drums sounded the Last Post and Reveille. At the completion of the service the Commanding Officer and R.S.M. laid wreaths on the Lydd War Memorial. After the service local dignitaries were entertained in the Officers' Mess.

On December 12 the Annual Administrative Inspection was carried out by the G.O.C. 44 (Home Counties) Division/District, Major-Gen. E. H. W. Grimshaw, C.B.E., D.S.O. The parade was unusual in that the Battalion was dressed ready to move for air transported operations and loaded vehicles were on parade and drove past in pairs after their marching Companies. At about the same time the M.T. C.I.V. Inspection was held. On both a good report was obtained.

Christmas was anticipated in that Regimental functions were held during the week before the Battalion departed on Christmas leave. The All Ranks' Dance, Christmas Draw and Corporals' Mess Draw were very successful, as was the Children's Party.

The return from leave in the New Year was quickly followed by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess New Year Ball on January 12, and a rush to classify—fire platoon weapons, train yet more drivers and some motorcyclists, instruct stretcher bearers and first-aiders, and run education courses for the Army Certificate of Education examinations before moving off to Stanford for field firing.

After a series of changes of plan, too tedious to mention, passed on to us from above, we crowded yet more events into our winter programme, including helicopter training with the R.A.F. and the Battalion Rifle Meeting while the Companies were still available and unimpaired by demands by H.Q. Eastern Command for labour.

In addition we managed to fight our way into the finals of the Eastern Command Boxing Championships, into the quarter finals of the Command Hockey Championships, and we rate our chances high of success in the Army Basketball.

As your slave hack puts pen to paper for the last time the bulk of the Battalion are training at Stanford training area in Norfolk—the last time because mercifully Major Jeffcoat will have assumed the duties of Battalion Editor of the *Die-Hard* notes by the time the next contribution is due. I know all Company subscribers will join with me and wish him the best of British luck!

Personalia

First we congratulate the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E., on his award of the C.B.E. in the New Year Honours List, and on his promotion to Major-General and Command of a Division. We were disappointed that he was prevented at short notice from visiting us in February and look forward to seeing him soon.

We were delighted to entertain Major-Gen. Pat Weston in Greece and were amused that when we were excluded from his itinerary on this very airborne visit he demanded to visit his old Regiment.

Col. A. R. Waller, M.B.E., M.C., also visited us in Greece from Cyprus.

On October 18 the Brigade Colonel, Col. M. T. N. Jennings, visited the Battalion at Lydd. He saw cadres training, had drinks in the Sergeants' Mess and lunch with the officers.

At the end of October Major "Chris" Mievile left for Karachi, Pakistan, where he is Assistant Military Adviser to the High Commissioner. By all accounts the social life assumes the proportions of a marathon. We wish him and Mrs. Mievile both endurance and a happy tour.

In February Capt. Frank Waldron left the Battalion after eight years' continuous service in it as Q.M. to become Q.M. of Home Counties Brigade Depot. He will long be remembered by many, most of whom at some time or other required his help, which was never denied. Adept in the wiles of quartermastering, he always used his skills to the advantage of the Battalion and its members. We wish him and Mrs. Waldron the best of luck for the future.

Capt. M. D. Legg has left to become an instructor at J.S.N.G.D. and Lts. David Everard and Gerry Dudson to civilian life. We wish them well in their careers and hope both will soon be completely recovered from the ravages of military service.

Lt. Jimmy Wild joined the Battalion on January 4, this time as second Q.M. and M.T.O., and 2/Lts. J. B. Hawkins and D. J. Daniel joined from the Royal Military Academy.

Lt. Gavin Bulloch has at last departed to Jamaica and we wish him good luck in his new job.

We welcome S.S.I. Tarpley, A.P.T.C., to the Battalion and hope that although his tour with it will be short he will enjoy it. We congratulate Sgts. Peacock and Seager on their marriages and W.O.2 and Mrs. Jessup on the birth of their son.

Sgt. Ford is the first of a new batch of senior N.C.O.s to do a tour with the Brigade Depot and elsewhere away from the Battalion. We wish him a happy tour at the Depot and will report details of the impending

postings in the next issue when they have been put into effect.

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Preparation for Exercise "Soft Putty," which took place during August and September, has probably been the busiest period for the Orderly Room staff for some time. Mountains of instructions were issued from Battalion H.Q., all of which were laboriously typed and distributed at all hours of the day and night. These instructions eventually became known as "Yellow Perils" and contained every conceivable item of information necessary to move the Battalion. It seems, however, that "Yellow Perils" did the trick of moving the Battalion to Greece without any serious mishaps.

On arriving in sunny Greece and completing acclimatisation training it was decided to cut down the number of personnel in Battalion H.Q. on exercise for transportation reasons. The axe fell on the Orderly Room staff—an anti-climax indeed after all the vigorous pre-training at Lydd. It transpired that Sgt. Gibbs and company spent the majority of the six weeks basking in the sun on the beach at Volos—Sgt. Gibbs begs to differ on this point. Cpl. O'Gorman, Cpl. Flynn and Pte. Gibbs enjoyed an exciting weekend on a trip to Athens by hired car, visiting wine festivals and night clubs. For some mysterious reason the mileage meter stopped working half way to Athens and did not start again until they were approximately three kilometres from Volos. The owner of the car wasn't very happy refunding a percentage of the deposit. Cpl. O'Gorman and Pte. Gibbs had an uncomfortable few days visiting the R.A.P. They should never have eaten those grapes! Thoughts were frequently returning to those at home who were spending 24 hours a day fishing off the Dungeness coast. Rumour has it that the chief clerk wore out two pairs of boots C.W.W. clambering over rocks in search of bait.

On returning to Lydd our first aim was to build up our staff in preparation for Gibraltar. We managed to get Pte. Chalmers, a re-enlisted soldier, and Pte. Bateman, who had just spent a short spell in "A" Company. Cpl. O'Gorman left us early in December to Home Counties Brigade, Canterbury. We were sorry to see him leave but hope he has a pleasant tour there, and congratulate him on the recent birth of a daughter.

The Battalion block leave at Christmas was a welcome break for us all. We entered the New Year with Cpl. Flynn joining the chosen few and the news that Lt. Monypenny is to be our new Assistant Adjutant. He will take the place of Lt. Bulloch who has managed to land himself a posting to Jamaica after a two-year tour in the appointment of Assistant Adjutant. We are sorry to see him go but look forward to his "going away smoker" to which we are all invited.

L/Cpl. Fordham has been on a clerk's upgrading course and passed with honours (that is his version), Pte. Chalmers has not yet returned from his initial clerk's course, but we hope for the best.

L/Cpl. Gower and Pte. Gibbs are release happy—by the time the next notes are printed they will no longer be with us. The chief clerk has decided to present L/Cpl. Gower with a dictionary as a going-away present.

P.R.I.

Christmas produced the usual flow of festive and humorous activity with everyone joining in the "spiritual revival" and vowing that next year they would be sober.

The All Ranks' Dance took place on Wednesday, December 19, in the Gymnasium, which had been heavily decorated for the occasion. It was well attended and many people brought their own friends along, although the P.R.I. also arranged for a number of girls from the W.R.A.C. Depot, Lingfield, to be guests. The main attraction of the evening was, of course, the Draw where 35 prizes rapidly disappeared. Much to everyone's surprise, the star prize (a tape recorder) was won by Major Pike. The P.R.I. spent the rest of the evening trying to convince everyone that nothing, but nothing, had in any way been "fixed."

The Christmas Lunch followed on December 20 and all Corporals and below, married and single, sat down to a four-course meal of soup, turkey, Christmas pudding and fruit. The Commanding Officer wished everyone a Happy Christmas and, on the whole, the meal was a success, thanks to the hard work of W.O.2 Medlock and all the cooks.

The Children's Party was the third and last event in the Christmas programme. W.O.2 Moysse acted as Father Christmas and gave out presents to every child in the Battalion. Games were organised by C/Sgt. Garraty and NAAFI provided a popular tea of cakes and ice cream.

"H.Q." COMPANY

The main body of the Company left Lydd on August 23, 1963, for Lynham. After countless inspections, packing, repacking and sorting personal kit and G1098 the great day had arrived. Luxury coaches to Crookham, an early breakfast at 0330 hrs. on August 24, an uncomfortable ride in R.A.S.C. 3-ton vehicles, a wrong turn or two by the corporal R.A.S.C., and there on the runway was our Britannia. An hour's wait, grab a seat at the stern—good for crashes, one officer was heard to mutter—fasten seat belts, take a deep breath, unfasten seat belts, smoke a cigarette a little too quickly and England is soon far behind. The Alps far below look brown, dusty and barren, though in the deeper crevices the snow still persists despite the summer sun. The Mediterranean is as blue as ever, Italy is just as vague, a dark mass in the haze. Greece, some four hours from Lynham, is a different kettle of fish. Barren mountains, flat, brown plains, a harsh-looking land. Six weeks or more of this from some wag near the exit, if he had only known.

Larissa was a surprise. Though hot, there was a cooling breeze—coolest day we've had this week, said our M.T.O.—a two-hour journey in a Greek lorry and we are in Volos—by the sea. Six weeks to go and we may be glad of Lydd after all.

There is no doubt we had the best site in Pegasus Camp, so we should, in the end we were going to do a fair amount of work for Brigade H.Q. Dust lay ankle deep, the sun shone from a clear sky, skins turned pink and to varying shades of brown. Clear this area, pitch that tent, put up wire, unload that lighter, sort out our G1098, swim in the bay, look out, there's a sea urchin,

too late, hobble back to camp, wear P.T. shoes next time—and so passed the first few days.

Acclimatisation exercises followed, a 14-mile walk in the sun, drink as much as you like, anyone got a salt tablet? Dust and heat, big flies, man-eating flies, swarm everywhere, when do we start to really soldier?

We had our teething troubles. Battalion H.Q. was huge and only seven landrovers were allotted—and "A" Echelon had to have its share. In England we got by with 3-tonners, 1-tonners and countless Champs—skeleton scales, travel light was the edict from Brigadier Forrester. Battalion H.Q. four landrovers, "A" Echelon three landrovers, it worked, we were mobile though cramped.

The M.T. worked wonders. Worn out and tired vehicles were kept going day after day and sometimes they even had time to wash off the dust and dirt.

In early September the day of reckoning came. In darkness the harbour party left for Melia—found its area despite a sandstorm fit for the Western Desert—and awaited the Battalion. They came, in the end. Many of us learnt, not for the first time, that a compass is pretty useful. Use it, trust it and the way will be clear. Rely on instinct, follow the chap in front and all is lost. A 14-mile slog through the night and across the hills, attack at first light, keep going through the heat of day, another night, dig in, patrols out and it is the next day and our test exercise was over. It went well. The transport worked, the radios worked, no one fell out, a few cuts and bruises from flying rocks, a few blisters and back to Volos for a swim. Return to the same area and act as enemy for 2nd and 3rd Para, dodge a few more rocks, throw one or two when no one is looking, and we are ready for the N.A.T.O. exercise. Watch your security, think before you speak, monitoring sets around the border are waiting to pick up your pearls of wisdom.

Asprovalta—by-the-sea. Bivouacs on the sea-shore, Company cooking, more recces, positions prepared, wait for the wind to die down, wait one day, two days—they jump tomorrow, move now to our prepared positions and wait. Dust and heat by day, rain and wind at night and only ten days to go. Dodge more rocks, lose your temper—far more quickly than you did four weeks ago—time to pack up and return to Volos, some by train others by vehicle.

Strike camp, sort out kit, pack stores, buy presents and Lydd looks no different—perhaps a little shabbier, a little colder—are we glad to be back—too early to tell yet, wait until the Administrative Inspection. Volos, Rizomylos, Platikampos, Salonika, Asprovalta, Nigrita, Askos (where the Company Command and the C.S.M. trusted to instinct and left their Companies behind), Langadikia—looking back it was good—but remember the dust, the heat, the mud, rivers running through the tents, Volos tummy. If we learnt nothing new at least we came back a little fitter and we had seen a small part of Greece.

No one lost their names. Beating of Retreat by the Drums in Volos and Athens was outstanding, the Signals always got through, the M.T. kept the derelicts on the road and Sgt. Gibbs and Cpl. O'Gorman plagued us all by masses of paper. C/Sgt. Clements, Mr. (L/Cpl.) Berry and Pte. Roynance kept the stores in

good shape despite the dust and mud. Nothing was lost and a few items were gained, but that is another story.

The Administrative Inspection went well. A great deal of hard work was put into the barrack rooms and on the great day the floors shone like mirrors. The Band block was particularly good and hours of effort had obviously been spent by all members to bring it up to its extremely high standard. Meanwhile the M.T. were engaged on sterner stuff. Plagued by the inspection team on the one hand and the Company Commander on the other, they still won the day. The C.I.V. grading, according to all reports, was good and this despite an acute shortage of drivers and time. They did well.

Christmas has come and gone and with it the snow we hope. Cadres have been held, two so far by the M.T. and Signals; A.C.E. I and II deprives us of many stalwarts and soon we must start thinking about Gibraltar and Tobruk.

Games and sport have been fitted in when there has been time. Prior to Greece, H.Q. I won the cricket league against time and expectation, H.Q. II the basketball, we were hopelessly outclassed in cross-country running, but Rugby, hockey, soccer, boxing and shooting are to come. Perhaps the weather has won after all.

We say goodbye shortly to Drum Major Lewis and Capt. (Q.M.) Frank Waldron. Both have been with us for over ten years—perhaps a change will do them good; nevertheless, it will be a sad day for us all when they go. Capt. (Q.M.) Pat Donovan at last hands over his department. The M.T. gave him varicose veins, what will his new job offer? Lt. (Q.M.) J. Wild, after an absence of a few years, returns to us—about time, too—as M.T.O. Cpl. Flynn has at last made the Orderly Room where he has replaced Cpl. O'Gorman now at Canterbury. Lambourne, Barratt, Gibb and (Mr.) Berry have all been promoted, whether they like it or not!

Now when we were in Greece...

Signal Platoon

The period since the last issue has been an eventful one for the Platoon and one on which they can look back with a sense of achievement. In Greece the Platoon took part in many tough exercises in difficult country and proved that they could supply communication even under the most difficult conditions. In early December the bulk of the Platoon finally managed to classify as Regimental Signallers after quite a run of interrupted cadres.

During the winter, thanks to some sterling work by Sgt. Briggs and his able assistants, the stores satisfactorily underwent both an Administrative and an A.D.M.E. inspection. It was with great regret that, in early October, the Platoon bade farewell to Capt. Cheesman who handed over command to W.O.2 Benson and took up his new duties as Recruiting Officer. Also during this period we have lost Sgt. Overton to the T.A., Cpl. Redrup to the Pay Office, Pte. Edwards to Warminster, and the "Terrible Turk" to the rigours of civilian life. Congratulations go to Cpl. White,

L/Cpls. Lambourne and Barratt on their promotion, and to Pte. Sutherland on a happy event in his family.

Cpl. O'Riordan successfully completed the R.S.I. course at Hythe and our hopes are now pinned on Cpl. White who is undergoing it at the time of writing. The New Year brought us a fresh batch of potential Signallers and the M.T. have undertaken the task of converting our Signallers to driver operators. We look forward to welcoming a new R.S.O., Lt. Cowing, when he returns from Hythe.

Q.M. Platoon

Time has passed quickly and added many more grey hairs to the "Q.M.'s few," but cheerfulness and spirit still remain. Much work was done during the Parachute Brigade exercise in Greece, and "A" Camp, which was the responsibility of the Battalion and accommodated 1,000 men, was cleared and given back to the Ordnance Depot in Cyprus. By devious means only known to the few the book read "Nil" and another chapter was closed. On return to the U.K. the Administrative Inspection programme was the order of the day and that old stalwart R.Q.M.S. Cooper, together with every member of the staff, appeared on parade and marched past in combat kit, with heads high and feet going right, left.

Christmas activities went well and many mournful faces with heads bigger than their hats flitted from store to office to hiding places, only to be found out and put back on the road.

C/Sgt. Nicholson still keeps a fatherly eye on the "marrieds," but burst pipes, etc., have taxed him to the limit. Now that he has obtained his 1st Class Education Certificate complaints have to be typed in duplicate. Sgt. Langford has now decided to have a go and says if he can pass why not me! L/Cpl. Tuvey is fighting hard for his 2nd Class, but took the wrong turning on the map-reading paper and finished up in the English Channel. L/Cpl. French, that corpulent and cheerful G1098 storeman, has been appointed "beer dispenser" in the local pub, and Cfmn. Mellor, it is rumoured, gets free beer. Cfmn. Houghton, our latest armourer, has joined the staff and has yet to make his mark. That famous Mercedes owned by S/Sgt. Girling is up for sale and no longer is seen wending a precarious path back to camp.

What a pity these old stalwarts have to wear out! Cpl. Kelly (R.A.O.C.), our boxing shoemaker, is redundant in his trade, having been put out of business by "Direct Moulded Sole" footwear and shortly will be remustered as a storeman and passed back to the R.A.O.C. We feel sure that he will always remember the 1st Battalion. Cpl. "Bilco" Stubbings, our erstwhile clothing storeman, has survived the hand-over board and has now started sorting out the route to Gibraltar. Pte. Williamson continues to keep all the accommodation stores in order and stop them moving into the wrong hands. L/Cpl. Caton is still there and it is rumoured has been removed from the free transfer list. Pte. Pollard still keeps the Q.M. spick and span, but will soon be a write-off for he is contemplating marriage. He has been warned but refuses to be told.

The hand-over board went well for the outgoing

**Q.M. STAFF**

Back row (left to right): L/Cpl. Tuvey, Cfmn. Meller, L/Cpl. French, Pte. Pollard, Cpl. Kelly, L/Cpl. Caton, Cfmn. Houghton, Pte. Williamson. Front row (left to right): Cpl. Jones, S/Sgt. Girling, R.Q.M.S. Cooper, Captain Waldron, M.B.E., C/Sgt. Nicholson, Sgt. Langford, Cpl. Stubbings.

Q.M., Capt. Waldron, who got a clear chit. Capt. Pat Donovan has yet to find the snags, but we all wish him well and may he last as long as the last chap—a mere nine years.

After nearly 30 years with the Battalion Capt. Waldron was given a wonderful farewell by all and was particularly touched by the presentation he received from the W.O.s and Sergeants and his staff. We wish him a happy stay with the Home Counties Brigade Depot at Canterbury.

M.T. Platoon

With the publication of the journal now cut down to two issues a year it seems more difficult when the time comes to compile these notes. So much has happened in the last six months, and yet, because of the time lapse, many of the minor details are forgotten. To any member of the Platoon who thinks he has been involved in some incident or other that deserves mention and has been overlooked, I offer my sincerest apologies.

The trip to Greece was a major event of this period. The experience gained by this exercise proved extremely valuable. To be suddenly transported from quiet and orderly driving conditions in England, to the "every man for himself" atmosphere of Greece is an experience not soon forgotten.

All the drivers received plenty of training in driving

on rough roads and over mountainous terrain, and in driving without lights at night. It was obvious by the state of vehicles when we drew them up that they had been used many times before, but, by some good work by the R.E.M.E. fitters and drivers, we managed to keep the majority on the road. Many of the Platoon had some "hair raising" experiences in the mountains on exercises, and in the valleys off-duty. The less said about the latter the better. Nevertheless, it will probably be a talking point at many a reunion in years to come.

This month has seen the departure of Capt. Donovan, to take over the appointment of Battalion Q.M. He had been in the chair so long he had almost become an institution. It will be sufficient to say that he saw the Platoon through Cyprus, Greece, Germany and U.K. without undue cost (and no write-offs). For example, the handover in Greece will go down as a "Classic." Nevertheless, he is not lost to the Battalion and will continue to be with us in the capacity of Q.M. Many drivers have passed through the Platoon since he has been in the chair and many have a lot to thank him for. All ranks of the Platoon wish him every success in his new appointment and thanks again, Sir, for looking after us so well. We extend a warm welcome in his place to Lt. M. Wild who is already well known in the Battalion from his days as R.S.M. All ranks wish him well and hope his stay will be a long and happy one.

*The Corps of Drums—February 1963*

Sgt. Peacock at long last has joined the ranks of the "married pads." We wish him and his wife (Maureen) every success and happiness for the future.

We congratulate L/Cpl. Crookell on his promotion and his good result on the N.C.O.s' cadre.

L/Cpl. Jamieson has left us to become the Battalion carpenter. We close on the happy note that the Platoon has at long last been brought up to strength and we welcome all those who have joined us in the last three months.

The Corps of Drums

Immediately after the last issue of *The Die-Hards* a bombshell dropped into the Drum Major's office. The Battalion was to go to Greece for six weeks, and the Corps of Drums was to be a rifle platoon in "A" Company. Marching, packing kit, and going on minor exercises occupied July and August with a welcome two weeks' leave in between, and then suddenly the depression was lifted—the Corps of Drums, it was ruled, after acclimatising in Greece would go on to full-time musical training for beating several Retreats in Volos and Athens respectively.

With Mr. Bulloch as advance party (four extra days lying on a beach!), the Drums flew on August 29 in a Britannia, arriving in a heat haze at Larissa, 40 miles from Volos. Mason "the Greek" was now in his element.

Then, a 24-hour exercise, which "Noddy" Davidson didn't know much about, and Pumfrey had to keep disappearing—and met several others behind the same rock. However, nobody fell out at all, a good achievement—even "Clobby" Nark managed to limp home. And then the baking days of working in the morning and lying in the afternoon—with the moral that one must not lie too long, as Benton and Reed will testify.

The first beating of Retreat took place in Volos on September 15, 1962, and was a great success—with not even Sylvester making any errors, followed by First and Last Post on the Arnheim memorial service the next day in the ancient amphitheatre.

After the main exercise Mr. Bulloch rejoined the Drums to become the advance party, this time with the Drum Major, and they both had a first-class trip to Athens by air in a Beaver, to assist in the preparations for beating Retreat in a park near the centre of the city. Despite lack of large numbers watching, a really outstanding beating of Retreat took place in the cool of the evening close by the Parthenon, and with lightning flashing in the background. Those three days were like a dream, and seem hard to believe looking back on them, and all the Drummers enjoyed themselves tremendously. Yet another parade on Volos, by request from the local Greeks, produced a grand finale to an outstanding six weeks' training. Drum Major Lewis is to be congratulated warmly on the high proficiency

and standard of the Corps of Drums. Finally, back to England and Lydd, to wives and girl friends.

Soldiering again reared its ugly head. The Drums were required to provide an enemy for 3rd Para at Stanford P.T.A. at the end of October. A long drive ensued through the centre of London and up to Thetford to the exercise. After a night of little activity, the day gradually livened up by meeting the French "paras" at frequent intervals. A final flurry outside the Vicarage, and then a long, cold night followed by a final last-ditch stand in a ramshackle village. Reed distinguished himself with a flight in the Brigadier's helicopter, and Sylvie also by being mistaken by the C.O. for a Frenchman!

The admin. parade is best forgotten, and so on to Christmas, and leave. Now the platoon basketball competition is in full swing, and another of Lt. Bulloch's schemes on the way—this time the O.A.S. The end of another period is nigh, and the end of an era. Both the Drum Major and Lt. Bulloch leave within a week, and changes are bound to come. The Drum Major has been in charge since 1953, and he will be sadly missed when he's gone. Lt. Bulloch, who has been with us for two years—a long time for an Assistant Adjutant—soon leaves for Jamaica (he must have worked this cushy posting).

To end these notes I will mention just a few points. Mason has been on a short holiday, and Butler has taken a longer one. Benton is growing his hair long these days. L/Cpl. Dawson finally got married. "Nobby" Clarke's motor car moved once, and Cole's motor-bicycle is still hoping to. Kendell has driven about eight off the road by all accounts. Randall has a long-suffering girl friend, and Pumfrey has just found out what it's all about. Blake has married an Irish girl in England—or tried to. Brodie is still learning English, Campy is having a bit of funfare in Ramsgate, Davidson (still asleep), Fisherman Watts has burning problems, and, lastly, Cpl. Marquiss now will not be able to answer back as his tonsils are out, so his wife may well take full advantage of this.

"A" COMPANY

The taste of U.K. garrison life that we have endured in Lydd makes the prospect of Gibraltar and Tobruk all the more pleasant.

Lee Metford Camp, during an unprecedented cold spell with an Administrative Inspection to boot, must be one of the dreariest and most uninteresting stations that the Battalion could have the misfortune to put up with. It says much for the Company spirit that everyone is in good heart and getting on with some useful work and training.

Our series of exercises in Greece with the Parachute Brigade were of great value and interest and gave us an excellent basis and real sense of purpose for our autumn training last year. We are now looking forward to some really interesting activity in the Libyan desert. We all prefer to get out of barracks and to do something active in the field, forest, mountain or jungle.

The Company storemen (Ptes. Norman, Walsh and Brady) staged a fire in the stores on the Saturday before the Administrative Inspection, but both the C.S.M. and the C.Q.M.S. happened to be in the Armoury at the

time, "punching up" on their books, and the Battalion Fire Picquet and Lydd Fire Brigade arrived with such creditable speed that the fire was put out with little damage—but lots of water. Pte. Walsh has now gone to join the Signal Platoon (we wish him well) and "Doctor" Dennis has taken his place as arms storeman. He has already been throwing his weight about a bit. Pte. Sheffield has filled a gap as Company clerk and can now hammer a typewriter quite realistically.

The "lost art" of kindling and stoking the coke-burning stoves in the Company Office block seems to be returning—and none too soon either!

Owing to the bad weather conditions and the general freeze-up at Stanford during early February we were unable to carry out the week's training there that had been planned, but, although Lydd ranges reminded some of us of the Korean winter, we managed to classify on rifle and L.M.G. in January. At present we are using these convenient local facilities for the throwing of 36 grenades and the firing of 2-in. mortars, 3.5-in. rocket launchers, Endera projectors and the sub-machine carbine. Results have been good. We are also practising for the Battalion Rifle Meeting to be held at the end of February.

The Company enjoyed a brief period of training with R.A.F. Whirlwind helicopters in January. We are now looking forward to flying to Canterbury as a Company. (Stop Press: We did.) After many changes of programme four Whirlwinds flew to Canterbury, arriving in clouds of snow. They then went back to Lydd to collect more men, but did not return. The "weather men" would not allow it to continue so some of us were stranded and returned in rather poor style in 3-tonners. The Brigade Depot rallied round and gave us an excellent lunch.

Sport has been limited owing to the freezing and snowy weather conditions and there has been little or no activity to report.

We are gradually building up our numbers, but inevitably have been losing our older and more experienced men to specialist and employed jobs in "H.Q." Company and elsewhere. Since our last notes a total of 59 all ranks have joined the Company and 54 all ranks have been posted out—a net gain of 5! With such a tremendous change-over of personalities continuity in Platoons is almost impossible to achieve and only No. 4 Platoon (Support Weapons) has been together for any time. In spite of this our Platoons manage to show a remarkable spirit of competition and comradeship and give an indication of the *esprit de corps* we are all longing to see in the full strength Regular Battalion, Company and Platoon of tomorrow.

No. 1 Platoon

We even began to enjoy marching and digging towards the end of our stay in Greece. Platoon spirits have never been higher and we managed to please the Company Commander now and then. Sadly we have been very weak in numbers for the last few months and at one time almost ceased to exist except for a name and memory (unspecified) in the Sergeant-Major's mind.

Lt. Packham is now at Hythe and Warminster



"A" COMPANY BEGINNING THE ASCENT

Exercises in Greece involved much cross-country movement and climbing of hills

"doing his courses." We wish him every success and welcome Lt. Freeborn who is looking after us now. Sgt. Argent has been working in the Sergeants' Mess canteen since before Christmas and unfortunately will not be returning to us—a great pity.

The Platoon is now forming up again and regaining its old shape and morale, and we hope to have plenty to report in the next edition.

No. 2 Platoon

We have now managed to knock the bugs out of our double check guidance system and even our hardest critics agreed that we were in roughly the right place at about the right time during our Grecian wanderings. During this period soldering ability was developed and displayed by even the most unlikely of our members. As for the so-called hills, Pte. Hayes was heard to describe them as veritable mountains!

During the tedious preparations for the Administrative Inspection Lt. Finch was usually to be found representing Pte. A. N. Other in court, or working with "C" Company, whence he was soon to move permanently. Sgt. Dickens left us in October via a drill course, and so regretfully we lost both Platoon Commander and Platoon Sergeant. Sgt. Turner then joined us in time for the Administrative Inspection and now 2/Lt. D. J. Daniell, newly joined from the "forcing house," has taken over as Platoon Commander. We welcome them both and look forward to "all-in" wrestling replacing Judo.

No. 4 Platoon

Just as soldering in England was becoming a matter of routine we were faced with the exciting prospect of

spending August in Greece. Overboard went the existing organisation and we reformed "lightly equipped for mountainous country." This included one Mobat occasionally and all the Platoon manhandling the "tubes."

We also had the role of a Rifle Platoon. The story of Exercise "Soft Putty" is told elsewhere, but for us it was mainly a period of long marches with heavy weights over rough country. There are some of us who have our own definite views on that month in Greece, but no one can deny that it was most interesting and the standard of fitness reached a high peak.

On our return we managed to get back our proper role. For the next seven weeks (October-November) a lot of very useful work was done on mortar and anti-tank cadres and a good standard of training was reached.

The grand finale to the cadre training was a week on "The Plain" where, despite the weather, a lot of good live firing was achieved. For the mortars the week ended with an exercise with the gunners, using their "Green Archer" radar trajectory spotting equipment. Let it never be said that our Mobat has never been fired "in anger." Evidence of its deadly effect was provided by a surprised look on the face of a dead hare—the victim of the dreaded back blast on our night shoot.

Since Christmas we have been showing the rifle platoons that we can equal them at their own game.

There is at present a surge of energy in the field of basketball. Peak plays, brilliantly at times, for the Battalion team, and Thurlow at least "travels" with them. With the high average height of the Anti-Tank Section, we should do well for practice.

Farewell to Tabone, lost to the wilds of "civvy street"—our last National Serviceman. L/Cpl. Creaser



"B" Company—Helicopter Training, January, 1963

has gone to the M.T. Platoon and, unfortunately, Butcher has been discharged for medical reasons. Howarth emptied his pockets and passed on. By way of replacement "Desperate" Dan became too desperate for the M.T.O. and came to show us that his true vocation is the Mobat. Harmer and Fensom arrived from Oswestry right into the mortar cadre.

As we go to press the news of Sgt. Seagers' wedding has taken us by happy surprise. All the Platoon wish him every happiness in his marriage.

Capt. Clarke regretfully has left us now and we are sorry to lose him. Lt. Hubert (his rumoured replacement) is alleged to be working hard at Netheravon. Sgt. Partridge is due to leave us in March to go to 5th Middlesex. Once again he will be a great loss to the Platoon. We wish him well and are looking forward to seeing Sgt. Argent when he has done with the Sergeants' Mess and the ducators.

"B" COMPANY

As summer came to England Lydd seemed to burst into activity. The Company suddenly found itself on a series of strenuous route marches, exercises and other activities working up for the exercises in Greece. This, in fact, proved an enjoyable time, though we could not see how a nuclear exercise in the pouring rains on the Sussex Downs trained us for the "mountain goat in the hot sun" role we played in Greece. One thing, though, we did find, in the event we made very good mountain goats so there might have been something in it.

Greece will be remembered for the "little things in life" such as the afternoon swim in the Aegean, the 10th bottle of lemonade before dinner, the peculiar taste of Ouzo, the fact that all hills seemed to go up, the tortoises which might have (but did not) come back to

England as mascots, the heat of the midday sun, the sheer weight of the Volos cloudbursts of rain, the long rides across the harbour and many other such things.

Greece was at times hard work but enjoyable. When we returned the Company suddenly split up into cadres, teaching practically everything. This was followed by the administrative parade which was a "dressed ready to emplane for action abroad" parade. It was a little unfortunate that the same day the papers were full of a unit moving abroad—dressed in civilian clothes!

After Christmas the Company Club opened along the lines of, but not as lavish as, the "Crazy Horse" in Germany. We now have many training commitments in the offing to keep ourselves busy until the summer move.

The Who's Who

First the "who was who," because we have said good-bye to our remaining National Servicemen. L/Cpl. Stevens, Ptes. Bromfield, Clayson, Hyland, Clayson and Pitcher were the first off with the last two Privates, Clarke (23) and Cray, leaving in December. It seems that we keep the Battalion supplied with its specialists, because quite a number can now be found in the M.T. and Signals. In No. 6 Platoon, Cpl. Rogers, Ptes. Clarke, Cuff, Miller and Cronin punched their way into the Battalion boxing team; No. 5 Platoon suffered an acute shortage of personnel due to inter-company postings, but the nucleus is being reformed under 2/Lt. Hawkins, a newcomer to the Company.

The Support Platoon, apart from its normal specialists' qualifications, qualified as Sherpa porters in Greece. They suffered no casualties though, until late in the last exercise when Pte. Sach fainted, not from the heat but from watching the doctor sewing up a gash in Lt. Pitman's head.

Sgt. Miles, who has now joined "C" Company, also found himself in a new job—teaching the children of Vamvákia English. We only hope the Paras understood it when they passed through the next morning.

Sports

Thanks to the neglect of previous units the inter-company cricket competition was not played on a grass wicket and the substitute mat wicket provided some interesting cricket. We duly beat "A" Company and H.Q. 2 in good village-cricket fashion, but Major Pike was definitely missed in the last matches against H.Q. 1, and, through lack of a penetrating bowler (Military medium), we lost the final match.

In the cross-country running we provided five of the first eight home and so the inter-company cup came home to us. We have high hopes for the boxing which is due to take place shortly and the inter-company basketball competition, No. 8 Platoon are due to play off the finals against the Signal Platoon.

"C" COMPANY

General

Training was suspended while the Battalion was in Greece and "C" Company acted as the weighing, measuring, ticket and left luggage office, a roll in which it specialises to such good effect that with the move to Gibraltar on the horizon Colour Sergeant "John" Potter and Privates Burns and Keemer have already been measured for their new British Railways type uniforms. In between these specialist commitments we have played our role of training company.

Personalities—Out

Lt. Peter Moneypenny. After a brief spell of commanding the Company he has been sucked into the Kremlin as Assistant Adjutant. He now looks twice as tall and has that never-seen-the-sunlight look.

Lt. Gerry Dudson. He has left the Company for civilian life to take his chartered turf accountant exams. His parting gift to the N.C.O.s' cadre was an aide-memoire on 1963 fillies.

Lt. Gavin Bulloch. Lt. Bulloch blew in and out of "C" Company in a matter of weeks before drifting off to the grass-skirted, calypso-styled Jamaican Army. Assignment No. 1 for his new unit was a pretty tough one—dog handler to his Company Commander's dog on the boat out. The latest report we have was that his meeting with the dog was a great success and he thus qualified for assignment No. 2—an even tougher one. He has been booked to escort the Brigadier's suit out. We hope he does not put up a "black."

Lt. George Freeborn. He holds the Battalion speed record. He was posted out of "C" Company before being posted in, and then was posted out again, all in the same week. He ended up, somewhat dazed, in "A" Company.

Sgt. "Reg" Ford. "Reg," a founder member of Training Company, has been posted to the Home Counties Brigade Depot at Canterbury. His comment on leaving was "only the apes for Gibraltar."

Personalities—In

Capt. Malcolm Gilham. "Charles Clore" Gilham had a brief spell with "A" Company before the wind of change blew him about, and he decided to make a "take-over" bid for Training Company.

Lt. Brian Finch. Lt. Finch has brought an Oriental flavour to Training Company. His efforts to teach Judo to the Continuation Training Platoon have met with great success. They are not so keen, however, on learning Siamese, and there has been a flat rejection of amateur dramatics. The thought of Sgt. "Terry" Parnell playing the lead in "Jack the Ripper" was too much like a busman's holiday.

Sgt. "Cliff" Shinn. "Cliff" has joined us from the Junior Leaders' Battalion, and has become the do-it-yourself handyman—the Jack of all trades. He is offering quite a nice line in one-week Section Leaders' Cadres—two-day map-reading courses, pre-Hythe, pre-Warminster, pre-release brush-ups, or at special rates his six-week N.C.O. nightmare cadre, though this is not selling well. In view of the pressure of demand he is considering a new pre-A.W.O.L. course.

Sgt. "Terry" Parnell. Back hot-foot from Sandhurst where he has been teaching officer cadets to handle rifles, he has now taken the post of consultant physician in the continuation training cadre where he teaches soldiers to handle officers. His preference it appears, is for the rifle because it does not have a "Mum," "Dad," "Wife," "Girl-friend" or "Grand-mother" to call him names. His next batch of rifles are due to pass out on March 22. They are likely to go at "slightly imperfect" prices.

Sgt. Dave Miles. No Company can hope to survive without its sporting gladiator. It was to this end, therefore, that Charles Clore's empire entered the transfer market to procure Sgt. Miles. The fee was not disclosed. He is filling the vacancy left by Sgt. Ford on the continuation training wing.

Continuation Training

The recruit intakes into the Battalion from the Brigade Depot have been small but regular. So far Intakes Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 have been passed on to the Companies with Intakes Nos. 5 and 6 still in training. Intake No. 3 was a ghost intake which trained under Cpl. Fisher at Colchester with the Queen's Own Buffs. We were all relieved to see them back, for these are hard times and possession is nine-tenths of the law. With the Administrative Inspection in the wings realistic outdoor training was difficult to achieve, but the sight of Cpl. Cairns illuminated by his own trip-flare was worth waiting for.

Congratulations to the following recruits who passed out of Training Company with "B" gradings: Ptes. M. J. Aylward, S. C. Chalmers, R. J. Jones, and J. H. Pooley.

N.C.O.'s Cadre

The pressure of the Administrative Inspection and the hasty return of the instructors from Greece to prepare for the cadre proved an unhealthy sandwich and the cadre achieved only limited success. Healey and Lambourne are to be congratulated on their "B" gradings. A further cadre will be held in April.

Congratulations

To Cpl. Ron Burrows on passing the very stiff medical and entrance exams. for the Army Air Corps. He is due to leave us on June 3.

To Pte. Robin Judd on winning six beers from the Commanding Officer for keeping out of his sight until Christmas!

To W.O.2 John Moyse on passing his first-class education certificate—"Blood, sweat and toil."

To Cpl. Trev. Fisher on winning the trophy for the best rifle shot in the Battalion at the Battalion Rifle Meeting.

To Cpl. Ray Shave for his boxing performance for the Battalion boxing team.

OFFICERS' MESS

What the earthquakes started we finished. A quiet piece of the Greek countryside was torn apart by bulldozers, landrovers, dust-carts and the soldiers of "Les Paras" and ourselves. They called it Pegasus Camp.

We ran and organised "A" Camp's Mess, ourselves, Field Ambulance, Brigade H.Q. and umpires—148 assorted souls at one time. Major Peckham acted as P.M.C. and secretary, and a fine job he did, too.

The view was fine, especially at night. But the six-seater at first light gave the best view, but, alas, only a few of us can testify to this! From 0600 hrs. onwards the man-eating flies posed a problem in this area. First light was the time, best for view, solitude and comfort.

A few days after our arrival the Commanding Officer, O.C. "H.Q." Company and the M.T.O. returned to Larissa for a Greek Army N.A.T.O. cocktail party. The beer was good, the food tasted good. Next day O.C. "H.Q." Company and the M.T.O. returned to bed for 36 hours with severe Volos/Larissa tummy—the C.O. was made of sterner stuff.

We were visited by Maj.-Gen. Weston and Col. Waller in mid-September—they certainly raised morale.

Sgt. Leat, Cpl. Murphy, Townshend, King and the others worked like trojans to keep the Mess going. They had a difficult and hard task which they carried out well.

Back in England life got back to normal. Guest nights were held in November, December and February. A supper was given to 2nd Regiment R.A. after the Eastern Command boxing finals and a curry luncheon to local civic dignitaries after the Remembrance Day parade. Harry Lyons certainly did us proud—his pheasant dinner in particular was quite magnificent.

At the moment the Mess Committee are investigating the possibility of buying a dinner service for the Mess. A number of designs have been shown but, unfortunately, the cost is great. The cheapest set will cost £150; perhaps we can persuade R.H.Q. to help.

The following have dined in or visited the Mess since October: Maj.-Gen. E. H. W. Grimshaw, C.B.E., D.S.O. (G.O.C. 44 (H.C.) Div./Dist.), Col. M. T. W. Jennings (Brigade Colonel), Col. I. R. Ferguson-Innes, O.B.E., Col. F. Walden, Lt.-Col. R. B. Kenney, O.B.E., Lt.-Col. D. C. Snowdon, T.D., Major P. G. V. Bellers, Major "Bill" Heywood, and Lt.-Col. Fielden.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Although Lydd is rather off the beaten track, many friends old and new attended our house-warming party on July 28. Before this event much thought and work were put into the production of a Continental-type bar. The guiding genius was C.S.M. Steward. We were pleased to see among others "Butcher" Bailey, now fit and well again after a spell of ill-health. The Home Counties Brigade Depot Mess invited us over for a Games Evening soon after we had settled in at Lydd. The evening was a great success and a very late night out! We returned their invitation and were pleased to see their Mess turn up in force. Although they had a strong team, it was a home win and another good evening.

During our visit to Greece the Battalion had the problem of running some of the administration of 16 Parachute Brigade H.Q., including the Sergeants' Mess. Quite a few of our members were able to go up in planes and watch the Paramen jump out. We expected to see C.S.M. Arthur Cakebread turn up wearing parachute wings and claiming the extra pay! We made some new friends in 16 Parachute Brigade H.Q., in fact some of our members attended a dance in Aldershot during November, returning to Lydd with the milkman after a 200-mile round drive.

Our Christmas Draw was held on December 13. This went extremely well, thanks to the long hours and hard work put in by C.S.M. Steward and S/Sgt. Girling. The latter had also organised our Fireworks Display on November 5. Owing to the fact that the Battalion was on block leave over Christmas, we did not hold our New Year's Ball until January 12. In spite of the weather those present had a very good time. We were pleased to welcome R.Q.M.S. Beale, who was on leave from Germany. At the end of January we invited the Corporals to a Games Evening. We noted R.Q.M.S. Cooper teaching a Corporal to play dominoes and then getting beaten in the match game by the same Corporal.

The first Mess Dinner at Lydd was held on January 31, when we had as our guest Capt. (Q.M.) A. E. F. Waldron, M.B.E., who has now left us for the Home Counties Brigade Depot. This same evening the R.S.M. presented a wedding present—an engraved electric coffee percolator—to Sgt. Peacock. Since we arrived here we have had three weddings among the Mess members—C/Sgt. Potter, Sgt. Peacock and Sgt. Seager. We wish them good luck and happiness in the years to come.

We welcome to the Mess S.S.I. Tarpley and Sgt. Williamson.

We say farewell to W.O.2 Jessup, Drum-Major Lewis, Sgt. Ford and Sgt. Dickens, who leave us to join the Home Counties Brigade Depot. Also to Sgt. Partridge and Sgt. Overton to the 5th Battalion.

We said a moving farewell to Sgt. Taylor, only to find him back again in uniform—recalled to the Home Counties Brigade Depot through some mix-up. Any day now we expect to hear of him departing on his second release leave!

The Mess was very sorry to hear of the death of ex-Sgt. Patterson who was well known to most of us,

having served with the Battalion in Cyprus and Germany. Sgt. Partridge represented the Mess at his funeral.

Finally we look forward to the sunshine of Gibraltar, and wonder how many in the convoy of private cars will make the trip without a hitch. The convoy will be led by C.S.M. Cakebread in his new scarlet Austin A40.

CORPORALS' MESS

Since the last notes were edited the Mess held its first function since arriving in U.K.; this was our Christmas Dance on December 22. The dance certainly did Cpl. Dowsett and his committee justice. Unfortunately the Mess is not large enough to hold a large function so the dance was held in the Junior Ranks' Club. Even so, the place was full, with a record-breaking attendance of Mess members. The Officers' and Sergeants' Mess members were there in force. The local "young ladies" were invited and they were entertained by our "bachelor boys." It has been round that the dance did not reach its peak until approximately 2 a.m. under the expert guidance of C.S.M. Cakebread. The majority had, of course, gone home by this time.

We began the New Year with a new title, "Corporals' Mess," and a new committee which consisted of the following Mess members: P.M.C., Cpl. Flynn; members, Cpls. Stopp and Meacock, and L/Cpls. Knapp, Butler and Fordham.

We have not seen much of Mitch Fordham as he has been on a Clerk's Upgrading Course since the New Year and has only just returned, with a good result to his credit. So far the other members of the committee have pulled their weight with Don Stopp acting as our Liaison Officer to the P.R.I. By some kind of miracle we have managed to extract somewhere in the region of £75 in NAAFI rebate from the P.R.I. Who said the P.R.I. was like an oyster?

On January 9 the Mess held its first Tombola Evening which was a moderate success. Those who attended this function had an enjoyable time. Since this date the weather has been our bitter enemy—this, and the fact that there is so much illness outside camp, has prevented many married members attending. When the weather improves there is no reason why tombola should not be a profitable weekly occurrence.

On January 17 the Sergeants' Mess invited the Corporals of the Battalion to their Mess for a Games Evening. The Commanding Officer approved of pay parade being brought forward to Thursday for this occasion. Everything went like clockwork from the moment we arrived at the Sergeants' Mess. C.S.M. Moyse greeted us all at the door with a glass of hot punch. The teams for the various games had been chosen beforehand so the games commenced without delay. There was a surprise buffet consisting of chicken, curry, etc., laid on for us—we all showed our appreciation. Needless to say the Corporals' Mess came out on top in the games—that is to say with the exception of the "Boatrace" which did not quite finish.

We held our first dance of the New Year on January 31. It was a great success. Although a little slow

in warming up, by 9 p.m. it was well under way and run smoothly until just after midnight when it ended.

We would like to congratulate the following on their promotion: Cpls. Jones, Gibb, Ward, Lodge, Crosson, and Mullins, and L/Cpls. Ayliffe, Leworthy, Thomas, Healey, Stephenson, Lambourne, Barratt, Croskell, Johns, Boosey and Berry, and the following on their recent marriage: Cpls. Shave, Mullender, and Marquiss, and L/Cpl. Dawson.

We regretted losing Cpl. O'Gorman to the Brigade Depot, Canterbury, and Cpl. Burford to the Sergeants' Mess.

We welcome Cpl. Kerr from the 2nd Battalion The Parachute Brigade, and hope his stay with us is a pleasant one.

We will close now with the present committee's motto, "Have as many functions as possible while the funds last!"

BAND

With the Kneller Hall inspection not far off and a hectic summer season in front of us the last few months have been spent in comparative quiet. Mind you, those who know Lydd Camp will agree that "comparative quiet" is about all one's time can be spent in. Quite a few of the Band have given up girl-friends and carousing for hobbies which include fishing, golf and shooting.

The Administration Inspection gave us a chance to show off our new repertoire of parade tunes. After the Sign of the Swinging—wait for it—Cymbal, African Waltz and one or two more, the most appropriate tune came while General Grimshaw was inspecting the M.T. The name of the tune? "No Hiding Place."

Just after Christmas last year the Band played for a Passing-Out Parade at the Police College, Sandgate. Someone, who shall remain nameless, was heard to remark: "We always get into this place all right, and so far have always managed to get out. I wonder how long our luck is going to last." The criminal elements amongst us were visibly shaken by the sight of 200 members of "the Law" gathered in one place.

Two of our members have left us: Bds. Michael Wallwork finished his time and Cpl. Keith Jackson transferred to the Coldstream Guards Band. Cpl. Jackson, apparently, had quite a hectic time at Pirbright Camp, but finally managed to escape to his band in London. We wish them both good luck for the future.

The Band Social Club was launched with a smoking concert at Christmas time. Everybody enjoyed themselves, though the Commanding Officer and the Band President must both have felt that Daniel could not really have had much trouble with those famous lions. The club room and bar were decorated and built by Bds. (Farmer) Crompton and several helpers. They have done a very good job and we thank them very much.

One or two new faces have appeared. We welcome Bandsmen Bradford, Wilson and Scarfe and hope they will be happy with us. Bds. Benton joined us from the Corps of Drums and he and Nash are having a fine old time in the "Kitchen Dept." Bds. Bradford has

now departed to Kneller Hall for a year's course. Bdsm. Scarfe has turned out to be a good "Squeeze Box" player and should be very useful when his repertoire goes beyond the "Maigret" theme.

We must congratulate Cpl. Alec Torrie and L/Cpl. "Pug" French on their success with the Regimental basketball team. Both are splendid sportsmen and we hope they can help the Battalion win the Army Final.

L/Cpl. Ivan Routledge has been posted to Canterbury where he is making a desperate attempt to instil the basic points of music at the Junior Bandsmen's Wing. We have also heard that Mr. Roy Watkins, the Brigade Bandmaster, is moving to the Junior Leaders' Regiment at Bovington, where he is to be commissioned. Congratulations!

The Bandmaster has received some correspondence from Mr. A. Drane, popularly known as "The Brewer," in connection with the ex-Bandsmen's and Drummers' branch of the Association. He has the project well under way now and anyone interested should get in touch with Mr. Drane or Major Dick Smith at R.H.Q., Edgware.

Band Sgt. C. McGowan has now settled down with us. He has a flair for bookkeeping so he is now treasurer of the Social Club. Having blinded us all with science, we hope the Pay Office do not find out. They might try to make use of his services!

In the coming season we have engagements in Scarborough, Bridlington and Lincoln. We are also playing for the Schoolboy International Match at Wembley on April 27. What does one play to keep 95,000 schoolboys happy? We should be glad to furnish a complete programme of Band engagements to anyone who requires one. Please write to the Band Secretary, who will be happy to oblige.

I have been asked to mention Bdsm. Fairbrass. We leave you with this thought: After all the hullabaloo about Adam Faith, the B.M.A. and TWTWTW should we now be called The Middle-SAX Regiment?

SPORT

General

So much has been said about the weather that only a brief mention is necessary to record that normal outdoor winter sports suffered very badly. Very little soccer, hockey or rugby has been played, but to compensate, the Battalion has done extremely well at indoor sports, having reached the Army finals at both basketball and Judo, and reached the Command final at boxing.

The results appearing below are *real* results, since it is felt that results produced by our sports panel on matches not played are not reliable.

Hockey

After a few practice games we started off well in the Army Cup Competition by beating the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards 11-0 at Lydd early in December. The weather then clamped down and finally, after many postponements, we played the 14th Regiment, R.A., at Shoeburyness in the second round. We lost this game 2-1 after extra time, but only have ourselves to blame,

as we had most of the play and were awarded at least a dozen corners.

The following have represented the Battalion in the Army Cup games: Pte. Bassett, Major Carter, Major B. K. Clayden, Lt. Cowing, Cpl. Flanagan, L/Cpl. French, Capt. Gilham, S/Sgt. Harrison (R.A.P.C.), Sgt. Leat, Sgt. Miles, L/Cpl. Rappoport, Cpl. Stopp, S.S.I. Tarpley, and Cpl. Torrie.

Capt. (now Major) Waldron, Sgt. Eldridge, and Bdsm. Johnson have umpired for us regularly and W.O.2 Steward kindly turned out to umpire a game against Home Counties Brigade Depot at Canterbury.

Soccer

Weather permitting, it would have been possible to run two soccer sides during the season and there was certainly plenty of enthusiasm when play was possible. Although there are several players of good ability, there has been a marked lack of team-work, which has reflected in the results. There is a good nucleus, however, and constant practice in the next two or three seasons should enable us to build a strong side.

The Sergeants' Mess was extremely well represented with Sgts. Horder, Ford, Miles, Redmond and Young, all regular members of the first eleven. Others who regularly represented the Battalion were: Capt. Gilham, Cpls. Shave, Marquiss and Lodge, and Ptes. Casey, Dempsey, Davidson, Goodall, Lake, Morley, Mason, May, Peak, Shields, Speed and Theobald.

We made an early exit from the Army Cup, losing 3-1 to The Royal Sussex Regiment. This proved a thrilling "local Derby" in which the result was in doubt until the Sussex scored their third goal five minutes from the end. The Sussex were much the steadier team and fully deserved their victory.

Results to Date

1st Eleven			
v. Dover G.P.O.	..	Won	2-1
v. Home Counties Brigade Depot	..	Won	8-0
v. 1st Royal Sussex	..	Lost	1-3
v. Kent County Police	..	Lost	1-7
v. Dover Rangers	..	Lost	0-7
v. 12 School of Military Engineering	..	Won	4-1
v. Royal Marines	..	Lost	1-8
v. East Kent Car Co.	..	Won	10-1
v. Royal Marines	..	Lost	1-3
v. 36 Corps Engr. Regiment, R.E.	..	Lost	0-5
2nd Eleven			
v. Folkestone G.P.O.	..	Lost	1-13
v. Dover Rangers Reserve	..	Lost	1-5
v. Buckland Mill	..	Won	2-1
v. Folkestone Police	..	Lost	1-2
v. Ashford Police	..	Won	6-2

Rugby

Owing to Greece there was little time to practise for the first round of the Army Cup Competition and we subsequently lost to the Guards Parachute Company at Pirbright by 29-3. This was rather disappointing because there was a great deal of interest in Rugby and the nucleus of a very promising side. Some enjoyable games, however, were played in the local military league before this succumbed to the winter weather.



BOXING TEAM

Back row (left to right): Sgt. Young, Cpl. Rogers, Pte. Cronin, Pte. Miller, Pte. Clarke, Pte. Clift, Pte. Shields, Sgt. Ford. Front row (left to right): Cpl. Flanagan, Pte. Seatory, Sgt. O'Rawe, Captain Donovan, Pte. Cuff, Pte. Barnes, Pte. Heal

Only six matches were played in all and the only prospect of further Rugby is the "Sevens" Competition to take place at Chatham on April 3.

We congratulate Capt. Cheeseman on being selected for the Army on numerous occasions during the winter when matches did not take place. We are glad that he finally won his cap with a real game against Harlequins, although he assures us that the sports panel voted him the most outstanding forward on each of the previous games.

Boxing

It was a weary but happy band of boxers who returned to Lydd on the evening of December 18, 1962, after competing against 2nd Regiment, R.A., at Shorncliffe in the final of the Eastern Command stage of the Army Team Boxing Championships. Although we lost, the individual boxing was of a good standard and there were some courageous efforts by some of the young inexperienced boxers against old stagers. The 2nd Regiment, R.A., team, however, thoroughly deserved their win.

The Battalion team put up a splendid performance throughout the Army Competition and won the 44 (Home Counties) Divisional District Competition. Results were as follows:

v. 1st Royal Sussex Regiment	..	Won 7 bouts to 4
v. 1st Grenadier Guards	..	Won 7 bouts to 4
v. 2nd Regiment, R.A.	..	Lost 4 bouts to 7

The following represented the Battalion: Sgts. O'Rawe and Lloyd, Cpls. Rogers, Shave and Kelly and Ptes. Heale, Barnes, Peterson, Clift, Cronin, Cuff, Shields, Miller, Clarke (89) and Seatory.

There was plenty of courage in the Battalion individual championships held at Lydd on February 21, 1963, but the standard of boxing was rather lower than usual. Winners were as follows:

Flyweight: Cpl. Kelly, "H.Q.2" Company.
Bantamweight: Pte. Heale, "B" Company.
Featherweight: L/Cpl. Hedges, "B" Company.
Lightweight: Pte. Barnes, "A" Company.
Light Welterweight: Pte. Cronin, "B" Company.
Welterweight: Pte. Cuff, "B" Company.
Light Middleweight: Cpl. Rogers, "B" Company.
Middleweight: Pte. Miller, "H.Q.2" Company.
Light Heavyweight: Pte. May, "H.Q.1" Company.
Heavyweight: Sgt. O'Rawe, "H.Q.1" Company.

The winners of the Albuhera Shield Competition for boxing were "B" Company. Congratulations to Cpl. Rogers who was runner-up in the Command individual championships.

Basketball

These notes are written at a stage when the Battalion basketball team can well be pleased with its achievements so far this season, and yet is training and hoping hard for the events of the next few weeks. To be more



BASKETBALL TEAM

Back row (left to right): L/Cpl. Meehan, Cpl. Torrie, Captain Cheesman, Lt. Hawkins, Pte. Clift.
Front row (left to right): L/Cpl. French, Pte. Peak, Sgt. Young, L/Cpl. Healey, Pte. Thurlow

specific we are Eastern Command champions and are in the Army U.K. final which takes place on March 23.

On our return from Greece we joined the local civilian East Kent Basketball League. This has provided us with a steady number of fixtures of varying standard and has undoubtedly been excellent preparation for the Army Cup matches to follow. In addition we have had a number of friendly fixtures, notably against the Brighton Giants, a team of national standard, who have given us tremendous thrashings, but equally tremendous experience.

In the first round of the Army Competition we beat 1st Battalion The Royal Sussex Regiment without a great deal of trouble. This brought us to the 44 (H.C.) Divisional District final where, after a good game, we put the School of Infantry out of the running and ourselves into the Eastern Command final.

This was played at the Eastern Command Gymnasium at Shorncliffe on January 31; our opponents were 1st Battalion The Grenadier Guards. Naturally they had the advantage of height over the team. Whilst this proved a definite disadvantage, the speed with which the ball passed amongst our team was to prove

the deciding factor. Some extremely fast movements ended with good accurate baskets by Pte. Peak and resulted in a win by 40 points to 34.

The quarter-final was played off on February 15 against 1st Battalion Foresters at Shorncliffe. A new system was used by changing the complete team at the end of the first quarter and having five fresh players for the second quarter. This was not successful because with the Battalion stars missing and a completely fresh team it took them a long time to warm up. The score at half-time was 18-18. In the second half the more conventional system of substituting only the two forwards was reverted to and this paid dividends. By keeping the pressure up in the last half the Battalion eventually won by 48 points to 26 points.

The team had to travel to Catterick for the Army semi-finals to meet the 3rd Battalion Royal Tank Regiment. Having played the 3rd Tanks previously in B.A.O.R. and beaten them easily the team were fairly confident; but they were in for a shock. The match was closely fought all the way and at half-time the score was 18-16 in our favour. The "Tanks" played a slow game and relied on accurate shooting

from outside the keyway. The faster game of the Battalion paid dividends, especially towards the end of the match as nerves began to fray.

Battalion team: Capt. Cheesman, 2/Lt. Hawkins, S.Sgt. Tarpley, Sgt. Young, Cpls. Torrie and Clarke, L/Cpls. French, Harris, Meehan and Healey, and Pte. Peak.

The Albuhera Competition took place just before Christmas with the following results: 1st, "H.Q.1" Company; 2nd, "A" Company; 3rd, "B" Company; 4th, "H.Q.2" Company.

Cross-country

Cross-country was another weather-bound sport, but we managed to run the Albuhera Shield Competition before Christmas and in reasonable conditions.

The results were as follows: 1st, "B" Company, 45 points; 2nd, "A" Company, 136 points; 3rd, "H.Q.1" Company, 152 points; 4th, "H.Q.2" Company, 198 points.

Individual placings were: 1st, Lt. Hubert, "B" Company; 2nd, Pte. Johns, "B" Company; 3rd, Pte. Quartermaine, "B" Company.

In the 44 (H.C.) Divisional District Competition there was great excitement as the Battalion team struggled against Depot Regiment Royal Engineers for 1st place. Both teams finished with equal points, but victory was awarded to Depot Regiment Royal Engineers on the position of their last man home. The team also did well in the Eastern Command Competition, being placed 4th.

The team (in order of finishing) was: Cpl. O'Riordan, Cpl. Flanagan, S.S.I. Tarpley, L/Cpl. Johns, Pte. Whyte, Pte. Hannaford, Pte. Acton, Pte. Bidwell, Pte. Gilham, Cpl. Lodge.

Judo

The Battalion entered a team on Wednesday, October 24, 1962, for the first-ever Army Judo Championships at Oswestry. Apart from being runners-up in the Regular Army event we enjoyed the demonstrations. These included superb demonstrations of advanced throws in slow time. We all appreciated the tremendous control required to do these effectively. Major "Mike" Harvey, M.C., who organised the whole championships, laid on a demonstration of the development of Judo through the ages. This included Karate, Jujitsu, Kendo (Japanese sword-fighting) and many other exciting sports. Finally we saw a practical exhibition of the art of Judo applied to modern warfare—unarmed combat.

The team we entered was as follows: Lt. Finch, L/Cpls. Meehan, Caston, O'Connell, Cleasby, Creaser, and Pte. Samson.

Seven members recently went on a two-week course to the Eastern Command P.T. School, Shorncliffe. We were instructed by L/Cpl. Davies and graded by Capt. W. Tate, R.A.S.C., both 1st Dan. As a result of this course we now have one new 5th Kyu and six 6th Hyu amongst our members.

L/Cpl. Davies is in the A.P.T.C., instructing at the Junior Leaders' Regiment at Dover. He has agreed to come along to our club on Wednesday evenings, so we

should find our standard of Judo rising in the new few months.

THE BATTALION RIFLE MEETING, 1963

The results of the Battalion Rifle Meeting, which was held at Lydd on February 26, 1963, were as follows:

Champion Company: "H.Q." Company; runners-up, "A" Company.

Best Individual Shot: Class "A," Sgt. Raffael; Class "B," Cpl. Macfarlane; Class "C," Cpl. Fisher. Runners-up: Class "A," Sgt. Tarry; Class "B," Cpl. Stopp; Class "C," Pte. Herbert.

Best L.M.G. Pairs: Class "A," Capt. Hewson and Sgt. Lloyd; Class "B," Cpl. Dowsett and Pte. Sutherland; Class "C," L/Cpl. Stevenson and Pte. Hatch. Runners-up: Class "A," Lt. Finch and Sgt. Parnell; Class "B," Cpl. Ward and Cpl. Willis; Class "C," Pte. Mallon and Pte. Harris.

Best S.M.G. Shot: W.O.2 Steward; runner-up, Capt. Hewson.

Best Pistol Shot: Sgt. Lloyd; runners-up, Capt. Hewson and Lt. Finch.

Rifle Team, Match 1: "C" Company; runners-up, "H.Q." Company.

L.M.G., Match 2: "H.Q." Company; runners-up, "A" Company.

S.M.G., Match 3: "B" Company; runners-up, "H.Q." Company.

China Cup: "H.Q." Company; runners-up, "C" Company.

Britannia Cup: "H.Q." Company.

Falling Plate: "B" Company.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Wooden Spoon: W.O.2 Cakebread.

CORPORAL MAKES SPORTING HISTORY

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Whenever British pentathlon is spoken about in future the name of a certain Corporal of The Middlesex Regiment is bound to crop up. The name is Finnis, christened Fortescue Benjamin but better known as Mick!

The record books will show it was in 1962 he became the first man to win the Army, Inter-Services and British Open Championships in the same year. They will also show that in the Army Championships this remarkable multi-athlete scored 5,002 points, becoming the first Briton ever to top the 5,000 mark.

But the record books will not show that 25-year-old Cpl. Finnis achieved this remarkable feat with a broken bone in his left foot, or tell of the drama of the final event of the open championships, the horse-riding, when the leader's horse refused and Cpl. Finnis sped round the course to snatch victory.

In the Army Championships, in a field of 36, he ran 4,000 metres cross-country with his foot strapped up and finished 13th, came second in the horse-riding event over a rugged Hampshire course, swam 300 metres and came fourth, fenced with all his 35 rivals to win the épée event, and came second in the pistol shooting.

But the open event at Gosport was an even sterner



Taking a tight rein, Cpl. Finnis urges his mount over the third fence in the Army Championships

test, with first-class athletes from Italy and France, a strong challenge from the Royal Marines, and experienced civilian competitors in the field. After the fencing, on the first day, Cpl. Finnis was lying eighth. Third place in the shooting and sixth in the swimming gave him a stronger position after the second day and ninth place in the cross-country running gave him an overall third place before the final event, the horse-riding.

In the lead, 279 points ahead of Cpl. Finnis, was Alphonso Ottaviani, a 25-year-old teleprinter operator from Rome. Only a calamity could rob him of the title—but the calamity came. His mount refused at the second fence, the rider was thrown and the horse bolted. Dazed and bruised the Italian remounted, but fell again at the next fence and decided to retire.

And while scrap iron merchant Bob Phelps, in second place, had trouble at the sixth fence, Cpl. Finnis rode a wonderful round in 4 minutes 39 seconds to clinch the title. There was more excitement when the penultimate rider, Lt. Paul Stevenson, Royal Marines, clipped seconds off Cpl. Finnis's time, a feat which took him from sixth to second place, 228 points behind the winner.

Cpl. Finnis also contributed to an Army hat-trick in the event, with the British Open and Inter-Services

Team Championships to add to the individual events. The Army's three other top-class competitors, L/Cpl. M. Thomas, The Gloucestershire Regiment, Cpl. Len Collum, The Life Guards, and Lt. Adrian Lane, Royal Military Police, filled the fourth, fifth and sixth places respectively.

Cpls. Finnis and Collum and Lt. Lane also formed the Great Britain team which gained a first-ever victory in Bremen this summer in the Modern Pentathlon international.

OLYMPIC ADVENTURE By Major P. W. Galvin

In May, 1962, the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) moved to Lydd in Kent after a three-year tour in B.A.O.R. The role of the Battalion changed from that of motorised infantry mounted in armoured one-tonners to becoming a War Office Reserve Battalion with much reduced scales of transport, and with the requirement to move by air at short notice should the need arise. Concurrent with the change of station the bulk of the remaining National Servicemen left the Battalion, many senior ranks were posted, all Company Commanders changed and we acquired a new Commanding Officer and Adjutant.

The reorganisation could hardly have been more complete.

Returning from disembarkation leave in mid-June, the reorganised Companies and departments had hardly set about "shaking down" and making the best of our new surroundings when we were offered the opportunity of going to Greece in the autumn to take part in 16 Independent Parachute Brigade Group exercises. For this we were to be reinforced by a contingent from the 1st Battalion The Royal Sussex Regiment, which in the event provided the Reconnaissance Platoon and one Rifle Company. A few days later a planning group comprising the Commanding Officer, the 2IC and the Q.M. flew to Aldershot to meet a mildly surprised Brigade Commander, who admitted that he required another Battalion but had not been told who it might be!

The Battalion's role was to be enemy to the Parachute Brigade Group and it was to spend about four weeks in Greece prior to the main exercise, training with the Parachute Brigade. At Lydd planning and training began. Very little field training had been carried out since the previous March at Sennelager, and certainly none since the reorganisation. There remained eight weeks in which to train and prepare ourselves administratively for joining the Brigade and this included two weeks' leave which the Commanding Officer was determined all should have before emplacement. Shortage of time confined training to essentials. High priority was given to fitness and endurance. The standard demanded was the ability to move on foot across country carrying kit and rations for 20 miles and be fit to fight a battle at the end. The syllabus also included battlecraft, training in quick movement by day and night, revision of basic tactics and specialist training, and the training of a new Battalion H.Q. team. One problem encountered was that of training the "employed" in their tactical duties and at the same time maintaining normal administration. This applied in particular to Battalion H.Q. Defence Platoon personnel whose peace-time activities are many and varied but essential.

Whereas the remainder of the Brigade moved by air at short notice almost instinctively and were used to operating on very limited scales of transport, we had to master these techniques in our six weeks' training. Unit emplaning officers and air portability teams were trained, and the art of operating on 21 Landrovers, some with trailers, was gradually mastered. The soldier learnt to carry his all on his back and both Companies and Battalion H.Q. had to cut their impedimenta to a "real" minimum. As all infantrymen know, "minimum scales" are relative to the amount of transport that can be acquired.

In Battalion H.Q. there were only four Landrovers with trailers, one Landrover for the Commanding Officer towing the Command Post trailer, the Command Post Landrover towing the rear link signals trailer, and one Landrover and trailer each for the Signals Platoon and the Regimental Aid Post. "A" Echelon comprised two Landrovers and trailers, one the alternative Command Post usually carrying O.C. "H.Q." Company and often the 2IC, and one for the

M.T.O. which dealt with petrol and supplies. The Reconnaissance Platoon boasted five Landrovers and one trailer, and each Rifle Company had one Landrover and trailer each for Company H.Q. and the 3-inch Mortar Section, and one Landrover to pull the one Mobat allotted to each Company.

The individual wore the "K.D. jungle hat," shirt Angola, K.D. trousers, 58 pattern equipment with two waterbottles and cold wet weather boots. At least one day's rations were carried together with a ground-sheet and pullover or combat jacket.

The flight from Lynham to Larissa was both uneventful and comfortable. On arrival we found the heat and dust tiresome on the 25-mile journey in Greek Army lorries to our camp which was situated on a small peninsula across the bay from Volos, a town half-way up the east coast of Greece. The camp, of necessity, was only basically equipped and very dusty, but was pleasantly situated beside the sea.

Our initial problem and really the only difficult one to overcome was that of acclimatisation. Whereas the majority of the parachute soldiers had already experienced hot climates, most of our soldiers had never left Northern Europe. Although we had planned a period of acclimatisation starting with two days in camp followed by a gentle exercise and a planned gradual increase in the amount of exertion over a week, we found that ten days had elapsed before restrictions on distances marched could be lifted, and only after a fortnight could we match our previous fitness. In addition, stomach ailments were rife during the first week in Greece despite extensive precautions. After several days of large sick parades the number suddenly dwindled and thereafter few suffered from these ailments.

Towards the end of the acclimatisation period the first Battalion exercise, Exercise "Rocky Path," was held. It involved movement through the hills along an axis on which the road had disappeared where going became impossible for vehicles, and much cross-country movement on foot which was tiring by day and hazardous by night. Although distances marched were still restricted this proved to be good preparation for the Battalion text exercise five days later set by the Brigade Commander. Exercise "Olympic Torch" had much the same setting without any restriction on distances. The Battalion was transported to an Exercise LZ after dark, had to cross the nearby mountains by tracks which would not accommodate the Landrovers all the way, seize an objective and defend it against nuclear and ground attack. The Rifle Companies were much encouraged on this exercise by seeing Battalion H.Q. literally "on the march," with its very limited numbers heavily laden with wireless sets and batteries to the extent that it had difficulty in keeping up with the Companies. In such operation sufficient men must be made available as carriers to enable the H.Q. to function efficiently on foot.

Later during the same week and during the week following the Battalion was enemy to the Parachute Battalions during their test exercises. Meanwhile the Support Platoons had fired their weapons and The Royal Sussex Company had nearly climbed Mount Olympus.

On September 22 we moved to our advanced base in north-eastern Greece in preparation for the main Brigade Group exercise, while the remainder of the Brigade, our "enemy," were based on Larissa for exercise briefing and preparation. The setting of this exercise was that of an allied parachute assault behind enemy lines during a nuclear war. As enemy, we had to be prepared to move quickly to create the number of incidents required by the Directing Staff Brief. Although the Commanding Officer worked to this brief, as far as the remainder of the Battalion were concerned all action took place without previous knowledge. This created situations which exercised the Companies very considerably and was a fitting climax to the hard training they had undergone in preparation. In the event, bad weather postponed the parachute drop and part of the exercise was cancelled, much to the disgust of the enemy concerned who had prepared a particularly hostile reception for the invading paratroopers.

We learnt many lessons from this series of exercises, of which the achievement of tactical mobility with few vehicles was perhaps the most interesting. Tactical mobility of infantry, so necessary in nuclear war, is normally achieved by marching and ferrying troops with the very limited number of vehicles available—a normal practice in Parachute Battalions. To one who has not seen this before, it is uncanny how quickly Companies can cover great distances by a combination of marching and ferrying forward in Landrovers, and it is an extraordinary sight to see some 18 fully armed and equipped soldiers on a Landrover—a sight calculated to increase the blood pressure of our friends in the Central Inspectorate of Vehicles. Being lightly equipped, movement at short notice provided no problems and standard drills were employed to this end, e.g. as soon as a soldier arose from his "bed" he packed ready to move irrespective of whether he was due for more sleep later.

Having reached a good standard of fitness before leaving Lydd progress in Greece was at first disappointing, due to the setbacks of climate. From about the twelfth day onward a sudden and substantial improvement of fitness was very noticeable.

At first the consumption of water exceeded expectations and Platoons carried water in jerricans on manpack carriers, in addition to the two waterbottles on the man which were a necessity throughout the exercises. Whereas all the more senior of the officers had soldiered in the tropics few had had experience of the rapid transition from temperate to tropical climate by unacclimatised troops immediately by field training, and consequently there was a tendency to underestimate the time necessary for acclimatisation training.

Before the Battalion left the United Kingdom there had been much discussion and experimentation regarding what the man should carry in order to be self-contained, and in particular, whether or not he should carry the large pack. If he were to carry a blanket in addition to the groundsheet, or more than one day's rations, there appeared no reasonable alternative to the

pack. The groundsheet carrier can carry either a blanket or a groundsheet with a jersey pullover (or combat jacket), but not both. In Greece it soon became apparent that the soldier had to be as lightly equipped as possible to achieve mobility, and the blanket was discarded with some consequent discomfort at night on account of the cold. It is doubtful whether this would be acceptable in colder climates. Opinion was unanimous that there was a need for the troops to be issued with a lightweight blanket which will fit into the blanket roll with the groundsheet and also for a small pack as the two rear pouches on the 58 pattern equipment are not always adequate to hold sufficient for such operations.

As mentioned previously, the Command Post less the Regimental Aid Post and Signal vehicles was mounted in only two Landrovers and one trailer. The dismounted Command Post, which fitted into one trailer, consisted of a civilian continental-type frame tent painted with khaki waterproof tent paint. Inside was a portable folding operator's table which folded open vertically (like a book opening away from the viewer) with the inside surfaces covered with tale, under which were battle maps and operations pro-formæ. A similar table, slightly smaller, opened up to provide an alternative battle map and battle board (with hooks). Lightweight folding chairs were brought and the tent was lit by 12-volt electric lamps over the operations board, supplied from the Landrover battery.

The Command Post, although small, housed comfortably the forward and rear link duty officers, a signaller and intelligence N.C.O. or clerk, and although cramped, it was used successfully for night "O" Groups. However much one had to economise in weight, it is essential that some lightweight form of Command Post be devised and carried, if only for use at night.

Signal communications with VHF sets presented problems in mountainous terrain until we learnt to position our stations with great care and were able and prepared to pass messages from station to station several times until they reached their destination. This calls for slickness by signallers, rigid net discipline and a lot of common sense.

The problem of concealment generally, and of defending Battalion H.Q. and "A" Echelon almost disappeared with our smaller number of vehicles.

Our six weeks' training in Greece was of great value to the Battalion. It produced a positive aim and a challenge at a time when the Battalion had experienced the anti-climax of running down in strength and being posted to home duties after a very successful training season in B.A.O.R. It evoked enormous interest and enthusiasm, taught the new teams to work together, made us fit, sharpened our soldierly skills, taught us to operate without the numerous vehicles and mass of equipment which we had thought indispensable in B.A.O.R., all to an extent that could never be achieved in six weeks by normal day-to-day training in the United Kingdom.

5th Battalion (T.A.) Notes

The period since the last issue of the Journal has been one of consolidation. The emphasis has been on effectiveness before size. A steady flow of recruits has joined the Battalion although this has only balanced discharges.

Mobilisation Exercise

In September we joined in a nation-wide exercise designed to test mobilisation plans. A mixed party from all Companies took part at Bedford. For once we left the knob of the bolt severely alone and concentrated on the mysteries of documentation, medical inspection and stores drawing. It was a little off the usual track for most TA volunteers, but was taken as all part of the weekend's work. The Provost Section scored a point or two for the Battalion by their excellent signing followed in turn by Brigade, Division and Army Commanders. The Medical Section, under Capt. Bob McQueen, produced a remarkable mass inspection technique which caused a certain stir in medical quarters.

Rain and Storm

Having proved that we were ready for battle we next set out to prove we could fight one. Our enemy from The Gurkha Rifles stationed at Tidworth represented dreaded Fantasians on Salisbury Plain. A composite company from the Battalion was commanded by Major Jim Naish. This exercise, "Rum Punch," is more memorable for the pelting rain and gale-force winds than the more obvious training lessons. However, it proved the toughness and resilience of even the least experienced volunteer.

Tough Training

Early in October the Middlesex Territorial Association held their annual Tough Training Competition. It was on similar lines to last year's, including, as a novelty, a Civil Defence practical rescue problem. No Middlesex Tough Training is complete without its river crossing. This year teams had to provide and cross on an improvised raft made from inner tubes and camouflage nets. The winning team was that from "D" Company, a fine achievement and thoroughly deserved after being in second place to their airborne rivals for the past two years.

Not content with their success on home ground 10 men from "D" Company won away at the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Tough Training Competition. This competition took the form of an escape and evasion exercise.

Administrative Inspection

Later in October the Permanent Staff were seen to be taking an unusual degree of interest in their work. It was the Administrative Inspection season. A good report was again received: a well-deserved result for

some very hard work by the regular and civilian permanent staff, not to mention those volunteers, who did so much to prepare the vehicles and stores in the preparatory period.

Autumn Camp

During the last full week of October about 50 men from the Battalion, mostly recruits, attended a special camp at Lydd. The 1st Battalion provided accommodation and rations as well as some very welcome instructors. The programme was based on basic instruction and firing of individual and platoon weapons. The rate of progress was literally a weapon a day. Fortunately, one dismal day apart, the weather was fair and the training was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Remembrance Sunday

This year's Remembrance Sunday Parade at Enfield was the first time for some years that the Regiment had been represented at Enfield. "C" Company, later followed a thoroughly lost civilian band until they found themselves and the T.A. Centre, where they entertained the Mayor and received his thanks.

The rest of the Battalion also took part in the local borough parades, except for "H.Q." Company, who represented the Battalion at the parade at the Regimental Memorial at Inglis Barracks.

Beer and Bounty

The programme from Remembrance Sunday until after Christmas was marked by an abundance of social functions. Dances, socials and bounty night parties were held with great success at all T.A. Centres.

However, it was not all beer and bounty. Unhindered by the grand designs of Battalion Headquarters, Companies put in some successful and instructive weekend training.

"H.Q." Company were to be found bivouacing at Stanford PTA by night, while their Assault Pioneers exploded all over the area by day. Signals, M.T. and Recce Platoons were all active, as well as the Provost and Medical Sections.

"C" Company also favoured Stanford. House clearing figured largely in the programme. Someone whispered "poaching" but apparently it was an accident! "A" Company favoured Chobham Common and treasure hunting by wireless.

"D" Company's activities included an appropriately-named map-reading exercise, "Get Lost," a Company Rifle Meeting and other activities which hid behind the names of "field firing" and "pentathlon."

New Year Resolutions

After Christmas we all returned to the fray full of good intentions for the New Year. The first of these was a Sunday at Edgware devoted to teaching the officers to

"D" Company at Hangmoor Ranges



"Kipper" Preston and friend

speak on the radio. It proved a thoroughly interesting and enjoyable day. C.S.M. Michel and C/Sgt. Hawkins gave superb instruction. The finished product after further processing will be on display at camp.

Other goals were the Battalion Weapon Training Competition and the Brigade Support Weapons Competitions. These provided ample work for the rifle platoons, mortar sections and the Recce Platoon machine-gunners. Practice for these was carried out during drill evenings and at weekends. But more of these later.

N.C.O. Training

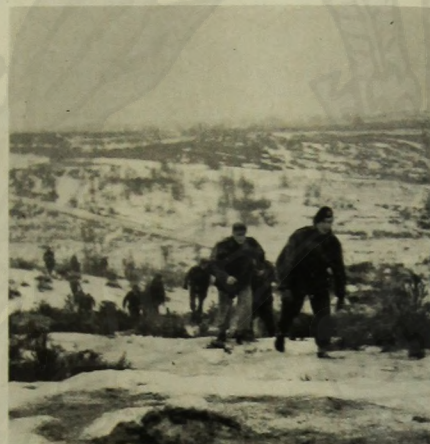
In January a successful junior N.C.O.s study weekend was held, followed in February by a senior N.C.O.s weekend. Subjects ranged from guard-mounting procedure to the use of radio. The R.S.M. was pleased to find that they want to come back for more.

Weapon Training Competition

With considerable help from the 1st Battalion Recruiting Team, the Weapon Training Competition was held on the first Sunday in February. In addition to the Battalion Weapon Training Trophy, there were trophies for the Company with the Best Recruits and also a Platoon Challenge Cup. "D" Company made a clean sweep of the prizes. The other Company teams would probably prefer to remember the buffet lunch laid on by W.O.2 Banks and his A.C.C. Section.

Brigade Support Weapons Competition

The Brigade M.M.G. and Mortar Competitions were held at Fingringhoe on the same day as the Weapon



Keeping warm like the Duke of York's men

Training Competition. The Recce Platoon won the M.M.G. Cup against some experienced opposition. A large measure of their success is probably due to their careful preparation of the guns, vehicles and stores. In the inspection phase of the competition they established a clear lead and maintained it throughout.

The Mortar Sections were less fortunate, coming fourth and fifth respectively. In their case it was probably the human error factor that ruled, as spectators remarked how well they carried out their drills on the mortar line.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to a varied future including Battalion Headquarter Exercises, TEWTS, Specialist Weekends and Classification. Already the Orderly Room have started the preparatory paper bombardment that paves the way to camp. This year it will be at Stanford again.

The Bott Cup

"A" Company were Champion Company for the year 1961-62. The Commanding Officer presented the Bott Cup at their Company dinner in December. The winning of this cup reflects the steady hard work and loyal attendance of the Company during the year.

Personalia

R.S.M. Webb left us in January. During his time with the Battalion he became a well-known and popular individual. It seemed that nothing could happen within the Battalion, which he did not have a hand in organising. He is now R.S.M. of 1st Battalion The Royal Sussex Regiment, which as a Royal Sussex man himself had been his ambition for many years. We

wish him every happiness and success in his new appointment and welcome in his place R.S.M. Boseley, who comes to the Regiment from the Queens Surreys.

The Corby Cup for the best soldier was won by Sgt. Young of "D" Company. Col. Corby presented the cup himself and was obviously pleased to do so to a volunteer he remembers from his own days commanding the 8th Battalion. This was, however, the last time that Sgt. Young will win the cup. This year's award will be restricted to the Corporals and below.

Lt. Paul Dubbery joined the Battalion and "C" Company in January. He is remarkable as the only volunteer officer from 1st Battalion for some years. Congratulations to 2/Lt. Fred Hamilton, who was commissioned from the Signal Platoon in January and has now joined "D" Company. Welcome to Mr. David Margand, who has been serving at "B" Company for some time. He is still in a bureaucratic limbo, but we hope to have him officially on the strength very soon.

Other additions have been 2/Lt. Jock Smith, attached from the Highland Light Infantry, and 2/Lt. Jim Walker. Both these new officers are with "A" Company and come from the University Officer Training Corps at Aberdeen and Cambridge respectively.

Losses amongst the officers have been Lt. Pete Ottino, Major Brian Skinner, Capt. Simon Enthoven and Lt. Anthony Hunt, all of whom have transferred to the T.A.R.O. "B" Company is now commanded by Capt. Stuart Henshaw, while the Signals are in the hands of Lt. Mike Doran.

Shortly to leave the Battalion are those valiant P.S.I.s—C.S.M. Wright, Sgt. Shoebridge and Sgt. Willis. They have all done splendid work whilst with the T.A. We wish them luck in their new appointments and hope that they have not picked up too many bad habits while away from their regular habitat.

VOLUNTEERS IN VOLOS

by Major P. J. Hall

We all considered it an honour when an umpire team from the 5th Middlesex was chosen to attend the N.A.T.O. manoeuvre "Fallex" in Greece. A selection due, I suspect, to the influence of the Commanding Officer 1st Middlesex. It was to be the first time for many years that we had served with Regular troops and we hoped to gauge the tenor of modern military life as well as witnessing the techniques in present-day airborne operations. Thanks to Capt. Frank Waldron, then Q.M. 1st Middlesex, we arrived suitably clad and equipped for our fortnight's stay.

There should be no cracks in soft putty so I hope the reader will accept this as a series of impressions rather than anything more critical.

No doubt there appears elsewhere in this journal a description of the camp couched in terms more eloquent than I could use. Certainly the view across the bay to Volos and the hills beyond called for an artist's canvas or a poet's pen. I am equally sure that the many sufferers from Greek tummy were grateful to the inspired person who sited the latrine. The panorama from this hygienic spot was truly magnificent but I doubt if it was adequate compensation for the constant journeying to and fro.

Umpire briefing began on the first day and was comprehensive. After this we spent two days' climbing, swimming and generally getting fit. The U.K. umpiring element then travelled north and spent two days on a thorough recce of the exercise area. Thirty per cent. of the umpire teams were drawn from NEARELF, however, and the fact that they arrived too late for a preliminary look at the ground had a marked effect on the umpiring of "Soft Putty." The other lesson we learned was that it is more important for an umpire to be acquainted with the ground and role than the Christian names of the Battalion with whom he is operating. I should explain here that because of postponements caused by weather, the two Parachute Battalions swapped roles and the umpires swapped with them!

It was obvious from the moment of arrival that the 1st Middlesex was a very fit and cheerful Battalion. Not until John Parkinson returned from a couple of days in the hills with "A" Company did we realise how well groomed they were tactically. During the exercise we had several opportunities to note the tactical superiority of the infantry over the Parachute Battalions.

A Warminster seer once told me that successful airborne operations are a bonus to war. Watching the descent of the 3rd Parachute after a 24-hour postponement, I recalled this remark. The scene, mark you, was beautiful. A blue cloudless sky, gentle breeze and a DZ surrounded by mountains. Quite a spectacle, but would it really have been unopposed?

To sum up, we left Greece with four very firm impressions: (1) The Regular Army is fitter now than it has ever been. (2) The Parachute Battalions are tough, fast, but tactically impetuous. (3) The infantry as represented by the 1st Middlesex are equally tough, not so fast but tactically sound. (4) As an instrument of war airborne operations are out.

HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE DEPOT

The Home Counties Brigade, which is three years old on April 1 this year, has seen a number of changes in the structure of the British Army in its short life. The most recent change is that of the disbandment of the Forester Brigade, a brigade of only three regiments, and the transfer of its regiments to those other brigades with only three regiments; namely the Fusilier, East Anglian and Mercian Brigades. Apart from the Household and Parachute Brigades, the Infantry of the line are now organised on a Four Battalions to a Brigade basis except for the Welsh, North Irish and Green Jacket Brigades.

These changes appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* at the end of 1962. The military correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* quoted Mr. Profumo, who said: "The War Office would like to see the introduction of the large Infantry Regiment, but would rely on evolution and the pressure of events to bring this about. There would be no change of identity within present battalions nor was any reduction in their size intended."

This article, no doubt, set a great number of both past and present members of the Regiment thinking as to what the formation of a Large Regiment implies. Whatever the implication it is quite certain that the Large Regiment will eventually come into being, and as such the loyal and active co-operation of all ranks, past and present, is essential to make it a success.

We at the Brigade Depot, representatives from the four Regiments of the Brigade work in complete unison as one unit with one aim. Integration does not only exist at the Brigade Depot. There are, and will continue to be, as far as can be seen, a number of officers and other ranks serving with a Regiment which is not their parent Regiment. Our own Regiment, as you may know, has a Commanding Officer from The Queen's Own Buffs and a dozen senior N.C.O.s from the other regiments in the Brigade. The other regular and T.A. Battalions are in a similar position.

This subject, The Large Regiment, will be discussed over and over again, so let us hope that the final result will be as painless as possible, and that it will receive the wholehearted support and loyalty, whatever the outcome, from all those whom it really concerns.

1963 looks like being an equally eventful year as 1962. The Brigade Depot hopes to be installed in its new barracks, Howe Barracks, by the end of the year. The date is dependent upon the delay in building caused by the weather and further requests submitted for additional buildings. Howe Barracks will be the most modern barracks in the United Kingdom. The whole barracks is centrally heated. The Junior Soldiers and Recruits live in rooms designed to take five, seven, or nine soldiers. Sitting rooms are provided for approximately every 30 soldiers. The Junior Ranks' Club has spacious restaurants for N.C.O.s, Recruits and Boys, writing, television and games rooms, a services shop and hairdressing saloon. These modern facilities will be greatly appreciated by both staff and soldiers under training.

This year will see the departure of quite a few "Die-Hards." The majority will be joining the 1st Battalion before it leaves for Gibraltar in August.

It is felt that in the past very little publicity has been given to the Brigade Museum. I am certain that there are a great number of serving soldiers who are not aware that the Brigade Museum even exists. I am preparing an article written by the Museum Curator, Mr. Woodcock, which gives in detail information on all items displayed in the Museum. It is proposed to inform the Regiment through the medium of the Journal of what new exhibits have been acquired from time to time. The Curator at this moment is working on two projects which should be displayed by the end of the summer. The first is a book containing the 46 V.C.s in the Brigade, and the second is a display of all the Battle Honours of the Regiments in the Brigade, which will take the form of a frieze in the new Museum.

"H.Q." Company

There have been a number of soldiers who have passed through the Depot over the last six months on their way out of the army, or merely passing through on

their way to the Battalion. I intend to say a few words about each of these persons.

C/Sgt. H. Males (6211953) for the last few years has been in the Middle East and arrived at the Depot in January of this year to be released from the Army. Sgt. Taylor (22542445), a familiar figure on the hockey field, recently saw service in the 1st Battalion in Germany and Lydd. He served for a short time at the Depot in 1960. A regular soldier, he has completed his engagement with the Army and leaves us in April of this year. L/Cpl. Jarret, Ptes. Keogh and Booker were the last three National Servicemen to serve at the Depot. Pte. C. Smith (23764509) who recently served with "H.Q." 2nd Division, B.A.O.R. was released from the Army in January 1963. Ptes. D. Adams, J. Grevatt and D. Brown have just completed two years at the Junior Leaders Battalion at Oswestry and were in transit prior to joining the 1st Battalion.

Training Company

In these notes we propose to say something about those recruits who have won distinctions during their training at the Depot.

Best Recruit. Pte. Latouche received this award on November 2, 1962, whilst serving with Quebec Platoon. Pte. Harper was also awarded the distinction of being the best recruit of Quebec Platoon on February 22, 1963.

Best at P.T. This distinction was awarded to the following recruits over the last six months:

Pte. Noe—September 21, 1962

Pte. Moore—November 2, 1962

Pte. Ziekono Possee—January 11, 1963

Most improved at P.T. The following recruits received this award:

Pte. Mallon—September 21, 1962

Pte. Van Zundert—November 2, 1962

Pte. Smyth—November 23, 1962

Pte. Manning—December 14, 1962

Pte. Norman—January 11, 1963

It is hoped to be able in future to give a few more details of recruits and their achievements, with photographs.

Junior Soldiers Wing

The Junior Soldiers Wing, commanded by Major Peter Bellers, has some 31 Middlesex Bandmen and Drummers under training, apart from Schofield and Richardson, who have been at Kneller Hall since October 1962. Schofield as a Junior Sergeant won the Junior Bandsman Cup (presented by the Regiment) in 1961 and 1962. Bradford, another ex-Boy (6 ft. 5 in.), is now an old hand at Kneller Hall.

Drms. Furlotte and Coombes have recently joined the Regiment at Lydd and seem to have settled down. J/Bdsm. Hull, son of "Busty" Hull, a well-known figure in the Regiment, plays the bass trombone with great vigour, and J/L/Cpl. Chapman, a smart and useful Drummer, will both be joining the Regiment very shortly.

Cpl. Routledge and L/Cpl. Parker are now both well and truly immersed in the routine of instructing the boys. Drum-Major Howells, a very disconcerting, but good, hockey player and a very useful cricketer, will be



Photo: County News Picture

Major (now Lt.-Col.) J. R. Anderson presenting Pte. B. Harper with the prize for the best recruit in Quebec Platoon on February 22nd, 1963

joining the Regiment in exchange for Drum-Major Lewis. We know that both will be equally at home in their new units and will receive a big welcome.

There are two notable occasions this year when the Junior Soldiers Band will be seen in public. They are: April 27—At Wembley Stadium during the School-boys' International between England and Wales.

June 24—At the Royal Tournament, Earls Court, during the evening performance.

Valete

Major P. V. G. Bellers came from the 1st Battalion in 1961 to take over the Junior Soldiers Wing. This exacting task he has carried out with increasing enthusiasm and vigour. The pace is fast and furious, and apart from between term holidays there is very little free time either during the week or at weekends. In spite of this, however, Major Bellers has represented the Depot at hockey. But two years is quite enough in this strenuous job, and we wish Major Bellers a well-earned rest at the end of his extended tour in August of this year, and he and his family all the very best in his new job.

W.O.2 Simmons, whose two years are up this year, will be returning to the 1st Battalion in time to move with them to Gibraltar. Simmons has earned for himself a very high reputation from his Company Commander and C.O. during his tour with the Training Company. He has cultivated the right approach to his task of handling the new recruits and, surprisingly enough, the effort and enthusiasm with which he has carried out this task has neither blunted his wit nor his cheerfulness. His presence will be greatly missed at the Depot. It

will be many years before his image on the football field, participating in those lightning bursts of speed, and the ability to strike the ball with both feet and hands at the same time will be forgotten. Mrs. Simmons has also made her mark on the society at Canterbury. Her apt and choice remarks, released with perfect timing, made even the most lugubrious among us smile. We believe Simmons may well be commanding the Pioneer Platoon, and we are concerned for his safety. We wish Simmons and his wife and children a happy return to the Battalion, but ask him to refrain from making any more tunnels in the rock.

Sgt. L. Plumb (22466825) leaves the Depot in April this year to re-join the 1st Battalion prior to going to Gibraltar. Sgt. Plumb served with the Battalion in Germany before coming to the Depot in 1960. Having first joined Training Company he was moved to "H.Q." Company, where he has been the mainstay of that Company. He has represented the Depot in small bore and open range shooting. We wish him and his family a pleasant journey to Gibraltar and a happy stay on the Rock.

Avete

Cpl. A. O'Gorman joined the Orderly Room Staff at the Depot in December 1962. He was previously with the 1st Battalion in the Orderly Room. He will undoubtedly find it a little strange here to begin with, but hope he will enjoy his stay.

Pte. F. Naylor (23729007) has joined the Permanent Staff of the Depot to perform duties in the Officers' Mess. He arrived in January and so far very little has been seen of him.

There are, we believe, a number of old "Die-Hards" residing in Kent, and we hope by the next issue of these notes to have discovered some of them. We again extend a welcome to any "Die-Hards" passing through Canterbury to come and see us.

C.N.C.

16th HORNSEY CADET COMPANY The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.)

As usual the Company has had a varied programme of activities which has kept everybody fully occupied.

On Monday, February 25, 1963, the Company held its Open Night and this, in spite of a slow start, was a great success. Drum Major Holdford and his Corps of Drums from the 5th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, in particular attracted much attention. Once again the Company was indebted to Major Dick Smith for the interesting display of exhibits he had borrowed from the Regimental and Whitehall Museums, and to Sgt. Pritchard and his team from the 1st Battalion. Capt. Lardner's son was fascinated by the team's activities and the Middlesex Regiment looks forward to a possible new recruit.

The tickets for the raffle were drawn by Miss Darrie, the Hornsey Youth Officer, and the 1st and 2nd prizes were won by Cpl. Knibbs and C.S.M. Hoy.

At the Annual Company Dinner over 60 guests and Cadets sat down to a table beautifully laid with silver



Officers and Guests at the Annual Dinner of 16th Hornsey Cadet Company, held at the T.A. Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8, on January 25, 1963

loaned by the 5th Battalion Middlesex Regiment. Once again the Company thanks Mrs. Holdford for her superb catering, which made possible a most enjoyable meal.

Certificates and prizes were presented by Councillor J. T. Wilkins, the Mayor of Hornsey. The Company also had the pleasure of welcoming Lt.-Col. Cooper, the new County Commandant. This was his first official visit since he took over from an old friend of the 16th Company, Col. Ellis, and the Company would like to take this opportunity of thanking Col. Ellis for his support and encouragement during his term of office.

The Company continues to do well in its every-day training and looks forward to more activities with the T.A. and the Regular units.

OBITUARY

Col. J. H. Morris, D.S.O., O.B.E.

John Hugh Morris died peacefully in his sleep at his home at Fleet, Hants., on January 28, 1963, aged 82.

A resident of Fleet since his retirement from the Army in 1937, he first saw active service as a subaltern in the Regiment during the Boer War. He was later—in 1902, in fact—transferred to the R.A.S.C.

In the First World War he served in Palestine, where he was awarded the D.S.O., and was mentioned in despatches four times. Posted to the Shanghai Defence Force in 1927 he ended his service on the staff of Headquarters, China Command, in 1937.

During the last war he held an important post as principal liaison officer between the Ministry of Food and the N.A.A.F.I.

Col. Morris was a former president of the Boer War Veterans' Association and in 1960 handed their standard for safe keeping to the Garrison Church, Aldershot.

He was one of Fleet Horticultural Society's most prominent iris growers.

He leaves a widow, two married daughters and two grand-daughters, to whom we offer our deepest sympathy.

Major (Q.M.) A. W. Clark, O.B.E.

Alfred Webber ("Nobby") Clark died on February 6, 1963, aged 74.

He enlisted into the Regiment on January 16, 1906, and on completion of his recruit training was posted to the 4th Battalion. He served with that Battalion at Tidworth, Aldershot and Devonport, and was a member of the Battalion football team.

He was transferred to the Army Reserve in 1911, but rejoined the Colours on the outbreak of the 1914-18 War and on August 16, 1914, went to France with the 1st Battalion. On September 28, 1915, he was wounded in the right shoulder and returned to England.

By 1917 he had reached the rank of Warrant Officer Class 2 (R.Q.M.S.). After the war he served with the 1st Battalion in Cologne, and then in England until 1927, when he went with the Battalion as part of the Shanghai Defence Force. He was there for nearly a year before returning to the United Kingdom.

In 1929 he was commissioned and, after three years at home, spent the next seven years abroad with the 1st Battalion in Palestine, Egypt, Singapore and Hong Kong, by which time he had been promoted to Captain.

After returning to the United Kingdom he was posted to the Depot, and was there at the outbreak of



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

the 1939-45 War when it became a Machine Gun Training Centre.

He was promoted Major in 1941 and, in that rank, commanded the Regimental Depot Party, which was formed at Inglis Barracks when the Machine Gun Training Centre moved to Chester.

He retired in July, 1948, but before that date he had been appointed Secretary of the Regimental Association, in which capacity he continued to serve the Regiment he loved until June 30, 1961.

Even after such a long innings with the Regimental Association he refused to give up work and soon found employment with Messrs. Hall, Winder & Co., chartered accountants. He was still at work with this firm when, in August, 1962, he had a stroke. He recovered a little, but was partially paralysed and was unable to speak properly. He had a second stroke on February 6, 1963, which quickly and peacefully brought to an end the life of this staunch, stout-hearted and loyal "Die-Hard."

He was awarded the O.B.E. on January 1, 1942.

The funeral service took place at St. Paul's Church, Mill Hill, on February 14, 1963, and the large congregation, which had come to pay their last respects, included the Colonel of the Regiment, the Chairman and Secretary of the Regimental Association and Officers' Club, Capt. J. M. Hewson (representing the

1st Battalion), Major S. C. W. Weller (representing the 5th Battalion), Mrs. Brooks, who had been "Nobby's" assistant through his term of office as Secretary of the Regimental Association, and many old comrades and their wives.

After the service a Bearer Party, provided by the 1st Battalion, carried the coffin to the adjoining churchyard, where he was buried in a grave next to that of Col. Maurice Browne, with whom he had been so closely connected in the Regiment for so many years.

Major H. C. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D.

It was not until after the funeral that we heard, through his son, of the death of Major Hector Charles Ellis on November 5, 1962, at the age of 70.

He was appointed to a Commission in the Special Reserve of the Regiment on August 15, 1914, and, less than eight months later, became a substantive Captain, being at that time attached to the Worcestershire Regiment. Later on in the war he returned to the Regiment and served with the 3rd Battalion in Macedonia.

He received the O.B.E. in 1919 for "valuable services rendered in connection with military operations in the Balkans," having already been mentioned in despatches.

In 1920 he relinquished his commission, but four years later joined the T.A. He went on the T.A. Reserve in 1926 but in 1930 was again transferred to

the Active List with the 8th Battalion. He was promoted to Major in 1932.

He served throughout the 1939-45 War, finishing up as a Town Major in Holland.

After the war he was with a firm of estate agents, and worked with them right up to the end.

At the time of his death he was vice-president of Sevenoaks Rugby Football Club and a church warden at St. Mary's, Riverhead, Sevenoaks.

In his younger days he was a lively boxer and Rugby player, and in later years he took a keen interest in organising sport for the younger generation.

Major H. W. B. Warneford, M.C.

"Tim" Warneford died on January 24, 1963, after a long illness patiently borne, in his 80th year.

He was commissioned into the Regiment on November 29, 1905, and, when war was declared in 1914, he went to France with the 1st Battalion. Very shortly after arriving in the B.E.F. he was promoted Captain.

From March 26, 1916, to January 29, 1917, he was Adjutant to our 23rd (Service) Battalion.

On April 17, 1918, he was promoted to the acting rank of Major and posted to the 4th Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry.

He returned to the Regiment in January, 1920 and was posted to the 3rd Battalion. He remained with that Battalion until the Geddes axe fell in 1922, and the 3rd and 4th Battalions were disbanded. He was then transferred to the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and remained with that Regiment until he retired in 1930.

During his war service he was awarded the M.C., mentioned in despatches, and wounded twice.

Capt. A. T. Farrow

Arthur Farrow died in December, 1962, at his home at West Norwood, at the age of 65.

He joined the 4th Battalion at Plymouth in 1912, serving as a boy in the tailor's shop. At the age of 15 he was selected to play for the Battalion hockey team.

On the outbreak of the 1914-18 War he joined the 5th Battalion at Chatham and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant at the age of 18.

He joined the B.E.F. in France in 1917 and served with the 4th Battalion for a time. After the war, in 1919, he was sent to Colchester where the 4th Battalion was re-forming. He was again posted to that Battalion and served with it at Gibraltar and in Egypt. In 1922 the Battalion returned to Tidworth where it was disbanded as a result of the first major post-war reorganisation which resulted in Regiments with four Regular Battalions being reduced to two. At that time Arthur Farrow was a C.Q.M.S. and, on disbandment of his Battalion, he was transferred to the Buffs. He joined the 1st Battalion of his new Regiment in Constantinople in 1922.

He was outstanding in the field of sport, representing his Battalion at hockey, cricket, football, tennis and swimming.

On his discharge as a C.Q.M.S. in 1937 he joined Section "D" of the Army Reserve. He was called up for service in 1939 and joined the Depot of the Buffs,

which became 12 I.T.C. Later on he was commissioned as Quartermaster into the Lancashire Fusiliers, retiring as a Captain in 1945.

He joined the staff of Shell Mex in London and served with them until he was 60, the compulsory date for retirement. He later joined an insurance company in the City until his final retirement.

He leaves a widow and son, Roger, to both of whom we offer our deepest sympathy.

Capt. R. E. Guest

Information was received in February last that the above officer, who served in the Indian Cavalry in the 1914-18 War, and was taken a prisoner-of-war whilst serving with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong in 1941, died at his home at Cheltenham on November 26, 1962.

As it has not yet been possible to get all the details required, it is hoped to publish a full obituary notice in the next issue of *The Die-Hards*.

Capt. Harry John Jennings

Harry Jennings was born in Hendon on January 24, 1915. He enlisted into the Regiment on February 15, 1933, and joined the 2nd Battalion. A little over a year later he headed the list of Unpaid Lance-Corporals and had obtained his first-class certificate of education—an unusual feat in those days.

He served with the 2nd Battalion until 1940 when, as a M.G. Platoon Sergeant, he was badly wounded in the right shoulder at Dunkirk.

On recovery, he spent a short time at the Depot before being posted to 20th Battalion The Royal Fusiliers, and in 1943 he went with them to India. In 1945 he was transferred to 2nd Manchesters as R.S.M.

His application to re-join his old Regiment was treated sympathetically, and he met up with us again at Chester.

From being a P.S.I. with the 7th Battalion he went to the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong and in 1950 was in the team which won the Colony seven-a-side rugby football competition for the Blarney-Stone Shield, having played in every round. He was, of course, a member of the 1st Battalion rugby team. In pre-war days he had been a tower of strength in the 2nd Battalion rugby side, and he was also in the Battalion's boxing team.

In 1951 he was granted a commission and completed a three-year tour with The King's African Rifles, where his battalion was engaged in operations against the Mau Mau.

Returning from East Africa in 1954 he was appointed Q.M. of the 11th Parachute Battalion—the old 8th Middlesex—and got his Captaincy the next year. In 1958, however, his heart began troubling him, and in the following year, he had to leave the service.

For his services he was awarded the 1939-45 Star, Burma Star, Defence Medal, War Medal, General Service Medal with clasp "Kenya" and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Having been such an active man, he was not content to sit back and do nothing. He found employment with the War Office Records Centre and there he worked until he died on January 20, 1963.

All who knew him mourn the loss of a most likeable and friendly character, and one who, in his work, was most thorough and conscientious. He leaves a wife and three children and to them we offer our deepest sympathy.

Bandmaster O. E. Marshall (315089)

News was received in January last of the death of Mr. Marshall, who joined the Regiment at Hounslow in 1902 and became a cornet player. He was made Band Sergeant in the 2nd Battalion in 1913 and served with that Battalion until 1918 when he went to Kneller Hall.

On qualifying as a Bandmaster in 1920 he was posted to the 21st Lancers, then stationed at Meerut in India, and in 1922, when that Regiment was amalgamated with the 17th Lancers, he was appointed Bandmaster to the 1st Battalion The Royal Scots.

After he was discharged to pension in 1926 on completion of 24 years' service with the Colours, he joined the 1st Battalion Glasgow Highlanders (H.L.I.) (T.A.) as Bandmaster, and served with them until the outbreak of the 1939-45 War.

He formed the Glasgow Corporation Transport Orchestra after the last war and retired in 1956, when he went to live at Crewe. There he took up the conductorship of Crewe Corporation Society Band and also wrote and scored for the Crewe Light Opera Society until the day before he died.

C Sgt. (C.Q.M.S.) S. T. Steadman (6191707)

"Bunny" Steadman died on October 25, 1962, aged 68.

He served throughout the 1914-18 War with the Yorkshire Regiment and was awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre. It was not until March 10, 1919, when he re-enlisted on a regular engagement that he came to the Regiment. He was posted to the 2nd Battalion, and served with it for nine years in Egypt, Singapore and India.

At the end of 1928 he reverted to the Home Establishment and did a tour of duty at the Depot. On completion of this tour he went overseas with the 1st Battalion and served in Palestine and Egypt. He returned to the United Kingdom some six months before taking his discharge in 1936.

On the outbreak of the 1939-45 War he rejoined the Colours and served at the Depot, which had now been turned into a Machine Gun Training Centre. He remained there until September 15, 1941, where he was discharged on ceasing to fulfil Army physical requirements. He spent the greater part of his service as a C.Q.M.S. and, in that capacity, he was most conscientious and efficient.

"Bunny" was a most popular, likeable character, and a thoroughly loyal and faithful "Die-Hard."

Sgt. F. A. Chasney (6192053)

Frederick Alfred Chasney, a well-known member of the 1st Battalion Band for many years, died at Chatham on January 3, 1963.

He was born—the son of an old "Die-Hard"—on April 23, 1899, at Stonehouse, Plymouth, Devon,

and enlisted as a Boy in the Regiment at Mill Hill on August 18, 1913.

When the 1st Battalion joined the B.E.F. in France in 1914 he was still on Boy's service and could not, therefore, go overseas with them. However, on reaching his eighteenth birthday in 1917 he was posted to the training cadre and joined the 1st Battalion in France on April 2, 1918. Returning to England in February, 1919, he was married the following month at Chatham, where he had been stationed earlier in the war.

He was serving with the Band when the 1st Battalion joined the British Army of Occupation on the Rhine in January, 1921, and, although by no means a tall man, the cheerful face of "Conk," as he was affectionately called, could frequently be seen peering over the top of the bass drum.

He was appointed a Lance-Corporal on New Year's Day 1925 and in that rank he sailed for China in January, 1927, when the Battalion formed part of the Shanghai Defence Force.

In 1928 he was promoted to Corporal and he left the Band to become a duty N.C.O. He soon adapted himself in his new role, and was posted to the Depot in 1930 as an instructor, where he proved to be popular and efficient. Whilst serving at the Depot he was appointed a Lance-Sergeant.

He rejoined the 1st Battalion in time to start a tour of service overseas, going to Palestine in December, 1931, and from there to Egypt in January, 1933. Whilst in Egypt he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and returned to the Depot for another tour of duty in November, 1935.

He was discharged to pension on his thirty-ninth birthday, April 23, 1938, with a total service of nearly 25 years, having been awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal for his services during the 1914-18 War, and also the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

After his discharge he was employed as a postman, and joined Section "E" of the Army Reserve.

He rejoined the Colours at the outbreak of the 1939-45 War, but was prevented by ill-health from serving with any of the service Battalions. He was finally discharged as medically unfit on January 15, 1941.

His funeral took place at the Medway Crematorium, Chatham, on January 9, 1963. Major R. W. J. Smith represented the Regiment and was accompanied by ex-O.R.Q.M.S. A. E. Finch as well as the wives of two old comrades, Mrs. R. Glover and Mrs. G. Soper.

Sgt. T. G. Garrett (424916)

Tom Garrett, as he was known to all his old friends, died on November 29, 1962, in the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, where he had been an In-Pensioner since October, 1957.

He was born on December 19, 1877, and enlisted on January 3, 1898. He remained with the Regiment until October, 1917, when he transferred to the Labour Corps.

He was discharged to pension in April, 1919, with a total service of 21 years and 3 months, having been awarded the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal for his services during the 1914-18 War.

He was a familiar figure at all Regimental functions for the last five years, generally in the company of the late In-Pensioner W. Bailey.

The funeral took place at Streatham Vale Crematorium on December 5, 1962. Major R. W. J. Smith represented the Regiment.

Sgt. J. R. Patterson (22971435)

John Robert Patterson, who died on January 20, 1963, aged 27, enlisted on October 12, 1953, and had only very recently left the service.

He served with the 1st Battalion in Austria, Cyprus and Germany, and for the last two years had been at the Home Counties Brigade Depot, Canterbury.

He was a good rifle shot, and for several years was a member of the Battalion team. He also won many individual trophies.

An officer writes:

"Sgt. Patterson was a modest man who was continually striving to increase his own personal efficiency in his military work. He was extremely strong willed and always commanded respect through his strong powers of discipline regardless of the fact that this sometimes tended to make him temporarily unpopular with his soldiers. He possessed a great ability to organise, and was always searching for new ideas, some of which were quite revolutionary but nevertheless practicable.

"He deplored any system which resulted in the soldier being subjected to unnecessary hardships and always strove to keep those under his command informed of what was going on.

"It was by a combination of these qualities that he always managed to get maximum efficiency from his platoon, both in the Battalion and whilst at the Depot, when dealing with the difficult task of training the modern recruit.

"His intelligence allowed him to think in the same terms as his Platoon Commanders, which was always of the greatest assistance to them, for they then knew that anything they ordered would be done by Sgt. Patterson and that no supervision was ever necessary."

Our deepest sympathy is extended to his young widow.

Sgt. R. Simpson (2718503)

"Paddy" Simpson, who died on October 23, 1962, joined the Regiment on transfer from the Irish Guards, when the 57th/77th was formed in 1948. He was promoted Sergeant on March 23, 1954.

After serving with the 1st Battalion in Korea and Austria, he was seconded for a tour of duty with the Royal West African Frontier Force. On completion of this he returned to the United Kingdom and was employed on the staff of the London Assembly Centre in Goodge Street. This type of employment was, however, not his idea of soldiering, so he applied for, and was given, a M.T. (Technical) course. After qualifying satisfactorily he was again posted to the 1st Battalion, then in Cyprus, and succeeded in clearing up a backlog of accounting which had accrued owing to the military operations then in progress.

In February, 1958, he left the Battalion on posting to the Depot pending his discharge, which took place later that year.

After leaving the Army he entered the Civil Service, having passed the necessary examination in record time, and was so employed up to the time of his sudden and unexpected death.

Major R. W. J. Smith represented the Regiment at his funeral.

Cpl. F. J. Duffield (2336)

We much regret to announce the death of the above old "Terrier," which took place on New Year's Day. He enlisted in the 2nd Middlesex Volunteer Battalion at Ealing Drill Hall in 1900 and served until 1906.

He re-enlisted in the 18th Battalion in January, 1914, was mobilised at the outbreak of the 1914-18 War, and served in Gibraltar from September, 1914, until February, 1915, when he moved with the Battalion and landed in France in March, 1915.

On May 24, 1915, he was gassed and spent some time in hospital and at the Infantry Base Depot before rejoining the Battalion in March, 1916.

As a result of being wounded on September 15, 1916, during the Battle of the Somme, he was invalided home and later transferred to the Royal Flying Corps.

He was finally discharged in January, 1919.

During the 1939-45 War he was employed on Civil Defence with the Ealing Heavy Rescue Squad.

He had been a member of the Ealing Branch of the Regimental Association for many years up to the time of his death.

Cpl. F. Page, M.M. (L/7854)

Frederick Page died on January 9, 1963, in his 81st year.

He was born in 1882 and enlisted into the Regiment on May 14, 1902. He completed his first term of Colour service on May 13, 1910, having spent most of this time overseas.

He was mobilised on the outbreak of the 1914-18 War and joined the 4th Battalion, remaining with that Battalion until he was again transferred to the Army Reserve in February, 1919. He was finally discharged on March 31, 1920, with a total service of just under 18 years.

He was serving with the 4th Battalion when it received its baptism of fire at Mons on August 23, 1914, and was in practically every engagement in which the Battalion took part subsequently.

On two occasions he was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field. As a Private he was awarded the Medal itself in the *London Gazette* dated August 23, 1916, and bar later in the war when he was an N.C.O.

He led a very full life until about three months ago, joining in socials and parades of the Old Contemptibles, and was a regular member of the Mill Hill Branch for the first few years after this last war.

He was buried in Tottenham Cemetery on January 11, 1963, the Regiment being represented by Major R. W. J. Smith.

Bdsm. A. G. Stewart

It is with much regret that we have to announce the death on February 7, 1963, of Alfred (Jock) Stewart, one of the outstanding Old Comrades of the 9th Battalion.

As a Bandsman he served for many years prior to 1934 with the Royal Scots. In 1934 he joined the Band of the 9th Battalion at Pound Lane, Willesden.

After the cessation of hostilities in 1945 he became caretaker of the Drill Hall in Honeypot Lane, Kingsbury, and carried out, in addition, the duties of canteen steward almost up to the time of his death. In this capacity he was always cheerful and obliging, and he did much for the comfort of young Territorial soldiers. Nothing was ever too much trouble for him.

The funeral service, which took place at Golders Green Crematorium on February 12, 1963, was attended by a large number of his Old Comrades from the 9th Battalion, headed by Col. H. W. W. Gray. Major R. W. J. Smith attended as representative of the Regiment.

Pte. G. Edwards

George Edwards collapsed and died in October 1962, whilst walking through Red Lion Yard, Watford. He was 69.

He was the son of a baker and followed in the footsteps of his father after he left school by working at three local bakeries in Watford, before going to work in London as a wine salesman for Direct Supplies Ltd. He was with this firm for 31 years.

He served in the 1914-18 War with the 1st Battalion and was discharged after being wounded in France. In his younger days he was a keen sportsman.

He and his wife celebrated their Golden Wedding last year. He is survived by his wife, his son, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Pte. P. S. Winslade (43638)

Percival Stephen Winslade enlisted at the age of 33 in March, 1916, and served in France from August 2, 1916, to January 25, 1917, with the 47th and 17th Battalions of the Regiment.

He was wounded in 1916 and had to have his right leg amputated above the knee. He was eventually discharged on November 8, 1918, as "ceasing to fulfil Army physical requirements."

Mr. Winslade used to live at 63 Alma Lane, Farnham, Surrey, with his brother and sister, but in 1960 he had a stroke which made him more or less bedridden. After spending some time in the County Hospital, Farnham, he was admitted to the Star and Garter Home, Richmond, on August 17, 1962, but died suddenly of a coronary thrombosis on December 3, at the age of 79.

He was buried in the Soldiers' portion of Richmond Cemetery on December 7. Unfortunately the Regiment was not represented because the notification of his death arrived at Regimental Headquarters at just about the same time as the funeral was taking place in Richmond.

Mrs. Steed

We regret to announce the death on February 10, 1963, of Anne Elizabeth, of Rustington, Sussex, widow of Lt.-Col. F. S. Steed, O.B.E., D.C.M., late of The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), and a former Secretary of the Regimental Association.

NOTE.—It is regretted that the details required are not yet available and, therefore, full obituary notices cannot yet be written in the case of the following, whose deaths were announced in the October, 1962, issue of *The Die-Hards*:

Bt. Col. W. D. Kenyon, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.

Capt. B. H. Kerr.

C.S.M. C. W. R. Soper.

ERRATUM.—On page 223 of October, 1962, issue of *The Die-Hards* for "Sgt. A. Grayer" read "Sgt. A. Granger."

CORRESPONDENCE

From Major H. Shertwood, T.D.

Crawford House,

Spetisbury,

Blandford Forum.

October 11, 1962.

The Editor,
THE DIE-HARDS,
The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.),
T.A. Centre, Edgware.

DEAR SIR,

Extracts from my great-grandfather's diary which was begun on April 23, 1805, and closed on June 12, 1816.

"Mrs. Sherwood and myself embarked at Portsmouth on board the Honorable the East India Company's Ship *Devonshire* to proceed to India with H.M. 53 Regt. On the 24th the *Blenheim* of 74 Guns made the signal to get under weigh. . ."

"We got off as soon as we could and reached Liverpool by 12 and soon passed our baggage, got quietly to the Inn and had a good fresh Dinner, the children being delighted with the Fresh Vegetables. Emily asked her Mamma if the Chambermaid was a woman—from this to Snedshill and Worcester and so ends for the present the Voyages and Travels of H.S."

Those of the "old sweats" of the 1/9th Battalion who still survive will find this extract of especial interest as we were stationed at Dinapore (where, in the old Dutch church, we have placed a memorial tablet to those who passed on), some of us for nearly 12 months, and others for about one month, between December, 1914, and early January, 1916. Others, also, who have seen service in India will be equally interested in the details set down.

Extracts from this, his second diary, were published in the 1930 editions of the Regimental journal of the K.S.L.I., while in 1915 I had sent extracts from Dinapore—similar to those I send you—to *The Statesman*

resulting in the discovery that the centenary was then being celebrated of the foundation in Calcutta by my great-grandmother (who wrote "The Fairchild Family" and shorter stories of which "Little Henry and his Bearer" was popular in its day) of a home for the sons and daughters of serving soldiers with the object of "keeping them away from barrack-room life."

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) HENRY SHERWOOD.

PS.—The spelling in this copy is as written in the diary.

[Note.—The Extracts are published on page 255 of this issue.—EDITOR.]

170 Worcester Road,
Malvern Links, Worcs.

The Editor, *Die-Hards*

DEAR SIR,

Re your comments in the October issue for someone to subscribe to *The Die-Hards* to be sent to some Old Comrade, I enclose 5s., together with my subscription for 1963 and part postage.

I may point out I am not an ex-"Die-Hard" but consider myself as one. It was not my luck to join the Regiment. In 1900, in company with my Dad, we went to Cambridge Barracks, Woolwich. The Battalion that was there I have forgot. The Adjutant at the time said there was then no vacancies for Drummers. I was passed 15 years of age. I could have put my age on and joined as a Private, but Dad would not hear about it.

I joined the A.S.C. as a Trumpeter and finished as a S.S.M. and now pensioned off more years than I care to remember.

The donor may I suggest the Stephens Family.

My Grandfather, Father and three sons as follows:
3524 Pte. John Stephens, 57th Foot (decd.).

1246 Sgt. Alexander Stephens, 57th Foot (decd.).

Capt. R. Stephens, Middlesex Regiment (decd.).

Lt. (Q.M.) J. Stephens, R.A.S.C. (decd.).

S.S.M. W. A. Stephens, R.A.S.C.

My Father and three sons were born in the Regiment. I at Dover in 1885, the youngest of the family, a daughter, is a retired civil servant in Canada, she served in the W.A.A.C. in France 1916-19.

I have taken the regimental numbers from the G.C. Medals of Grandad and Dad. There are four G.C. Medals in the family, R. Stephens being commissioned in the field in 1917.

My Dad at one time was the music writer of the Regiment by the notes referred to him by the late Col. Browne.

I hope, sir, I have not bored you with these few notes and trust that they may pass as the Donor.

I enjoy *The Die-Hards* and read all it contains and feel myself as one though not having the honour of serving in the Regiment.

So may I close wishing you and all old "Die-Hards" a Happy Christmas and a Great New Year.

I am, yours sincerely,

(Signed) W. A. STEPHENS.

"Greenway,"
Little Somerford,
Chippenham.
January 7, 1963.

The Editor, *The Die-Hards*.

DEAR SIR,

Enclosed find a cutting from the *Chatham News* of one of our former officers which might interest readers of the Journal. In his cutting the Dean speaks about getting the walls ready for the training of naval ratings for Zeebrugge. I also helped in the training of the ratings with the Stokes mortar on Fort Luton fields and with rifle grenades in the chalk pits at Wouldham. I also saw the returning victors marching along Dock Road, Chatham, singing at the top of their voices.

Yours truly,

(Signed) T. J. GREEN.

[Note.—The cutting, entitled "It Costs 6s., to Fill the Biggest," appears on page 251 of this issue.—EDITOR.]

**DON'T FORGET—
MAY 12!**
(See Frontispiece)

You'll enjoy....



**The proper creamy
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THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION



The Middlesex Regiment

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)

Headquarters: Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

President: Maj.-Gen. J. E. F. Willoughby, C.B.E.

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

Vice-chairman: Lt.-Col. I. R. Burrows, O.B.E.

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.	Annually, during the third week in January.	R.H.K.D.F. Volunteer Centre, Queen's Road, Central, Hong Kong.
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 last Thursday.	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.
Bandsmen and Drummers	Mr. A. R. Drane, 11 John Dee House, Mortlake, S.W.14.	Quarterly, on the third Sat- urday in March, June and September, and on the last Saturday in December.	47th Signal Regt. T.A., (Middlesex Yeomanry), Duke of Yorks H.Q., Chelsea, S.W.3.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Regimental Association will be held at Seymour Hall, London, W.1., on Friday, 29th November 1963, at 8 p.m.

At the A.G.M. alterations to the rules approved by the Executive Committee will be submitted for confirmation. Particulars will appear in the October issue of the "Die-Hards."

* * *

Lord-Lieutenant's Appeal for Widows' Flatlets, Albuhera Close, Enfield

The following is the first list of subscribers to the above appeal, corrected to March 20, 1963:—

	£	s.	d.
Trustees, 9th Battalion	1,000	0	0
Middlesex County R.F.C.	500	0	0
Sunbury-on-Thames U.D.C.	131	0	0
Uxbridge Branch Regimental Association	126	11	7
Mr. C. E. Page-Taylor	105	0	0
Major H. A. Neal, late 9th Battalion	100	0	0
Wembley Borough Council	80	0	0
Thomas Lilley Memorial Trust	50	0	0
Mill Hill Branch Regimental Association	50	0	0
Dr. M. L. L. Sutcliffe	30	0	0
Collection at Annual Reunion	20	18	10
Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton	16	12	0
Eastbury Women's Institute	11	17	4
"H.Q." Company 5th Battalion	11	10	0
Lt.-Col. E. N. Trevor	10	10	0
Ruislip Dramatic Society	10	10	0
Alderman Mrs. M. B. Davies (late Mayor of Twickenham)	5	5	0
Northwood Hills Congregational Church	5	5	0
Northwood & District Branch British Legion	5	5	0
Capt. C. H. Richards	5	5	0
Ruislip Residents' Association	5	5	0
Ruislip Water Ski Club	5	5	0
Councillor L. Sussman, Hornsey	5	5	0
Mr. R. W. Stokes	5	0	0
1st Battalion (collection at Carol Service)	4	17	4
*Mr. G. Hurlock, Albuhera Close, Enfield	3	15	0
Haste Hill Golf Club	3	3	0
N.U. Teachers, Ruislip-Northwood	3	3	0
Northwood & District Branch, National Council of Women	3	3	0
Ruislip Manor F.C. Supporters' Club	3	3	0
Ruislip Manor Methodist Church	3	0	0
Ruislip Manor F.C. collection	2	15	0
British Legion, Northwood Branch, Women's Section	2	8	0
Eastcote Townswomen's Guild	2	5	0
Bandmen and Drummers Branch, Regimental Association	2	2	0
Mr. J. Barry, Albuhera Close, Enfield	2	0	0
Eastcote Women's Institute	1	1	0
Lt.-Col. R. H. Epps	1	1	0
Ruislip Garden Residents' Association	1	1	0
Councillor B. D. Smith, Hornsey	1	1	0
Uxbridge & Ruislip Trades Council	1	1	0
Councillor C. J. Ertinger, Hornsey	1	1	0
Councillor C. Murray, Hornsey	1	0	0
Lt. G. R. A. Batchelor, R.N.R., Hornsey	10	0	0
Mr. G. F. Bennett	10	0	0
Mr. J. W. Cleave	10	0	0
Eastcote Branch, Women's T.O.E.	10	0	0
Ruislip Branch, Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers	10	0	0
Ruislip Branch, A.E.U.	10	0	0
Mr. F. C. W. Hammond	5	0	0
Total	£2,342	10	1

* This total is made up of weekly contributions of 5s. since early November, 1962.

Appeal 1961—Increase in Subscriptions

The Secretary thanks the following, who have increased their annual subscription to the Association Charitable Fund in response to the appeal made in 1961: Lt.-Col. H. P. Lambert and Capt. F. Redpath.

Donations

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations from the following to the Association Charitable Fund: Mr. F. H. Nash, Mr. J. O. Taleen, and Mr. E. Vickery.

Association Membership

Up to the end of February ten new members have been added to the central register. All of these are recruits at the Home Counties Brigade Depot and were enrolled by the efforts of their squad instructor, Cpl. L. Quinn, who himself became a member of the Association last year.

Well done, Cpl. Quinn! We hope that others will follow your excellent example.

News of Old Comrades

We were delighted recently to receive a visit from ex-Sgt. G. Ambrose, late of 2/8th Battalion, and one of the best M.T. Sergeants the Regiment has ever had. He is now a bus driver with the London Passenger Transport Board, and lives at 38 Wellesley Road, Harrow.

Another Old Comrade from the 2/8th Battalion who visited us very recently was ex-Pte. J. H. Freedman. He was one of the Battalion barbers, and very efficient at his job, too. He is still in the hairdressing business and has a saloon somewhere in South Kensington.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Baldry, who occupy 16 Albuhera Close, Enfield, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on November 8, 1962.

An appropriate greetings telegram was sent to them from all "Die-Hards" on this auspicious occasion. May they have many more years of happiness together!

We hear that ex-R.S.M. Jim Davis and his wife, who flew out to visit their sons just before Christmas, are having a wonderful time in California. They are expecting to return to this country, via Canada, in June.

We congratulate Mr. C. D. Goddard, M.M., on being awarded the British Empire Medal in the last New Year's Honours List.

He won his Military Medal with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong and when that Colony fell on Christmas Day, 1941, he became a prisoner-of-war.

He paid a fleeting visit to Regimental Headquarters early in March and is hoping to do so again in the near future, but as he lives in Northern Ireland he cannot get here as often as he would like.

On February 18 last ex-C.Q.M.S. Cornelius King (6189041), late 2nd Battalion, was admitted as an In-Pensioner to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

The Regiment has now five In-Pensioners at Chelsea.

Those who served in the 2nd Battalion in India in the 'twenties will be interested to hear that Frank Nash, who in those days was in the Machine Gun Platoon of H.Q. Wing, and finished up in 1947 as a R.S.M. with the Royal Sussex Regiment, is employed by the Sussex Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association as County R.S.M. to the Sussex Army Cadet Force.

He writes to say that he hopes to attend the Albuhera Parade on May 12, and sends his best wishes to the Regiment and all Old Comrades.

EALING BRANCH

During the last six months we have been holding our monthly meetings as usual. We had a good turnout at the Regimental Reunion at Seymour Hall, and met some new faces.

In December we had our Open Night when we were joined by a party from the Uxbridge Branch, which included their Chairman (Col. McFarlane) and their Secretary (Mr. Bob Bell). We would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. and Mrs. Smith for so successfully organising the refreshments and the bar, and the display of prizes.

We were very sorry to lose our oldest member, Mr. Fred Duffield, who died on January 1. We shall miss Fred at the bar with his yarns of the First World War.

By the time this appears in print we shall have held our annual general meeting, which we hope as many members as possible will attend.

Finally we would like to say how much we appreciate the Regimental Newsletter, the first issue of which was made in January.

"BUTCH."

ENFIELD BRANCH

It is now nearly three years since the Branch was formed and in that time its registered membership has trebled itself. Today we have got more than 50 members on the books. But everyone is convinced that it could and should be at least three times three of our original 15 members. It is a fact that in Enfield itself and the surrounding boroughs there must be many hundreds of ex-members of the Regiment. But how to reach them? And having reached them how to persuade them of the benefits and pleasures of being a member? We don't claim in the Enfield Branch that we run any sort of glamour club. Nothing like that but we do provide the opportunity to meet old comrades—old friends and talk about the "good old days." So we would be glad to welcome any and everyone who has worn the badge of our Regiment.

Future activities proposed include visits to other Branches and preparations for the Albuhera Parade on May 12. A suggestion that we join with "C" Company, 5th Battalion, in an Albuhera Dinner is being followed up, as is a proposal for a summer coach outing. The main ingredients for success in any one of these projects is co-operation by all members and a special appeal for support is being directed towards all those of our members who, although they pay their subs, only rarely visit the Branch meetings held on the first Friday in each month. Will all those who read these notes get in touch with me now?

A. T. JONES (Major),
Chairman.

HONG KONG BRANCH

With the passing of another year, we now look forward to another hopeful year in 1963. Events during the past year have been limited owing to members being away from the Colony on home leave or business.

Our annual meeting is due to take place on March 18, 1963, when it is hoped to discuss our forthcoming celebrations for Albuhera Day.

It is with regrets that during the last two months we have had to say farewell to two great supporters of the Association, namely, Brigadier J. E. F. Willoughby, C.B.E., and Major E. A. H. Jeffcoat, and we wish them and their families all the best for the future.

We should also like to congratulate Brigadier J. E. F. Willoughby on his recent promotion and appointment.

We look forward to welcoming Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Nolda to Hong Kong, and hope that their stay will be a pleasant one.

W.T.J.L.

HORNSEY BRANCH

Our annual general meeting took place on February 28 last and went well, although the attendance was not as large as it might have been. We look forward to an eventful year.

Our Christmas Draw was a great success, thanks to the efforts of those responsible for its organisation. We would also like to thank Major R. J. Leighton very much indeed for his handsome gift of £15 towards the evening. The money was very well spent. For the occasion a splendid buffet was prepared by Mrs. Holdford, for which we say "A wonderful show, Nora."

Since the Hornsey "Die-Hards" Rifle Club was formed in April last year the membership stands at a very enthusiastic 24. Although successes have been few in our first season the club team has gained experience, and the scores have noticeably improved. Our individual handicap competition was won by Mr. "Tiny" Pooley, second place going to Mr. "Eddy" Johnson. The prize for the highest score of the match was won by Mr. Fred Tring with a score of 98 out of a possible 100.

Our Branch membership now stands at 94—a rise of 34 in the year. With the incoming youngsters from "A" Company stationed at Hornsey we hope to push it to 150.

It has been suggested by our Chairman, Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, that a dance should be held during the year in aid of the Widows' Flatlets Scheme at Enfield, and he asks our Entertainment Officer (Mr. S. Parkhouse) to give consideration to this.

C. H.

MILL HILL BRANCH

It is a sad thought that as each contribution to the Regimental Journal is due we have to record the passing of a comrade or comrades, but as the years pass by and they take their toll, this is inevitable. Thus it falls to my unhappy lot to record the passing of three, who were well known to all of us—Bob (Tug) Wilson, Capt. (Harry) Jennings and Major (Nobby) Clark, O.B.E.

The first two were, as you all know, members of the Branch, whilst the latter had not only been a member but also a former Branch Secretary. To all three we say "God rest you, gentlemen, it was an honour to have served with you, you will live forever in our memories of those happy years of comradeship which we shared together," and to their wives and families we tender our deepest sympathy and ask them to take comfort in the knowledge that they were loved and respected by all with whom they served.

Before writing about some of our past activities I should like to mention just two of the future. First and foremost the Annual Parade to commemorate the Battle of Albuhera. This is, we all sincerely hope, going to be a regular annual event. An event which will, not before its time, bring to the notice of the citizens of Middlesex that they have a County Regiment of which they should be very proud. Now it can only be an annual event if it is supported by all ex-members of the Regiment. When I say ex-members I do not mean only members of the Regimental Association. There must be thousands of ex-"Die-Hards" who are not members. These are the ones we want to contact and get interested in this Parade and who knows they may become members. I therefore beg of you to do your utmost in giving all the publicity you can to this event, and tell every ex-"Die-Hard" you meet about it. This year it takes place on the Horse Guards Parade on Sunday, May 12, at 11 a.m. I won't bother you with too many details now, for they can be found elsewhere in this issue; you will get to know of any further details from Branch headquarters. I will, however, say that this year's parade is going to be an exception, for at long last we Old Comrades are having a Standard and it is on this Parade that it will be presented to us. So please help the committee who are organising the Parade by telling all who have served with the Regiment or have been attached to the Regiment to come along on May 12. There is no obligation other than you must have worn the Middlesex Regiment cap badge or been connected with the Regiment.

The other event is the Branch's Annual Dinner. This is being held on May 19 at the Victory Club. Final arrangements have not yet been completed, but should anyone who is not a member of the Branch like to know more, just drop me a line and I will let you have the full details. Members will, of course, get theirs in our monthly letters. My address is: 78 Deans Lane, Edgware, Middlesex. My name, in case you are not aware, is Mr. L. R. Johnson.

By the time these notes are published we shall be well into 1963, nevertheless I should like to take this opportunity of wishing all past and present members of the Regiment a very happy, healthy and prosperous 1963 and to all Branches a very successful year.

I think I can say that Mill Hill Branch had no regrets for 1962. Our monthly meetings were well attended, and many new members joined the Force. To them we say, welcome, we are honoured to have you with us, we sincerely hope that you will realise the friendship and comradeship you have missed through not joining sooner and will encourage all ex-"Die-Hards" that you may meet who are not members of a Branch, to

join immediately, and so pick up those threads of comradeship that were broken when they left the Service.

The Christmas Draw, which was held on December 1, was to say the least a great success, for not only did we have a record attendance, but a record number of tickets were sold. Unfortunately, not everyone could be prize-winners, though several members who won more than one prize returned one to be drawn for again, whilst others returned their prize to be raffled for the Widows' Homes Fund.

Thanks for such a successful evening must again be given to that happy band of helpers—Bob Ferguson, Percy Newman and Charlie Banks—who all helped to get the hall in ship-shape form. Then to those ladies who do so much: Mrs. Ivy Clarke for her selection and buying of the prizes; Mrs. P. Newman and Mrs. P. Baldwin for arranging the display; Mrs. R. Smith who, with Busty Hull, drew the lucky numbers and prizes; and last but not least to all members who by participating in the draw and attending helped to make this annual event something worth looking forward to.

We were able, at this meeting, through personal donations given by members and from proceeds of raffles well supported by those who attend the monthly meetings, to hand over a cheque for £50 to the Widows' Flatlets Fund. It was my intention to publish a list of all those who so generously gave to this worthy cause, but owing to the fact that I am working away from home at the present time, I find it extremely hard to carry out all those things that I should like to do, not having the necessary information at hand. But I am sure that you will accept from me, on behalf of all those who will benefit by your generosity and support of the Appeal, theirs and the Association's thanks for what you have done and will do. We have at the time of writing something like £15 towards our next donation—not bad going for the start of a New Year.

Our two meetings held so far this year—January and February—have like all good things suffered from the bad weather. Still the old faithfuls turn up and, though members have been less than usual, we still manage to enjoy ourselves. It makes me proud to have been a member of the Regiment when I see those who are a good deal older than I braving the Arctic conditions we have been having in order that they can enjoy for a few hours the company and friendship of some of their old comrades. I am sure if Col. Inglis, whose last words gave us our nick-name "Die-Hards," could only be present on these occasions he would be pleased to see that those words of his were not uttered in vain.

Now I wonder if these Branch notes are being read by serving members of the Regiment. If so, may I repeat again what I have said in previous notes: that is, there is always a welcome at any or all of our monthly social gatherings, which are held on the last Saturday of each month at the T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware. If you cannot get along to one or more of our meetings look up the nearest Branch address and dates of meetings, which you will find elsewhere in this issue. I know a welcome awaits you there. We want to meet you and share the spirit of friendship and

comradeship, which we enjoy, with you. Tell your pals who have perhaps left the Regiment about us. They, too, will be more than welcome. I am sure that after one visit you will like us, and will look forward to the next.

Now once again to remind all who read these notes, DON'T FORGET MAY 12, at 11 a.m., HORSE GUARDS PARADE. Think of this as if it were an order from your Commanding Officer and make sure you are there and that you make sure others are with you.

To all past and present members of the Regiment our best wishes, good health and happiness.

L. R. J.

BANDSMEN AND DRUMMERS BRANCH

It is some time since I last wrote a report of the Bandmen and Drummers Branch for the Regimental Journal, and quite frankly I always feel lost for a beginning. Perhaps it would be best if I began by saying that we have just over 50 members, our latest recruit being W. G. Matthews of the 3rd Battalion Band who lives at Crawley in Sussex, and gives me news of another old 3rd Battalion man, ex-Drm. Weedon.

The Reunion arranged for December 29 was held; not exactly as planned, because the weather conditions kept a number of our members away. Nevertheless, I think that we can claim it to have been a social success, if not what had been hoped for financially. Immediately after we closed down came the biggest snow blizzard known in this country for many years, and some of those who did brave the elements had a second ordeal in getting home. We express our gratitude to Messrs. J. Lyons, Meredith & Drew, World Record Club, Nestles, John Player, Camille (Hairdressers), Tom Beach, Lofty Lowe and Les Price for providing prizes for our raffle.

I regret most sincerely to announce the death of two ex-Bandsmen of the Regiment—O. E. Marshall, who left the Regiment on appointment as Bandmaster to the 21st Lancers in 1920, and one of more recent vintage, F. A. Chasney.

Another who is well known to many of us is Dennis Bayton, at present on a Quartermaster's course in Scotland. I get many enquiries from Dennis and John Rolfe, and it is a great credit to them both that they are so well remembered by former comrades.

Kenny Jones, a former 2nd Battalion footballer, has joined our Branch. It will be nice to see him again.

Our meetings this year have now been fixed for the third Saturday in March (16th), the second Saturday in June (8th), the third Saturday in September (21st), which is actually the second anniversary of our first Reunion, and the last Saturday in December (28th).

"BREWER."

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 5, 1962.

Sixty-five members attended, and the guests of the evening were the Deputy Colonel of the Regiment (Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C., D.L.) and the

Secretary of the Regimental Association (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 Fund and the handsome sum of £10 15s. was realised. In addition, Mr. L. Baynard, an ex-soldier of the Battalion, presented a cheque for 10 guineas for the same Fund—a really wonderful contribution.

This year the Dinner will be held at the same venue on Friday, October 4, and any ex-member of the 2/7th Battalion who wishes to attend should get in touch with Major R. E. Robotham, M.C., T.D., 39 Cyprus Avenue, Finchley, N.3 (Tel.: FINchley 1649).

2/10th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT O.C.A. (1914-18)

The 35th Reunion Dinner of this unit will be held at the Bolton Hotel, 326 Earl's Court Road, London, S.W.5, on Saturday, May 18, 1963 (6.30 for 7 p.m.).

This is an annual occasion and is usually attended by upwards of 60 ex-members of this Battalion. Details can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, A. D. Scudamore, of "Cleveland," Byes Lane, Sidford, Sidmouth, Devon, who is anxious to contact any ex-2/10th man who may be unaware that such an organisation exists.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE SEYMOUR HALL, SEYMOUR PLACE, LONDON, W.1, ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1962

Present: Lt.-Col. I. R. Burrows, O.B.E. (Vice-Chairman), Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, D.L., Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. F. de R. Morgan, M.C., Major C. N. Clayden, Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E., Major H. Sherwood, T.D., Major R. C. Whipples, Capt. S. R. Bonnamy, R.S.M. F. Webb, Mr. F. Barker, Mr. T. R. Bennett, Mr. L. Castree, Mr. J. W. Cleave, Mr. A. R. Drane, Mr. R. H. Ferguson, Mr. H. J. Fisher, Mr. C. Holdford, B.E.M., Mr. H. Hull, M.M., Mr. L. R. Johnson, Mr. Low, Mr. A. E. Sills, Mr. J. Trunley, Mr. Tunnell, Mr. S. F. Turner, Mr. Wright, Col. F. Walden (Secretary).

1. Election of Branch Representatives to the Executive Committee for 1963

The Vice-Chairman informed the Meeting that nominations for Branch representatives had been received from: Enfield Branch, Mr. J. Trunley; Hornsey Branch, Mr. C. Holdford, B.E.M.; Hounslow Branch, Mr. L. Castree; Mill Hill Branch, Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E.; 9th Battalion Branch, Mr. T. R. Bennett; 12th (H.G.) Battalion Branch, Capt. S. R. Bonnamy; and that the following had been elected in accordance with Rule 34 (a): Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E. (already serving on the Executive Committee, having been elected for 1962); Capt. S. R. Bonnamy.

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

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on November 17, 1961, were passed and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

3. Accounts for 1961

The Vice-Chairman asked if anyone present had any points to raise on the audited accounts for the year ended December 31, 1961, which had been circulated to the Branches.

No points were raised.

It was, therefore, proposed by Mr. L. R. Johnson and seconded by Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton that the accounts be carried. *Carried.*

4. Revision of Rules

The Vice-Chairman stated that a Sub-Committee had been appointed to revise the Rules, and that this Sub-Committee had met and had drawn up a list of proposed amendments, which would be submitted to the Executive Committee at their next Meeting in February 1963.

5. War Memorial Widows' Flatlets

The Vice-Chairman informed the Meeting that:

- (i) The Lord Lieutenant's Appeal was making progress, that £1,011 had been received to date, and that a further £1,400 had been promised.
- (ii) A Sub-Committee, under the chairmanship of Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, was working out what steps should be taken within the Regiment to help the project.

Both Col. Clayton and Major Whipps, the Public Relations Officer on the Sub-Committee, made statements.

6. Regimental Association Standard

The Vice-Chairman stated that agreement was now being reached on the design, and that he hoped to be able to inform the Executive Committee of the decision arrived at at their meeting on October 25, 1962.

7. Illness of Late Secretary

At the suggestion of Brigadier Rackham it was agreed that a message should be sent to his family expressing the Association's earnest wish for Major Clark's speedy recovery from his illness.

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

MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT GUILDHALL, WEST- MINSTER, S.W.1, ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1962

Present: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L. (Chairman), Lt.-Col. I. R. Burrows, O.B.E. (Vice-Chairman), Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, D.L., Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., Col. S. F. Hedgecoe, Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. F. de R. Morgan, M.C., Lt.-

Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., Lt.-Col. G. W. Webber, T.D., Major C. N. Clayden, Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major E. L. Heywood, Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E., R.S.M. R. Dodkins, R.S.M. F. Webb, Mr. D. Stockman, Col. F. Walden (Secretary). Apologies for non-attendance were received from Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., and Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D.

1. Ex-Officio Members

(a) On behalf of the Committee the Chairman welcomed Lt.-Col. G. W. Webber, T.D., commanding 5th Battalion, as a new *ex-officio* member of the Executive Committee.

(b) The Chairman then drew the attention of the Committee to the fact that this was the last meeting which R.S.M. Webb would attend, as he was returning to his parent regiment, The Royal Sussex Regiment, early in the New Year.

On behalf of the Committee the Chairman thanked R.S.M. Webb very much for the valuable assistance which he had given to the Association during his tour of duty with the Regiment.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on June 21, 1962, which had been circulated to all Members of the Committee on July 9, 1962, were passed by the Chairman.

3. Secretary's Report

(a) *Association Membership.* The Chairman stated that he was glad to see membership particulars given in this Report.

Brigadier Rackham drew attention to the fact that no membership from the 1st Battalion was shown, and placed before the Committee a questionnaire which he had prepared in regard to the enrolment of the younger element.

In regard to Brigadier Rackham's remarks, R.S.M. Dodkins stated that young soldiers leaving the Army today were not interested either in continuing their connection with the Regiment or in attending functions. All they wished to do was to get back to living a civilian life.

R.S.M. Webb said that the only men leaving the Army were National Servicemen, who had no interest and merely counted the days to their discharge. He agreed with R.S.M. Dodkins that they were not interested either in continuing their connection with the Regiment or in attending functions.

After further discussion it was felt that it must be left to Commanding Officers to do their best to encourage soldiers to join the Regimental Association on their discharge and to arrange for lists of names and addresses of men discharged to be supplied to the Secretary so that they could be followed up.

Major Clayden said that those men who are extra-regimentally employed were not catered for. It was agreed that a list of these should be prepared and a suitable letter sent to each, regarding membership of the Regimental Association, by the Secretary.

Major Newman queried the numbers shown on the General Register and stated that, when members were circulated about 1957, upon a change of policy regarding Association Membership, it was understood that every-

one had to belong to a Branch, and that those not specifying their desire to join any particular Branch should automatically become members of Mill Hill Branch: and that, in fact, those now shown on the General Register (less 5th Battalion and H.C. Brigade Depot) should be enrolled into the present Mill Hill Branch.

After some discussion the Chairman ruled that this matter should be referred to the Sub-Committee on the Revision of the Rules for their recommendation.

(b) *Charitable Fund—Appeal, 1961.* Lt.-Col. Roberts said that he considered that the response to the appeal for increased subscriptions was very poor, and hoped that further efforts would be made to encourage members to increase their subscriptions.

In reply to a question regarding increasing covenants the Secretary explained that a covenant could not be increased, but there was no reason why a second covenant should not be entered into; several members had already done this.

(c) *Donations.* The Committee expressed their appreciation of the donations made to the Charitable Fund. On being asked if suitable letters of thanks had been sent to the donors, the Secretary assured the Committee that every gift was acknowledged by him personally by letter.

(d) *Regimental War Memorial.* The Committee agreed that a letter should be sent to Lt.-Col. Turver expressing their deep appreciation of the work carried out under his direction in connection with the renovation of the War Memorial and the grass surround.

(e) There being no further comments, the Report was adopted.

4. Finance Sub-Committee's Report

(a) *Current Account—Borrowing Facilities.* The Chairman stated that at the end of 1961 the Association Charitable Fund had a deficit on income account of approximately £700.

It was decided that, rather than sell investments in order to meet the commitments for the current year, the Bank should be asked to give the Association facilities to overdraw on their current account to the extent of £1,000 until December 31, 1962. To this the Bank had agreed.

(b) *Investments.* Lt.-Col. Roberts said that he had been studying the changes in investments, which had been carried out on the advice of Messrs. Mullens & Co., and he considered their experience in the equity market was not of long standing.

After some discussion it was proposed by Lt.-Col. Roberts and seconded by Major Hardcastle that the Finance Sub-Committee be asked to consider the advice of a firm of Merchant Bankers. *Carried.*

(c) There being no further comments, the Report was adopted.

5. War Memorial Sub-Committee's Report

(a) *Repairs to Cottages at Mill Hill.* Brigadier Rackham stated that the work of modernising the Memorial Cottages at Mill Hill had not proceeded as fast as he would have liked, due to the fact that it was discovered that the work on the roofs would be more extensive than

at first anticipated. He hoped that the work would now start next spring.

(b) *Widows' Accommodation.* Brigadier Rackham reported that, when approached, the two widows in the cottages at Mill Hill refused to consider the accommodation offered to them at the Royal Cambridge Homes at East Molesey, and he now asked the Executive Committee's opinion as to whether or not this could be considered as a refusal to accept suitable alternative accommodation.

After some discussion it was agreed that the Royal Cambridge Homes should be visited by a small Sub-Committee consisting of the following, who should report back to the Executive Committee their opinion as to the suitability of the accommodation offered:

Major E. L. Heywood (Chairman), Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E., and Chairman, Tenants' Committee Enfield War Memorial Homes.

(c) *Widows' Flatlets, Enfield.* Brigadier Rackham moved that the special Sub-Committee appointed in Minute No. 12 (a) (iii) (b) of the Executive Committee Meeting held on February 22, 1962, be authorised:

- (i) To proceed as quickly as possible with the planning and building of four (possibly six) flatlets at Albuhera Close, Enfield.
- (ii) To make the necessary financial arrangements (e.g. borrowing).
- (iii) To decide on conditions of tenancy.

And that brief progress reports should be made at each Executive Committee meeting until the flatlets are occupied.

The resolution was carried.

(d) There being no further comments, the Report was adopted.

6. Journal Sub-Committee's Report

(a) *Journal Cover.* The design for the proposed new cover to the Journal was studied and, after some discussion, it was proposed by Col. Walden and seconded by Brigadier Rackham that it be approved. *Carried.*

(b) There being no further comments, the Report was adopted.

7. Branch Secretaries' Sub-Committee's Report

(a) *Association Standard.* The Vice-Chairman stated that the design, etc., had been thoroughly discussed, and the cost of a standard would be about £300 if it was hand-embroidered, but only about £25 if a hand-painted standard was acceptable. It had, therefore, been decided to go ahead with the less costly type, the work on which would be done by Major Allott, who was so kindly giving his services free.

The Vice-Chairman gave details of the design, on which there was general agreement, but asked the Executive Committee to give a decision as to whether the maroon and yellow stripes should be horizontal or vertical. The Committee decided in favour of vertical stripes.

The Vice-Chairman explained that the following extras costing about £7 would also be required:

6 blue berets (to ensure that one was available to fit the standard bearer appointed by the Branch concerned).

- 1 silver badge.
- 1 pair gauntlet gloves.
- 1 white belt.

Lt.-Col. Webber said that the 5th Battalion would provide the white belt.

The Committee authorised the Vice-Chairman to purchase the extras required, if they could not be obtained free.

(b) *Albuhera Sunday Parade, 1963.* Brigadier Rackham said that he felt very strongly about this parade, which in his opinion was one of the most important functions of the year and should be given the greatest publicity and the maximum support by all members and ex-members of the Regiment. He asked that a special Sub-Committee should be formed now to take care of the organisation for this event.

The Committee agreed with the views expressed by Brigadier Rackham and decided that a Sub-Committee consisting of the following should be formed at once:

Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, D.L. (Chairman).

Mr. L. R. Johnson, R.S.M., 5th Battalion.

(c) *Remembrance Day, 1962—Service and Ceremony at Field of Remembrance.* Lt.-Col. Roberts said that, although arrangements had been made for the Service on November 10 to take place at the County and Regimental Memorial inside the entrance to Guildhall, Westminster, he did not think that these were made clear enough in the circulars which had been sent out.

The Secretary undertook to circulate Branch Secretaries, giving them complete details of the arrangements made.

Lt.-Col. Roberts felt that this might encourage more to attend, as the Service would be under cover.

(d) *Annual Reunion, 1963.* Arising from this Report Brigadier Rackham asked if it would be possible to discuss whether or not the venue for the Annual Reunion next year should be changed, since he understood that some felt that the Seymour Hall was too big.

After a short discussion it was decided that this matter should be deferred until the next Meeting.

(e) There being no further comments, the Report was adopted.

8. Report of Special Sub-Committee on Press Releases, etc., in Connection with the Lord Lieutenant's Appeal

(a) Col. Clayton outlined the plan put forward and, after some discussion, this was, in general, agreed to. It was, however, stressed that the Lord Lieutenant should be approached through the Clerk to the Lieutenantcy in regard to any matter which might affect him.

The following decisions were arrived at by the Committee on the items mentioned in paragraph 4 of the Report:

- (i) The suggested brochure (item (b)) should be submitted to the Chairman of the Executive Committee before going to press.
- (ii) The monster Association Raffle (item (j)), and the first prize suggested in connection with it were not considered appropriate.
- (b) There being no further comments, the Report was adopted.

9. Report of Special Sub-Committee on Revision of the Rules of the Association

The Vice-Chairman reported that the Sub-Committee had produced a first draft of amendments, and that this draft would be circulated to members of the Executive Committee with these Minutes, so that any member wishing to do so might forward his comments in writing to the Secretary on or before December 1, 1962. The Secretary would bring all such comments to the notice of the Sub-Committee, who would consider them when preparing the final draft for formal submission to the Executive Committee at their next meeting.

In preparing the final draft the Sub-Committee would take account of the two matters arising from this meeting of the Executive Committee and potentially affecting the Rules, namely, the matter of whether all members of the Association must also be members of a Branch (see Minute No. 3 (a) above) and the matter of whether all Branch accounts must be submitted to the Executive Committee as a whole (see Minute No. 11 below).

10. Survey of Finances

The Chairman stated that, at the suggestion of Col. Ellis, it was agreed at the last Executive Committee Meeting that a comparison of the financial position over the past five years should be produced at the Annual General Meeting. It was, however, felt that this comparison should be produced at an Executive Committee Meeting, and it was proposed that it should be prepared by the Auditor after the audit of the accounts for 1962.

Col. Ellis said that, when making his suggestion, he intended that the comparison should be produced at an Executive Committee Meeting and NOT at the Annual General Meeting.

The Committee agreed with the Chairman's proposal.

11. Branch Accounts

The Chairman stated that for the first time the Branch Accounts had all been available for this Committee. The Mill Hill Branch accounts were for the period October 1, 1959, to December 31, 1960, but all the others were for the year ended December 31, 1961.

Major Newman said that the reason for Mill Hill Branch accounts being rendered for a period earlier than the remainder was because the previous Secretary had told him that he did not want accounts but only a statement of charitable grants made by the Branch.

The Chairman said that he felt that the Executive Committee would not wish to examine these accounts themselves, and asked if they would agree to the accounts being presented to him for examination each year, and he would report to the Committee on any point considered necessary.

The Committee agreed with the Chairman's suggestion.

12. Any Other Business

(a) *The Late Secretary.* The Chairman reported to the Committee that Major Clark had had a stroke in August, and was making slow, but steady, progress towards recovery.

It was agreed that the Chairman should write a letter to Major Clark sending him the Committee's best wishes for a speedy recovery.

(b) *Next Meeting.* The next Meeting will take place on Thursday, February 28, 1963.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT

1. Benevolent Cases

(a) During the period from June 1, 1962, to September 30, 1962, the sum of £365 1s. 7d. was used to assist 56 cases. Of these the following saw war service as under:

South African War	..	2
First World War	..	31
Second World War	..	19

(b) *Clothing Grants.* The following ten cases were assisted:

- (i) Help was given towards providing a suit for a man, who suffers from black-outs, to enable him to be sent to a convalescent home from a hospital.
- (ii) A grant was made to help provide essential clothing for an ex-P.O.W. in Japan, who was awaiting his discharge from a mental home.
- (iii) A grant was made to an ex-soldier of the Regiment, whose twin 42-year-old daughters—both mentally deficient and crippled—were to be sent away by a welfare organisation for the first holiday they had ever had, but whose clothing was in a very bad state indeed.
- (iv) Small grants were made to seven elderly couples or widows living on slender incomes.

(c) *Convalescent Holidays.* Grants, in co-operation with various welfare organisations, were made in ten cases. Of these one was for an ex-soldier suffering from disseminated sclerosis, three for widows of men who lost their lives in the First World War, and the remainder for those recommended for holidays following illnesses.

(d) *Fuel Grants.*—Six grants were made for coal, etc. Two of these grants were made to men over 90 years of age, who need constant warmth; one to an ex-member of the Regiment who suffers from T.B. and has been unable to work for a very long time; and two to widows living on small pensions.

(e) *Housing.* The following three cases were assisted:

- (i) Help was given to a widow towards meeting the cost of repairs to the guttering of her house.
- (ii) A grant was made towards the removal expenses of a husband and wife, who had been living in a "tied" cottage, but had, through illness, been unable to carry on with the work for which they were employed.
- (iii) A grant was made towards the deposit on a caravan for a husband and wife who were in an exactly similar position to those mentioned in sub-para (ii) above.

(f) *Rent Arrears.* The following three cases were assisted:

- (i) In co-operation with the K.S.L.I. a grant was made to prevent a man with a wife and three

children, who had served in both Regiments, from being evicted for arrears of rent which had accumulated as a result of a long period of unemployment.

- (ii) A grant was made to an ex-member of the Regiment who had had to lose a considerable amount of time from work in order to look after a neurotic wife and a mentally ill daughter.
- (iii) Help was given to an ex-soldier who had had the misfortune to lose two jobs in quick succession.

(g) Miscellaneous.

- (i) Grants were made in two cases to help clear debts incurred by men who are mentally sick. In one of these cases we co-operated with the Forces Help Society and the Black Watch Association in raising nearly £60.
- (ii) As the result of an appeal from the British Red Cross assistance was given to an ex-P.O.W. in Japan, whose wife had had to give up her own job to care for him, since he was too ill to be left alone.
- (iii) Grants were made to two men on release from prison, in order to give them a chance of rehabilitating themselves.
- (iv) In co-operation with the Royal Sussex Regimental Association assistance was given to an ex-member of the Regiment to meet the cost of his wife's funeral.
- (v) A grant was made to help the 16-year-old son of an ex-member of the Regiment who had been left an orphan. On her death his mother had left several small debts, which he had been pressed to pay. He had been able to meet some himself, and the grant paid the balance.

The appeal on the boy's behalf was initiated by the husband and wife who had taken him into their home as one of their own family, on the death of his mother.

- (vi) Assistance was given to the widow of a soldier killed in the First World War, living on a small pension, to enable her to travel from the North of England to London to see her elderly sister.

2. Association Membership

The total membership as at today's date is 1,647, made up as follows:

Ealing Branch	..	..	..	109
Enfield Branch	..	..	..	46
Hong Kong Branch	..	..	..	9
Hornsey Branch	..	..	..	93
Hounslow Branch	..	..	..	40
Mill Hill Branch	..	..	..	244
Uxbridge Branch	..	..	..	40
2nd 7th Battalion Branch	..	..	..	312
9th Battalion Branch	..	..	..	229
12th (H.G.) Branch	..	..	..	56
Bandmen and Drummers' Branch	..	..	..	34
General Register (including 5th Battalion 93, and H.C. Brigade Depot 9)	..	..	..	435

Total 1,647

3. Charitable Fund—Appeal, 1961

Reference Minute No. 5 (b) (vi) of the Executive Committee Meeting held on June 21, 1962, as a result of the Appeal made in 1961, 38 members had increased their subscriptions by a total sum of £38 18s. per annum.

4. Annual Reunion

The total attendance at the Annual Reunion at the Seymour Hall on October 12 was 573, compared with 575 in 1961, and 546 in 1960.

5. Lisbon Maru Reunion

Reference Minute No. 12 (a) of the Executive Committee Meeting held on June 21, 1962, this Reunion was a great success.

Although approximately 200 accepted the invitations sent out by the Regimental Association, over 300 actually attended.

As a result the amount of £25 authorised for the provision of refreshments had to be exceeded by £4 3s. 3d.

6. Regimental War Memorial

The grass surround to the War Memorial in Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, deteriorated so badly last summer that it was necessary to get advice on how to restore it.

An expert from Messrs. Sutton & Sons Ltd. visited the site on August 14 and, as a result, it was decided that a considerable area would have to be dug up and re-grassed.

This work, and the cleaning of the Memorial itself, was undertaken quite voluntarily by the Officer Commanding, Home Postal Depot, R.E. (Lt.-Col. J. Turver, O.B.E., R.E.), and an excellent job has been done. The whole area is now in very good condition.

The only cost to the Regimental Association has been £3 17s., for grass seed.

7. News Sheet

Reference Minute No. 8 (c) of the Executive Committee Meeting held on June 21, 1962, it is proposed to issue the first news sheet in January 1963.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,

Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association.

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