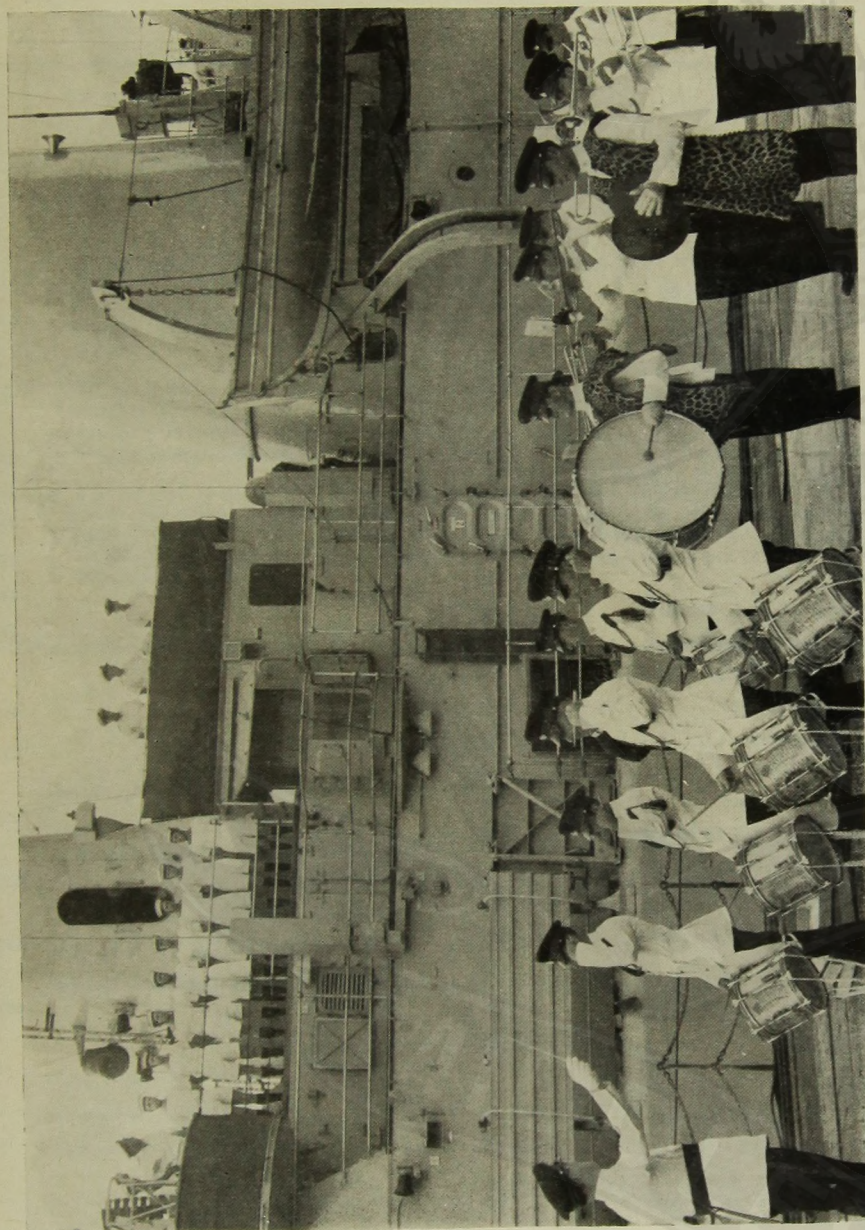


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The Band and Drums of the 1st Battalion playing farewell to H.M.S. Leander as the ship leaves Gibraltar

# The Die Hards

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



HALF YEARLY : APRIL AND OCTOBER  
VOL. XV No. 7 APRIL 1964 PRICE 2/6

## 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," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsula," "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1900-02."

World War I—46 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "18," "La Bassée, 1914," "Messines, 1914," "17," "18," "Armentières, 1914," "Ypres, 1915," "17," "18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Bellevue," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "18," "Albert, 1916," "18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Flers-Courcellette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "18," "Menin Road," "1917," "18," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "18," "Arleux," "Pillkhem," "Langemark, 1917," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrück," "Bailleul," "Kemmel," "Schepenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suva," "Landing at Suva," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell 'Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18," "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murrumbidgee, 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," "Sferro," "Sferro 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," "Venrai," "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.

**Regimental Headquarters**  
Location: T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.  
R.O.II: Col. F. Walden.  
R.O.III: Major E. L. Heywood.  
Curator, Regimental Museum: Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E.

**Regular and Territorial Battalions**  
**1st Battalion**  
O.C.: Lt.-Col. F. de R. Morgan, M.C.  
Location: South Barracks, Gibraltar  
**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.

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

**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 Coast and Taranaki Regiment.

**HONG KONG**  
The Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers).

**Home Counties Brigade Depot**  
H.Q.: Wemyss Barracks, Canterbury.  
Brigade Colonel: Col. I. H. Battye, M.B.E.  
D.A.A.G.: Major K. J. Carter.



# Officers Location Statement

## REGULAR OFFICERS

Major-General	J. E. F. Willoughby, C.B.E.	G.O.C. 48 Div. (T.A.)/West Midland District.
Major-General	C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C., M.A.	G.O.C. 49 Div. (T.A.)/W. Riding and North Midland District.
Col.	W. P. M. Allen, O.B.E., M.C.	Colonel A/Q. H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps.
Col.	J. W. G. Ormiston	Colonel G.S., D.I. (M.I.) 13, Ministry of Defence.
Col.	A. R. Waller, M.B.E., M.C.	Colonel G.S. H.Q. Southern Command.
Col.	I. R. Burrows, O.B.E., M.A.	SACEUR's Rep. to Standing Group Rep., S.H.A.P.E.
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. (T/Col.)	I. H. Batty, M.B.E., B.A.	Brigade Colonel, Home Counties Brigade.
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.
Lt.-Col.	C. N. Clayden	Deputy Comd., H.C. Brigade and Commander H.C. Brigade Depot.
Lt.-Col.	D. Sax	T.S.O. 1, School of Infantry.
Major	G. C. Dawson	M.C.T.C., Colchester
Major	E. F. Thompson, M.C., T.D.	D.A.A.G., A.G. 2, Ministry of Defence.
Major	P. L. Crutchfield	G.S.O. 2 (Int.), G.H.Q., FARELF.
Major (T/Lt.-Col.)	R. D. Hutchings	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.).
Major	P. W. Galvin	D.A.Q.M.G., Q(A.E.) 2, Ministry of Defence.
Major	E. A. H. Jeffcoat	2IC, 1st Battalion.
Major	J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.	B.M., 125 Infantry Brigade (T.A.)
Major	C. H. Mievill, M.C.	A.M.A. to U.K. High Commissioner, Pakistan.
Major	P. G. V. Bellers	D.A.A.G., A.P.S. 4, Ministry of Defence
Major	K. J. Carter	D.A.A.G. and Brigade Adjutant, Home Counties Brigade.
Major	B. A. M. Pielow	1st Battalion.
Major	H. J. A. Moore	1st Battalion.
Major	G. G. Norton	Training Officer, 5th Battalion (T.A.).
Major	R. M. Cain, B.A.	Staff Captain Q6(A), Ministry of Defence.
Major	B. K. Clayden	1st Battalion.
Major	J. I. D. Pike, M.C.	A.C.C. Depot and Training Battalion.
Major	B. H. Marciandi	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.).
Major	C. L. Lawrence, M.C.	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.).
Major	P. A. S. Wollocombe	11th Battalion The Kenya Rifles.
Capt.	J. S. B. Pollard	G.S.O. 3 (S.D.), H.Q. 2 Division.
Capt.	R. D. Fisher	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.).
Capt.	M. V. Hayward	No. 42 Army Youth Team. (Finchley).
Capt.	A. E. McManus	Adjutant, 5th Battalion (T.A.).
Capt.	J. M. Hewson, M.C.	Adjutant, 1st Battalion.
Capt.	I. M. E. Lloyd	1st Battalion.
Capt.	W. G. A. Crumley	1st Battalion.
Capt.	H. M. du V. Lohan	Adjutant, Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers).
Capt.	M. C. D. L. Gilham	1st Battalion.
Capt.	P. Mallalieu	1st Battalion.
Capt.	M. D. Legg	Defence Nuclear Biological and Chemical School.
Capt.	P. V. Cheesman	All Arms Junior Leaders' Regiment, Tonfanau.
Capt.	M. F. Deakin	Army Air Corps attd. Royal Malaysian Air Force.
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	A.D.C. to G.O.C. 48 Div. (T.A.)/West Midland District.
Lt.	R. C. Pitman	1st Battalion.
Lt.	J. G. Lofting	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.).

Lt.	P. J. Monypenny	1st Battalion.
Lt.	B. K. Finch	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.).
Lt.	P. J. Hubert	1st Battalion.
Lt.	R. A. Bartlett	Home Counties Brigade Depot (P.S.).
2/Lt.	P. F. Packham	1st Battalion.
2/Lt.	J. B. Hawkins	1st Battalion.
2/Lt.	D. J. Daniell	1st Battalion.
2/Lt.	M. B. Montgomery	1st Battalion.
2/Lt.	D. M. Falcke	1st Battalion.
Major (Q.M.)	S. C. W. Weller, M.M.	5th Battalion (T.A.).
Major (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	4th Battalion, The Buffs (T.A.).

## Short Service Officers

Lt.	G. N. Freeborn	1st Battalion.
Lt.	N. J. Bryant	1st Battalion Royal Sierra Leone Regiment.
2/Lt.	S. C. D. Searle	1st Battalion.
Capt. (Q.M.)	E. J. Pike	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.).
Capt. (Q.M.)	M. Wild	1st Battalion.

## Extended-Service Officers

Major	A. E. Peasley	Adjutant, Home Postal Depot R.E.
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## 5th BATTALION (T.A.)

## Honorary Colonel

Major-General	B. P. Hughes, C.B., C.B.E.
---------------	----------------------------

## 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.	P.M.C.
Capt.	J. K. E. Slack	I.O.
Capt.	M. J. Beaumont	O.C. "A" 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.	H. E. Couch	2IC "D" Company.
Capt.	K. D. Murray	2IC "H.Q." Company.
Lt.	D. H. S. Herriott	Platoon Commander "A" Company.
Lt.	J. S. Richards	M.T.O.
Lt.	M. J. S. Doran	Signals Officer.
Lt.	D. O. M. Thomas	Platoon Commander "B" Company.
Lt.	J. M. Robertson	Reece Platoon Commander.
Lt.	J. McMaster	Platoon Commander "C" Company.
Lt.	P. I. Phillips	Platoon Commander "B" 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.
Lt.	D. J. Margand	Platoon Commander "B" Company.
Lt.	J. J. Smith	Platoon Commander "A" Company.
Lt.	T. D. Jones	Platoon Commander "B" Company.
2/Lt.	J. S. Walker	Platoon Commander "A" Company.
2/Lt.	F. J. Hamilton	Platoon Commander "C" Company.
2/Lt.	D. S. Smith	Platoon Commander "B" Company.
2/Lt.	J. M. Brown	Platoon Commander "A" Company.

## Attached Officers

Major	D. P. Winstanley, R.A.M.C.	Medical Officer.
Capt.	R. L. MacQueen, R.A.M.C.	Medical Officer.
Capt.	B. A. Hennah, R.A.P.C.	Paymaster.
Rev.	A. C. V. Menzies, B.A., A.K.C.	Chaplain.



## Permanent Staff Officers

Major	G. G. Norton	..	..	Training Officer.
Capt.	A. E. McManus	..	..	Adjutant.
Major (Q.M.)	S. C. W. Weller, M.M.	..	..	Quartermaster.

## E.R.E.

Bt. Col.	I. D. Brotherton	..	..	A.D. Mov. (T.A.), 54 East Anglian Div./Dist.
Major	D. L. James, T.D.	..	..	D.A.Q.M.G. Mov. (T.A.), 54 East Anglian Div./Dist.
Capt.	S. J. Carter	..	..	O.C. "H.Q." Company, 56 (London) Infantry Brigade, T.A.
Lt.	P. N. Ashton	..	..	L.O., 56 (London) Infantry Brigade, T.A.

ROLL OF WARRANT OFFICERS AND SENIOR N.C.O.s  
(Corrected to March 19, 1964)

Bde. Pos.	Appt. or A/Rank	Name	Unit	Bde. Pos.	Appt. or A/Rank	Name	Unit
WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS I				60	Sgt.	C. Blackwell	1 Mx.
2	W.O.1	T. McMillan	4 Buffs (T.A.)	82	Sgt.	B. Tarry	1 Mx.
6	W.O.1	R. Budden	4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.)	89	Sgt.	S. Speakman	1 Mx.
				92	Sgt.	W. Argent	1 Mx.
11	W.O.1	R. Dodkins	1 Mx.	93	Sgt.	L. Plumb	1 Mx.
WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS II				101	Sgt.	M. Turner	1 Mx.
15	R.Q.M.S.	P. Soper, B.E.M.	H.Q. 12 Inf. Bde. Gp.	105	Sgt.	J. Williamson	1 Mx.
24	R.Q.M.S.	K. Beale	H.Q. 11 Inf. Bde. Gp.	107	Sgt.	B. Edey	R.M.A.S.
30	W.O.2	A. DaCosta	4/5 R. Sussex (T.A.)	116	Sgt.	W. Turner	Sch. of Inf. (Hythe)
37	W.O.2	S. Michel	5 Mx. (T.A.)	119	Sgt.	J. Raffael	Y 1 List
39	W.O.2	M. Eastap	1 Mx.	127	Sgt.	B. Pritchard	1 Mx.
42	W.O.2	G. Simmons	1 Mx.	130	Sgt.	A. Briggs	1 Mx.
47	W.O.2	E. Steward	1 Mx.	132	Sgt.	J. Redmond	1 Mx.
54	W.O.2	D. Walters	5 Buffs (T.A.)	133	Sgt.	D. Miles	1 Mx.
55	W.O.2	E. Thompson	22 S.A.S.R.	135	Sgt.	J. Young	1 Mx.
57	R.Q.M.S.	P. Amor	22 S.A.S.R.	139	Sgt.	J. Kerr	1 R. Sussex
				141	Sgt.	G. Overton	5 Mx. (T.A.)
				154	Sgt.	J. Leat	1 Mx.
				158	Sgt.	F. O'Rawe	1 Mx.
				167	Sgt.	J. Barr	Bde. Depot (P.S.)
COLOUR-SERGEANTS				172	Sgt.	M. Quinn	Bde. Depot (P.S.)
4	C/Sgt.	J. Potter	1 Mx.	173	Sgt.	R. Shave	1 Mx.
6	C/Sgt.	P. Dive	1 Mx.	175	Sgt.	C. Pritchard	1 Mx.
7	A/W.O.2	J. Moyse	1 Mx.	178	Sgt.	R. DaCosta	1 Mx.
28	C/Sgt.	A. Nicholson	1 Mx.	179	A/W.O. 2	M. Weston	Sch. of Inf. (S.A. & S.W.)
30	C/Sgt.	W. Smith	1 Mx.				
35	C/Sgt.	B. Warner	1 Mx.	182	Sgt.	R. Scott	1 Mx.
SERGEANTS				184	Sgt.	J. Dickens	Bde. Depot (P.S.)
8	Sgt.	M. Butler	P.S. Staff	186	Sgt.	D. Burke	1 Mx.
10	Sgt./O.R.C.	A. Gibbs	1 Mx.	188	Sgt.	J. Meacock	1 Mx.
11	A/C/Sgt.	J. Martin, M.M.	1 Mx.	191	Sgt.	J. Whittle	1 Mx.
13	Sgt.	R. Davies	1 Mx.	BANDMASTER			
24	Sgt.	R. Clements	1 Mx.	4	W.O.1.	J. McShane	1 Mx.
30	Sgt.	R. Power	1 Mx.	SERGEANTS (BAND)			
31	Sgt.	K. Lloyd	1 Mx.	3	Sgt.	G. Beechey	1 Mx.
32	Sgt.	C. Partridge	5 Mx. (T.A.)	DRUM MAJOR			
35	Sgt.	D. Lagden	A.A.S. Arborfield	2	W.O.2	J. Lewis	Bde. Depot (D.M.)
44	Sgt.	M. Elston	1 Mx.				
49	Sgt.	H. Horder	1 Mx.				
52	Sgt.	R. Ford	Bde. Depot (P.S.)				
53	Sgt.	C. Shinn	1 Mx.				

## 5th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.), T.A.

Rank Name Company

## WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS II

W.O.2	R. G. Vaisey	"H.Q." Company
W.O.2	R. G. Roberts	"B" Company
W.O.2	W. Payne	"C" Company
W.O.2	J. Vasey	"D" Company
W.O.2	A. Carnie	"H.Q." Company
W.O.2	R. R. Birmingham	"H.Q." Company
COLOUR-SERGEANTS		
C/Sgt.	H. Rea	"D" Company
S/Sgt.	L. Hawkins, B.E.M.	"H.Q." Company (Sigs.)
C/Sgt.	E. James	"A" Company
C/Sgt.	J. Elderfield	"C" Company
C/Sgt.	A. E. Howe, M.B.E.	Battalion H.Q.
C/Sgt.	K. Mortimer	"H.Q." Company
P/C/Sgt.	A. Green	"H.Q." Company
P/C/Sgt.	F. W. Hawes	"B" Company

## SERGEANTS

Sgt.	C. Holdford, B.E.M.	Battalion H.Q.
Sgt.	E. R. Oakley	"H.Q." Company
Sgt.	A. Sills	"H.Q." Company
Sgt.	R. Elliott	"A" Company
Sgt.	D. F. Gainsbury	"B" Company
Sgt.	C. B. Wagner	"B" Company
Sgt.	A. R. Kemp	"H.Q." Company
Sgt.	M. Ward	"D" Company
Sgt.	G. Young	"D" Company
Sgt.	G. R. Brown	"D" Company
Sgt.	R. J. Bartholomew	"D" Company
Sgt.	G. Ashcroft	"H.Q." Company
Sgt.	B. Lauwers	"H.Q." Company
Sgt.	K. G. Anderson	"H.Q." Company
Sgt.	C. J. Purchase	"H.Q." Company
Sgt.	G. M. Stunt	"D" Company
Sgt.	H. C. Large	"A" Company
P/Sgt.	J. Graham	"D" Company
P/Sgt.	N. K. Gasson	"C" Company
P/Sgt.	V. Hill	"C" Company
P/Sgt.	D. Harwood	"B" Company
P/Sgt.	R. C. Tomkins	"B" Company
P/Sgt.	A. C. Foster	"H.Q." Company
P/Sgt.	D. Goldeman	"A" Company
P/Sgt.	R. Stone	

## PERMANENT STAFF

W.O.1	H. Boseley (R.S.M.)	Battalion H.Q.
W.O.2	S. Michel (C.S.M.)	"A" Company
W.O.2	D. W. Adkins	"B" Company (C.S.M.)
Sgt.	E. Langford	"C" Company
Sgt.	C. W. Partridge	"H.Q." Company
Sgt.	G. R. Overton	"D" Company

## SOLDIERS' WIDOWS' FUND

1. The purpose of the fund is to provide a sum of money for the immediate needs of widows and dependant children of subscribers to the fund who die while serving on a Regular Army engagement anywhere in the world.

2. The Army Benevolent Fund will be responsible to the Trustees for the day-to-day administration of the fund, whose office has been established at their headquarters.

3. The setting up of the fund has been made possible by the generosity of the Army Kinema Corporation who have provided an initial gift of £15,000.

4. In the event of the death of a subscriber, the sum of money which will be paid to the widow or guardian of dependant children will be determined by the Trustees of the fund and it will be paid with the minimum delay. The actual amount cannot be guaranteed but it is expected to be in the region of £300 or £400. The fund is registered as a Charity and payments from it will not be liable to estate duty.

5. The fund year will start on January 1 annually but subscribers may join at any time. Subscriptions will be at the rate of 24s. a year, payable in a lump sum deducted from the soldier's pay account. A soldier who wishes to join the fund after January will have an initial subscription deducted from his pay calculated at the rate of 2s. a month (or part of a month) for the remainder of the year and 24s. in January thereafter (e.g. a soldier wishing to join on July 15 will have 12s. deducted from his pay for the first year of membership).

6. A subscriber may voluntarily withdraw from the fund at any time by notification in writing through his C.O. but no refund of subscriptions will be made.

7. Full details of the fund are available in Unit Orderly Rooms.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR  
EMPLOYMENT OF REGULAR SAILORS,  
SOLDIERS AND AIRMENCALLING ALL REGULAR SOLDIERS  
? ? ? ?

## DO YOU KNOW

that there is a Branch of this organisation operating in the locality of your home?

It is only waiting for a personal call from you, or a ring on the telephone or a postcard, to get busy with your employment problem.

You can always get the address of your Area Jobfinder from your local Post Office or from your Regimental Association.

During 1963 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 12,444, which was 78 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 5,303 were from the Army and 19 were from your Regiment.



## Editor's Comments

The biennial pay and pensions review, recommended by Sir James Grigg's Committee in October 1958, has given the Services a total average increase over two years, in rates of pay and allowances, pensions and gratuities, of just under 7½ per cent. Previous reviews were in 1960 and 1962.

The news of these increases in pay and allowances, together with the thought of a larger pension and terminal grant on retirement, will be welcomed by all who are now serving, but let us not forget those of our retired members who are living on small and inadequate pensions which seem to have little chance of being increased to that now to be given to the present-day soldier.

Details of the latest increases in pay, allowances and pensions are given on pages 393-400.

## Personalia

We were very pleased to hear that Major-General Dick Batten, who left the Regiment on receiving accelerated promotion into the Royal Hampshire Regiment as a Captain, has recently been appointed Colonel of the Royal Hampshire Regiment.

We congratulate Col. Ian Battye on his appointment as Brigade Colonel and wish him every success in his new and responsible post.

R.Q.M.S. Beale visited Regimental Headquarters just before Easter. We are glad to report that he has now recovered from the serious accident in which he was involved over a year ago, and that he hopes to rejoin H.Q. 11th Infantry Brigade Group shortly.

We hear that an Old Soldier of the 1st Battalion, ex-Pte. Ernest Brewer (6196461), who was discharged some time ago on medical grounds, is still far from well, and is unable to do much work.

He is at present living at Bedford in Middlesex.

Congratulations to Major and Mrs. "Nick" Carter on the birth of a son at Canterbury on Good Friday; and also to Capt. and Mrs. Malcolm Gilham on the birth of a daughter at Gibraltar on March 7 last.

According to present arrangements Capt. Peter Clarke is due to arrive in the U.K. in May with a view to taking

On termination of his appointment as Director, Land/Air Warfare at the War Office, Major-General G. P. L. Weston, who had been our senior serving officer for some years, has retired.

At the end of July he plans to move to a house which he has bought near Odiham, Hants., where we hope he will spend very many happy years.

\* \* \*

Our Brigade Depot at Canterbury has, after many delays and frustrations, moved "up the hill" from Wemyss Barracks to its proper location, Howe Barracks, which we understand has been modernised, and is well equipped.

over the Adjutancy of the 5th Battalion from Capt. Tony McManus, who on relief has been earmarked to go to H.Q. F.A.R.E.L.F. as a G.S.O.3 (S.D.).

For the first time since its formation over three years ago Regimental Headquarters has had appointed a Chief Clerk who has actually served in the Regiment. He is ex-O.R.Q.M.S. Ernie Colebeck, and he is a most welcome addition to our small staff.

We shall at last be able to talk the same language!

Ex-Sgt. E. W. Dawtry, who served in the 2nd Battalion and later with the 1st Battalion in Korea, called at Regimental Headquarters in January.

He is now employed in the building trade and lives at Clapton, E.5.

Lt. B. K. Finch, now serving with the 1st Battalion, has been earmarked for a tour of duty with the Malaysia Rangers from June next.

Sgt. F. B. Finnis, our pentathlon expert, was chosen to represent Great Britain in the World Pentathlon Championships at Berne, Switzerland, from September 22 to 26, 1963.

Capt. Ronnie Fisher, who is at present serving as a G.S.O.3 at H.Q. M.E.L.F., is earmarked for posting to the 1st Battalion next July.

The Far East P.O.W. Central Welfare Fund are trying to trace the whereabouts of ex-Pte. C. H. Grant (6213495), late 1st Battalion, who was a P.O.W. in Osaka Camp.

Anyone who can give any information about him is requested to get in touch with the Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

As we go to press we have had news that Capt. (Q.M.) Frank Griffiths, who, as stated in Regimental Newsletter No. 3, had been evacuated from Singapore on medical grounds, has been posted to 4th Battalion The Buffs (T.A.).

Capt. Mike Hayward, on completion of his tour of duty at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, took over No. 42 Army Youth Team (Finchley) on February 1 from Lt. George Freeborn, who has rejoined the 1st Battalion in Gibraltar.

Major Chris Lawrence, on completion of his staff appointment at H.Q. M.E.L.F., has returned to the U.K. and is expecting to rejoin the 1st Battalion in June.

Capt. Paul Mallalieu, having completed his tour of duty with the Royal Sierra Leone Military Forces, has rejoined the 1st Battalion in Gibraltar.

Major-General Christopher Man, who has been holding temporary rank since he took over his present appointment as G.O.C. 49th Division (T.A.) and West Riding and North Midland District, has now been granted substantive rank with seniority from November 30, 1963. Heartiest congratulations!

We were pleased to hear that Nicholas Man, son of Col. Andrew Man, had been successful in the Intermediate Chartered Accountants' Examination last November.

Major Brian Marciandi and Capt. (Q.M.) Ernie Pike, who were serving with the Tanganyika Rifles at the time of the recent trouble there, have returned to the U.K. and now await further posting orders.

Mr. H. J. Mellor, who served in the Regiment from February 1934 to October 1950 and was a P.O.W. in Japan from 1941 to 1945, has applied to be placed on the waiting list for a Regimental cottage at Enfield or Mill Hill, as he is anxious to give up his present job of landlord of the "Red Lion" at Lower Heyford, Oxon.

We were delighted at Regimental Headquarters to receive a visit at the end of last October from Major John Morris, who commands the Wellington West

Coast and Taranaki Regiment, our Allied Regiment in New Zealand.

Lt. Roger Pitman, now serving with the 1st Battalion, has been earmarked for posting for a tour of duty with the Trucial Oman Scouts from next September.

We congratulate Lt.-Col. Douglas Sax on his promotion to substantive rank with effect from October 18, 1963.

A

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**MAJOR-GENERAL G. P. L. WESTON,  
C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.**



On completion of his tour of duty as Director of Land/Air Warfare at the War Office in January last, Major-General Pat Weston, who had been our senior serving officer for some time, has retired.

After leaving the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, he was commissioned into the Regiment on January 29, 1931. He joined the 1st Battalion, and later the 2nd Battalion, at Colchester. There he soon found himself in both the Battalion cricket and rugby teams, and for some years he played cricket for the Regiment.

In 1934 he was attached to the R.A.F. at Manston and two years later was seconded to the Royal Air Force. Thus it was that in 1939 and 1940, when commanding 18 (Bomber) Squadron, he was taking part in operational bombing raids.

From 1940 to 1943 he held various staff appointments, first as a G.S.O.2 and later as a G.S.O.1, before taking over command of the 2nd Battalion in June 1943. The Battalion landed in Normandy on "D" Day and fought under his command throughout the campaign in North-West Europe. At the crossing of the Rhine he was in control of a "Pepperbox" shoot of three machine-gun Battalions.

At the end of hostilities in Europe he went east and commanded the 161st Indian Infantry Brigade in Burma and Java in 1945/46.

On returning to England he was appointed to com-

mand the 6th Parachute Brigade (T.A.) from 1947 to 1949, after which he spent three years as an A.A.G. (Colonel) at the War Office. This was followed by a year on the staff in Malaya as a Colonel G.S.

From January 1955 to May 1957 he was Assistant Commandant of the School of Land/Air Warfare, and in December 1957 he was appointed Commandant of the Army Air Corps Centre. This latter appointment he held for a few months only until May 1960 when he became Director of Land/Air Warfare at the War Office.

As a seconded Army officer to the Royal Air Force he was made an O.B.E. in 1940. For distinguished services in the campaign in North-West Europe he was awarded the D.S.O. and the Belgian Croix de Guerre with Palms in 1945, and at the same time he was made a Chevalier of the Order of Leopold.

In 1960 he was made a C.B.E., and in 1962 he was appointed a Companion of the Order of the Bath.

He was twice mentioned in despatches—in 1945 for services in North-West Europe and in 1953 for services in Malaya.

**ANNUAL RE-UNION—JUBILEE YEAR 1963**

The annual re-union, held at the same venue as for each occasion since the end of the last war, showed an increase in the numbers attending. As in the past, the annual general meeting of the Regimental Association was held in the committee room of Seymour Hall prior to the gathering in the main hall and bars.

The first annual dinner was held at the Cannon Street Hotel, on Saturday, August 30, 1913 when 323 sat down to dinner followed by a sojourn to the bars in the adjoining rooms. General Henry Kent who had fought at the Battle of the Alma in 1854 was the chairman on that occasion. He had joined the 77th Foot 68 years previously, on August 8, 1845, and was the Grand Old Man of the Regiment. We still have with us old members of the Regiment who were at this dinner such as ex-Bandmaster C. Trowt (12761) who played in the band, and Mr. G. Corby (5999) who sat at the table; he was then on Reserve. Our oldest member who has been an honoured guest for the last three years is In-Pensioner W. Meacham (4387) who enlisted 71 years ago! As readers can gather from the foregoing, the personnel may change over the years due to the activities of the Old Man with the Scythe, but the habits and traditions remain the same.

Attendance figures are showing an increase over the last four years and the 1939-45 generation is now beginning to attend in greater numbers. This is a happy augury as we must infuse fresh blood into the body of the Association. If we compare the two figures of 1913 and 1963 and allow for the fact that wives and sweethearts now accompany members, the numbers compare favourably. In 1963 the figure reads 658 and in 1913 the figure was 323: allowing each member to have been accompanied by his lady guest, it reads 646.

Not all newcomers were of the younger generation. There were two who served with the Territorial Forces during the 1914-18 war—one from the 2/8th Battalion and one from the 3/10th Battalion (the 10th Battalion had the unique distinction of being the only T.F. formation with three battalions serving overseas during the war). Another newcomer was a time-serving sergeant who had been out of touch with the Regiment for over 30 years.

During the evening the draw for prizes in the Lottery in aid of the Widows' Flatlets Scheme took place on the stage of the hall. This was as fitting a place and opportunity as any, being in the midst of the Past and Present members of the Regiment.

All too soon the time to close arrived and men who had been re-living the past when many were housed in the same barrack room in all parts of the globe had to say "au revoir." Wives who had met "my old pal Charlie" for the first time and found him an entirely different soul to the one they had built up in their imaginations, were saying "do come again next year, it's been so jolly meeting you." Also the earlier generation, now getting old and sear, having their last reminiscence of the days when they wore scarlet, all homeward bent with bright eyes and the resolution and vow to meet again next year.

So be it, may they all meet again in October 1964 to continue their stories of the happy time when money was scarce but comradeship was abundant and all lived up to the words of the chorus of the Regimental Double:

"For Highlanders, Riflemen, Lancers or Guards  
Are not like the Boys called the Jolly Die-Hards."

**HONG KONG (1941) AND "LISBON MARU"  
REUNION**

In response to frequent requests a second reunion of survivors of the 1st Battalion who fought in the defence of Hong Kong in December 1941, and the sinking of the *Lisbon Maru* in October 1942, was arranged and held at Regimental Headquarters on October 12, 1963.

Over 200 people were present and to the great pleasure of many, the "Bearded Surgeon," C. A. Jackson of the R.N.V.R., was amongst the guests. In addition to those who had served in the Regiment, there were comrades-in-arms from the Royal Navy, Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, the Royal Scots and Royal Army Medical Corps, all of whom had fought with, and later suffered in, captivity with our own soldiers.

Those who were not able to be present in body, sent messages and greetings to say they were there in spirit, the messages coming from various countries in the Commonwealth as well as from the Homeland. The Padre of those days, the Rev. H. L. O. Davies, though unable to give us the joy of his company was giving joy to others. He married three couples on that day. Lt.-Col. "Bill" Martin who is serving overseas with the Royal Artillery not only sent his greetings to the company in general but in addition sent a number of personal notes for distribution.

From W. C. Golding, who was in 1941 a Lance Corporal in the Hong Kong Signals came a wager, roughly typed, and signed by the two principals as follows:

**Wager**

"I, the undersigned, undertake to pay the winner the sum of *Five Pounds* in appreciation of superior memory the correct name of the hostelry known as:—

'Ye Olde Three Puddings,'—vide Spooner.

'Ye Olde Two Puddings,'—vide Overy.

Given this day under my hand.—W. SPOONER.

Given this day under my hand.—RICHARD GEORGE OVERY.

13th day of March in the year of our Lord, Nineteen hundred and forty five."

Unfortunately neither of the two who made the wager was present at the reunion, but the fact of this wager being made, and recorded says much for the spirit of our people who were still then P.O.W.s in Shanghai. As well as any story, it depicts the actions of the Tommy in adversity.

From Malta G.C., came greetings from P. M. McGreen, now a Wardmaster Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, who as well as sending his salutations, said he would like to hear from friends and comrades-in-arms of those difficult days.

When it was learned that Brigadier—now Major-General—C. M. M. Man had revisited Kobe there was an excited buzz in the drill hall as all began remarking simultaneously about the first thing they would do if it was the fortune of the individual speaking to return. Some of the remarks were very interesting, some were not possible to record here and some were impossible!

After the reading of the greetings, Col. Hedgecoe gave an inspiring and interesting address to the course, paying particular tribute to the leadership and courage of Col. "Monkey" Stewart, that commander whose praise is never ceased being sung by his subordinates of all ranks.

Then the tribute to those whose bones remain in the Far East, but whose spirits were surely among the comrades gathered there. All were again young, memory had erased the wrinkles of time, and as sad were the thoughts that some were beyond recall, there were those happy memories that all were helping to perpetuate. The memories of comradeship in danger and adversity and the memory of another generation who lived up to the exhortation of Inglis of Albuhera; who fought and died like the Die-Hards of old.

**FREE JOURNALS**

The Editor wishes to thank the following readers for their generosity in paying extra subscriptions for a year so that free copies of *The Die-Hards* can be sent to deserving Old Comrades: Lt.-Col. H. P. Lambert, Capt. W. H. Craydon, Mr. A. W. J. Brown and Mr. W. A. Stephens.



## REMEMBRANCE DAY 1963

Although the heading above is "Remembrance Day" it should really read "Remembrance Days" as the Regiment, since it became the practice to commemorate the end of the two World Wars on the Sunday nearest to November 11, has held a service at the Garden of Remembrance on the Saturday and the Remembrance Parade itself on the Sunday.

Last year, the service on Saturday, November 9 at the Middlesex Guildhall and Garden of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, was blessed with sunny weather, much different to that of 1962. In the Guildhall, the Chaplain to the 5th Battalion, the Rev. A. C. V. Menzies, B.A., A.K.C., conducted the service after which Brigadier B. B. Rackham, deputising for the Colonel of the Regiment, laid a wreath at the foot of the County Memorial.

A procession was then formed and walked from the Guildhall to Westminster Abbey, led by C.S.M. W. D. Adkins as guide, to our plot in the Garden of Remembrance. The plot was marked by the Regimental Flag, flanked by Sgts. B. Pritchard and G. R. Overton, the P.S.I.s of "C" and "D" Companies 5th Battalion respectively. After the usual words of introduction to the memory of the 14,102 whose names are on our Rolls of Honour, crosses were planted by Brigadier Rackham, representing the Colonel of the Regiment, followed by the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Middlesex, Lt.-General G. C. Bucknall. These two tributes were followed by those of the representatives of the Regular and Territorial Battalions, the High Sheriff and the Mayors of various boroughs in the County, and then by personal expressions of sentiment.

Remembrance Sunday was kept as in previous years. First a service was held in the gymnasium at Inglis Barracks attended by detachments from the Old Comrades of various branches, "H.Q." Company 5th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (T.A.), cadets from 32 Company Middlesex A.C.F., cadets from Christ's College, Finchley and families from the Home Postal Depot R.E.'s as well as many families of the Regiment, both past and present. The service was conducted by the Rev. L. W. Matthews, O.B.E., T.D., M.A., Chaplain to the Household Brigade. It was a service that could be heard, and enjoyed, in whatever part of the building one was seated. It is not always so, as our older members are not so keen of hearing as they were and to be able to hear everything is a pleasant change.

From the gymnasium the congregation moved to the Regimental Memorial where the parade formed three sides of a square and the Exhortation was said followed by the Last Post, the Silence and the Reveille. The buglers were those of the cadet contingent from Christ's College, and they did their job extremely well. The tone was softer than that of a grown man or bugler who regularly takes his turn of duty with the Quarter Guard and suited the occasion admirably.

Then the laying of wreaths, each representative solemnly carrying out his actions with pride and sincerity in every movement and gesture. The wreath of the Mill Hill branch of the Die-Hards Club was laid

by ex-Sgt. R. E. Ryder, v.c. His movements as he paid his compliments after laying the wreath were very smart and soldierlike, irrespective of his disability, manipulating his crutch as he came to attention like a smart soldier with his rifle.

After the wreaths had been placed in position the parade formed up ready to march past, the salute being taken by Brigadier Rackham, accompanied by ex-Sgt. R. E. Ryder, v.c. The music for the march past was the Regimental march "Sir Manly Power/Paddy's Resource," played by a band from the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, under the baton of Bandmaster D. Carson, one of our own regiment who is now bandmaster to the Gloucestershire Regiment.

The old soldiers marched past very erect, with pride oozing from every pore from the first note of the regimental march. The Mill Hill Branch headed the parade followed by the 9th Battalion Branch with the Association Standard carried by Major Newman between the two parties. The Old Comrades were followed by the uniformed personnel, "H.Q." Company, 5th Battalion (T.A.), 32 Company, Middlesex A.C.F. and Christ's College, Finchley, C.C.F., headed by their own Corps of Drums.

After the parade had dismissed the majority of those who had attended made their way by private car, or by coach laid on by the Regimental Association, to the R.H.Q. at Edgware. Here ample supplies of liquid and solid refreshments were available, the solid fortifying the inner man and the liquid lubricating the tongue to repeat the amusing anecdotes of the earlier days of soldiering.

The opinion of the majority who were present on this occasion was "a good attendance at a good parade" and it is the firm conviction of the writer that this was made possible by the good spirits of good Die-Hards.

R. W. J. S.

## REMEMBER

OCTOBER 23

SEYMOUR HALL  
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## ANNUAL REUNION

## REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The Regimental Museum has been presented with the following items since the publication of the last *Die-Hards*:—

Tenor drum of 11th Service Battalion.

Illuminated Muster Roll of 2nd Battalion 1896.

New Zealand War medal of Pte. Wilcox, 57th Regt.

Group of medals of C/Sgt. Cummins, M.M., 4th Battalion.

## Tenor Drum

A tenor drum, carried by the 11th (Service) Battalion, has been presented by Capt. H. L. Mac Ilwaine. This officer had originally presented the drum to the Battalion's Corps of Drums and on disbandment of the Battalion in February 1918, it was given back to him for safe keeping. At that time Capt. Mac Ilwaine was the Adjutant, his commanding officer being the late Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe; both these officers were Mentioned in Despatches in January 1918.

The 11th Battalion was the first of our service or "New Army" battalions and was formed on August 21, 1914. At least that is the official date but, on August 8, three officers and 12 N.C.O.s of the 1st Battalion were sent to the Depot as a nucleus of the new Battalion, to be followed on the 11th by the same number of 4th Battalion. In May 1915 the battalion went to France as part of the 36th Brigade (12th Division) and when battle honours were awarded for the war of 1914-19, eight were named for this battalion, one, that of Pozieres, being named for this unit alone of the Regiment.

## Illuminated Muster Roll 2nd Battalion

Each of the regular battalions had at some time in its history an illuminated muster roll drawn, showing the names of all officers and the rank and file then serving with the battalion. This roll of the 2nd Battalion was executed in 1899 when the battalion was serving in Woolwich under command of Lt.-Col. A. W. Hill.

*Presented by Capt. H. L. Mac Ilwaine*

## Maori War Medal of 841 Pte. Benjamin Wilcox, 57th Foot

The reverse bears the dates 1865-66.

Twenty-eight different medals were issued for the campaign in New Zealand, the issues being authorised in 1869. Twenty-seven bear dates on the reverse and one has no date within the laurel.

It was during the Maori War that Ensign Down and Drm. Stagpoole each won the Victoria Cross during the fighting in 1863.

*Presented by Mrs. B. Wilcox, daughter-in-law of the recipient*

## Group of Medals of C/Sgt. F. G. Cummins, M.M.

The medals are, military medal engraved 12492 L/Cpl. F. G. Cummins, 4th Mx; the 1914 Star and bar engraved with his regimental number and rank of "Drummer" and the British War and Victory medals 1914-19 showing his rank as Colour Sergeant. The 1914 Star has 4 Mx inscribed under the name.

Unfortunately, there are no details at present available telling where he won his military medal, but this omission will be rectified in a later publication of the Journal. The military medal is unique in the wording. It is the only decoration that clearly denotes it is a fighting decoration. The inscription on the reverse reads, "For Bravery in the Field" and is surrounded by a wreath surmounted by the royal cypher and crown.

*Presented by C/Sgt. Cummins' widow who wrote to say that it was the wish of her husband that the medals should be in the safe keeping of his regiment.*

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## OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES

### GOLF

#### Regimental Spring Meeting

Twelve entries have been received for the Regimental Spring Meeting, which is being held at the North Hants. Golf Club, Fleet, Hants., on Saturday and Sunday, April 11 and 12.

#### CLUB COCKTAIL PARTY

Arrangements are being made this year to hold the cocktail party at the Army and Navy Club at the end of September or early in October.

Full particulars will be notified to all concerned in due course.

#### 57/77th OFFICERS' DINNER

The 57/77th annual dinner was held at the United Services Club on Thursday, November 21, 1963.

Major-General J. E. F. Willoughby, C.B.E., the Colonel of the Regiment, presided. Others present were: Lt.-Col. G. B. Ayre; Lt.-General G. C. Bucknall; Lt.-Col. I. H. Battye; Major K. R. McK. Biggs; Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton; Lt.-Col. D. Y. Cubitt; Major R. M. Cain; Major K. T. Carter; Major J. G. Chiverall; Capt. M. F. Deakin; Lt. R. T. Douthet; Lt. P. M. Duberry; Major H. J. Evans; Lt. G. N. Freeborn; Brigadier A. E. Green; Lt. G. Goring; Col. S. F. Hedgecoe; Major E. L. Heywood; Lt. J. G. Lofting; Col. A. M. Man; Major H. J. A. Moore; Capt. A. E. McManus; Major P. F. Newman; Major G. G. Norton; Col. J. W. G. Ormiston; Major J. I. D. Pike; Lt.-Col. D. B. Rendall; Major B. St. G. A. Reed; Capt. F. Redpath; Major J. N. Shipster; Major R. W. J. Smith; Major-General G. P. L. Weston; Col. F. Walden.

Unfortunately Brigadier Rackman could not attend as he was suddenly taken off to hospital a day or so beforehand, but we were very glad that his stay there was so short. His sudden admission to hospital meant that Col. Stewart, who normally stays with the Brigadier on these occasions, also could not attend as he was unable to find alternative accommodation at such short notice.

In the absence of Col. Stewart the veteran of the party was Lt. Bob Douthet, who looked remarkably well and said that he would always be present at the dinner, even if he had to crawl to get there!

A considerable number of those who attended travelled long distances, and one who did so and was particularly welcome, was Major Chiverall. He has been tucked away in Somerset for years, and it was good to see him again looking so well.

#### 7th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER

The 36th annual dinner of the 7th Middlesex Officers' Club was held on Thursday, November 7, 1963.

Col. J. K. Maitland, M.C., T.D., D.L., presided and the guest of the evening was Lt.-Col. G. W. Webber, T.D., commanding the 5th Battalion (T.A.).

Other present were: Major H. C. Bolt, Major G. A. H. Bower, Capt. M. J. Beaumont, Major Sir Harold Gillett, BT, 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, Capt. J. N. Laurence, Capt. P. Leckie Forbes and guest, Brigadier H. A. D. Murray, Col. F. W. Mackenzie, Col. A. M. Man, Capt. F. S. Mayman, Major E. J. Naish, Major P. F. Newman, Col. W. E. Pringle, Major M. F. Pearson, Brigadier B. B. Rackham, Lt.-Col. G. C. D. Scott-Lowe, Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, Lt.-Col. V. H. Sykes, Major R. Sykes, Lt. J. R. Spooner, Major L. Travis, Col. F. Walden and Major H. N. Wigan.

#### BALACLAVA DINNER — ARGYLL & SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS, 1963

General G. C. Bucknall had the honour to deputise for the Colonel of the Regiment as the Regimental Guest of our old friends on this auspicious occasion. He also had the privilege to propose the toast of their Regiment.

Our best wishes were conveyed to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders coupled with a warm welcome to any who may be passing through Gibraltar.

The guests were entertained with the traditional hospitality and there were many kind enquiries for our Regiment.

## BATTLE OF BUKAVU

(By Major G. G. Norton)

This is the story of an action fought by Battalion H.Q. and H.Q. Company of the 5th Battalion, The Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment whilst serving as a part of the U.N. Mission to the Congo Republic. The action was fought at Bukavu in the Kivu Province of the Congo on December 16, 1960.

The Kivu Province is situated in the N.E. of the Congo Republic, some 160,000 square miles in area in general over 3,000ft. above sea level, of great scenic beauty with a wonderful climate, consisting of forest and mountains bordering the beautiful Lake Kivu. The area around the Lake has been referred to with truth as the "Riviera of Africa." To the north is the Orientale Province of the Congo with Stanleyville as its provincial capital; Uganda lies to the north-east; to the east, across the lake which forms a natural frontier boundary, was Ruanda Urundi (now Rwanda Burundi) and in the west the Kasai Province of the Congo. Lake Kivu, running north to south, is some 75 miles in length, varying in width from three to 20 miles and flows by way of a small river named the Ruzizi into Lake Tanganyika some 60 miles to the south. Bukavu, the provincial capital, is situated at the southern end of Lake Kivu and divided from Ruanda Urundi by the lake and the River Ruzizi, which also marks the frontier boundary.

Into this province the 5th Battalion arrived in mid-November. Companies were stationed in outlying districts up to five or six hundred miles away, accessible only by air or over most indifferent and sometimes impassable roads. Battalion H.Q. and H.Q. Company were stationed in Bukavu with the nearest Rifle Company "A", at Goma at the northern end of the Lake. At this time the Kivu Province had been the quietest in a trouble-torn Congo. There had not been a shot fired in anger, though there had been numerous cases of "wrongful" arrest and beating of Europeans by drunken soldiery. However, on the whole the A.N.C. (Armée Nationale Congolaise, the original Force Publique of pre-Independence) and Gendarmerie, at this time numbering 1,500-2,000 in the Bukavu area, with some several thousands more in the Province as a whole, seemed under reasonable control and their behaviour generally was correct and courteous. In contrast to other areas the Provincial Government, under President Miruhu, appeared securely in office, operated reasonably efficiently, and were obviously sitting on the fence awaiting the outcome of the struggle for power between the Central Government in Leopoldville and the pro-Lumumbist and Communist-supported régime in Stanleyville, then at its height, before taking sides. However, underlying this apparent calm was an atmosphere of tension caused by uncertainty and fear for the future and apparent in

the attitudes of both the black and white populations in the Province.

The circumstances surrounding and leading up to the engagement which became known as the Battle of Bukavu, on December 16, 1960, typify the difficulties faced by the U.N. in the early days of its operation in the Congo. This was primarily due to the politically-fanned distrust of all "white" races assisted by the almost total ignorance of the Congolese that any other "white" peoples, except Belgians, existed outside the Congo. This was heightened in no small measure by the almost hysterical fear of the Belgian "Para Commandos," whom the Congolese dreaded might at any time return to exact retribution for "excesses" in the days immediately subsequent to Independence. Indeed, in the case of Bukavu, this fear had substance in tangible form since across the border in Shangugu (Ruanda-Urundi) was stationed a Company of The Belgian Parachute Regiment. The local Belgian Administrator in Shangugu had in fact let it be known that in the event of further violence against Belgian civilians he would not hesitate to employ these formidable troops for rescue and punitive operations. Whilst this had in fact held in check the extremist and more violent elements of the Congolese up to this time, there is little doubt that it had also helped to keep an atmosphere of tension and anxiety close to the surface. These fears were evident in the constant rumours of "landings," or of imminent "invasion," while every "white" face was regarded with suspicion which led inevitably to arrest and manhandling of anyone unable immediately to satisfy every petty official of his "innocence."

It was, therefore, with some mixed feelings that the news of the establishment of a U.N. Military Hospital in the town was received by the U.N. Civil Mission in the Kivu. The Hospital, Austria's contribution to the U.N. Congo Mission, was a fully equipped, up-to-date Military Unit containing a complete operating theatre, blood transfusion unit, X-ray unit, dental clinic and a staff of some six doctors, 50-odd male nursing orderlies and one girl physiotherapist. Advanced information to the effect that the physiotherapist had won the title of "Miss Austria" in the 1959 National Beauty Contest, whilst boosting morale, did little to allay the mixed feelings over the unit's impending arrival. In addition, there were some 15 vehicles, which included ambulances and those necessary to convey travelling teams. The Hospital's charter was to provide a convalescent centre for U.N. personnel in the Congo and to assist the local medical authorities in the Kivu Province. In the first task its location was admirable since Bukavu has the most delightful climate and, where conditions permitted, the growth of strawberries every day of the year! For its second task it was excel-



lently equipped to assist the local authorities in a region now badly undermanned in trained staff and sadly lacking in medical supplies.

The main stumbling block was, however, the 60 "white" staff of the unit, and with this in mind letters of explanation were sent to President Miruhu, Chef de Cabinet of the Kivu, the local Minister of Health, the head of the local Gendarmerie, Commandant Singa, and a copy of the letter was published in the local Press for the benefit of the local population.

The advanced elements of the hospital arrived via Leopoldville from Vienna on December 8 under their commander, Lt.-Colonel Foltin. The main body and the stores were flown to Goma at the northern end of Lake Kivu and were then conveyed by barge down the lake arriving at Bukavu at night on December 14. Unfortunately, and despite requests, the staff arrived in national tropical uniform and not the official U.N. dress, which was by now well-known throughout the Congo. However, since few Congolese officials were zealous enough to continue duties after last light their arrival passed unnoticed and they were escorted to their accommodation without incident. Unloading of the stores from the barges continued throughout the 15th and it appeared that prior apprehension had been untoward. However, the advent of so many white troops in unusual uniforms could not go unobserved, and no doubt the similarity of the German and Flemish tongues gave rise to suspicion, despite the fact that the hospital staff were unarmed. At 1800 hours, therefore, a telephone message was received to the effect that the Austrians were in trouble.

The C.O. and O.C., H.Q. Company, went straight away to the hospital, where they met the Head of the U.N. Civil Mission, Mr. Miller, a New Zealander, and long-time employee of the U.N. organisation. A truck-load of Congolese Gendarmerie had arrived a short while before, and brandishing weapons, were threatening the "Para Commandos." Whilst endeavouring to calm this excited and disorderly mob, President Miruhu arrived upon the scene on the way to his Residency. This worthy at once sided with the vociferous Gendarme N.C.O. in charge and denied all knowledge of the arrival of the hospital. After some heated debate he concluded that it was in any case intolerable that six doctors should serve a few U.N. soldiers when there were no doctors in the interior of the Province. He refused to order the soldiers to withdraw and said he would call a cabinet meeting on the morrow to discuss this "invasion" of his Province. In the meantime the "suspects" would remain under house arrest. The President further stated that the Congolese people had learned to regard all "white" people as enemies and he had no faith in British, French, Austrian or any other European. As further discussion at this stage became impossible the Austrians accepted their confinement uneasily until the morning, and the President departed. At this time more Congolese soldiers appeared, this time under command of a junior officer, who was

shown the newspaper report. He agreed that it seemed that a mistake had been made, but he was in no position to order the withdrawal of the guard. There now being no further possibility of removing the guard, the C.O. and the Head of the Civil Mission returned to camp.

The night, however, was to be far from quiet. At about 2000 hours a new and officious A.N.C. Officer arrived at the hospital and without further ado ordered the Austrians to be immediately and forcefully thrown into lorries and taken to the civil prison. The hospital stores were then broken open and thousands of pounds worth of irreplaceable medical equipment was looted or scattered and smashed. All the attractive items, drugs, blankets, beds, utensils, etc., were carried off and such of the larger pieces of equipment which were not easily moveable, or not understood by the soldiers or civilians who joined in, were smashed beyond repair. All the vehicles were driven away, only one of the ambulances being subsequently recovered. In the matter of a short hour ignorance and stupidity had completely ruined one nation's contribution to U.N. much of which was to have been used for the benefit of those who had chosen to destroy it, and medical stores, in an area almost bereft of medical resources, were lost for ever.

As soon as these latest developments were discovered, the C.O. and Mr. Miller went to the prison where negotiations with the Gendarme Officer and the Bourgomaister were begun. At the same time H.Q. Company were alerted to surround the prison. A scratch force was immediately formed consisting of about 90 men, which arrived and took up positions around the prison at 2200 hours. By about 2330 hours and after a great deal of senseless argument, the two Congolese officials finally agreed to release the Austrians. However, by this time a large body of apparently leaderless and disorderly Congolese Soldiery had arrived at the prison and these disappeared as the Austrians were being loaded once more into vehicles. When the U.N. convoy attempted to leave, it was discovered that these soldiers had established a road block preventing its movement. Mr. Miller, in the first car, did in fact crash the barrier before it was quite in place and passed through taking with him the Austrian girl physiotherapist. The unfortunate Bourgomaister, however, in the second car, was pulled out and badly beaten before he could be rescued, for agreeing to release the Austrians. The convoy was now surrounded by excited Congolese troops who were threatening to open fire if the Austrians were not returned to the prison. The U.N. troops dismounted to protect their charges whilst the Austrians were ordered to lie down in the vehicles out of sight. It was soon obvious that the Congolese troops, some of whom had been drinking heavily, and worked up by the more belligerent elements amongst them, were in a dangerous and unreasoning mood. Their attitude became more threatening and it was apparent that a shooting affray was near at hand. At this juncture President Miruhu arrived on the scene and again

played to the crowd, siding with the Gendarmerie and loudly proclaiming his "devotion" to the cause of justice for the African peoples. The time was now about 0100 hours and the surrounding darkness made it impossible to view the deployment and actions of the Congolese soldiers, but the volume of sound from without the limit of the indifferent street lighting made it clear that their numbers and tempers were rising. The Austrians in the vehicles and their escort outside were completely exposed by this lighting and without cover of any sort. In these circumstances it was apparent that indiscriminate shooting would lead to a great deal of bloodshed, completely defeating the object of the rescue attempt. The C.O., therefore, proposed that the Austrians should return to the gaol for the night but that a fully armed platoon of the U.N. soldiers would accompany and remain with them until daylight, when tempers might have cooled and reason prevail. In this way honour on both sides would in part be satisfied. After a great deal more futile argument, conducted, amid the hubbub of the "noises off," at the tops of irritated voices, the C.O.'s proposals were at last agreed. At about 0300 hours, therefore, the Austrians with their escort were back in gaol and the remainder of the U.N. troops, now unopposed, returned to camp. The only profit from a night of fruitless negotiations was that the Austrian girl at least was safe.

Throughout the period it had become increasingly obvious that the Congolese troops could not be controlled by either their officers or their Civilian Government Representatives and that they had taken the law into their own ignorant and bigoted hands. In this respect it was a regrettable fact that the local Congolese Commander, Commandant Singa, a reasonable and intelligent man, was absent attending a conference in Leopoldville. Had he been there the present situation may not have arisen. However, there was little doubt in the minds of the U.N. officers that force would now have to be used to effect the release of the Austrians.

Back at camp, therefore, plans were made at once to reorganise the U.N. troops into an effective fighting force. This presented no little difficulty since the majority of the soldiers represented the administrative elements of the unit, clerks, signallers, drivers, cooks, storemen, cobblers, carpenters, etc., not normally employed in a fighting capacity and was further complicated by the loss of the 28 soldiers who were now in the gaol. However, by 0500 hours four platoons of approximately 30 men each, commanded by H.Q. Company Commander, the Adjutant, the M.T.O. and the I.O. and a small H.Q. party with the 2IC had been organised and were ready to move.

At this stage, and from a purely military point of view, an operation to release the Austrians by force should have been undertaken at once. The remaining hour of darkness could have been used to gain surprise and to cover the troop movements necessary to secure the approaches to, and the commanding ground around, the prison before first light. How-

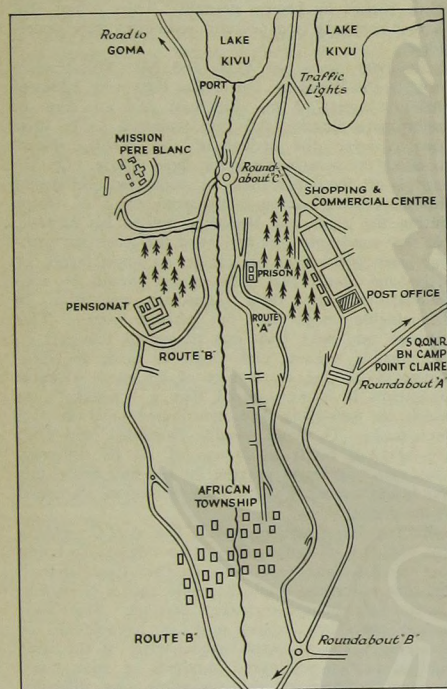
ever, the U.N. troops were not an occupation force with a free hand, but a goodwill mission in support of a sovereign nation. U.N. orders to this effect were clear, that U.N. troops were in support of the local authorities to assist with the maintenance of law and order, and that force might only be used in defence of their own lives and property in dire emergency and as a last resort. That the "local authorities" referred to in the orders were primarily responsible for instigating all the violence and internal problems then so prevalent in the Congo was apparently overlooked. It is unfortunately a truism, frequently overlooked by those with the highest of motives, that when dealing with a backward people who regard negotiation as weakness, reason can only prevail when backed by known strength. Thus it was that further attempts at a peaceful settlement were undertaken.

At 0900 hours the C.O. and Mr. Miller again went to the President. On arrival they were informed that the arrest of the Austrians had all been an unfortunate mistake. All that remained to be done was to await the arrival of the A.N.C. officers to effect the arrangements for their release. On the arrival of these worthies, in somewhat belligerent mood over their success in thwarting the U.N. troops during the night, the President revised his attitude. He now condemned the arrival of the Austrians without prior sanction of his cabinet as impertinence by U.N. and stated that their release would be conditional only on their immediate evacuation to Leopoldville or at least out of the Kivu. This reversal may have been due to second thoughts on the possible requests that might be made for compensation for the destruction of so much valuable equipment if it was agreed that a "mistake" (to which he personally had contributed) had in fact been made. To avoid possible bloodshed, and since the hospital, bereft as it was of all its equipment, could serve no useful purpose for the time being, this was finally agreed. The meeting, thereupon, adjourned to the prison.

Here a new situation arose. The A.N.C. soldiers and N.C.O.s refused to obey their officers, declaring that the Austrians were "Belgian Para Commandos," and that no release would be made until a Congolese General was obtained to make a decision. Since such exalted characters existed only in Leopoldville or Stanleyville, the respective headquarters of the rival political parties, and some hundreds of miles away in opposite directions, this presented some difficulty in execution. Nor was it clear from which "camp" this being was required, there apparently being some differences of opinion on this aspect or, if one did arrive, whether he would have any more success in enforcing his orders than had the local variety. It was now only too clear that the "local authorities," civil or military, exercised at best only very nominal control over the disorderly soldiery. In the case of the Gendarme officers this was not in fact surprising since they owned their ranks by virtue of popular vote, and this "democratic" election decision was easily



reversible in the event of their issuing any unpopular orders. What was surprising, however, was the continued bravado of the soldiers themselves despite the threat of armed intervention which now had to be introduced as the final argument. Normally only courageous when possessing a weapon and numerical advantage, their continued confidence at this stage was an unusual departure from their customary behaviour. The reason for this was to be only too painfully discovered later. Meanwhile the last recourse to a peaceful solution having failed, there was no alternative to issuing the orders for the U.N. troops to go into action, and this was done at 1130 hours.

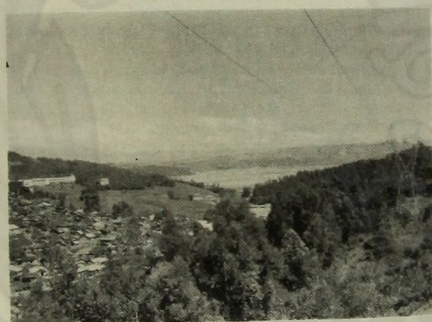


A glance at the sketch map will show that the Bukavu Prison lies in the valley of a small stream which drains into Lake Kivu from a northerly direction from the high ground overlooking Bukavu. The lake is about 600 yards north of the prison. The building, a fort-like structure, rectangular in shape, has 20-foot high windowless stone walls which can be entered only by the main doors in the front wall by the road. The prison itself is dominated by high ground on either side of the valley; to the east a

steep wooded slope stretches up towards the Post Office, a massive three-storey building on dominating ground; to the west the ground rises steeply for several miles up to the escarpment which dominates Bukavu and the surrounding countryside.

It was clear, therefore, that any military plan which had the prison as its objective must aim firstly to secure the high ground which dominates the area. Secondly, it would be desirable to encircle the building simultaneously from as many directions as possible. There are three main approaches to the prison from the south. The first road runs down to the prison along the high ground to the east (Route "A", see sketch), the second, along the valley bottom through the African Market area, a route which has no tactical significance, and thirdly, the road that winds down the high ground to the west from the upper African township (Route "B"). This route directly overlooks the prison from the Pensionat northwards until it meets the roundabout ("C") north of the prison. From the north two roads lead into roundabout "C".

As has already been mentioned, the right time to move into the cordon positions would have been before first light, but the opportunity for surprise



View down the valley from the African Township towards the Prison (just visible in centre in the trees) with the lake beyond. The large building to the left is the Pensionat.

had long since been lost. The plan, however, was to be the same, three cordon parties to move into position at the same time and from different directions. The operation was, therefore, to be conducted as follows. The convoy was to move to roundabout "A" (see sketch) and from there proceed by different routes to the cordon positions, secure the high ground, and also the approaches to the prison. The Adjutant's platoon was to move to and occupy the traffic light junction and then to secure the area around the roundabout "C". The I.O.'s platoon was to move by route "B" and occupy the high ground to the west and opposite the prison on the far side of the valley. The Force H.Q. and remaining two platoons would proceed by route "A", debus out of view of the prison, whence the M.T.O.'s platoon would occupy

the high ground to the east and above the prison. All the platoons were to debus out of view and short of their objectives, covering the last few hundred yards tactically and on foot. When all the troops were in position the fourth platoon, under O.C. H.Q. Company, would be used to effect an entry into the prison and release the Austrians with, if possible, the assistance of the U.N. troops already inside. These men had been briefed the night before that if a shooting war did start on the outside they were to Stand To, defend the Austrians if necessary, and to attempt to seize the entrance gate from the inside if possible. In furtherance of the U.N. policy of non-aggression, all troops were given strict orders that no shooting would be done unless they themselves were fired at directly, or unless it was not possible to reach their objectives by any other means.

It was soon to become apparent why the Congolese soldiery had been so full of confidence at the final talks. By 1150 hours the U.N. force had reached Roundabout "A," where they dispersed as planned, and by 1200 hours all platoons had arrived at their respective debussing points. During the morning some not very reliable reports had been received of Congolese troops with machine guns in the vicinity of Roundabout "C" and on the high ground along Route "B". These reports were vague, from civilian sources and could not, unfortunately, be verified since reconnaissance could hardly go un-noticed. The Gendarmerie, however, had made full use of the time that had been wasted in fruitless negotiation. Strong positions had been prepared on the high ground overlooking the prison, particularly on the western side of the valley, where no less than six Hotchkiss heavy machine gun emplacements commanded the whole of the front wall of the prison and the valley between. Machine guns were also in position at Roundabout "C" and on the high ground behind the prison itself. The numbers of Congolese troops and police, who had joined in for the fun on the ground, came as an unwelcome surprise. There is no doubt that had the U.N. force approached the prison from the easy and normally-used route via Roundabout "C" they would have been subjected to a murderous crossfire and suffered heavy casualties.

From the debussing point on Route "A" it was possible to see some 30 or so A.N.C. soldiers taking up positions across the valley, and it was impossible to warn the I.O.'s platoon by wireless of the danger ahead. From 1200 to 1230 hours this platoon worked its way along the ridge making use of the woods above the road as a covered approach. Two of the A.N.C. heavy machine gun posts were taken by surprise and over-run without a shot being fired, their crews being captured or fleeing to the main position. These, of course, gave the alarm and surprise was now lost. At 1230 hours the A.N.C. opened a furious fire on the platoon from what now appeared to be their main positions below the Mission Pere Blanc, where they had sited more machine gun posts in depth. The I.O.'s platoon, now advancing across open ground, were almost immediately pinned down. Attempts to

outflank the position were met with renewed fire from the lay-back positions nor was it possible to withdraw back into the woods. Casualties began to mount. In a short time one private soldier was killed and another wounded, whilst the platoon sergeant was also struck down. The volume of fire from the Congolese was now terrific, though fortunately a great deal of it was wild and inaccurate. During an attempt to reorganise his platoon in better positions the I.O., 2/Lt. Matthews, was himself critically wounded. This young officer, though suffering from a terrible wound, at times fainting from loss of blood, gallantly continued to rally and encourage his men for the next four hours until they could be relieved and he himself taken to hospital. Although the doctors despaired of his life, an immediate operation and a strong constitution resulted in an excellent recovery, after a long convalescence in England. He was later decorated with a most deserved Military Cross for his bravery.

Meanwhile, this firing had attracted further A.N.C. machine gun and sniper fire from the prison and from the area of the Post Office above. The M.T.O.'s platoon moved through the wood to its objective, en route the platoon sergeant had his leg shattered and the M.T.O. received a flesh wound in the thigh which he bandaged himself and carried on for the rest of the day disdaining medical attention until his platoon were back in camp. This fire was returned and was seen to have effect, the platoon reaching its objective without further casualties. At 1230 hours the Adjutant's platoon reported that they were in position about 400 yards short of the Roundabout "C" which was held by Congolese troops, and they were working their way towards it.

Meanwhile, in the prison the Congolese guards, alerted by the firing outside, adopted a threatening attitude towards the Austrians and the U.N. soldiers. They deployed, taking up positions in the courtyard and at the back of the prison itself. The U.N. troops also took up positions in their prison block but were not in fact fired upon and in accordance with their orders, did not open fire themselves. They were unable, however, to seize the main gate without dividing their forces and provoking a major battle inside the building. Their position in one of the blocks was all but impregnable and so long as they remained the Austrians were in no immediate danger. The senior N.C.O., therefore, decided to await further developments before taking any action which might jeopardise the safety of his charges until it became necessary. They did not, in fact, have to take physical action though there is little doubt from the threats made by the warders that, had they not been there, the Austrians may never have left the prison alive. These troops later reported that numbers of wounded A.N.C. soldiers were brought into the offices in the prison for medical treatment throughout the afternoon.

Outside, the position of the U.N. troops in the woods near the prison was becoming increasingly uncomfortable. A great deal of small arms fire was



sweeping through the trees and in the limited visibility it was difficult to determine exactly from where this was coming. From the noise it was obvious that a great deal was coming from the Post Office area. An attempt to reach the prison gate was driven back by intense fire from the guns sited across the valley, there being no cover whatsoever in front of the building. The Force Commander, therefore, decided to secure the high ground to the rear of the building more firmly before attempting to enter from this direction.

Accordingly, O.C. H.Q. Company's platoon moved up through the woods, cleared the buildings at the top and linked up with the M.T.O., capturing in the process an A.N.C. jeep with an officer, three soldiers and their wireless set. With this accomplished the fire from above was eliminated, though the woods still hummed with ricochets from the fire directed from across the valley. This fortunately could not be accurately aimed due to the trees, and was more unpleasant than dangerous. A reconnaissance was now made downwards to the rear of the prison by O.C. H.Q. Company, but he could not reach the rear wall as the open ground between it and the edge of the trees was swept by fire from the prison guards. However, a machine gun nest on a spur overlooking the prison, and which was busy hosing enfilade fire into the I.O.'s platoon across the valley, was destroyed and provided some relief to this now hard-pressed platoon.

Back at the U.N. H.Q. at Pointe Claire, President Miruhu appeared at 1330 hours and offered to parley on the A.N.C. terms, namely the withdrawal of the U.N. troops from around the prison. This was refused by the C.O., who in turn demanded the complete withdrawal of the Congolese troops and the release of the Austrians. The position at this time in the course of the battle was checkmate. The U.N. troops had the prison surrounded, though the I.O.'s platoon was pinned down, but could not for the moment find the means to enter the building. The position of the I.O.'s platoon was worrying as it had not been possible to make intelligible contact on the radio since the shooting started. Nor, from the woods, was it possible to see accurately their situation or to give them much support in the way of covering fire. That they had not reached their objective and were in trouble was only too apparent from the sound of battle across the valley.

Having foreseen that military action would almost certainly be necessary in the end, and that reinforcements in that event would certainly be needed, "A" Company at Goma, some seven hours' road journey away at the northern end of Lake Kivu, had been alerted to move at 0600 hours. Their orders were to leave one platoon to guard their stores and camp and to get to Bukavu as soon as possible with the remainder of the company. They were on the road by 0730 hours and at 1300 hours were approaching the town, in radio contact with the Force Commander. The Company had twice to clear ambushes on their way on the approaches to the town, but by about

1330 hours were close to Roundabout "C." They were now given instructions to deploy, move to occupy the area of the roundabout, and there to link up with the Adjutant's Platoon. They also were told not to open fire unless it was necessary. The Company advanced in battle formation, taking the Congolese troops dug in there by surprise and from the rear, calling upon them to surrender. Some seven or eight men did throw down their arms, and the remainder fled up the hill towards their main position. These troops could easily have been killed as they ran, and, but for the orders issued, would have considerably increased the total casualties suffered by the Congolese during the engagement. By 1500 hours "A" Company and the Adjutant had joined forces and held a strong position at the Roundabout.

It was now time to think about the relief of the I.O.'s Platoon, still under heavy fire, and to try an alternative method of taking the prison. Since it was not possible to take the Prison from the front or rear, nor indeed to cross the valley to assist the I.O. by frontal assault, the Force Commander decided to concentrate his force and to undertake further operations from the South. Accordingly the M.T.O. and O.C. "H.Q." Company were instructed to clear the route back to Roundabout "B" and from there to Roundabout "C" via the Post Office. This somewhat long route was necessary in order to protect the vehicles which of course had to follow the road. As they were about to pull out of their positions some 15 or 20 Congolese troops appeared and gathered in a group some 30 yards away. These troops were quite unaware of the U.N. soldiers, and again could have been easily shot, but, like the others, were left unharmed, the Platoons withdrawing without incident. At this time a radio message was received, which fortunately proved false, that the U.N. guards and the Austrians in the Prison had been overrun. The need for speed was, therefore, pressing.

The Platoons started off, moving by bounds, and as fast as they could, clearing the high ground whilst the transport followed along the road below. At Roundabout "B" the column was fired on by a small party of policemen, but these were quickly driven off by prompt action from the leading Platoon. As the force neared the Post Office a further radio message was received from "A" Company. This reported that the Congolese had approached him under a white flag and had requested a cease fire. Within a few minutes this was confirmed by a message from the C.O. stating that the President had arrived again, requesting a cease fire, agreeing to the withdrawal of all the Congolese troops to their barracks, and for the immediate release of the Austrians.

This was good news, but it was decided to continue with the original plan to concentrate the force. "A" Company were told to move at once to the relief of the I.O. and to get the Austrians out of the Prison if this could be accomplished without endangering their safety. No move was to be made if it appeared that the Congolese might open fire again, until the two forces had linked up. In the meanwhile Force

"H.Q." and the two Platoons would proceed with all despatch towards Roundabout "C." As no reliance could be placed on the word of the President or the Congolese troops the move was continued tactically. This proved a wise decision. After the leading Platoon had passed the Post Office it was fired on from some nearby buildings which had to be cleared before they could proceed. Behind, O.C. "H.Q." Company was also fired on from buildings next to the Post Office, and two Police snipers had to be flushed out and eliminated before they, too, could move on. By 1800 hours the area around the Post Office was clear.

At this time the returning column of "A" Company and the Adjutant's Platoon arrived on the scene. They had been successful in releasing the Austrians and in relieving the I.O.'s Platoon, the Congolese



*Some Congolese Prisoners after the Battle.*

troops retiring as they moved in on the Prison. The object of the operation having now been achieved, the force returned to camp, along the still deserted streets.

The Austrians were unhurt, and were evacuated the following day to Leopoldville to avoid further incidents. They could in any case serve no useful purpose until their equipment had been replaced, and it would be some time before they were to fulfill the role that had been intended for them.

The President next day claimed that the battle had been a victory for Congolese arms, and that he had been responsible for stopping both sides from killing each other. He regretted the U.N. casualties, and announced that only one Congolese soldier had been wounded. The Congolese authorities went to some lengths to conceal their actual casualty figures, and the exact numbers are not known. Apart from those known to have been killed, there were some 40 or 50 wounded treated in the African Hospital for various wounds on the night of the 16th, though these had all been removed by the 18th. On the 18th ten were buried, whilst on the 19th several more burials took place, and it is reasonable to assume that there were many more which were not observed and reported.

The purely military phase of the operation was over. The earlier part of the story illustrates the difficulty that was experienced in dealing with the Congolese. In all the preliminary negotiations no one could have shown more patience nor tried harder to prevent the possibility of bloodshed than the C.O. and Mr. Miller, the head of the U.N. Civil Mission. The President was obviously afraid of the A.N.C. and agreed with all their demands. He was in no way abashed that in so doing he was breaking promises he had made. His ingratiating towards the A.N.C. served him little purpose in the end, for a week later he was arrested and imprisoned in Stanleyville by these same troops. The A.N.C. Officers had no control over their soldiers and agreement with them was also meaningless. In the final analysis they were entirely to blame for the loss of life and limb which resulted from their own stupidity.

From the military point of view the operation was a successful one, though it had not gone according to plan. The degree of opposition on the ground was unexpected and came as a surprise. What had started as an internal security deployment rapidly turned into a shooting war when the Congolese opened fire, which they did first in each instance. There is no doubt that their casualties would have been far greater than they in fact were if the principle of minimum force had not been scrupulously observed by the U.N. troops. In all, the Congolese strength taking part has been estimated at between 300 and 400 A.N.C., Gendarmerie and Territorial Police, numbers sufficient to warrant the use of a whole Battalion to oppose them. The fruits of the U.N. success, which should have been a chastened and more amenable Congolese attitude in the future, were, however, lost. U.N. "H.Q." in Leopoldville, headed as it was by civilian administrators, were appalled by the bloodshed, and issued strict orders that the U.N. troops would remain confined to Barracks until there was no further danger of more shooting. This order unfortunately had quite the reverse effect. The Congolese troops, who for the next few days remained in their camps to lick their wounds, soon began to believe the President's announcement that the victory was indeed theirs. At the end of a week they were abroad again in belligerent mood and issued threats of driving the U.N. forces into the lake if they ever dared to leave their camp again. Thus an opportunity to maintain U.N. authority to preserve law and order was lost, the victors became the vanquished, whilst the forces of disorder were encouraged to continue their mischief, which they now undertook to do with renewed vigour.

The U.N. wounded all eventually recovered. The I.O., in desperate need of blood transfusion was, appropriately enough, saved by donors from the Austrians themselves, in whose service he had been so grievously wounded.

The final episode of this engagement was the award of decorations by the Austrian Government to certain individuals in the Battalion for their part in the battle. This is of interest due to the fact that the Austrian Government had at its disposal only medals



and decorations struck under the previous Nazi German regime, and had not since the Peace Treaty had the necessity to re-create new awards. In order to do this now, it is understood that the Austrian Parliament had to authorise the striking and issue of a new series of national awards in order that such presentations could take place.

## The Sinking of the "Lisbon Maru"

By Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E.

In the last publication of the Journal I said in the second paragraph of the article "Kobe Hospital" that I hoped to publish stories of the "Die-Hards" in captivity.

Recently there has come into my possession, through the good offices of the "Old Codgers" of the *Daily Mirror*, the photostat sheets containing the report of the second war patrol of U.S.S. *Grouper* during which the action against the *Lisbon Maru* took place.

The full report is far too lengthy to print in the Journal as it covers the submarine's activities during September and October 1942, therefore below will be found only the parts relevant to the *Lisbon Maru*. When reading the report, it must be remembered that the commander of the submarine and the naval staff did not know the ship was carrying P.O.W.s but were fully convinced it was conveying war stores and Japanese military personnel to Japan:

"COMSUBPAC PATROL REPORT No. 84

U.S.S. 'GROUPE'—SECOND WAR PATROL

From: The Commander Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet

To: Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet

Subject: U.S.S. *Grouper* (SS214)—Report of Second War Patrol

Enclosure: (a) Copy of Comsubdiv 81 Conf 1tr FB5-81/A16-3/(SS214) Serial 043 of October 1942

(b) Copy of Subject War Patrol

1. The area assigned the *Grouper* on her second war patrol was covered in a thorough manner. The percentage of torpedo hits obtained on the patrol is not impressive, but an increase with experience and training is expected.

2. A tendency is noted on the part of the commanding officer to delay attacking until sea, weather and visibility conditions are favourable. In general, the immediate and direct attack is favored, but the commanding officer on the spot must judge the attack which offers the greatest prospect of success.

3. The Commander Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet, concurs with the remarks of Commander Submarine Division Eighty-One in his discussion of the various attacks. On the attack on October 1, the patrol report offers insufficient evidence to warrant a decision that the

7,000-ton 'Lyons' Class freighter sank. However, as a Japanese radio broadcast announced that the *Lisbon Maru* (same class as *Lyons Maru*) was sunk by a submarine in the East China Sea on October 1, the *Grouper* is credited with the sinking.

4. The Commanding Officer, officers and crew of the *Grouper* are to be congratulated on having inflicted the following damage on the enemy:

	Sunk
1 Freighter ..	5,000 tons
1 Freighter ..	7,000 tons ( <i>Lisbon Maru</i> )
Total ..	12,000 tons."

The report is attached as an enclosure with the above memo, but as it concerns itself with the normal patrol duties I will only start from September 27 when, as the commander says in his report, "This locality appeared fruitful." It was also the date the *Lisbon Maru* set sail from Hong Kong.

"Subject: U.S.S. *Grouper*—Report of Second War Patrol

September 27, 1115. Sighted smoke. Made approach for two hours when smoke disappeared. Approach put us south of our desired position.

September 27, 1445. Sighted same ship as yesterday, range 14,000 yards, angle on bow 60 starboard. Approach took 33 minutes of which 25 were spent at full speed on normal approach courses. Target zigged four times average 35. Angle on bow varied between 60 and 150. At 33 minutes target range 6,000 yards. Angle on bow 150 starboard. Target speed figured 19 knots. From then on target drew away rapidly. Range was never less than 5,000 yards and with rapidity of zigs a low speed shot was inadvisable, even if a good opportunity had presented itself. This locality appeared fruitful and didn't wish to betray our presence with a wild shot. The morning approach was instrumental in moving us from what would have been an excellent approach position for this target.

September 29, 0200. Bright moonlight night. Sighted small (150-ft.) craft heading directly for us. Turned away at 17 knots. Craft closed range appreciably so dived to attack or escape detection. Went periscope depth, silent running and changed course normal to target. We were in 17 fathoms of water on the Yangtze Bank. Sighted craft as blurs three times as it passed about 2,000 yards astern. Definitely too small for torpedo. It made no attempt to locate us. Surfaced at 0315 and resumed patrol into and out of the moon.

October 1, 0400. Heading for the south-westerly top of area to pick up the traffic from the south to Shanghai. With nine sampans in sight, closest 200 yards, sighted 7,000-ton freighter. Night too bright for surface attack. Paced target for course and speed and took position ahead prior to daylight. While taking position passed within 4,000 yards of two fishing boats (about 150 ft.) equipped with normal high-intensity fishing lights and side lights. At daylight target changed course about 50° to the left leaving us in poor positions. Dove and began approach. At 0704 fired three torpedoes

(O, IR, IL) at closest range attainable (3,200 yards). TDC checking. No hits. Target remained on course. TDC still checking on so fired one more torpedo. In 2 min. 10 sec. heard loud explosion. Raised periscope and observed target. It had changed course about 50° to the right, angle on the bow now 40° starboard. Could see no signs of damage. Continued checking ranges and bearings and found target was stopped. Headed for position abeam to starboard for straight bow shot. Target meanwhile hoisted flag resembling 'Baker' and was firing at us with what sounded like a small-calibre gun. Sharp explosions were all around us. At 0845 reached firing position for a 0° gyro, 80° track, range 1,000 yards. Fired on TDC with six (6-ft.) foot depth setting of torpedo. No explosion. Target had now developed a slight list to starboard. Didn't wish to use another bow torpedo so worked around to position 1,000 yards to port side. At 0938 fired stern tube 180° gyro, 80° track, torpedo depth setting 0 ft. Just prior to last setup observed a light bomber Mitsubishi Davai 108 (type 97) over target. Fired within one minute thereafter. Did not wait to see results. Went to 100 ft. with hard left rudder. Loud explosion in 40 sec., definitely torpedoish. About two minutes after firing, pattern of three charges were dropped from plane. None close. Periscope depth at 1,000. Visibility through periscope a good 18,000 yards. Saw same plane but target had disappeared. Seeing that target hadn't moved for 2 hr. 35 min. assume she sunk. Target was heavily laden, her original speed checked at 8 knots. Sound conditions were poor. Could not hear own screws. Went to 120 ft. silent running to clear area. Will stay at periscope depth next time. 1119 depth charge attack. Came to periscope depth at 1530 and stayed there. Sighted sampan. At 1904 heard several depth charges at long range. Heard three more within next 10 minutes. Dusk had settled. Sky overcast, visibility poor through periscope. At 1905 sighted lights astern. Decided to surface and remove ourselves while the removing was good . . ."

The report goes on to tell of the hunt by the Japanese for the submarine and high-powered searchlights being played around in the vicinity where the submarine had surfaced. Then each day's happenings are recorded, but they are of no interest to the reader of this article. If, by chance, any reader wishes to know, I can arrange for him to read the actual report.

For those who were on the *Lisbon Maru*, it may be interesting to compare what they were doing at the various times mentioned in the *Grouper*'s log. How hunter and hunted were living that part of their lives, the hunter entirely in ignorance that the freight of the ship was a human one, his own allies and comrades-in-arms. Now for the world of "what might have been."

If the *Grouper* had sunk, or hit, her target on September 27, it would have brought the avenging Mitsubishi Davai bombers and she would have quit the area for a quieter sphere as happened after firing at the *Lisbon Maru*. To use the commander's own words, to "remove ourselves whilst the removing was good," in this case the *Lisbon Maru* would have reached Japan as scheduled.

On the other hand, how much heavier would have been the loss of life if the salvo of three torpedoes fired at 0704 hours had been on target. The men had not as yet assembled on deck, many were in the holds and three torpedoes striking a freighter of only 7,000 tons would in all probability have caused her to sink like a stone. There would have been little or no chance to escape from the holds and many must have been blown to smithereens. Again, at 0845 hours, the *Grouper* fires a torpedo at 1,000 yards range at a depth of 6 ft. This missile also missed the target, as did the original salvo. At that time all our troops were below deck and in the holds and again the loss of life from the explosion alone would have been catastrophic. If either of these things had happened, i.e. a strike of three torpedoes or if the missile fired after the ship had already suffered damage had been on target, I'm afraid that, instead of the reunion we have recently held, it would have been a special memorial service to mourn the loss of many who are happily still with us.

After 22 years, I think this is the first time the official report of the submarine's activities has been published, and many of our men may not even have known the name of the submarine that fired the torpedo. As in all stories, especially war stories, it is always interesting to know what the other chap was doing. I hope the foregoing may prove of interest to those who were actively concerned in the incident and not too boring to other readers who may have read as far as this last paragraph.

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## One of 21,000,000

(By Maj. R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E.)

On February 23, 1964 the "Sunday Times" published, in the colour magazine, a series of photographs of The Great War. One was captioned "The Scars of War," referring to the 21 million who were wounded. The photograph showed an old Die-Hard now being well looked after in the Star and Garter Home for disabled servicemen at Richmond, Surrey.

The old soldier is Frank George Oakley (G/24244) who was wounded at Loos on September 23, 1916. At that time the 20th (Shoreditch) Battalion of the Regiment were in the line, having relieved the 12th Suffolks. George Oakley was only eighteen years of age. He had originally joined the 28th (Reserve) Battalion and from there was posted to the 20th when it was mobilised for service overseas in June, 1916.

At the time he became a casualty he was sheltering in a crater when, as he says, "Jerry put in the grenades amongst us." The War Diary of the 20th Battalion says in the Summary of Events column for this date—"A



quiet period. At 4.30 p.m. our artillery again bombarded enemy trenches opposite 'Seaforth Crater' searching for mine shaft." For the little party of the 20th in the crater it was anything but a quiet period!

George Oakley has the distinction of being the inmate with the longest time in the Star and Garter, having been there since 1924. Not only was his body injured in 1916 but his nerves were shattered too and he told me that he has only left the Star and Garter Home once since he has been a patient and that was to go to the Star and Garter Hotel on the opposite side of the road. This proved a worry to him so he decided not to leave the peace and quietness of the Home again.

For many years now he has not even left his room and has lived in Ward F.1, which is his entire world. Although he never leaves the ward, he often takes

pleasure in looking through his window at the lovely view he has of Richmond Park and is really enthusiastic in pointing out the beauty of the grounds to his visitors.

When he was asked to present a bouquet to Princess Elizabeth, now Her Majesty the Queen, he could not undertake the task. His nerves would not allow him although he dearly appreciated the honour.

He is a voracious reader and I cannot think of any better setting than the photograph reproduced here, taken when that charming royal lady, Princess Alexandra, visited him in his room at the Star and Garter. There he is in the comfort of his own snug room with his book on the table in front of him, at peace with the world and full of the honour being accorded him by the royal visit.

## The British United Provident Association

B.U.P.A., a non-profit organisation founded in 1947 with the late Lord Nuffield as President, is today enabling more than a million people to safeguard themselves against the cost of private treatment in hospital, nursing home or specialist's consulting room. Under an optional extension scheme subscribers can also obtain cover against General Practitioners' fees.

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Subscriptions to B.U.P.A. may be arranged either individually or through a Group. More than 5,000 Groups have been formed for professional, industrial and commercial organisations and these account for more than half B.U.P.A.'s total membership. The main attractions of Group membership are a subscription rebate and immediate entitlement to benefit on joining the Group — both of which concessions have been justified by experience. A special booklet, giving full details of the three types of Group, is available on request.

Individual and Group subscribers are equally welcome and are entitled to the full range of benefits for both the Standard and the General Practitioner Scheme. To meet differing personal requirements and local variations in charges, five scales of benefit (and subscriptions) are offered under the Standard Scheme, and two under the General Practitioner Scheme. The full range of Services is available in

each case, but the amount of the benefit itself varies with the amount of the subscription paid. It is important for a subscriber to choose a scale likely to provide sufficiently high benefits to suit his particular circumstances; the local hospital or nursing home will supply details of charges.

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Further information about the "Army Group" may be obtained from: The Manager, Group Management Limited, Prama House, 267 Banbury Road, Summertown, Oxford.

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## Increase in Pay, Allowances and Pensions

The biennial review by the Government of the Pay and Pensions of The Royal Navy, The Army and The Royal Air Force was published in a Government White Paper in February, 1964.

Details of the Government White Paper are published below.

### SERVICE PAY AND PENSIONS

1. In accordance with the agreement announced by the Government in the White Paper issued in November, 1958 (Cmd. 570) a further biennial review of Service pay and pensions has been carried out. In addition marriage allowance and the rents for Service houses have been reviewed.

### PAY

2. The rates of Service pay already in force were announced in March, 1962. The rates of pay of the most senior officers were unchanged in 1962 and have remained at the level fixed in 1960. The new rates of pay in the attached Appendices I-II will be effective from 1st April, 1964.



**Officers**

3. The annual pay of officers on normal rates will be increased as follows:—

Rank	£ (to the nearest £)
Second Lieutenant ... ..	46
Lieutenant ... ..	46 to 55
Captain ... ..	64 to 82
Major ... ..	100 to 109
Lieutenant-Colonel ... ..	146 to 164
Colonel ... ..	274
Brigadier ... ..	438
Major-General ... ..	566
Lieutenant-General ... ..	712
General ... ..	912
Field-Marshal ... ..	1,077

**Other Ranks**

4. The normal pay of ratings, soldiers and airmen will generally be increased by the following weekly amounts:—

Rank	
Private ... ..	7s. 0d. to 14s. 0d.
Lance-Corporal ... ..	10s. 6d. to 14s. 0d.
Corporal ... ..	10s. 6d. to 17s. 6d.
Sergeant ... ..	14s. 0d. to 21s. 0d.
Staff-Sergeant/Warrant Officer Class II ... ..	17s. 6d. to 28s. 0d.
Warrant Officer Class I ... ..	24s. 6d. to 31s. 6d.

5. Certain increments for long service will also be increased.

**Cost**

6. The cost of the increases in pay is estimated at about £5,500,000 for officers and £14,600,000 for ratings, soldiers and airmen.

**MARRIAGE ALLOWANCE AND RENTS FOR SERVICE HOUSES****Rents**

7. The rents charged for Service houses which have remained unchanged since 1958 will be increased in the light of changes in housing costs generally since that date. The increases vary from £39 a year for soldiers occupying the smallest type of quarters to £60 for General officers.

**Marriage Allowance**

8. The two existing rates of marriage allowance, namely the standard rate payable to those living in Service houses and the higher rate payable to those not provided with Service houses, will be increased by between £54 and £77 a year for soldiers and by between £64 and £82 for officers. After allowing for tax these increases closely correspond to the increases in the rent of Service houses. The position of married Servicemen in this country who are not provided with official accommodation will be improved by the full amount of the increase in marriage allowance.

9. Details are set out at Appendix IV, Tables I and III.

**Cost**

10. The cost of the increases in marriage allowance is about £13,200,000. After allowing for the increase in rents the net extra cost is about £8,000,000.

**RETIREMENT BENEFITS****Retired Pay and Pensions**

11. The new rates of retired pay and pensions set out in Appendix III will be effective from 1st April, 1964. They will apply to officers who retire on or after 1st February, 1964 and to soldiers who are discharged on or after 31st January, 1964.

**Service Gratuities**

12. Certain gratuities for offices and other ranks are to be increased. The new rates are set out at Appendix III, Tables III and IV.

**Widow's Gratuities**

13. New rates of gratuities payable to those widows of regular Servicemen who are not eligible for a Service widow's pension are given at Appendix III, Table V. They will apply where deaths occur in the Service on or after 1st February, 1964.

**Cost**

14. The cost of the improvements in retirements benefits will be about £1,100,000 in 1964/65.

APPENDIX I  
PAY OF REGULAR OFFICERS  
TABLE I  
NORMAL RATES

Rank	New Rates of Basic Pay	
	Daily	Annual
	s. d.	£
Second-Lieutenant ... ..	34 6	630
Lieutenant ... ..	39 6	721
After 1 year in the rank ... ..	41 6	757
After 2 years in the rank ... ..	44 0	803
After 3 years in the rank ... ..	46 0	839
Temporary Captain ... ..	51 6	940
Captain ... ..	53 6	976
After 1 year in the rank ... ..	55 6	1,013
After 2 years in the rank ... ..	57 6	1,049
After 3 years in the rank ... ..	60 0	1,095
After 4 years in the rank ... ..	62 0	1,131
After 5 years in the rank ... ..	64 6	1,177
After 6 years in the rank ... ..	66 6	1,214
After 7 years in the rank ... ..	70 0	1,277
*After 9 years in the rank ... ..	72 0	1,314
*After 11 years in the rank ... ..	74 0	1,350
Major ... ..	78 6	1,433
After 1 year in the rank ... ..	80 6	1,469
After 2 years in the rank ... ..	82 6	1,506
After 3 years in the rank ... ..	84 6	1,542
After 4 years in the rank ... ..	86 6	1,579
After 5 years in the rank ... ..	89 0	1,624
After 6 years in the rank ... ..	91 0	1,661
After 8 years in the rank ... ..	92 0	1,697
After 10 years in the rank ... ..	95 0	1,734
Lieutenant-Colonel—Special List ... ..	100 6	1,834
Lieutenant-Colonel with less than 19 years' service ... ..	106 0	1,934
After 2 years in the rank or with 19 years' service ... ..	109 6	1,998
After 4 years in the rank or with 21 years' service ... ..	112 6	2,053
After 6 years in the rank or with 23 years' service ... ..	116 0	2,117
After 8 years in the rank or with 25 years' service ... ..	119 0	2,172
Colonel ... ..	141 0	2,573
After 2 years in the rank ... ..	145 0	2,646
After 4 years in the rank ... ..	149 0	2,719
After 6 years in the rank ... ..	153 0	2,792
After 8 years in the rank ... ..	157 0	2,865
Brigadier ... ..	176 0	3,212
Major-General ... ..	225 0	4,406
Lieutenant-General ... ..	265 0	4,836
General ... ..	326 0	5,949
Field-Marshal ... ..	385 0	7,026

\*Limited Service Regular Commission Officers only.

TABLE 1A  
QUARTER-MASTER RATES

Rank	New Rates of Basic Pay	
	Daily	Annual
	s. d.	£
On Appointment ... ..	53 6	976
After 1 year's service ... ..	54 6	995
After 2 years' service ... ..	55 6	1,013
After 3 years' service ... ..	56 6	1,031
After 4 years' service ... ..	57 6	1,049
After 5 years' service ... ..	58 6	1,068
After 6 years' service ... ..	66 6	1,214
After 8 years' service ... ..	69 0	1,259
After 10 years' service ... ..	71 0	1,296
After 12 years' service ... ..	82 6	1,506
After 14 years' service ... ..	84 6	1,542
After 16 years' service ... ..	86 6	1,579
After 18 years' service ... ..	89 0	1,624
Lieutenant-Colonel ... ..	102 0	1,861
After 3 years in the rank ... ..	104 0	1,898

TABLE 1B  
ADDITIONAL PAY

Special Qualification Pay will be increased to 5s. 0d. a day.  
Parachute Pay will be increased to 7s. 6d. a day.



APPENDIX II  
DAILY RATES OF PAY OF REGULAR SOLDIERS  
TABLE I  
TECHNICIANS

Rank	New Rates of Basic Pay for those committed to serve for:				
	Less than 6 years	6 years but less than 9 years	9 years or more	15 years having completed 9 years' service	21 years or more having completed 15 years' service
	Scale A	Scale B	Scale C	Scale D	Scale E
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Private	23 6	26 6	31 0	33 0	35 6
Lance-Corporal	26 0	29 0	33 6	35 6	38 0
Corporal	30 0	33 0	37 6	40 0	42 0
Sergeant	38 6	41 6	46 0	49 6	52 0
Staff-Sergeant	44 6	47 6	52 0	56 0	58 6
Warrant Officer Class II	46 6	49 6	54 0	58 0	60 6
Warrant Officer Class I	49 6	52 6	57 0	61 0	63 6

TABLE IA  
GROUP A TRADESMEN

Rank	New Rates of Basic Pay for those committed to serve for:				
	Less than 6 years	6 years but less than 9 years	9 years or more	15 years having completed 9 years' service	21 years or more having completed 15 years' service
	Scale A	Scale B	Scale C	Scale D	Scale E
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Private—					
Class III	18 6	21 6	26 0	27 6	27 6
Class II	20 0	23 0	27 6	29 0	29 0
Class I	21 6	24 6	29 0	30 6	30 6
Lance-Corporal—					
Class III	21 6	24 6	29 0	30 6	30 6
Class II	22 6	25 6	30 0	31 6	31 6
Class I	24 0	27 0	31 6	33 0	33 0
Corporal—					
Class II	25 6	28 6	33 0	35 0	37 0
Class I	27 0	30 0	34 6	36 6	38 6
Sergeant	33 6	36 6	41 0	44 6	47 0
Staff-Sergeant	38 0	41 0	45 6	49 6	52 0
Warrant Officer Class II	40 0	43 0	47 6	51 6	54 0
Warrant Officer Class I	43 0	46 0	50 6	54 6	57 0

TABLE IB  
GROUP B TRADESMEN

Rank	New Rates of Basic Pay for those committed to serve for:				
	Less than 6 years	6 years but less than 9 years	9 years or more	15 years having completed 9 years' service	21 years or more having completed 15 years' service
	Scale A	Scale B	Scale C	Scale D	Scale E
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Private	17 6	20 6	25 0	26 6	26 6
Class III	19 0	22 0	26 6	28 0	28 0
Class II	20 6	23 6	28 0	29 6	29 6
Class I	20 6	23 6	28 0	29 6	29 6
Lance-Corporal	20 6	23 6	28 0	29 6	29 6
Class III	21 6	24 6	29 0	30 6	30 6
Class II	22 6	25 6	30 6	32 0	32 0
Class I	23 0	26 0	30 6	32 0	32 0
Corporal	24 6	27 6	32 0	34 0	36 0
Class II	26 0	29 0	33 6	35 6	37 6
Class I	31 6	34 6	39 0	42 6	45 0
Sergeant	36 0	39 0	43 6	47 6	50 0
Staff-Sergeant	38 0	41 0	45 6	49 6	52 0
Warrant Officer Class II	41 0	44 0	48 6	52 6	55 0
Warrant Officer Class I	41 0	44 0	48 6	52 6	55 0

TABLE IC  
NON-TRADESMEN

Rank	New Rates of Basic Pay for those committed to serve for:				
	Less than 6 years	6 years but less than 9 years	9 years or more	15 years having completed 9 years' service	21 years or more having completed 15 years' service
	Scale A	Scale B	Scale C	Scale D	Scale E
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Private	15 0	18 0	22 6	26 6	26 6
Grade IV	17 6	20 6	25 0	28 0	28 0
Grade III	19 0	22 0	26 6	29 6	29 6
Grade II	20 6	23 6	28 0	30 6	30 6
Grade I	20 6	23 6	28 0	30 6	30 6
Lance-Corporal	20 6	23 6	28 0	29 6	29 6
Grade III	21 6	24 6	29 0	30 6	30 6
Grade II	21 6	24 6	29 0	30 6	30 6
Grade I	23 0	26 0	30 6	32 0	32 0
Corporal	24 6	27 6	32 0	34 0	36 0
Grade II	26 0	29 0	33 6	35 6	37 6
Grade I	31 6	34 6	39 0	42 6	45 0
Sergeant	36 0	39 0	43 6	47 6	50 0
Staff-Sergeant	38 0	41 0	45 6	49 6	52 0
Warrant Officer Class II	41 0	44 0	48 6	52 6	55 0
Warrant Officer Class I	41 0	44 0	48 6	52 6	55 0

Warrant Officer, Class II, holding the appointment of R.Q.M.S. will receive additional pay of 1s. 0d. a day.  
INCREMENTS: In addition to the rates shown in Tables I and Ic above, increments of 2s. 0d. a day will be granted to Sergeants, Staff-Sergeants and Warrant Officers, Class II on completion of 18 years' service and 2s. 6d. a day to Warrant Officers, Class I.

#### ADDITIONAL PAY

The rates of additional pay for certain duties will be increased. The new rates will be as follows:

	s. d.
Parachutists	7 6
Parachute Jumping Instructors	8 6
Boys:	
Junior Regimental Sergeant-Major	2 0
Junior Company, etc., Sergeant-Major	1 6
Junior Sergeant	1 3
Junior Corporal	9
Junior Lance-Corporal	6

TABLE ID  
OFFICER CADETS

	New Rates of Basic Pay
On becoming an Officer Cadet at the Royal Military Academy	15 0
On completion of 1 year's service	19 0
Officer Cadet at Officer Cadet Schools and Arms Schools	15 0

TABLE IE  
APPRENTICES

	New Rates of Basic Pay*
	s. d.
On entry	7 6
On completion of 1 year's service	14 0
On completion of 2 years' service	18 0
Increment on reaching age of 17...	2 6
Increment on reaching age of 18 a further	3 0

\*Applicable to apprentices whose apprenticeship began on or after 1st September, 1963.



TABLE IF  
Boys

	New Rates of Basic Pay	
	s.	d.
On entry ... ..	7	6
On completion of 6 months' service ... ..	7	6—Dependent on to —Qualifications 13 6—and length of — service

APPENDIX III  
RETIREMENT BENEFITS

NOTES: (1) The rates quoted for Officers in the following table are for compulsory retirement. There will be a deduction in certain circumstances for voluntary retirement.  
(2) Terminal grants will continue to be three times the annual rate of retired pay or pension.  
(3) The new rates will be incorporated in the current regulations which set out the conditions of eligibility. Examples quoted are subject to these conditions being satisfied.

TABLE I  
OFFICER'S RETIRED PAY

## 1. NORMAL RATES\*

Number of years' reckonable service over age 21	Ranks								Field-Marshal ("Half-pay")
	Captain and below	Major	Lieutenant-Colonel	Colonel	Brigadier	Major-General	Lieutenant-General	General	
	£ a year	£ a year	£ a year	£ a year	£ a year	£ a year	£ a year	£ a year	£ a year
16†	520	585	715	—	—	—	—	—	—
17	545	615	750	—	—	—	—	—	—
18	565	650	790	1,035	—	—	—	—	—
19	590	675	825	1,075	—	—	—	—	—
20	610	700	855	1,110	—	—	—	—	—
21	625	730	890	1,150	—	—	—	—	—
22	640	755	920	1,190	1,380	—	—	—	—
23	660	780	955	1,230	1,420	—	—	—	—
24	670	805	980	1,270	1,460	1,685	—	—	—
25	680	825	1,005	1,305	1,500	1,745	—	—	—
26	690	845	1,035	1,345	1,540	1,810	—	—	—
27	700	865	1,060	1,380	1,580	1,875	2,120	—	—
28	710	890	1,090	1,410	1,620	1,940	2,205	—	—
29	720	910	1,115	1,445	1,660	2,000	2,285	—	—
30	735	930	1,140	1,480	1,700	2,065	2,365	2,880	—
31	745	945	1,170	1,510	1,745	2,130	2,450	2,985	—
32	755	965	1,190	1,545	1,780	2,195	2,530	3,090	—
33	765	980	1,210	1,580	1,810	2,255	2,615	2,195	—
34‡	775	995	1,235	1,615	1,845	2,320	2,695	2,305	3,900

NOTES: \*All male officers serving on permanent regular commissions other than those dealt with under paragraph 2 to 4 inclusive below.  
†Minimum rates.  
‡Maximum rates.

2. LIEUTENANT-COLONELS (QUARTER-MASTER) will receive a lead of £85 a year over the Major's scale as shown above.

## 3. OFFICERS SERVING ON SPECIAL TERMS OF SERVICE

## (i) Officers on extended service commissions

Service element	£ a year
For 20 years' reckonable service ... ..	425
For each additional year up to 10 years ... ..	27
<b>Rank element</b>	
For each year as a Major* (maximum 10) ... ..	17
For each year as a Lieutenant-Colonel* (maximum 4) ... ..	40

## (ii) Pre-war regular other ranks promoted to war-time emergency commissions and continuing to serve as officers

Service element	£ a year
For 15 years' reckonable service ... ..	305
For each additional year ... ..	31
<b>Rank element</b>	
For each year as a Major* (maximum 10) ... ..	19
For each year as a Lieutenant-Colonel* (maximum 4) ... ..	47
<b>or</b>	
For the first year as a war substantive or substantive Lieutenant-Colonel ... ..	244

NOTES: For both (i) and (ii), retired pay may not exceed that of a regular officer of the same rank and comparable service.

\*This includes service in the substantive, war substantive, temporary or paid acting rank.

TABLE II  
PENSIONS FOR SOLDIERS  
NEW WEEKLY RATES

Rank	For each of first 22 years		For each additional year	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Below Corporal ... ..	2	6	5	0
Corporal ... ..	3	3	6	6
Sergeant ... ..	4	1	8	2
Staff-Sergeant ... ..	5	1	9	4
Warrant Officer Class II ... ..	5	1	10	2
Warrant Officer Class I ... ..	5	4	10	8

## EXAMPLES OF RATES OF PENSION AND TERMINAL GRANT

	Weekly Pension	Approximately Terminal Grant
Private with 22 years' service ... ..	55 d.	£ 429
Private with 37 years' service ... ..	130 0	1,014
Sergeant with 22 years' service ... ..	89 10	700
Sergeant with 37 years' service ... ..	212 4	1,656
Warrant Officer Class I with 22 years' service ... ..	117 4	915
Warrant Officer Class I with 37 years' service ... ..	277 4	2,163

TABLE III  
OFFICER'S GRATUITIES

1. The gratuities payable to officers serving on permanent regular commissions who retire compulsorily for age or non-employment, or voluntarily, before becoming eligible for retired pay and who have at least 10 years' qualifying service will be as follows:—

For the first 10 years' qualifying service ... ..	£1,250	(£1,150)
For each further years' qualifying service an addition of ... ..	£250	(£230)

NOTE: Existing rates are shown in brackets.

2. The standard rate of Short Service gratuity, at present £155 for each year of service will be increased to £180. There will be appropriate increases in certain other special rates.

TABLE IV  
OTHER RANK GRATUITIES

The gratuities payable to other ranks who leave the Service with at least 12 years' qualifying service will be as follows:—  
Rate

Years of Service	£	(£)
12 ... ..	160	(130)
13 ... ..	205	(170)
14 ... ..	255	(210)
15 ... ..	305	(250)
16 ... ..	365	(300)
17 ... ..	425	(350)
18 ... ..	485	(400)
19 ... ..	550	(450)
20 ... ..	620	(510)
21 ... ..	690	(570)

NOTE: Existing rates are shown in brackets.

TABLE V  
WIDOWS' GRATUITIES

1. **Officers.** The following rates of gratuity will be payable to those widows of U.K. based officers who die while serving on full pay on the Active List and who are not eligible for a widow's pension:—

Less than 4 years' service ... ..	£	(£)
4 years' service ... ..	275	(220)
5 years' service ... ..	360	(280)
6 years' service ... ..	445	(340)
7 years' service ... ..	530	(400)
8 years' service ... ..	620	(480)
9 years' service ... ..	710	(560)
10 years' service ... ..	800	(640)

Thence by increments of £90 (£80) for each additional year of service which would have reckoned for service gratuity.

NOTE: Existing rates are shown in brackets.

2. **Other Ranks.** The following rates of gratuity will be payable to those widows of U.K. based other ranks who die while serving on full pay on a regular engagement and who are not eligible for a widow's pension:—

Less than 4 years' service ... ..	£	(£)
4 years' service ... ..	100	(80)
5 years' service ... ..	120	(95)
6 years' service ... ..	140	(110)
7 years' service ... ..	160	(125)
8 years' service ... ..	180	(140)
9 years' service ... ..	200	(155)
10 years' service ... ..	220	(170)
11 years' service ... ..	240	(185)
12 years' service ... ..	260	(200)

Thence by increments of £20 (£15) for each additional year of service which would have reckoned for service gratuity.

NOTE: Existing rates are shown in brackets.



**APPENDIX IV**  
**MARRIAGE ALLOWANCE AND QUARTERING CHARGES**

**TABLE I**  
**MARRIAGE ALLOWANCE FOR OFFICERS**

Rank	In Married Quarters		Not in Married Quarters	
	Daily	Annual	Daily	Annual
Captain and lower commissioned ranks	s. d. 23 0	£420	s. d. 26 0	£474
Major	25 6	465	28 6	520
Lieutenant-Colonel and Colonel	29 0	529	32 0	584
Brigadier	32 6	593	35 6	648
Major-General and officers of higher rank	38 0	693	41 0	748

## NOTES:—

- (i) Married Officers under 25 years of age will receive Marriage Allowance at the "In Married Quarters" rate applicable to a Warrant Officer Class I, i.e. 113s. 9d. per week.  
 (ii) Local Overseas Allowance at the unaccommodated, married, accompanied rate will be reduced to take account of the increases in Marriage Allowance.  
 (iii) Married Officers receiving Local Overseas Allowance at the married accompanied rates will be paid the "In Married Quarters" rate of Marriage Allowance.

**TABLE II**  
**QUARTERING CHARGES FOR OFFICERS**

Rank	Annual Charge for Furnished Quarter
Captain and lower commissioned ranks	£192
Major	225
Colonel and Lieutenant-Colonel	261
Brigadier	294
Major-General and offices of higher rank	330

**TABLE III**  
**MARRIAGE ALLOWANCE FOR SOLDIERS**

Rank	In Married Quarters		Not in Married Quarters	
	Daily	Weekly	Daily	Weekly
Corporal and below	s. d. 11 0	s. d. 77 0	s. d. 14 0	s. l. 98 0
Sergeant	13 0	91 0	16 0	112 0
Staff Sergeant	13 9	96 3	16 9	117 3
Warrant Officer Class II	14 3	99 9	17 3	120 9
Warrant Officer Class I	16 3	113 9	19 3	134 9

## NOTES:—

- (i) Married Other Ranks under 21 years of age will receive Marriage Allowance at the "In Married Quarters" rate appropriate to their rank.  
 (ii) Local Overseas Allowance at the unaccommodated, married, accompanied rate will be reduced to take account of the increases in Marriage Allowance.  
 (iii) Married, Other Ranks receiving Local Overseas Allowance at the married, accompanied, rates will be paid the "In Married Quarters" rate of Marriage Allowance.

**TABLE IV**  
**QUARTERING CHARGES FOR SOLDIERS**

Rank	Weekly Charge for Type of Quarter				WOI Type
	Type A	Type B	Type C	Type D	
Corporal and below	s. d. 40 0	s. d. 44 0	s. d. 46 0	s. d. 48 0	s. d. —
Sergeant	41 6	45 6	47 6	49 6	—
Staff Sergeant	43 0	47 0	49 0	51 0	—
Warrant Officer Class II	43 0	47 0	49 0	51 0	—
Warrant Officer Class I	45 6	49 6	51 6	53 6	65 0

# 1st Battalion Notes

The Battalion has now been stationed in Gibraltar and Tobruk for over six months and each of the Rifle Companies ("A" and "B") have completed a tour of duty in each place. The Company Notes give the details of their respective enjoyments and hardships and need no further repetition: it is not proposed to cover the details of the Battalion move to Gibraltar here except to say that on arrival our allocation of married quarters was increased by nearly 100 per cent. We have over 135 families accommodated on the Rock, and whilst some of the quarters are sub-standard and not very attractive, we have at least achieved family union for the majority of the Battalion when the troops are living in Gibraltar.

As we mentioned in our last notes, the training facilities in Gibraltar are very limited and it is, therefore, essential to encourage the maximum number of all ranks to take an interest in other activities both on the Rock itself and elsewhere. The various Battalion Clubs for Sub-Aqua Sports, Rock Climbing, Canoeing and "caving" are slowly beginning to expand now that we have a number of instructors trained in each activity. It must be appreciated, however, that the Rock is only 3 miles long and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile wide and, therefore, all ranks are encouraged to leave Gibraltar as frequently as possible, but the essential requirement is a Passport.

It has required all the patience of all the Senior ranks in the Battalion to persuade some individuals to obtain a Passport (particularly as it costs 30s.) and it is perhaps unfortunate that soldiers who are not entitled to a British Passport are only allowed to visit Spain three times in a three-month period. However, we have now persuaded most of our Irishmen that there is an advantage in becoming a British Citizen after all! Troops are not allowed to enter either Spain or Morocco in uniform and so leave parties are organised for such visits and at regular intervals a party of "civilians" in a Nuffield Trust Landrover go off to ski or sightsee — at least it is a good reason to go away and forget the problems of Gibraltar. In the coming summer months we are hoping to persuade the Royal Navy to take parties of troops on leave up the Portuguese coast and land there for several days, after which some members of the party will return by land and others by sea.

The main project in the near future is the proposed Battlefield Tour of the Peninsular War campaigns which will culminate at Albuhera on the night of May 15/16. At present, political and Consular agreement is being sought and hopes are high that this tour will be permitted. In outline, the plan is to set up an administrative base at Caceras by May 12 and to travel daily from there to the various battle-

fields including Salamanca, Talavera and Badajoz. It will be appreciated that, to foster interest and approval, the battlefield itinerary must include battles which interest everyone as well as those which are only Regimental Battle Honours. However, the plans for May 16 are entirely Regimental and if agreement is obtained for the Corps of Drums to fly to Badajoz on the 15th and be present at Albuhera on the Ridge on the morning of the 16th, we shall have a very successful tour. Needless to say, all members of the Regiment will be welcome on that occasion.

We have had a number of visitors during the past six months and in particular we should like to mention the Brigade Colonel and Mrs. M. T. N. Jennings in November whom we were very pleased to see and also Brigadier and Mrs. E. E. F. Baker. By the time these notes have been published we will have entertained the C.I.G.S. to lunch on March 12 during a very brief stay in Gibraltar.

On February 12 and 13 we had a surprise visit from an Advertising Agency sent by the Public Relations Directorate in the War Office. Their brief was to photograph members of the Regiment who will later appear on recruiting posters to develop the theme "This is your Life." A search for suitable "photogenic" subjects provided certain problems, but eventually we managed to persuade the team that Cpl. Dowsett, Pte. Brown (C.O.s Driver) and L/Cpl. Brown were good material for a "tough training" picture in Khaki Drill and Battle Order. In fact, it was so cold that the goose pimples had to be covered up with suitable stage grease paint!!! However, we did explain to the Agency team that our best recruiting gimmicks were the Rock Climbers and the Aqua Lung volunteers. More photographs were taken and interviews recorded, and as a result, we are hoping to see the Home Counties Brigade recruiting figures rise quickly in the next few months.

## BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

The move from Lydd to Gibraltar went off quite smoothly, we are glad to say, with the Adjutant, Assistant Adjutant, O.R.Q.M.S. and Sgt. Gibbs travelling by car, and the clerks by air with the remainder of the Battalion. Sgt. Gibbs and Pte. Jones escaped all the hard work and long hours at Lydd by volunteering for the Advance Party. We are now firmly settled in Gibraltar and thoroughly enjoyed our first taste of the Mediterranean sun during the latter part of the summer and we now look forward to an enjoyable tour here.



Newcomers to the Staff since the last notes include Pte. Stewart (eventually prised away from H.Q. Coy. Office despite the threats from O.C. H.Q. Coy. and now transferred to the M.T. Office as a L/Cpl.), Pte. Pedley (suitably dubbed "Pedals"), our first trained clerk from the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Rhyl, and Pte. Doran from the land of shamrock and taters. We wish them a happy stay with us. We congratulate Pte. Walsh on his promotion to L/Cpl. and hope all thoughts of discharge by purchase have now been forgotten.

On Christmas Eve we held a small get-together for a drink and goodies. The clerks excelled themselves in decorating the Stationery Store with wall cartoons and a small bar. Pte. Stewart performed the duties of barman and there seemed no end to the amount of liquor produced from under the counter. Considering the drink was purchased mainly from the "coffee swindle" profits, it went an awful long way. We are fortunate in that some photographic evidence of this episode did not materialise. Our expert photographer, L/Cpl. Fordham, blames the bad film, the O.R.Q.M.S. insists he could not see straight after a couple of "Stewart Specials." Needless to say, all negatives were blank — much to our relief!!! After closing time a few of us adjourned to "Sugar's Bar" in the town, since when it is learned, that the O.R.Q.M.S. had a slight collision with a taxi; we await the outcome with interest.

We are glad to record that P.E. tests have now been completed with 100 per cent. success. Sgt. Gibbs did not succeed in convincing O.C. H.Q. Coy. that he was over 35, and although only a few days short of that ripe old age, he managed to pass all tests with flying colours, just to prove how easy it is anyway. Preparations included early morning P.T. in the Gymnasium, much to the disgust and surprise of all, but made more interesting with the sight of the Second-in-Command climbing the ropes and the Adjutant and Assistant Adjutant vaulting the horses.

The Adjutant played the early bird shortly after reveille recently. Many worms were caught judging by numbers of the Battalion taking part in extra drill after duty hours, including some of our staff.

The Assistant Adjutant disappeared mysteriously to Tobruk in early January, but as the outstanding filing of classified correspondence reached alarming proportions, a frantic signal from the Adjutant soon had him back again. Was he on a recce for our next station?

The record breaking scores by the Commanding Officer at .22 shooting prompted L/Cpl. Fordham to try his skill. He managed to reach the firing point with rifle and ammunition, but in the attempts to adopt the prone position, he fell and broke his ankle—Oh well!!!

#### PRI

Tucked away in the furthest corners of Battalion Headquarters, the P.R.I. and Staff continue to work away frantically at work in which no one else seems eager to share. Occasionally, as at Christmas, we

emerge from our office and are seen equally frantically decorating halls, sticking up notices and buying decorations.

The Christmas arrangements seemed to go fairly well. Because of the ever increasing number of children within the Battalion, it was decided to have two Christmas Parties — one for children under five and one for those children from 5—15 years of age. Both went off successfully (even if Sgt. Young's balloons didn't). At any rate, all the children went away full of Christmas cake, with toys, balloons and were, we hope, well entertained.

The All Ranks Dance appeared to be a success (or at least the most discriminating of all critics, the soldiers, said so). For all three events we were most grateful for all the hard work put in by many soldiers, and most ably organised by Sgt. Davies. The indefatigable Cpl. Stopp performed wonders over this period (his experience in organising All Ranks Dances is not to be equalled).

Shortly before Christmas, the Staff was increased by 50 per cent. by the arrival of Pte. Webb, whose hard work is already well proven and whose exercising on the P.R.I. adding machine enabled him to win the Novices Boxing Championship in his weight. Well done; we anticipate success in the Open Boxing due to take place shortly.

#### Battalion Pay Office

It is some time since this Department submitted notes, and it is as well to record that we are at full strength with Regular R.A.P.C. clerks, and not a trainee in sight.

Major D. G. Peckham is the Paymaster.

In Tobruk, Cpl. Hutchinson had glowing reports from "A" Company and was "persuaded" to remain out there to continue the good work with "B" Company. It is quite untrue that he now writes his letters on sandpaper.

Work is steady, and Sgt. Harrison and Cpl. Foley manage to combine it rather well with hockey and road racing respectively. Sgt. Hoare and Cpl. Lodge, not to mention Pte. Sunderland, expend their energies more usefully — frequent attempts at P.E. Tests.

Soldiers are anxiously scanning results of P.E. tests now, hoping that no undue delay will result in the issue of pay increases on April 1.

#### H.Q. COMPANY

##### South Barracks

There were few who were sorry to see the last of Lydd. Those who were stationed there before the War will be glad to know that it still possesses the three "S's," Gibraltar is little different, more sun perhaps, and of course no sheep.

South Barracks is scheduled for demolition in 1965, a pity it was not demolished in 1865. By any standard the living accommodation for the soldiers is thoroughly bad and no advertisement to the Army. Nevertheless the Drums with a little self-help, initia-

tive and much effort have shown the rest of the Company and the Battalion what can be done to make the Barrack Rooms more attractive. The view from the Barracks is splendid for those who like the sea, when one can see through the rain clouds and mist that hangs to the Rock through the winter.

#### Training

Due to the obvious restrictions little worth-while training can take place. The M.T. are hard-pressed to provide the drivers for their many commitments and as a result much of the Signal Platoon has been drafted in to help. The only Rifle Range available to us is under repair and may not be ready until the summer. Those attached to the Rifle Company in Tobruk, however, train hard, or so we are led to believe by the desert veterans.

Most of the Company have, however, passed their P.E. Tests, and even the Band have not escaped this year, though one or two tried hard and some are still trying. C.S.M.I. Meadows has certainly done a fine job.

#### Sport

Fortunes have been mixed. The Basketball team are so far unbeaten in the Gibraltar League and provided nothing horrid happens should win this competition. Sgt. Torrie, L/Cpl. Harris (now with "A" Company) form the nucleus of the team and very well they have played. We beat the Rifle Company very easily in the Swimming and Diving Competition where again C.S.M.I. Meadows, Sgt. O'Rawe and Cpl. Dowsett were outstanding.

The Hockey Team has performed reasonably well and though we are second in the league we could have done better. Two heavy defeats by the Gibraltar Regiment still rankle the Drum-Major, R.S.O. and Company Commander. We have won 4, lost 3, and drawn 1. The following have represented the Battalion: Drum-Major Howells, Sgt. Torrie, L/Cpl. French, Cpl. Stopp, Capt. Crumley, Major Clayden, Sgt. McGowan, S/Sgt. Harrison and Cpl. McLean. With this team we should never have been beaten by the Gibraltar Regiment or the Rifle Company.

In Soccer we have not done so well in spite of the efforts of Sgt. Horder. Though we are near the bottom of the league the majority of our defeats have been by the odd goal. We could have so easily won many more with a bit of luck.

The Rifle Company very deservedly won the Command Boxing Competition from 1st Fortress Squadron R.E. The Company came third beating the three R.A.F. teams and H.M.S. Rooke. Pte. "Daisy May" (M.T.) provided the most popular win by beating a heavier and more accomplished boxer by sheer guts and courage. Not far behind in both characteristics were Pte. Webb (P.R.I.) and Pte. Waters (Officers' Mess). Webb won after an extremely hard fight whilst Waters was outpunched by a very capable "Novice" from the 1st Fortress Squadron R.E.

Though the Company lost the Cross Country Com-

petition the following have represented the Battalion Road Running Team in the Gibraltar A.A.A. Competition: Cpl. Foley (R.A.P.C.), Cpl. O'Riordan (Sigs.), Pte. Gilham (Sigs.), Pte. Jones 18 (Q.M.), Pte. Hannaford (Sigs.), Pte. Hayes (Coy. H.Q.).

#### Personalities

C.S.M. Garraty. At last he has "made it." He leaves the Company to become R.Q.M.S. in Tobruk and later as C.S.M. Training Company. Well done!

C/Sgt. Potter. He rejoins the Company after many years and this year whether he likes it or not he goes in No. 10 for the Company Cricket Team.

L/Cpl. Stewart (M.T.). He did well on his N.C.O.'s Cadre, gained promotion and left the B.O.R. for the rigours of the M.T. I am told he is doing well despite the odd drenching.

Pte. Graham (Coy. H.Q.). Despite all difficulties and good advice he still got married. His typing has improved too.

Sgt. Briggs. For being over 35 years old and passing his P.E. Tests without being ordered.

Pte. Vass. He helped prove that justice was seen to be done. He still has a scruffy beret nevertheless.

W.O. II Cakebread. He escaped the system after two years and is now having a well earned rest with "A" Company before leaving for the T.A. in the summer.

#### Signal Platoon

The size of this Rock does not offer much scope for the Signals Platoon, particularly when acoustics make a lusty shout as good a means of communication as any we can provide. Temporarily, we must admit, we are redundant. Perhaps it is fortunate that there is no requirement for wireless here, as the sets are of the same vintage as the R.S.O. and even the heliographs are a little rusty. It would in any case be dangerous to try to teach an old R.S.O. new tricks, and a modern wireless set amidst all the military antiquity of this fortress would probably look out of place anyway.

To combat the unusual and unaccustomed feeling of not being vital, the platoon is divided between four spheres of partial activity, Tobruk, the M.T., the D.R.s and Sgt. Briggs' bodyguard. Theoretically every man rotates round these spheres in four monthly orbit, thus preserving the brightness of the stars in our galaxy.

Tobruk is by far the most favoured area, a fact that will come as a surprise to any of those who spent 1941 or 1942 there. (Apparently the absence of the Afrika Korps makes all the difference). Here it is possible to carry out abundant training, particularly with the H.F. Sets. First reports show that communications are working well, but this is attributed more to the age and experience of the sets than to the operators. Cpl. O'Riordan led the first detachment of six signallers, Cpl. Stewart is there now and Cpl. Dowsett, despite offers for second tours by the other two, leaves next month.



Gibraltar is not the easiest place in which to gain driving experience whether you are on four or two wheels. The steep narrow streets, which always seem full of traffic, demand a quick hand and cool brain. Gradually all the platoon are finding out this truth for themselves, mercifully none by the hard way yet. The D.R.s in particular have a most uncomfortable time during the winter. Cpl. Stephenson, Ptes. Gilham, Hunt, Watson and Hannaford always appear cheerful though seldom dry.

The bodyguard which consists of storemen, tea-makers and fairly light mechanics probably have the least enviable existence. To be at everyone's beck and call is always confusing and seldom enjoyable. So far Hatch, Roylance, Calloway, Weedon and Lim have stuck it out with commendable resolve.

Sgt. Briggs, who is always rightly said to command the platoon, will very shortly have to go it alone. The R.S.O. departs without relief (in fact both he and the platoon are relieved). Sgt. Briggs can, and probably will, do the job standing on his head, but will not, regrettably, draw the R.S.O.'s pay.

Marriage is very much in the vogue in the platoon. Hannaford, Price and Hunt have all recently decided to share their pay. Let's hope they will all be drawing accompanied rates soon. Watson with great enterprise and an inside knowledge of the regulations prepared his nest here first and then marched to the altar. We wish them all and their wives great happiness.

Cpl. O'Riordan is still the fastest man in the platoon, whichever way you look at it, but he'll have to run faster yet to win the "Round the Rock Race." Calloway has taken to the hills and carries more rope than Sgt. Briggs would care to give him. L/Cpl. Young has now left us, and his familiar figure will be missed. How could it be otherwise? L/Cpl. Barratt has finished his Hythe Course, although we don't yet know the result. The rest of us, unmentioned or unmentionable, also serve, but only stand and wait.

#### Quartermaster's Dept.

So to more news of the "Beds, guns and clobber" department, that well loved and most efficient body of men, the "Q.M.s."

Since our arrival in Gibraltar we have endeavoured to make the lives of every member of the Battalion happy, and (give credit where it is due) we think that in most cases we have succeeded.

Things have not been made very easy for us on the whole, as we have to indent for stores etc., through the Royal Navy. This meant, in the beginning, learning a whole new system. With our usual genius for adaptability at short notice, we overcame all obstacles and emerged, after the transition period, with flying colours.

R.Q.M.S. Waite, who arrived with the Advance Party in early August took over South Barracks and our Stores and M.T. Sheds etc. Not too small a task for him, especially when one considers that he has

only been with us for a short time. It is a credit that As both Cpl. Stubbings and Cpl. French were on the Advance Party, no time was lost in getting the stores and offices into shape, with Pte. "Jock" Chalmers plying between stores and office.

The Main Party arrived in Gibraltar in the middle of August and set to work finishing off the stores, the take-over was completed with very few hitches. Offices and workshops. When the Rear Party and Capt. Donovan arrived, after having completed the hand-over of the camp at Lydd, most of the work was done, so they could settle down to the normal daily routine of the Department.

The Stores, Offices and Pioneer Shop enjoy the privilege of being slightly removed from the rest of the Battalion in South Barracks and so are considered to be a private army by the rest of the battalion. This is, however, not new as we are sure that they have always considered us to be on a separate establishment—an illusion which we have done nothing to dispel.

It seemed that, no sooner had we settled down, than Christmas was upon us. It must be noted at this point that L/Cpl. Caton managed to retain his spectacles at the All Ranks Dance, a function at which the staff had a good time, even though the bar was crowded most of the time. The Christmas Dinner was excellent and most of the staff had a good fill. The rest of the Christmas holiday was spent very quietly (that's our story anyway!).

We have had two recent promotions on the staff — those of Cpl. Jamieson and L/Cpl. Meller — to whom we offer our congratulations.

We welcome Pte. Carpenter to the Pioneers as, strangely enough, a carpenter. He has been transferred from "A" Company to take some of the burden from the shoulders of Cpl. Jamieson.

We are pleased to note that L/Cpl. Williamson, who was due to leave the service this year, has signed-on and so will be with us for another three years, at least!

It only remains to say that the staff are awaiting the return of summer and swimming, skin-diving and, for the less energetic, "bronzing," a form of Egyptian P.T.

#### M.T. Platoon

In the last Journal notes we looked forward to our new posting to Gibraltar as an island of sunshine, wine, women, song and most of all very little work. After all, when "The Rock" is only 3 miles and 1 mile with most of it perpendicular, one would think that the use of transport would be limited. But Oh! what a shock we were in for!

When C.S.M. Johnny Moyse, Sgts. Danny Burke and George Peacock, L/Cpls. Ernie Fenimore and Harry Harris, Ptes. Smudger Smith, Tony Hardin, Acker Beall and Dennis Nagle, arrived out with the advance party to take over from the S.C.L.I. they found that besides supplying Battalion needs, we were

also the Transport Platoon for the Fortress. To meet these additional commitments, 25 civilian drivers with their own M.T.O. and staff were placed under the M.T.O.s command. But even with this additional help the details far surpassed the amount of transport supplied. To make matters worse the M.T.O. had to send a detachment of 2 N.C.O.s, 5 drivers and 2 R.E.M.E. fitters with "A" Company to Tobruk. This left the platoon very weak on the ground. So instead of being able to go off in the afternoons swimming or playing sport as was envisaged, we were working longer hours than ever before and like the Windmill Theatre, "We have never stopped."

To add to these trials and tribulations, Fortress H.Q. informed C.S.M. Moyse that a visit by the Imperial Defence College was in the offing and that a tour of "The Rock" was part of the programme. With all this "Brass" descending on us you can imagine the flap. After the C.S.M. finally landed, arrangements were made for the following to be the drivers on this tour. They were Cpl. George Whitt, L/Cpls. Dick Crokell, Gig Young, Ray Cleasby, Ernie Fenimore and last but not least Pte. Roger Brown. How well they carried out this task was confirmed by Fortress H.Q. who were full of praise at the high standard of turnout, driving and conduct of these drivers.

In the meantime the Tobruk team with "A" Company, Cpl. Ken Baxter, L/Cpls. Bill Fury, Percy Butler, Cfn. Cliff Fairbrother and Ptes. Harry the Horse Eckford, Monty McNab, Daisy May, Blossom Flowerdew and Tony Hackney, were finding sand in their shoes, food and engines. This has led them to wonder why the Sphinx has that inscrutable smile on its face. The transport was old and in a bad condition. Much work was required to carry out the vast programme in field training that "A" Company had in mind. Still all went well and they spoke well of the tour which lasted just under four months. They returned to the fold at Gibraltar in November, their places being filled by Cpls. Tom Puckey and Ken McIntosh (R.E.M.E.), L/Cpl. Ray Cleasby and Cfn. "Tom" Tomlinson, and the drivers by the Rifle Company.

The R.E.M.E. are like lost lambs in Gibraltar, for here we come under the Senior Service for work repairs and stores, repairs being done by the Navy workshops. This has limited the mechanical work for Sgt. Peacock and his boys — but idle, not them!!! They obtained an old static trainer, an old stripped down Mk 3 Land Rover, repaired it, put it on the road, offering it to the M.T.O. as additional transport. We are sorry to say that the M.T.O.s remarks are not suitable for publication.

The Christmas period showed the usual "spirits" and a number of parties were held in local entertainment centres. One of the carols, "I love my Mother-in-Law," was vetoed by one group and "Silent Night" replaced it as top of the pops.

On the training side four driving cadres have been held, the instructors being L/Cpls. Gig Young, Dick

Crokell, Percy Butler and Pte. Swanny Rivers. They were ably assisted by Pte. Cuffy Lovegrove, the latter resigning after one cadre as his nerves played him up. He still twitches at the sight of L plates.

There has been an all out drive to upgrade members of the platoon to Standard One Drivers and a six week course was held during December and January. The instructors were C.S.M. Moyse, Sgts. Burke and Peacock and L/Cpl. Fury. The next course starts in March.

We welcome to the platoon Ptes. Jim McGaffigan, Dave Flether, Ray Goddard and L/Cpl. John Stewart. We bid farewell to L/Cpls. Ernie Fenimore and Gig Young and Pte. Rivers, and wish them well in civilian life.



STATIC TRAINER CONVERTED AS M.T.O.'s STAND-BY VEHICLE

Left to right: Cfmn. Tomlinson, L/Cpl. Truesdell, Cfmn. Rayner, Cfmn. Pearson, Cpl. McIntosh

#### Corps of Drums

For the Corps of Drums Gibraltar has proved, as we have expected, a very active station—far more so than Lydd was and in a different way. Here, we are employed almost entirely on Ceremonial duties. Military matters appear to have been shelved for the time being and we are living permanently in our scarlets.

Having left the broken hearted "birds" of Lydd in mid-August, we arrived in Gibraltar to find our first official parade to be on September 2. This was the first of our Ceremonial Guard Mounting weekly parades which actually requires two drummers to sound a solo call (Salute to the Guard) in front of H.E. The Governor, Senior Officers, the other drummers and a host of tourists.



Ten days later we were on parade with the Gibraltar Regiment playing at the Ceremony of the Keys, so the round of Ceremonial commitments was really under way. One of our duties in England had been to keep the Army in the public eye. Here we cannot keep out of it.

Working, as much as we do, in company with our old enemy the Band, we made an attempt to settle our differences and joined the Band Club, renamed the Band and Drums Club, which had its Grand Opening in Gibraltar on September 20, 1963. Somehow, however, our differences were not sunk so quickly as the beer was and so the Band and Drums Club is now the Band Club again.

Our trip to Portugal at the end of September which we enjoyed so much is fully described in another article in this edition so I won't dwell on it here other than to say that it provided us all with happy memories except for Dmr. Coombes who cannot remember anything about it at all. We were so impressed by the wine on the trip that, when we returned, we went on a tour of Saccone and Speed warehouses on October 20, 1963, to sample some of their wares.

The Ceremony of Remembrance on November 10, 1963, saw us on parade at the Cross of Sacrifice, when six of us sounded Last Post and Reveille in the usual tradition, while Dmr. Mears appeared solo in King's Chapel at two services during the morning. November also saw another Ceremony of the Keys. This was "B" Company's big show before going to Tobruk, but of course, being our second "Keys" performance, we were able to nurse them through it.

The Commanding Officer's Bugle Competition was held on December 10, 1963. We had warned Dmrs. Mears and Blake, who won the C.O.'s and Adjutant's bugles last time, that they wouldn't keep them. The strain was too much for Blake, who did a bunk before we left England, but Mears nearly pulled it off again. He and Dmr. Cameron, the "New Boy," arrived only a month before from Canterbury, tied for the Adjutant's Bugle. On the bugle-off, Mears just couldn't quite keep it up and Cameron got it. Dmr. Marsh won the C.O.'s Bugle—a stout effort in view of the fact that for the first time the competition included a turn-out inspection by the R.S.M. It was the Judges' opinion that the overall standard had improved, which was encouraging.

Cpl. "Nobby" Clarke has vacated the Senior Cpl.'s position in order to try his hand at soldiering in Tobruk, and Cpl. Marquiss has joined the Staff of the Junior Drummers' Wing at Canterbury as Instructor. His newly-born child has been unwell and was unable to travel to Gibraltar, so now his family can be reunited again. With those two gone, Cpl. Dawson became Senior Cpl. and immediately left on attachment to the Band for one year—to help them out as usual! He is too important for words now, running his own group and all! Dmrs. Terry and Randall have been promoted L/Cpl., so they must have looked especially smart holding the guidons at the Officers' Mess Cocktail Party. L/Cpl. Butler became the proud owner of

a daughter just before coming to Gibraltar, so congratulations to him.

When he hasn't been baby-sitting Dmr. Broadbent has been collecting extra duty pay in the Officers' Mess, so he must be getting married or something. Dmr. Ranger has played his mouth-organ in Portugal and Morocco, and he and Dmrs. Broadbent, Furlotte and Kendell have been skin-diving, whatever that is. Dmr. Brodie also went on safari to Morocco and is now trying to go skiing in the Sierra Nevada with Dmrs. Coombes, Pumfrey, and others. L/Cpl. Butler went to Morocco as centre-forward of the Combined Services Team. He has been running the Battalion team and even helping out H.Q. Company Hockey Team from time to time. The Drum-Major managed to get the Band and Drums to unite as a cricket team which decisively beat the Rifle Company team.

We bought a Landrover—need we say so?—it's the envy of the Rock and the scourge of the M.T., but it is worth noting because we paid £57 for it (dead Regimental!). Having sufficiently subdued all other motorists, Dmr. Lawn can now drive anywhere, and is always given a wide berth. He has managed to get L/Cpl. Butler and Dmr. Pumfrey through their tests, which is quite miraculous, and deserves great praise.

Our one recent disappointment was failing to get to Tobruk for three weeks as we had hoped to do. The thought of H.M.S. Bacchus one way and H.M.S. Leopard the other was worth looking forward to. However, we have seen it all before and so are not feeling too hard done by.

#### BUSACO, 1963

The still air was just beginning to warm in the early morning sun as the Corps of Drums boarded the Royal Air Force Coastal Command Hastings at Gibraltar. Twenty-five of us all told, we were strapped into our seats as the aircraft taxied towards the end of the runway. Then, with a mighty roaring of engines, we rushed westwards, hurtled off the end of the tarmac jutting into the bay, skimmed across the water, clawed our way over Tarifa point, and headed through the straits towards the broad Atlantic.

It was September 26, 1963, and the day before the 153rd anniversary of the Battle of Busaco, and it was to the field of this Battle that the Corps of Drums was travelling, by invitation of the Portuguese Government and co-operation of the Royal Air Force. On September 27, 1810, an Anglo-Portuguese Army, commanded by the Duke of Wellington, was drawn up on the wooded heights surrounding the medieval town of Busaco in Central Portugal and the French Army, under Marshal Massena, advanced against them up the slopes. The 57th Regiment being in the 2nd Division was at the left of the line, while the main French assault fell on the centre, where the Light Division and the Portuguese Division were posted. Massena's army was superior in numbers to that of Wellington's, but the Duke's deployment of his forces forced the French General to advance over rough

country and up steep slopes. When battle was joined the French were tired, while Wellington's men were fresh. Wave after wave were beaten back until by sundown the French Army, exhausted, fell back, leaving many casualties on the field. Wellington's line remained unbroken and his casualties consisted of exactly the same number of Portuguese and British dead.

Busaco was an early example of allied co-operation in battle, and every year the Portuguese Army holds a parade and a service at Busaco to commemorate the battle. If possible they like to invite a British Army contingent to take part in the celebration. It was most appropriate that they should invite, in 1963, the Corps of Drums of a Regiment which actually fought at Busaco and we were fortunate to be able to attend.

As we landed at Lisbon Airport we wondered how we were to be received. None of us had ever been to Portugal before and, of course, knew not a word of the language. We tumbled out of our aircraft in blazing sun and were very soon extremely warm in No. 2 Dress. We were met by Lt.-Col. Burnaby-Atkins, Black



*A group of our drummers and soldiers of the 1st Regiment of Artillery of the Portuguese Army in the latter's barracks*

Watch, the Military Attache at Lisbon, and a Subaltern of the Portuguese Army, who was to be our Liaison Officer during the trip. Having posed for a quick group photograph, we loaded our instruments into a van and ourselves into a coach and were whisked out of the airport. Five minutes later, in order to have lunch, we were driven into the barracks of the 1st Regiment of Artillery and a very modern and luxurious barracks they were. At the entrance, inscribed on plaques on the wall, were their Battle Honours; Badajoz, Albuera, Vittoria, Nive, Nivelle; a duplication almost of those emblazoned on our drums and the discovery of which gave us all a feeling of kinship which swept aside any reserve we may have felt at our strange surroundings and foreign tongue. The Commandant himself shook every man by the hand and personally conducted us on a tour of the barracks, at the end of which he made a welcoming speech and concluded by asking us what we would like to play for his Regiment on the Square before lunch. This knocked

us completely off balance. The instruments were nailed up in wooden crates and we still had half a day's journey to complete before reaching Busaco. But how could we refuse, and after such hospitality? Up came hammers and chisels, off came the crates, out came the instruments. The Drum-Major hurriedly consulted his music card and the Drums and Fifes marched on to the square. In a few moments 500 Artillerymen had surrounded the square, and for 15 minutes the Drummers entertained them.

At the end of our parade we were all relieved to leave the hot sun on the square and enter the cool atmosphere of the Sergeants' Mess, where an enormous lunch awaited us, and where the wine flowed free and fast. By the end of lunch everyone was a special friend of everyone else, and it was all we could do to find our own hats and stumble on to our coach. Nevertheless, we managed it and slept soundly for six hours as we were driven northwards to Busaco.

The further north one travels in Portugal the more beautiful and fertile becomes the scenery, and as we neared Busaco we climbed into heavily-wooded hills. Enormous beech trees overhung and shaded the road, and lush green grass grew on every side. It was growing dark as we arrived at Busaco to find that we were to stay for our two nights at an hotel. Such hospitality had to be made the most of and all the drummers took care to leave their shoes outside the door that night.

Dawn broke to a beautiful clear sky on the 27th, and everyone was up early to give a final polish and press to instruments and uniforms. As yet we had no idea of what was expected of us at the parade, but the bustle all around and assembling crowds assured us that it would be no mean parade. Indeed, we knew that the Portuguese Minister for War would be taking the salute in the company of the Portuguese Chief of the General Staff, General Pina, and two British Members of Parliament. By nine o'clock we were in position on the hill top by the memorial, which was on the site of the centre of the Battle and overlooked the town. A Portuguese Officer, the "Master of Ceremonies," briefed us on the form the parade would take. We were posted on the right of the parade. After a brief service (actually it lasted an hour and a half) we were to play for ten minutes in front of the memorial. Then a contingent of Portuguese Infantry and Cavalry, dressed in the uniforms of 1810, would give a display and then march past in slow time while we marched at their head. Then a further detachment of Portuguese Infantry would march past, followed by their own band.

Thus we were to lead the parade, a great honour for us indeed.

At 1030 hours the service began and was followed by long speeches at 1200 hours and the parade at 1230 hours. It was very colourful, with a distinct lack of formality. The spectators must have outnumbered the original armies which fought the battle, and they became very demonstrative of their appreciation of the parade and completely blocked



the route for the march off. The V.I.P. enclosure became overfilled and collapsed at one round until a gap was eventually found in the crowd so that we could march off, very hot by this time in our scarlet tunics, from the midday sun. Our efforts were more than rewarded that afternoon as we spent a few hours at a hotel swimming pool, a pool formed from a natural spring, deep, cool and clear.

That evening the town of Busaco held an open-air dance in the main square, which, of course, we attended. An hour's worth of local wine proved too much for our simple English palates and, throwing each other on to our coach, we returned to our hotel. By this time we were in party mood and entertained, or at least kept awake, the neighbours by dancing in the street to the strains of Dmr. Ranger's mouth organ.



*The Drums drawn up in front of the Busaco Memorial. (Note the National flags of Portugal and Great Britain flying on each side of the memorial)*

That evening we heard ourselves mentioned on the radio, and next day the papers were full of photographs of the "Corpa de Tambores Inglêse."

Next day we were in our coach once more, hurtling back to Lisbon, where our plane awaited us. After another gluttonous lunch with the 1st Regiment of Artillery we boarded our Hastings, exhausted but happy, and returned to tea and wads in Gibraltar.

#### THE BAND

Since our last appearance in print we have arrived and settled down in Gibraltar. Ole! Our first task was to prepare ourselves for the Changing of the Guard at the "Convent," which is the Governor of Gibraltar's residence. This takes place every Monday morning. Our other main public duty is the Ceremony of the Keys, which is a little more elaborate and takes place every two months. Apart from this we are engaged to play for dinners, dances, cocktail parties, ships' arrivals and departures in the harbour, and the odd Guard of Honour for visiting V.I.P.s.

Among our extra-mural activities we now include

fishing, chess and P.E. tests (you know, Bandsmen playing soldiers, and looking forward to seeing soldiers playing Bandsmen). Sixty per cent. of the Band now fish, and intend to start their own fishing club.

When we arrived during the summer the Band had to provide a piquet for the Swimming Pool. As a result of this, several members did very well in the Royal Society of Lifesaving examinations. We congratulate L/Cpl. Barry Eldred, L/Cpl. "Pugg" French, Bdsman. McNaughton, Cpl. "Beano" Rose and Bdsman. Alec Wilson, who were all awarded the Intermediate Certificate, Bronze Medallion and Instructors' Certificate. Bdsman. Kerrigan and Bdsman. Ken Clark were awarded the Intermediate Certificate and Bronze Medallion. Well done! Congratulations also to Bdsman. Louis Bradford, who won the Silver Medal and Cassels Prize at Kneller Hall, the top prize at the School of Music, for which over 200 pupils compete; to Sgt. Colin and Mrs. McGowan, who produced a daughter, Fiona Anne; to L/Cpl. Barry Eldred on his promotion and for getting top score in the Darts League, and also to Bdsman. Binns, who got a cup for winning the most games. In spite of their fine efforts, the Band Team, after one season, are still supporting the League. The Gibraltarians take their darts playing very seriously indeed.

We have a newspaper here which gives the Regiment a lot of good publicity, and quite recently gave the Band a full page write-up. The name of the paper is "VOX," and we would like to thank the Editor, Eddie Campello, for his efforts on our behalf.

Recently the Band discovered that a "Cheshire Home for Crippled Children" existed in Tangier, Morocco. As a result of everyone's efforts we managed to raise a total of £118, which the Bandmaster presented to the wife of the Governor of Morocco during a dance in aid of the Home. All the artistes and the Dance Band gave their services free for this very worthy cause and, as a result, 1,000,000 francs (about £750) was raised. The Dance Band enjoyed their stay in Morocco with the exception perhaps of Bdsman. Schofield who, whilst exploring the murkier areas of the city, was coshed and robbed. Bet he won't forget the lesson "never travel alone" for a long time to come! Ah, well! We live and learn, if we're lucky. The rest of us were "robbed" quite legally!

Three members of the Band went on a trip to Portugal as musical advisers to the Corps of Drums when they went to play at the Busaco Day Celebrations. That was their story and, I must admit, they stuck to it. The three involved started the celebrations the night before with the Portuguese Military Ambassador, and seemed to forget all about the celebrations being held very early the next morning. The trio? The Bandmaster, the Band Sergeant and the Band Secretary.

January 5th saw the Band performing for the Three Kings Cavalcade. This is peculiar to the Mediterranean countries. The three "Kings" are mounted on camels and distribute sweets and presents to the children. They do not have a Father Christmas as such and all

children expect their Christmas presents on the morning of the Epiphany, January 6th. Following the Three Kings comes a procession of floats, some of which are very well done. The Band entered a converted three-tonner and played as a Negro Minstrel Band. We had great fun with the make-up. I wonder if Bdsman. Scarfe has managed to get it off his neck yet?

The Kings' Chapel here has an organist supplied by the Band—Bdsman. Yates—and sundry members of the Band sing in the choir as well. I must say though, they all look very angelic in their white cassocks with red piping!

We welcome three new members to the Band—Bdsman. Robert Schofield (of "Tangier Fame"), Bdsman. Ronald Richardson and Bdsman. Brian Perrot—horn, clarinet and trumpet respectively. We hope they will enjoy their stay with us.

The Band, supported by members of the Dockyard Choral Society, gave a concert on January 15th in Inces Hall in aid of charity. The proceeds were donated to the Middlesex Widows Flatlets Scheme and the Three Kings Cavalcade Fund. Everyone enjoyed it immensely, and we all admired Mrs. Bellotti's efforts in "Happy Talk" from the selection "South Pacific." Amy is 68, and a grand old trouper. The British Grenadiers will never be the same either. Several members of the Band inquired about danger money if there were to be any subsequent performances.

As we are next door to Spain we have acquired a lot of Paso-Dobles, and some of us have even learned how to dance the thin. Caramba! It's better than the Twist (or is it the "Shake"?)? Quite a few of the keener musical types are helping out the local Orchestra and Military Band—a real busman's holiday. We hope to put on a combined concert in the near future, Orchestra, full Choir and Band, which should prove to be quite interesting.

We congratulate Cpl. Rose on obtaining three subjects of his 1st Class Education Certificate at one sitting. Cpl. Dave Dawson, who is attached to the Band from the Drums at the moment, and L/Cpl. French are being "educated" for the same exams.

The Social Club is thriving. We held a Social and Draw at Christmas which was a great success, and on February 15 had a dinner and dance in La Linea, at which we expect 45 guests. We have entertained quite a few Bands from ships visiting the Rock. They have included the Naval Band from the U.S.S. Saratoga, the Marine Band from H.M.S. Tiger, and the Naval Band of the U.S.S. Springfield. As the parties were on a reciprocal basis, quite a jolly time was had by all.

We understand that Bdsman. Reide has taken up music for a hobby. He is so busy with other commitments these days that music is well down the list.

Wonder how soon we shall really need "The African Waltz"?

Why not write an article  
for the next issue?

#### "A" COMPANY

##### To Tobruk

Whilst most of the Battalion was still lazing on leave, an advance party left Lydd on July 31st en route for Tobruk, where we were to be the first Middlesex Company to serve. With the Company Commander went Sgts. Argent and Seager, Norman the Storeman and Ptes. Dent and Robinson, plus many of our H.Q. Slice under W.O.II Eastap and including Sgt. Briggs, Cpl. Baxter and Pte. Hackney.

The trip to Tobruk was uneventfully boring and administratively most uncomfortable, being via the "Medair" taxi service, stopping at Nice, Malta, Tripoli and Benghazi, there being fortunately no other serviceable aerodromes available to stop at as well.

Tobruk itself appeared as it only can appear in July—much heat, much sand and many Arabs.

"B" Company of the Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry were eagerly awaiting our arrival so that they could dash off to Berlin, but assured us that Tobruk was a good posting and had the edge over Gibraltar in many respects, notably that it was hundreds of miles away from Ye Kremlin. The former we soon found out and the latter after a couple of months in Gibraltar proved just as accurate a statement!

The handover complete (we were slightly "up" in rum, if the alleged full and unopened cask eventually contains same), the S.C.L.I. left us to it when at 0200 hours on the morning of August 15th "A" Company appeared from the darkened runway to the accompaniment of Sgt.-Major "Curly" Walters' exhortations not to lose the step in the dark or we'd never find it again in all that sand. S.C.L.I. relics remained for a while until we had worked our way slowly through the green berets and Cornish Fire Orders.

Platoons have rightly written in more detail about life in Tobruk, and as they allege it was on the whole jolly pleasant. Contrary to any stories that might have been told, we did not venture into the inner depths of the desert (Findell would not agree, but then he spent one night longer there than anybody else). Each Platoon normally did a week away from barracks, and one "at home." Quite what we did when we were out was rarely disclosed in full, but the net results were decently respectable sun tans, fieldcraft or rather desert-craft, weapon training, field firing and range work.

In camp the more mundane activities such as drill, fatigues, swimming, P.E. tests and what have you kept us busy. One R.A.F. Officer, Squadron Leader Jarvis, whose bluff having been eventually and irrefutably called, "volunteered" to do the nine-mile bash with us. Cpl. O'Riordan (Battalion Cross-Country Champion), L/Cpl. Robinson (formerly Pte.) and three others led him quietly along to complete it in almost record time. This sterling effort we rewarded with the formal presentation of a pair of lemon yellow boots with maroon toe-caps. Exercise "Triplex West," a large combined Service Exercise involving troops from UK, was based on Tobruk. W.O.II Eastap, our R.Q.M.S., says with conviction it was based on "A"





Officers and N.C.O.s "A" Company (including "H.Q." Company attached) Tobruk, October 1963

Company. Having got used to being virtually the only brutal and licentious soldiery in the area and for some 300 miles around it, it was a blow to find thousands of others leading "a man's life" on our door step. To the end we remained the residents, however, and thoroughly enjoyed the sporting and scrounging activities that the influx provided. Anybody short of tropical candles or de-lousing powder can collect same without signature at any time up to 1968.

We were hosts to the 1963 R.M.A. Sandhurst Aswan Expedition (ask Cpl. Baxter how long it takes to fill 67 jerricans) and any other passing soldiers. We had our share of visitors, too, including Major-Gen. The Lord Thurlow, G.O.C. Malta and Libya, and Col. C. A. Morris, the Area Commander. In October the Commanding Officer arrived to see if we were still in Cyrenaica. We were! To prove it we showed him how close Sgt. Kerr could put 2in. mortar smoke without actually hitting him. (The S.C.L.I. shot their C.O. in the leg, so we had a good precedent to quote if Sgt. Kerr had not been on form that day.) During his visit the Officers gave an official party in the Officers' Mess behind the military might of the 3in. mortars loaned by special arrangement with Huberts' Own.

For this occasion Cpls. Baxter and Ward did all the complicated car parking and reception, etc. The batmen/layabouts, Ptes. Dent, Grevatt and Barnes, helped by Wilkins and L/Cpl. Thurlow, coped inside the Mess.

On Remembrance Sunday we provided two parties for the ceremonies held at Tobruk and Knightsbridge (Acroma) War Cemeteries. 1 Platoon went to Tobruk and 2 Platoon to Knightsbridge, where Meehan sounded Last Post and Reveille with elan. Our "soloist" at Tobruk was Sgt. Seager, who was in charge of the Union Jack. Both detachments looked splendid, and all of us felt that the services held in that particular setting were more than usually appropriate.

Towards the end of our stay we shot against the Royal Air Force and won. We chose the practices to be fired—host's privilege. No comments. We had a Platoon attack supported by our own mortarmen, who fired most accurately. (Most fortunately!) The swan song was a presentation put on by the Officers of the "Desert War, 1940—1942." Notably in this once only performance was 2/Lt. The Viscount Dannel of Alamein. The enemy shall not pass. (2 Platoon please note).

Next month we shall be back in Tobruk, unhappily without our same H.Q. Company Slice. It is a good moment, therefore, to record for anybody who has read this far, what an excellent slice they were. Each and every one of them impressed us with their spirit and efficiency. Pte. "Daisy" May, apart from driving his three-tonner, fished and played goal for us (not at the same time, of course). Pte. Tony Hackney still holds the nine-mile record—not bad for an unfit, out-of-practice Technical Storeman. Cpl. Tim O'Riordan "golf-miked" so loudly that he was heard at the Bathing Club on a civilian transistor set. L/Cpl. Mellor, our Armourer, was, in addition, our basketball scorer, soft ball umpire and adviser on bicycle repair. Pte. "Stepto" Hunt has yet to prove his undeniably brilliant theory about the Ionosphere. Pte. (and we are glad to see now L/Cpl.) Walsh kept the Company Office going almost single-handed, and enjoyed it so much he's volunteered to return with us. Cpl. "Hutch" Hutchison achieved his long-awaited transfer to the R.A.P.C. when with us and stayed on with "B" Company. The cooks, signallers, drivers all did us proud, and as a result we never starved, lost wireless contact (very, very strange but true), had not a single traffic accident or bent rifle. Well done, that slice, and many thanks. Your successors have much to live up to.

#### On the Rock

We arrived back from Tobruk in the early hours of November 28 and were met at the top of the aircraft steps by the Second in Command, on the tarmac by the Commanding Officer and at South Barracks by just about everybody else in the Battalion, even though it was three a.m.! A much-appreciated welcome, in fact.

Leaving a trail of sand up the stairs of South Barracks we soon settled in to the first floor apartments left vacant by "B" Company only a few hours before. The following day was a holiday which the remainder of the Battalion cashed in on. We had a couple of day's grace and then we were let loose on public duties in Gibraltar. In other words we began the endless guards.

Climatically our arrival on the Rock was accompanied by rain, rain, rain. It seemed to rain every day until Christmas, since when we've enjoyed good weather, and no cancelled guard changes because of it.

A thoughtful administration, in order to occupy those of us who aren't on guard, has arranged countless cadres, courses and other activities. There are few of us who have not been on at least one cadre. It has almost been possible to qualify as a signaller (strictly non-regimental), driver, potholer, N.C.O., hockey umpire, soccer referee and basketball ditto, skier and mountain goat during our time here.

Variety abounds and, as well as all those fascinating pastimes, we have boarded (and taken over in principle), H.M.S. Messina, during an exercise with the Royal Navy, and designed and exhibited a float for the local Three Kings' Procession (Twelfth Night),

which won third prize. In this Sgt. Seager was the master builder with 4 Platoon and others in support, whilst Dobell did the honours in charge of the float (and the ten Regimental Children on it) on the night. Pte. Harry Eckford returned to us from H.Q. Company for the evening to drive this cumbersome float with his usual skill through the low narrow gates and vast crowds in Main Street.

Some sixty of us have toured the caves in the Rock under the guidance of the Fortress Squadron Royal Engineers.

Christmas Day was as "Trad" as ever. We out-shouted, out-sang and out-last-ed nearly everybody else in South Barracks. The festivities after Christmas Dinner ended as we carried our soon-to-be-lamented Sgt.-Major Curley on to the square. Earlier a horizontal occupant of room 23 (or was it next door?) assured the Sgt.-Major, who found him laid out neatly behind a locker at reveille, that, no thank you, he didn't want a cuppa tea, he was waiting for a bus back to barracks.

And so life in Gibraltar goes on. Volunteers to ski, volunteers to cook, volunteers to drive. Volunteers to volunteer for the next activity needing volunteers. Just as we rushed these notes into Battalion H.Q. we saw Ptes. Toohey, Flahant, Dobell, O'Connell, Weaver and Knight off on the inaugural Gibraltar-London Overland Expedition. How they all got in that Volkswagen was a wonder. There must have been a course that covered it last week.

We return to the desert wastes next month. Many of our veterans of three months won't return, but we go back with first-class replacements for them.

#### Personalities

An important change has taken place in the Kremlin of "A" Company in the form of W.O.II Walters' posting to the 5th Buffs T.A., Dover, whose seat has been taken over by W.O.II Cakebread. This change has been the topic of discussion for all ranks over the Christmas period. A presentation was made to W.O.II Walters of a twenty-one-piece tea set and silver cigarette box, during which the whole Company was present; this was one of the rare occasions when he seemed lost for words. The Officers gave him a tankard. We wish him the best of luck in his new posting and at the same time welcome W.O.II Cakebread to the Company.

The departure of Pte. Gadenne back to U.K. as batman to Major-General Man, at Nottingham, has started a frantic search for a new unofficial Company sign painter (any offers?).

The posting that all members of the Company must have been dreaming about has been awarded to Pte. Savage, who has gone to 42 Army Youth Team, Middlesex Area (rumour has it that he got it for long service in the desert).

The posting of Pte. McGaffigan to the M.T. Platoon once again, leaves a vacancy for chief joke teller of 2 Platoon while in Tobruk. *Stop Press.* We hear he wants to come back again with us to Tobruk.



Cpl. Pryor was posted to "C" Company soon after the Company returned from Tobruk. He is now to be seen with a permanent grin on his face armed with the information that he will not be returning to Tobruk.

Pte. Meehan having bugled, cooked, played basketball and hockey for us has now become a Regimental Policeman. Per Ardua Ad Astra!

#### Congratulations

To W.O.II and Mrs. Cakebread on the birth of their son. To Cpl. Holland on his recent marriage, and to L/Cpl. Aylward on his new son.

Ptes. Temple, Shields and Clements are now our muscle men in the Gym.

Pte. Grevatt has left us to try his hand at waiting and general dutying at the Convent (i.e. The Governor's Residence here in Gibraltar). We hope, for his sake, we will not see him back too soon.

Congratulations to the following who have successfully completed an N.C.O.'s Cadre and who are now L/Cpls.—Robinson, Ives, Brown and Brown (but not Brown—who has been lured into the Orderly Room), to avoid confusion Nos. 90, 83 and 39 respectively.

There have been comings and goings among the Officers, too. Lt. Packham is now in "C" Company (training potential members for the Company). We have Lt. Finch for a short time as replacement until Lt. Freeborn returns to us from recruiting. 2nd Lt. Daniell has gone off to Hythe on his weapons course, furiously writing his winter essay due in to Battalion H.Q. as he landed in England! Lt. Hubert has been off on three weeks' attachment to the French Army and assures us that he can now use a French sun compass (hope we get some French sun next time). Finally we welcome 2nd Lt. Montgomery who has taken over 2 Platoon.

From "B" and "C" Companies we have been lucky to get some excellent new blood in Ptes. Solomon, Berry, Pont, Sneyd, Kelty, Hines, Elliott, Rolph, Dawn, Russell, McGlinchey, Etchells, Dobell, Armistage, O'Connell, George, Clarke, Sutherland, O'Neill, Quinn, Daly's 400 and 89, Blackman brothers, Ward, Clements, Carpenter (and he is one, too), Cobold, McDonagh, Wright, Long, Gray. Apologies to anyone missed out.

#### SPORT IN TOBRUK

Tobruk gave the Company great opportunities for sport and nearly everyone took part in some form of recreation. Our summary of events is as follows:—

##### Basketball

By far our best game—we played matches against Barclays Bank, Tobruk, the R.A.F. at El Adem and Tobruk, various Army units on Exercise "Triplex West," e.g., Cyclops Squadron, 2 Royal Tank Regiment, 1 Foresters and 2 Regiment Royal Artillery, and the highlight was a three-day trip to Benghazi to play against "C" Company 1 Green Howards. Our team was selected from the following: Cpl. S. Holland,

Ward, O'Riordan (H.Q.), L/Cpls. Peak, Thurlow, Morley (H.Q.), Ptes. Meehan, Marshall, and Hunt (H.Q.).

We won every match we played, except against R.A.F. El Adem (over ten times our own strength) and "C" Company 1 Green Howards.

##### Football

We were not long enough in Tobruk really to shape a good team. We entered the R.A.F. League and won three out of the seven matches we played. Our team was: Cpls. Ward (Capt.), O'Riordan (H.Q.), L/Cpl. Morley (H.Q.), Pte. May (H.Q.), Ptes. Paget, Gilham (H.Q.), Pte. Terry, L/Cpl. Butler, Pte. McNab (H.Q.), Pte. Shields and L/Cpl. Peak.

##### Softball

We ran Inter-Platoon leagues using our own rules. The sport grew in popularity and everyone was prepared to have a "whack." The champion team was 4 platoon, who beat Company H.Q. by some hefty strikes.

##### Hockey

We only played hockey within the Company with scratch sides. There is no doubt we had hard hitters with Sgt. Whittle, L/Cpl. Butler and Pte. Cullen, who could be the basis of a good team in Gibraltar. (It was!).

##### Sub-Aqua

This proved to be a popular sport for the better swimmers in the Company. A short course of instruction was run by the R.A.F., and Cpl. Holland and Ptes. Wilkins and Davey passed. Sub-aqua meetings took place once a week and will no doubt be revived on our return in March.

##### Swimming

During the hot weather swimming took place every afternoon on the beaches outside the town. Conditions were perfect and "beginners" were quite strong swimmers by the end of the season. There are only a few non-swimmers left in the Company.

##### Fishing

Excellent fishing was to be found in the harbour. L/Cpl. Aylward and Pte. May both brought rods and several others spent evenings catching cat fish, sea bream, mackerel, and a number of unknown species, of which one was nicknamed the "Gobber Fish."

##### Gibraltar Sport

On arrival in Gibraltar we found that sport was taken very seriously with almost all games organised into leagues. We combine with "C" Company and are known as the "Rifle Company" in all sporting events.



1. Ptes. Paget, Maguire, Ives, Tookey, Wilkins and May relax on beach at Tobruk. 2. Desert drill! 3. The basketball team show their mettle. 4. Ptes. Paget and Ives "getting on parade" in the Desert. 5. A well earned can of beer! Ptes. Flowerdew, Dent, Knight, Terry, Temple, Davy, Willis, Marshall, Sgts. Seager, Argent. 6. "A" Company Soccer Team: Ptes. Morgan, Terry, Major Pielow, Pte. Wilson, Lt.-Col. Morgan, Cpl. O'Riordan, Cpl. Ward, L/Cpl. Butler, Ptes. Gilham, McNab, L/Cpl. Morley, Ptes. Paget, Shields, May. 7. Pte. Savage uses his initiative



## Basketball

The Rifle Company team is doing very well. We have unfortunately lost Cpl. O'Riordan, L/Cpl. Morley and Pte. Hunt to H.Q. Company again, but there are some solid players in 2nd Lt. Montgomery, Cpl. Holland, Cpl. Ward, L/Cpl. Peak and Pte. Meehan available to help the team. Our toughest opponents are H.Q. Company who beat us.

## Football

We have a fairly strong side within the Company. The Company is represented by 2nd Lt. Montgomery, Sgt. Young, Pte. O'Connell, Pte. Paget, Sgt. Miles, Pte. Clements and L/Cpl. Peak. Our most recent victory is against Fortress Headquarters, 4-2.

## Hockey

Contains several ex-hurly players, who help to keep the opponents heads down and are a valuable asset to a fairly amateur team (apologies to L/Cpl. Peak and Pte. Meehan). We have so far not won a match, but what we lack in skill we make up for in spirit. Our team is usually chosen from Major Pielow, Capt. Durnell, Ptes. Kelty, Quinn, Terry, Norman, Shields, Daly 400, Ward, Scorgie, Norman, Sgts. Argent and Seager.

We played a "friendly" game against H.M.S. Messina (10-a-side) and lost 4-0 (so we have avoided being friendly ever since).

## Shinty

We made our own shinty ground on Windmill Hill Flats, and six-a-side games are fixed on afternoons when the main sports grounds are flooded.

## Boxing

We were runners-up in the Inter-Company Novices Competition, and, helped by "C" Company, we won the Open Novices Command Competition two weeks later. Our team was: L/Cpl. Butler, L/Cpl. Clutton, Pte. McGlinchey, Pte. Russell, Pte. Gray, Pte. O'Neill (won weight), Kelly (voted best loser) and Pte. Ward (Capt., won weight).

## Skiing

Skiing has been possible in Morocco, two parties having had their first introduction to winter sports. So far, at the time of going to Press, no broken ankles.

## Mountaineering

Sgt. Lloyd, Sgt. Da Costa and Pte. Harris joined a R.A.F. team for a week's mountaineering in the Atlas Mountains. It was a great success.

## 1 Platoon

When the Platoon arrived in Tobruk it had not been together long, and there were several new faces including the Platoon Commander's, Lt. Packham, who

had recently returned from his Hythe Courses. Sgt. Kerr was our new Platoon Sergeant, and was soon to earn the nickname of "Bondu Bill." Cpl. Pryor was just back from recruiting.

Training began in earnest, and gradually the cobwebs of Lydd were thrown off and our standard of training improved. Most of us were at once impressed by the desert, its endless landscapes and poverty of its inhabitants.

Our first taste of the area was a week-end trip to Bardia, not far from the Egyptian border. Several of us found out just how strong the North African sun is, and this resulted in some sore shoulders.

As a training ground Libya proved to be excellent, with unlimited scope for all forms of manoeuvre, and during the months we spent there we achieved a great deal. L/Cpl. Aylward's section believed that they were overworked as on one occasion they had to make several section attacks for a fire control exercise. Tofts, Cullen, Prior, Paget, and Savage were generally to be found on a sports field somewhere or other.

In 2 Section under Cpl. Pryor, stalwarts such as Weaver, Toohey, Ives, Harris, Wilson and Fletcher soon equipped themselves with expensive civilian-type cooking kit which they kept locked in a strong black box, only opened for the frequent brew to the call of "Get it darn yer," the 1 Platoon call later to be used on bayonet fighting as well.

L/Cpl. Thurlow and 3 Section, Grevatt, Findell, Robertson, Morgan, Adams and McLaughlin had their desert experiences too, as Adams, narrowly missed by a sand cobra, will tell anybody who cares to listen.

Cullen and Toohey were amongst the first to take up donkey jockeyship, and our drivers Eckford, "Daisy" May and McNab even attempted camel riding, to the amusement of the poor beast's owner. The Platoon found, of course, the largest specimen of every type of insect and bug known to inhabit the African Continent.

We reckoned, all in all, Tobruk was hectic, hot and hard work, but nevertheless most enjoyable and perhaps even beneficial.

## 2 Platoon

We were all glad to leave the ever windy Lydd for the warmer shores of North Africa. The Platoon settled down well in Tobruk, and did some useful training for three-and-a-half months, during which time all of us completed the physical training tests and qualified on the rifle and L.M.G.

We did our classification at Derna Ranges, which involved a journey of some hundred miles. The Platoon was left very much to its own resources, which proved to be popular. We had some enjoyable "camp fire" parties and sing-songs! On one occasion on being joined by the bald-headed C.S.M. "Curly" Walters, Pte. McGaffigan greeted him with the words: "Walk right in, sit right down, Daddy let your hair hang down." Later a certain member of the Platoon (NOT McGaffigan!) sent the Sergeant-Major an amus-

ing record on the speaker network from the "cooler," "Unchain My Heart."

We had many excursions to the desert, but the one which the Platoon enjoyed the most was the final exercise. No. 1 Platoon had done this exercise first, and reports of a night march across terrible terrain reached us before we left. Before we did the night march we did a most successful assault supported by the mortars, and everybody remarked on the precision of our assault. However the moment drew nigh for the dreaded night march. On reaching the start point all seemed to be fairly smooth, in fact during the whole march we found hardly any rough terrain at all. At this stage the Platoon Commander began to fret that his compass marching may have been a little off net, but he pressed on regardless! Lo and behold at the end of the march he came out in exactly the right place.

Regrettably we have had to say goodbye to Sgt. Turner. He has been a very loyal stalwart of the Platoon and all were sorry to see him go; we all hope that he will be the Customs official who greets us at London Airport. Cpl. Whittle was made up to Sergeant in Tobruk and took over from Sgt. Turner.

Some of the sights we all miss here in Gibraltar are the tall figure of Sgt. Seager waiting for mail in exceptionally short shorts; the rather large round figure of Pte. Meehan, waiting to play cookhouse; Sgt. Whittle bartering with the locals; McGaffigan bragging about his letters or singing his infamous songs; L/Cpl. Butler moaning about the state of the Army these days; Cpl. O'Riordan yelling "Golf Mike" in the hope that he would make contact; "Steptoe" just moaning; and L/Cpl. Hilton dreaming of the day when he might become a non-combatant.

## 4 Platoon

With both Platoon Sergeants on the advance party to Tobruk everything was expected to be laid on for "Shiny Four" on our arrival, and so it turned out to be. We were quietly shouted together by Sgt. Argent and shown to our residence (all mod cons including tubs wash/feed for the use of . . .?). It was immediately noticed that the laundry had not spared effort, or soap, on the sheets. Even a cup of hot sweet tea was laid on.

The Platoon soon settled down, and we enjoyed the first-class swimming and free afternoons. Ptes. Davey and Wilkins joined the sub aqua club and are now ardent underwater gogglers. However, it was not to be all fun and free time. We began training in earnest; the mortars went as a section of 1 Platoon and the anti-tanks with 2 Platoon (much to our displeasure). Training during this period consisted mainly of classification and physical training tests. In the first the Platoon excelled, but found it hard going with the latter, but eventually most got through them—even "McGinn," and "Dog" Willis proved he had the stamina to match his nickname. After these tests Sgt. Seager bragged he was gaining weight and

Sgt. Argent re-joined that he was losing, thus proving that both are good story tellers.

In the sporting field the Platoon supplied Cpl. Ward, L/Cpl. Peak and Pte. Temple for most Company teams. The Platoon also produced a first-class soft ball team to beat allcomers in a "rounders" K.O. competition, and were presented with a lasting trophy (about three good swallows) by the then visiting Commanding Officer.

It was not until the end of our three-month tour that Lt. Hubert managed to get us together as a Support Platoon, and we spent a useful fortnight under canvas "getting in" some live firing and battle procedure as well as explosive fishing, which yielded a good catch of one sprat two inches long. As Pte. Davey was on a diet it was decided that this would do for his tea.

Our three-and-a-half months tour was suddenly coming to a close, and whilst we were looking forward to a bit of civilised living in Gibraltar, there was a feeling that we would not be sorry to get back to the "Bondoo." Both sections dazzled the Officer Commanding "B" Company with their stores, thanks to plenty of fresh paint and hard work by everyone (including the Platoon Commander keeping at paint brush distance until the work was completed). On this happy note we bid a soldier's farewell to Tobruk until mid-March.

On the flight over to Gibraltar everyone was in high spirits, L/Cpl. Peak excelling himself as hostess's chief assistant.

Our first impression of Gibraltar was that there were no 'orrible stinks (as Muscles Temple would put it). We soon found out that everything was not to be fun and games, and duties began descending thick and fast. "Shiny Four" managed to find most of the smart soldiers for the Convent Guard. But notwithstanding the duties it is hoped that everyone will have had a bit of leave by the time the move back to Libya is due, but this will be difficult with the "Administration" coming off in March.

Without realising it Christmas suddenly arrived and the Platoon Sergeants brought round Char and Cheer (hic) at Reveille to start the festivities. Dinner saw quite a few good amateur performers and went down very well indeed. As is normal with Christmas, in fact, everybody thoroughly enjoyed it, but we were glad when it was all over.

**W**HY NOT SEND A COPY  
TO YOUR MOTHER OR  
FATHER?

THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED  
TO KNOW WHAT YOU  
ARE DOING



**"B" COMPANY**

Since the last edition of "The Die-Hards," the Company has covered many miles by land, sea and air. The main mode of travel has been by air, having flown from the U.K. to Gibraltar in August, and in November to Tobruk in Libya, made famous by the North African Campaign in the Second World War.

The pleasure of arrival in a new part of the world, with the excitement of finding out about a new place was slightly reduced by the realisation of what our duties were to be in Gibraltar. Guards, guards and more guards. Guards that come in three exciting varieties — Convent, 12-hour Four Corners or 24-hour Four Corners. Having weathered the storm of Regimental and Company Guard Mounting rehearsals, we quickly got into the routine of two weeks' guard and one week's training, each platoon having one week in three clear of all duties, in order to get down to individual, section and platoon training. This week was most valuable, both as a morale reviver after two weeks "Square Bashing," and from the training point of view, as it enabled many weaknesses in individual weapon handling and section training to be ironed out before training in earnest started in Tobruk.

Although the overall impression of our three months in Gibraltar was one of routine, there are a few landmarks and lighter moments that stand out. Our maritime adventures with H.M.S. Anzio have been given in detail elsewhere; we all thoroughly enjoyed what, to most of us, was a new experience and take our hats off to the Royal Navy and Royal Marines for putting us ashore so comfortably.

Another break in the routine was the day involving the Annual Perambulation. On this occasion the old Military rights-of-way had to be established by our closing of all the Military roads on the Rock and only allowing access to them after explaining that they were, in fact, Military roads and that access to them was a privilege, rather than a right. This deployed the whole Company in twos and threes all over the Rock for 24 hours and H.Q. Company, to their horror, had to provide the Guards for two days. The rehearsals of the H.Q. Company guards afforded us with more than a few laughs over the days preceding the Perambulation, but in the end they almost came up to our standard of turn-out and drill.

The sporting side of life in Gibraltar was not neglected and every afternoon found most of those not on duty taking part in one form of recreation or another. The most popular was swimming, and many members of the Company found it was really quite easy to swim after all, while the more experienced swimmers took life-saving courses with spectacular success. The Company easily outnumbered all other similar sized units on the Rock with their Silver and Bronze Life-saving Awards. Most other sports were catered for; in fact, if one was so inclined, it was possible to dive to the bottom of the docks with an

aqua-lung or climb to the top of the Rock with a prayer. In actual competitions we combined with "C" Company in providing the Rifle Company teams in Soccer, Hockey, Cricket and Basketball, all of which were played with varying success, with the balance being slightly on the credit side. A very important sport in Gibraltar is Road Running and the Company started the season off with a Company run in which nearly every member took part. The run was of 3½ miles and there were many sore feet by the end of it. However, it also produced some talent from which the Battalion teams were selected, Cpl. Flanagan, L/Cpl. Johns, Pte. Quartermaine and Pte. McPhail being the stars.

During the three months in Gibraltar it was possible to get away very little except for private excursions to "La Lin" or Algeciras for the bolder spirits. Each Platoon did, however, send a small



N.C.O.s of the Company boarding *The British Eagle* *Britannia* for El Adem

party to Morocco in the Nuffield Trust "Safari" Land-Rover. Mention has been made of these trips in the platoon notes although a certain veil of mystery has been drawn over what actually went on. Each platoon group certainly covered a good deal of Morocco during their week and visited most of the important cities. The most popular souvenir of the trip was a fez from Fez.

The story of our efforts in Gibraltar cannot be completed without making some mention of our two professional "Stick Men." Two names were always cropping up as Commanding Officer's Stick Orderlies after Convent Guard Mounting, Pte. Clarke (89) and Pte. Flanagan. In fact, Pte. Clarke did it so often that the Company Commander presented him with an engraved Tankard to mark the occasion.

November 27 dawned at last. We climbed aboard the transport graciously provided by Capt. Wild and, as the Band played, set off for North Front Airfield to emplane for Tobruk. All went well on the trip, in fact too well as we by-passed Malta where we were supposed to have stopped, and arrived at El Adem very early. This caused a certain amount of confusion in the ranks of "A" Company who

were about to enjoy a free film show but suddenly found themselves on their way to El Adem, Gibraltar and many happy hours of Guards during their chilly wet winter on the Rock.

We were met on our arrival by our Advance Party of Major Pepperall, W.O.II Benson, Cpl. Puckey and Pte. Healey and very soon settled down in our new and somewhat strange quarters. The Company Commander had not wasted any time and almost before we knew it, we were out in the desert on an exercise. With training and settling down in Tobruk the time passed quickly until Christmas. For most of us Christmas is a time to be with families sitting in a warm room with the icy winds howling outside. Christmas Day in Tobruk dawned warm and fine though rather windy and some brave spirits, or idiots, depending on your point of view, decided to start Christmas with a swim — who said we nearly



**INSPECTING THE MOUNTS BEFORE THE DONKEY DERBY**

Left to right: Pte. Sturley, Pte. Lewis, Donkey, Pte. Soall, Pte. Clarke, Pte. Barnard, Pte. Wall

lost all our officers with pneumonia? The rest of the Company started Christmas in the more traditional manner with "Gun Fire" which was brought round by the C.S.M. and Sergeants and the day then followed its traditional pattern.

It is an R.A.F. tradition that at Christmas time each barrack block builds and decorates its own bar and a prize is then given by the Station Commander to the best. As we were living with the R.A.F. we also kept to their tradition — admittedly, we did not need much persuasion. An excellent bar was built and decorated from practically nothing and the credit for this goes to some hard working soldiers directed by C/Sgt. Martin. Their efforts were appreciated by everyone, including the Station Commander, who accordingly awarded us the prize for the best bar. The Bar was opened on Boxing

Day and it was planned to hold a Concert, with each platoon producing two acts. Unfortunately, many members of the cast were overcome with shyness, or something stronger, and only 8 Platoon produced a turn. The Palestrino Cockroaches entertained us with gusto and some new words to the "pops"; their performance being thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Pte. Nixon played the piano almost non-stop all evening and the tape recording of Christmas messages from our families in Gibraltar made the evening go with a swing. Unfortunately, the latter had to be stopped before all the messages could be heard but everyone received their messages and records in the end.

Other events over the Christmas period were a Company Sports Day which got everyone out, taking part in either soft-ball, basketball or soccer and the Donkey Derby. At the Donkey Derby the Company started well, with a spectacular win in the first race by Lt. Pitman — closely followed by an Arab with a sharp pointed stick, Lt. Pitman really thought that he had made the Donkey run fast. Other members of the Company tried their hand (or should it be seat) in the remaining races and Pte. Sturley also had a win, much to the pleasure of those who had backed him at the "Tote" and those who were near the Beer Tent where the winnings were spent.

After Christmas we really got down to some hard work, details of which will be found in the Platoon Notes. Classification has been completed, in most cases satisfactorily, and some field firing done. We are now looking forward to a series of Company Exercises, including an assault landing made, we hope, with the co-operation of the R.A.F. Marine Craft Section's "Z" Craft. The 100-mile Route March taking in Knightsbridge and Bir Hacheim has unfortunately been postponed, but it is hoped to fit it in before we return once more to Gibraltar and Guards.

At least we will not have to do P.T. at 0715 hours every morning in Gibraltar.

**Private Quartermaine Strikes It Rich**

On January 13 in the middle of the "Bundo" Pte. Quartermaine, the O.C.'s Batman was digging a drainage trench around his tent when he spotted something shiny in the soil. Picking it up he realised that he had found a Gold coin which was later identified as a half-sovereign.

How it got there is anyone's guess, but if anyone else wants to stake a claim they should make their application through "B" Company Office, Tobruk. Picks and shovels can be hired at a reasonable rate. I wonder what the law of Treasure-Trove is in Libya?

**Arrivals and Departures**

Since August, many changes have taken place among Company Personnel. We welcome Captain I.M.E. Lloyd, who has taken over as 2I.C., after his spell with the Junior Leaders in Wales. He was so anxious to rejoin the Battalion that he broke



all records to reach Gibraltar by car in under 72 hours from the U.K. 2/Lt. S. C. D. Searle joined us in September and took over 5 Platoon only to hand over to 2/Lt. J. B. Hawkins when he rejoined us in January after attending courses at Hythe and Warminster. 2/Lt. Searle has become the Company M.T.O. (but we do not let him drive).

Sgt. Miles has left us for "C" Company and his place in the Mortar Section has been taken by Sgt. Plumb, to whom we extend a hearty welcome.

Sgt. Scott arrived "out of the blue." The first we knew about it was his voice on the telephone demanding transport from El Adem to Tobruk. He has gone to make Support Platoon even more top heavy to "learn the trade" before going to Nether-aven.

We welcome Cpl. Brumwell and Cpl. Fisher from the Brigade Depot and Cpl. Cairns from "C" Company.

Among the recent arrivals have been Pte. O'Connell from the Signals Platoon, Pte. Fenton from the M.T., Pte. Hayes from the U.K. and Pte. Cannon from the Junior Leaders Battalion, whose smartness has already impressed us.

Several departures have also occurred. L/Cpl. Hedges has left us to go on "the law" at the Brigade Depot and L/Cpl. Clutton to face the uncertainties of civilian life. Pte. Heale has also declined to "sign on" and has left us to become "Mister." Ptes. Elliott and George we left in Gibraltar when we moved to Tobruk and Pte. Meechan was unfortunately medically evacuated via Cyprus to the U.K. We all wish him a rapid recovery. Pte. Harpur, the latest departure, suddenly found out that he was too young and after many signals, eventually left us to grow up a little.

### 5 Platoon

Since our arrival in Gibraltar our time has been taken up with 24-hour Guards at the Four Corners on the Frontier with Spain or 12-hour Ceremonial Guards at the Convent, which is the Governor's Residence. Two out of every three weeks were spent in this way with time off guard being occupied mainly with preparing our kit for the next guard and taking part in one form of sport or another during the afternoon. The third week in the cycle was our training week which was the most popular, our time being spent in denims and battle-order. Even the training week had its draw-backs, however, as we had to do a route march either around or up the Rock. Many sports were catered for in Gibraltar and, until the weather turned cold, the most popular was swimming and many people learned to swim and life-save.

During our tour in Gibraltar we had the chance to take a party to Morocco, a trip which was very popular and well worth while. The big problem was, however, the fact that it cost money, a subject that is close to everyone's heart.

Soon after this we found ourselves at North Front waving goodbye as we boarded our aircraft bound for Tobruk. Desert and nothing but sand and donkeys, but we were away from Guards. Much of our time is spent in Fort Palestino, an area a good 2½ hours march away from Tobruk, and it seems miles from anywhere. We have also been able to classify and do some field firing which was carried out in the Derna area. These weeks gave us all a chance to fire our platoon weapons and actually practise platoon drills using live ammunition. Dear old Ernie Saul tried his hardest to shoot us all from time to time but I am pleased to record that he was unsuccessful.

Every third week we take over the duties of I.S. Platoon and spend most of the week practising I.S. Drills and doing fatigues — these are not enjoyable, but I suppose someone must do them and they only come round once in every three weeks.

The latest piece of good news is that we have just moved into a new barrack room while our old one is being redecorated. This is a great improvement but there again, there is one small problem — the block is reputed to be haunted. Who believes in ghosts — anyway?

### 6 Platoon

On arrival in Gibraltar we had to shake ourselves out for drill and guards, and withstand the ordeal by fire from our C.S.M. However, the Platoon did take part in a beach landing from H.M.S. Anzio, and luckily, nobody had wet feet from the landing. Lt. Bartlett, Cpl. Cairns, Pte. Herbert and Pte. Tarr spent a one-week "Safari" in Morocco where French was a valuable asset for the buying of food.

At the end of November the Platoon flew to Tobruk, where the real training began and we spent a very pleasant week before Christmas classifying at Derna. Every evening the platoon ritual of a scorpion fight took place in the washing bowl in the camp area. During the Christmas festivities our platoon comedy act of "Chorus Girls" at the Christ-Club faded out unhappily, due to the incapability of the performers. Pte. Lewis looked well dressed in his skirt and other female adornments. Pte. Nixon played hard, strumming on the piano all evening.

After Christmas we settled down once again to training, and had one week of field firing.

The Platoon has also been taking an active part in sport, especially Football, against the local clubs and we are now marching at least 10 miles a week in anticipation of the Company 100 miles march. We trust we shall return to Gibraltar by Easter.

### 8 (Support) Platoon

We are now at a stage when a platoon can remain a platoon without changes for some time and can work up into an effective team. With this in mind it is time that the Battalion and the "Die-Hards" at large should know who is doing what and from

where their support comes. 8 Platoon now consist of:—

Platoon Commander: Lt. R. C. Pitman

#### Anti-Tank Section

Section Commander	Sgt. Blackwell
Detachment Comds.	Cpl. Caston
	L/Cpl. Hills
Gun Numbers	Pte. Dowdell
	Pte. Higgins
	Pte. Ramadan
	Pte. Read
	Pte. Sturley

#### Mortar Section

Section Commander	Sgt. Plumb
Section Corporal	Cpl. Flanagan
M.F.C.	L/Cpl. La Touche
Mortar Numbers	Pte. Acton
	Pte. Allen
	Pte. Butcher
	Pte. Kaye
	Pte. McVeigh
	Pte. O'Connell
	Pte. Tarry
	Pte. Wright
	Pte. Wall

Since Gibraltar is virtually a non-tactical station we have done little training there except for firing sand-filled mortar bombs into the sea and losing them, also firing an unzeroed Mobat at a floating target, the net result of which was nearly to sink a ship with the over-throws and cause workmen repairing the water catchment area to down tools because they did not like the noise. A third of the Platoon became very hard to find because we provided extra drivers to help H.Q. Company with its heavy M.T. commitment. It was during summer on the Rock that the newer boys joined the old hands of the Platoon. The old hands are still easy to pick out, of course, because they are the ones who have forgotten their drills and when reminded of them, mutter something about "Done it all before in Germany" through their long grey beards.

After four months of drill and duties it was a welcome change to spread out a bit in Tobruk. Before Christmas we spent a lot of time revising our weapon handling and blowing-pits in the desert. The Palestino Desert area gives its name to the new noise of '63 which should have but did not (purely through lack of publicity) become the latest rave. The Palestino Cockroaches under the direction of Cpl. Reynolds appeared at the Company Christmas Concert dressed up as Libyan waifs and proceeded to regale us with the top twenty as played on compo-biscuit tin guitars, tea chest bass and lemonade bottles.

Since Christmas we have been out on the Classification Ranges and produced the excellent tally of 14 marksmen out of twenty-three firers. We have also

spent one week firing the guns and mortars. The remainder of our stay should pass very quickly with more firing, a trip to oil wells in the Sand Sea to the South and our normal I.S. Training in Tobruk.

The Platoon as such has an international flavour about it. If you doubt it ask L/Cpl. La Touche, but do not, however, try to pry as deeply as Lt. Pitman did on the training area. Whilst the men were digging a hole with Sgt. Plumb's famous "Thumper," he asked Pte. Wall the date of St. Patrick's Day and got the reply "Sometime in April"; he then turned to the Platoon Scotsman saying "Show him up McVeigh, when is St. Andrew's Day?" Back came the reply "It's in March, I think sir." In desperation, he turned to the loyal true Englishman, Pte. Kaye, and asked him the date of St. George's Day. He should have known better, for all he got as a reply was "Who the hell is he sir?"

Sgt. Miles has now left us and the Mortars have been taken over by Sgt. Plumb. Pte. Heale and Pte. Smith 66 returned to "Civvy Street" at Christmas. In the near future Cpl. Reynolds, after seven years in the Anti-Tanks and being a founder member of 8 (Support) Platoon, goes to a Rifle Platoon after a course at Hythe. Cpl. Flanagan also wants to see life away from the Army and will be leaving us in the summer. We look forward to L/Cpl. Bassett's return to the Anti-Tank Section.

#### Signals Section

The Signals Section attached to "B" Company in Tobruk at present consist of the following members:—

Cpl. Stewart
L/Cpl. Stevenson
Pte. Slater
Pte. Edge
Pte. Phillips
Pte. Theobald

After hearing so much about Tobruk from our Radio Sergeant and from our friends the S.C.L.I., our turn came to spend 3/4 months there.

We arrived in Tobruk on November 27 and were soon in full swing getting the stores and equipment ready and things sorted out.

Cpl. Stewart taught the Section the principles of skywave working and practical battery charging. We were then ready for what the O.C. and C.S.M. had to throw at us.

First out were L/Cpl. Stevenson and Pte. Edge to a place called Derna, which is about 125 miles from Tobruk, where the Classification is held on the rifle and L.M.G. This is the first time any of the Section has operated over a great distance, but after the first tuning and netting call a voice replied "21 O.K., over," so the big step was past — well done. Since we have not looked back on long range work, even Pte. "Snowy" Phillips has given up his smoke signals — wind is too strong so he reckons. But we still cannot convince the C.S.M. that the cleft stick is no longer in use.





"B" Company 'A' team about to receive their trophies after finishing runners-up in the El Adem—Tobruk road race

Left to right: Sqn/Leader Wallace, Mrs. Briggs, L/Cpl. Johns, Pte. Slattery, Pte. Quartermaine, Pte. McPhail, Pte. Wall, and Cpl. Flanagan

All the Section spent Christmas in the usual fashion — a small party in the Signals Stores. Towards the end we lost Pte. Slater; no one volunteered to look for him and we said "leave him to the dogs."

Nineteen sixty-four came and we were off once again, this time for the field firing. Even "Terry" Edge had the strength to throw a grenade, even if it did go close to the O.C.

We lost L/Cpl. Stevenson for a week when he went to Malta to play Rugby — well, that was the excuse, least said! Even the N.I.S. changed twice when he returned.

Cpl. Stewart managed to bog the O.C.'s Land-Rover down, and the O.C. and Sgt. Williamson had to walk eight miles for the other Land-Rover, containing L/Cpl. Cleasby and his mystic tow rope (3,000 lbs. breaking strain he reckoned). Sore point that tow rope. After about an hour of digging, pushing and some violent talk, the vehicle came free, much to our relief.

As usual, Pte. Theobald gained injuries on the football field which yielded four stitches and a week excused duties.

In addition to our duties as Signallers, we have the job of looking after the Company Tortoises, with Theo as I.C., but he still wonders if they make good aeriels.

With four weeks left in Tobruk before our return to Gibraltar, some say good, and some wish to remain here, but the Section would like to thank "B" Company for the co-operation in making our stay with them in Tobruk as instructional and as practical as possible during our tour of duty.

#### Tobruk — El Adem Road Race

On December 23, the annual Tobruk—El Adem Road Relay Race took place. This race is run each year by teams of six runners from the various Wings of the R.A.F., El Adem and Tobruk. Each runner

does about three miles, the whole course being just under 18 miles.

This year, "B" Company entered three teams to compete against the R.A.F. Teams from Flying Wing, Tech Wing, Officers' Mess (an all-Officer team) and R.A.F. Tobruk. The "B" Company teams were:—

"A" Team	"B" Team
Cpl. Flanagan	Pte. Seatory
L/Cpl. Johns	Pte. Higgins
Pte. Quartermaine	Pte. Shevlin
Pte. McPhail	Pte. Doyle
Pte. Wall	Pte. Morrison
Pte. Slattery	Cfn. Houghton

"C" Team
L/Cpl. Hills
L/Cpl. La Touche
Pte. Murphy
Pte. Kaye
Pte. Clarke (89)
Pte. Allen

The race started at The Barrier at Tobruk and the first runners had to climb the first escarpment, where they handed over. This leg was a little over two miles, but uphill nearly all the way. Pte. McPhail, of the "A" Team got away to a good start and led by about 50 yards, only to be overtaken 100 yards from the changeover. The "B" Team were fourth and the "C" Team sixth at this stage. The second stage was again uphill, followed by about a mile of flat road. The Flying Wing runner made further gains over "A" Team, but L/Cpl. Hills, of the "C" Team made up one place, overtaking the R.A.F. Tobruk runner. The next three stages were all more or less flat, straight road, on which the runners could see at least half their stage stretching away before them. The positions remained the same except that the leaders, Flying Wing, increased their lead over "A" Team. The final stage started



8 Platoon, led by C/Sgt. Martin, landing from the assault craft

realism, but even so it was a very worth-while exercise and the nearest anyone got to real soldiering on the Rock.

#### "THE FIERCE AFRICAN..."

"The way to Hell is paved with good intentions." With that in mind two Austin 1-tons, two Land-Rovers and 16 men of the Support Platoon set out on February 3 intending to visit two oil rigs in the desert south of Tobruk.

It was overcast as we left, picking up the newly-constructed road to Giarabub 160 miles south of Tobruk. As the road was not marked on the map and the map had so few reference points on it anyway, it was a question of following the tracks once the road petered out after 65 miles. By evening, when we stopped, we were puzzled. The milometers on the vehicles showed 180 miles travelled, on our east was a double barbed wire entanglement and the ground was broken and sandy. We looked at the map—a mistake, of course—and concluded that we were on the Egyptian border about 15 miles east of Giarabub.

It became evident that we were wrong because on moving off to the South in the morning we picked up a metalled road which led us to Giarabub. Approaching the small town of 700 population was like arriving at a genuine oasis. Suddenly in the yellow desert was a slash of green palms, a white mosque dome and a huddle of sandstone houses. The town itself was founded by the great grandfather of King Idris of Libya as a Koran Study Centre. The King, in fact, subsidises the inhabitants who spend their time studying the Koran and looking after the irrigated garden plots and their goats.

At the Police Station we met Lt. Zaid who made us very welcome and offered to show us the track out to the desert wells which marked the jumping off point for our trips into the sand sea and Oil Rig T 603. We went off South West of the town into

at the bottom of the escarpment leading up to El Adem. Here Cpl. Flanagan could hardly wait to get moving and try to overhaul the Flying Wing runner, who at this stage was one minute and 20 seconds ahead. Cpl. Flanagan started at a fantastic pace up the hill and in the first half-mile made up 30 seconds. He continued to chase the R.A.F. runner, who was visibly slowing down, and on the approach to El Adem was only about 50 yards behind. Then the tension really grew as the R.A.F. runner, clearly distressed, staggered towards the finishing line with Cpl. Flanagan pounding along behind him. Unfortunately, Cpl. Flanagan just could not do it and finished second, just 12 seconds behind the leader.

An excellent race, and had the race been 100 yards longer, he might well have won. "B" Company "B" Team maintained their place and finished fourth with the "C" Team in fifth place.

At the end of the race, Mrs. Briggs presented the cups to the winning team and the runners-up.

#### H.M.S. Anzio

Throughout the summer months a permanent feature of the dockyard below the Barracks was what looked like a long, square metal hulk with a mottled grey and rust appearance. Slowly, the hulk became a ship and with the appearance of Green Berets, the ship took to sea.

The hulk, when completely refitted, was H.M.S. Anzio, a tank landing ship manned by the Royal Navy and its assault landing craft manned by the Royal Marines carried aboard.

After the ship itself had "shaken-down" we were asked to assist in giving the Royal Marines some training in putting the assault craft ashore with troops. On three days in early October a platoon of "B" Company was landed on Sandy Bay against opposition provided by the Corps of Drums and Company Headquarters. After dealing with the opposition in Sandy Bay, each platoon marched through Arrow Street Tunnel and up the Hole in the Wall road to Windmill Hill where further enemy were encountered and had to be ferreted out of the old buildings. After this engagement a lightning withdrawal was made over the assault course and the effects of the exercise tested by firing on the 30-yards range.

All three landings were dry but each had its incidents, such as 6 Platoon arriving early and having to telephone for the enemy to hurry up; H.M.S. Anzio herself getting stuck on a sandbank and having to trash her way off, aided by the assault craft towing, and sailors diving off to see how far she had to go. 8 Platoon's remarkable achievement is recorded photographically—yes, C/Sgt. Martin is actually running!

On a later occasion the Royal Marines carried out a night landing on the beach opposed by 8 Platoon. This was very impressive with a particularly silent run-in and attack. The presence of half Gibraltar watching from the road detracted a little from the



a barren rocky plain flanked by gaunt sandstone mesas moulded by the desert winds. The sun was hot. About twenty miles into nothingness the petrol pump on an Austin packed up and the replacement, carried as a spare, would not work. There was nothing for it but to return to Giarabub, which we did by the evening with the 1-ton in tow.

The oil rig was out, but the town offered enough to see for the remaining three days of the week. We radioed back to Tobruk our troubles and said that we would start the tow back on Friday. That evening we moved into the police station, where we were made very welcome and comfortable. Electric light, hot, running water and a wood fire in the evenings took the edge off the cold desert nights. The policemen at the station were very helpful and in a mixture of English, laughs and signs we got on very well. In the morning we had a conducted tour round the mosque. Having been de-booted at the door, we were all led into the main building, which was a tall, domed room with the coffin of the founder lying in the centre. The walls were "painted" in intricate designs, the paint being a layer of different colour plaster over the white base. The doors and two cupboards in the room were highly ornate carved mahogany done by a craftsman imported from Kabul in Afghanistan. The room was lit by clerestory windows and four glass chandeliers.

From the mosque we went half a mile south to the caves which were the scene of the Italians' last stand in Libya. In this area many old war relics were found including letters, newspapers, military kit, old bones and a quantity of live ammunition, all rusted and highly dangerous. The remainder of the afternoon was spent sunbathing on the roof of the police station.

To pass the time on the Thursday morning we



"NOSH-UP IN THE DESERT"

Background: Cfmm. Tomlinson; Left to right: Ptes. Tarry, Ramadan and Dowdell, Sgt. Scott, LCpl. Hills, Cpl. Flanagan, Lt. Pitman, Sgt. Blackwell

took a couple of S.L.R.s and ammunition we had with us and had a shooting competition—Allsopp's beer cans at 100 yards. As we finished we were surprised to find the desert rescue plane from El Adem flying over. Apparently they just came to look. During the afternoon we sunbathed yet again. As one of the party said: "Put this on the recruiting posters and you will have no worries about getting anyone in." A holiday like that would cost £100, and here he was getting paid for doing it.

All good things come to an end and on the Friday the end came when a Land-Rover from Tobruk arrived with a new fuel pump to save us the tow back. It seemed a pity to leave the peace and quiet of that place in the sun to return to the petty limitations of civilisation. The petty limitations soon became apparent. After an overnight stop the carburettor needle valve on the Austin packed up so we had to tow back on Saturday after all. As we stopped for lunch about six miles south of El Adem the helicopter of the station came over to check that the tow was going successfully and blew sand in the food. At three in the afternoon the good 1-tonner boiled over, a broken hose being the cause. A slightly irritated party arrived back at Tobruk at 4 p.m.

As a week to get away and see Libya it was not a week to be missed. We were a bit disappointed at not going to the rig to see how they live but the experience of the warm African sun, the silence of the desert, the walk around with history and the insight into a different way of life was something that we will all remember.

#### "C" COMPANY

"C" Company has managed to tuck itself away from the remainder of the Battalion, on the rising slopes of the Rock, and far away from the hectic parade ground, and even further away from Battalion Headquarters so as to discourage all but the most determined visitors. From its secret headquarters it controls the flow of trained recruits received from the U.K., and polishes up the rest of the Battalion where needed, on training cadres of all shapes and sizes. It is necessary to explain this particularly because most people still have no idea where "C" Company lives and to those select few who have been let into the secret of what it actually does. What it does is done discreetly too, for who would recognise a Sergeant drilling three men with one lame, and one watching as a continuation training intake.

At the nerve centre of this organisation, and pulling most of the strings, is Sergeant Major George Simmons. Not that he would admit to being the hero (not that we are suggesting that he is either), but his executive command of "The next house will be a rough house, take your partners for a punch-up" (This being his only printable expression) is bellowed through the "C" Company radio network daily to eager ears. At the nervous end are Ptes. Piper, Keemer, Whyte, Burns, Perks and Constant.

Pte. Terry Piper, who hails from Edmonton, and

commands the Company Office in the Sergeant Major's absence, is the most active soldier in the Company. Not only has he passed his Grade III Clerks Trade Test, but in his spare time has gained two life-saving awards, joined the Sub-Aqua Club, proved himself one of the best badminton players in the Battalion and was runner-up as Middleweight in the Battalion boxing.

Pte. Les Keemer, from Chelsea, not only looks after the Company weapons, but spends his spare time becoming an expert .22 shot. With no previous experience he has raised his average score from the 50s to the 90s during his stay in Gibraltar. Not only that, he keeps the best rifle for himself as well! Another expert .22 shot is Pte. Brian Harper from Middlesex. Brian is the Weapon Training Storeman and as such controls the ammunition. He, too, keeps most of his scores in the 90s. It's an odd coincidence that the best two .22 shots should be between them control the issue of rifles, ammunition, and for that matter, targets. In fact, if competition stiffened, they could also prevent their opponents from using the range and the telescopes, because they control them too.

Pte. George Burns, from Fulham, while away his time when not on duty in the Stores, either by making New Year's resolutions not to drink, or by giving peep shows on the Company projector now that he is a qualified operator, and Pte. Perks of Middlesex helps him out by providing the audience when he is not acting as usher(ette). Pte. John Hayward has a better hobby. He books in at the Four Corners Guard Room on his way home from Spain and then sees how far he can get before the Guard Commander realises that he didn't book out in the first place. Pte. "Chalky" Whyte has very little spare time at all now that his wife has joined him, but before she arrived he was mesmerising opposing batsmen on the cricket field, and flashing the bat in West Indian style. He eventually represented the Combined Services and was the star Battalion cricketer. Now that his wife has arrived he flashes home on the "pad" wagon to calypso-style music on the record player that he won at the All Ranks Dance.

One of the few people to be discovered in "C" Company was C/Sgt. "Jack" Potter who has now left us for H.Q. Company. "Jack" has had a long, and we hope, enjoyable innings in "C" Company, having seen it for 10 years, from Austria to Gibraltar. With his usual gusto, on arrival in Gibraltar, he went around the Company chalking up all the Army buildings requiring Works attention and, before long, every building was marked and dated. What a pity they didn't transfer him to the Q.M. Department, because he would have come and read all the comments. Just before he left us he saw to it that the Company Christmas Party was well provided for, and it is this spirit of big heartedness which made us very sorry to lose him.

Gone too is Cpl. Frank Cairns, who left us for Tobruk and "B" Company, to practise what he has been preaching. In his place we welcome Cpl. John

Redrup from the Pay Office and Cpl. Jack Rogers. On the brink of leaving was Cpl. Trevor Fisher who would be at Canterbury now but for an unfortunate injury. "On the brink" is just the right phrase for him, according to the grapevine — save him somebody! He has already bought his wedding suit and it is rumoured that he exhibited it at the Tramps Ball at the Garrison NAAFI Club and won First Prize. "C" Company have emerged the proud winners of the Inter Company Novices Boxing, thanks largely to the enthusiasm of Cpl. Rogers. His evening training sessions with the team were well rewarded and we congratulate the following on their fine performance — Ptes. Tydeman, Piper, Childs, Richards, Quilter, Hayward, Elliott, Walsh, Lampshire, Russell, O'Reilly, Wells, Fryer, Denyer and Constant.

We would like to give a mention to the sergeants, but unfortunately, at this moment, we are trying to work out exactly who belongs to us. The sergeants have at last managed to sabotage the system and each has three masters. For example, Sgt. Miles was posted to "C" Company, attached to "A" Company and was working under the M.T.O. in H.Q. Company.

#### Briefs

*Cheers:* for Cpl. Shearing — his daughter has had a daughter.

*Beers:* for Sgt. Miles — a boy,  
for Sgt. Shave — a girl,  
for Sgt. Meacock — a boy.

*Tears:* for Lt. Finch — he used to be a two car man, then there were none. One refused the hill up to the Mess and the other threw him at Valencia.

Finally, we welcome Major John Moore, who has recently rejoined the Battalion from Edinburgh, and now commands the Company aided by Lt. Peter Packham, who has come to "C" Company from "A" Company. C/Sgt. Jack Warner is now firmly in the chair rubbing off all the chalk marks on the walls, and we also welcome Cpl. "Jock" McFadyen, who has joined us from the R.A.F. — to help him give up smoking.

#### THE CEREMONY OF THE KEYS

Ever since Britain took The Rock in 1704 The Keys of Gibraltar have been symbolic of the possession of the Fortress. The Ceremony of the Keys recalls the locking up of the Fortress, which took place at dusk every evening until the early years of this century. The ceremony takes place three or four times a year and on November 14, 1963, the Battalion performed it for the first time.

The Keys are those used by Governor General Elliott during the Great Siege of 1779-83. During the siege he wore The Keys at his sword belt all the time except when he handed them to the Port Sergeant who went round the Northern Gates with an armed escort locking each gate in turn. After the siege, when peace had been restored in 1783, workers



from Spain were allowed in daily and the gates were unlocked in the morning. In the evening the Drums and Fifes of one of the regiments would accompany the Port Sergeant to warn all aliens that the gates were about to be locked. The Port Sergeant would, having completed his task, hand over The Keys to the Governor who was responsible for their safe keeping.

The ceremony performed by the Battalion re-enacts the handing of the Keys by the Governor to the Port Sergeant, who then locks the Grand Casemates Gate and returns the Keys to the Governor. In addition to the Port Sergeant and his escort an out-post platoon is also on parade to commemorate the troops defending the Garrison. The out-post platoon for the parade on November 14 was found by "B" Company and the parade was commanded by the Adjutant, Capt. J. M. Hewson, M.C. The appointment of Port Sergeant is held by Sgt. C. Shinn of "C" Company and his escort consisted of W.O. H. Simmons, C/Sgt. Garraty and Sgts. Power and Young.

The climax of the parade takes place at the Grand Casemates Gate where the sentry (Pte. Harper "C" Company) challenges the Port Sergeant:—

Sentry: "Halt — Who comes there?"  
Port Sergeant: "The Keys."  
Sentry: "Whose keys?"  
Port Sergeant: "Queen Elizabeth's Keys."  
Sentry: "Advance Queen Elizabeth's Keys — all's well."

The Port Sergeant then goes forward, locks the gate, and rejoins his escort.

A Royal Salute is then given and the Battalion band plays the National Anthem.

Port Sergeant: "God preserve Queen Elizabeth."  
Escort: "Amen."

The parade then marches off past the Governor, General Sir Dudley Ward, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., and proceeds along Main Street to the Convent where the Port Sergeant hands back the Keys to His Excellency reporting "The Fortress is secure and all's well".

#### OFFICERS' MESS

The Mess here is certainly better than the one in Lydd and no doubt by the time the P.M.C., Major John Moore, has put his ideas into effect, it will be quite splendid.

When we took it over in October, the building, its fittings and furniture were in a poor state. To improve the place has been an uphill struggle mainly due to the shortage of civilian labour and the inability of those above to appreciate that our standard is perhaps a little higher than most. However, Jimmy Wild has achieved much these past few months, but what a fight!!!

Early in October Major P. J. Hall, Capt. H. E. Couch, Lt. T. D. Jones and Lt. J. C. Parkinson, who were on their way to tour the battlefields of the Peninsula War, visited the Mess and were entertained

to Cocktails and a Buffet Supper. It was good to see them and hear all the news from the 5th Battalion. Another visit soon and by more of them would prove popular.

Later in the month we were delighted to entertain Brigadier and Mrs. E. E. F. Baker to Cocktails. Both the Brigadier and Mrs. Baker have been most kind to our Regular Officers serving with the 7th and 8th Battalions, and recently, of course, the 5th Battalion. It was therefore very pleasant to have them with us, even for so short a visit.

In November we entertained His Excellency the Governor and Lady Ward, and some 250 guests to Cocktails. The party went well, the local papers were impressed with it and it wasn't too expensive. Mrs. Morgan and Mrs. Jeffcott, with the help of other ladies, most kindly arranged the flowers, and very well they did it too.

In mid December, our crockery and glassware arrived from London. Despite the most careful packing, some 40 pieces of glass were broken, but luckily the plate was untrouled.

The Mess Party, despite the short notice, was a success at Christmas. John Moore and the Subalterns transformed the Ante-Room out of all recognition; it was a splendid effort.

There is yet much to achieve in the Mess, but now that R.H.Q. have agreed to send the "Hotshots" portrait and other paintings out to us, we should soon start to look like an Infantry Mess. However, let us not forget all the efforts by Ken Cluyden during his tour as P.M.C. for 15 (long!) months. Well done that man.

We have gained two more officers from the R.M.A. Sandhurst recently. Malcolm Montgomery joined us in September and David Fulcke in January. Welcome to you both and we hope that you will enjoy your stay with us.

#### WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

On our arrival in Gibraltar we took over the S.C.L.I. Mess at Europa, but in a very short time the decorators moved out and we occupied our present Mess in South Barracks. This was at one time the R.E. Officers' Mess and is very comfortable. It is now well furnished, although it was a bit of a struggle to get a stair carpet. We managed it in the end, but not without a battle with the Flag Officer R.N.—it appears that the Admiral thought he had a better claim to the carpet than we had. We managed to resist borders on this score and have since made our peace with the Royal Navy. We have had many visits from various Petty Officers' Messes and have received plaques from the following ships—H.M.S. Venus, H.M.S. Tiger and H.M.S. Messina. In addition, we were recently presented with a pennant from H.M.S. Carysfort, at present undergoing a refit in the Dockyard.

One fault with our Mess building is that there is no sleeping accommodation for the living-in members.

These lucky chaps sleep above Battalion Headquarters in North Pavilion and the Mess is several uphill minutes' walk away. "Who's for breakfast?" The Caterer on arrival was Sgt. "Jack" Warner, who has made himself known to all the right beer drinkers, etc. He was promoted to C/Sgt. and back-dated, so after helping him through his back pay, he was put out to duty and Mine Host at present is the genial "Clem".

There is a cheerful party every Saturday evening, when everybody enjoys themselves with a spot of Tambo, Twisting and a Ruffie, which seems to be a twist of a different sort. We even have a mixed choir who specialise in a quaint folksong entitled "There's a Hole in my Bucket . . ." We are very fortunate to have among our local friends the "Romancheros." This group, who have appeared on TV in the U.K., often come up to the Mess after they have done their turn at a local night spot, and can usually be persuaded to give us an impromptu and really first-class show. This has so impressed C/Sgt. "Jack" Warner, that he is about to form his own singing and guitar-playing group.

We have a Whist Drive every Wednesday evening, to which more and more visitors are attracted. The first few evenings were a struggle with very limited support, but now the word has got round and we have some very good evenings.

The travellers for various wine and spirit merchants have looked after us very well. So far we have had a couple of trips to Saccone and Speed, one to Lewis Stagnetto Ltd., Warehouses, and one to the Anglo Hispano Bodega Ltd. These trips were spaced out so that when the Rifle Company in Tobruk changed over, the Sergeants from the desert were able to quench their thirst! In early December a trip was arranged for us by Lewis Stagnetto to visit the Bodegas in Jerez. Our party travelled by minibus and were vined and dined in fine style. When the time came for the bus to leave Jerez and return to Gibraltar, it went past a statue of a certain General five times. Each time the bus driver explored a different route and each time the occupants of the bus found themselves passing the same statue in the same square. On the sixth lap the statue could stand it no longer, and unreliable sources assure me that the General climbed down and indicated the right road to Gibraltar.

We had a number of visitors, all of whom have been most welcome. Shortly after our move our Mess was visited by His Excellency, the Governor-General, Sir Dudley Ward, who met and spoke to most of the members. On Saturday, October 19, we were very proud to entertain Brigadier Baker for a short mid-day visit. He spoke to most members and was then taken into "C/Sgt. Corner"—it was apparent that a good time was had by all. The Brigade Colonel visited the Mess on November 5 and we were all pleased to renew our acquaintance with him.

We have had some highly successful functions since our arrival, and these started with a Cocktail Party to say "Hello" to the other Forces stationed here,

including folks from the R.N., R.A.F. and Fortress H.Q., not to forget the Police. The latter had to leave early as they were on duty at 2200 hours. Imagine how pleased we were to see them at 0000 hours, in uniform, and wearing their helmets. The R.S.M. invited them in for another drink and found that not only were they on duty, but calling in to say that there had been a complaint about the noise. To prove it they took the R.S.M.'s name—the first time that he has been in the book for a long time. In spite of this, or because of this, the Mess decided that a Halloween Party be held on October 31, and this proved to be an even better whopper. All this was very good training for the Christmas season. The Mess held a very well supported Christmas Draw and a New Year Ball that all our Officers and their ladies attended. The whole round of festivities seemed to last longer this year than ever before, and all felt more than a little limp by the time we had attended the Corporals' Mess Dance on January 4.

On Boxing Day the Battalion Sports Officer had organised a knock-out "Shirty" Competition in the Gymnasium and strangely enough, when the draw was made, it was found that the Officers met the Sergeants in the semi-final. Needless to say, it was no holds barred, and no foul was too foul to try at least twice. Nobody thought to tell one of the Umpires that it wasn't a serious game and he was most indignant when a medicine ball was introduced instead of the puck.

Personality-wise, when we arrived we were greeted by W.O.2 Hymon, A.C.C., to fatten us up, and by W.O.2 "Beetle" Meadows, A.P.T.C., to sweat us down again. I won't say who is winning, but there are quite a few Mess Members who only use sacharine tablets in their coffee. Lately, we have had Sgt. "Mick" Elston returned to us after a tour at the Army M.T. School, and Sgt. Roy Scott, who has been attached to the Moss O.C.S. Roy has been posted direct to "B" Company in Tobruk to learn the mysteries of the dreaded 3-inch drumpipes, prior to being sent back to the U.K. on a 3-inch Mortar Course. We had Sgt. Lent posted from us before leaving Lydd to go on recruiting, and Sgt. Langford went to S.M.C. They had no mercy, but sent him straight on a Small Arms Course at Hythe!

W.O.2 "Curly" Walters left us, with a hangover, on January 1 to go to the 5th Battalion Buffs at Dover. The word is, if you miss the boat, don't bother. "Chrono Dome" will see you all right. Sgt. Young and family have also left for the U.K. "Gig" is sentenced to a Drill Course prior to being posted to the Junior Leaders Regiment at Tortona.

Apart from C/Sgt. Warner's promotion, C/Sgt. "Pete" Garraty has just been promoted to Warrant Officer and left a spot on the C/Sgt.'s Roll, which was promptly filled by Sgt. "Ginger" Eldridge. At the time of our arrival in Gibraltar Jack Meacock, Will Kerr and George Whittle were all promoted to Sergeant and are now veterans with many a guard duty behind them. They don't quite come into Sgt. "Bruce" Tarry's league. On February 10 Sgt.



Tarry's score was a grand total of 40 guards, 11 more than his nearest rival. The R.S.M. has vowed to get Sgt. Tarry his half century before he leaves for Recruiting early in March.

The "Bachelor Boys" are still unmarried. I think that the reason is that they have not been able to find a woman who can cook like Cpl. Anderson.

Those of you who know C/Sgt. "Bill" Smith must ask him about his first tour in Tobruk—a real vintage "Smithy" about nuns in Bikinis.

There have been many causes for celebrations during the six months that we have been here. Mrs. Peacock presented George with a daughter named Tracey, and so inspired the other wives that Mrs. Davies produced Jane, Mrs. Martin—Helen, Mrs. McGowan—Fiona. Mrs. Meacock then changed the fashion and along came Stephen, followed by Mrs. Miles with Darren, Mrs. Cakebread—Andrew, and then Mrs. Shave changed the style once again and proudly announced the arrival of Carol Ann. Our Chief Clerk, "George" Cripps, is now sweating on the top line that fashions remain firm and when Terry's twins arrive, that they are girls.

Boxing has played a big part in our lives just lately. It started with our Armourer, S/Sgt. Ted Girling, taking on, and beating, the local middle-weight champion when the latter ran amok. However, it cost Ted a fractured knee and he's a little bitter about it, as it happened just before Christmas and stopped his party-going. Early in February saw the Gibraltar Garrison Novices Boxing, and for a glorious half-hour Bill "Barrington" Argent and Keith "Glendenning" Lloyd, made a ringside commentary over the Forces Network. Any contract negotiations should be made through their Manager, R.S.M. "10%" Dodkins.

We are looking forward to seeing some old friends in the near future reporting back from various T.A. and other jobs, and hope that if they travel overland, as many of us did, that they will have a safe and pleasant journey. Our advice is, don't relax when you reach here. There's a very nasty corner by Battalion Headquarters — full particulars can be obtained from Sgt. "Fanny" Gibbs.

#### CORPORALS' MESS

On arrival in Gibraltar in August, 1963, we were all very impressed with the new Mess, which had been freshly decorated before we arrived. It was unfortunate that the Mess had to be divided owing to the fact that one company is permanently detached in Tobruk.

Our Advance Party representative, Pete Stewart, who was also the current P.M.C., negotiated with our predecessors—1 S.C.L.I.—and bought their radio-gram, which has, as yet, produced no musical sounds. However, Pete redeemed himself by quickly arranging several dart matches with the "Locals" and a very successful visit to Courages before fleeing to Tobruk with the "B" Company contingent.

Our social life gathered momentum with the advent of Jack Shearing taking over the reins as P.M.C.

It was decided at a Mess meeting held on October 17 that dances would be held at three-weekly intervals and to date we have managed to stick to this schedule. Undoubtedly the tremendous success of these dances has been due in no small part to Jack's unflagging energy and zest for organisation. Perhaps we can single out the P.M.C.'s last dance on January 4 as an example. The officers, warrant officers and sergeants turned out in force for this dance. We were also well supported by other Messes in the Command and civilian clubs. The buffet, which would have done credit to Joe Lyons, must have been a success judging by the number of wives who found it necessary to feed more than one husband. Dave Dawson's Group supplied some pretty hot music to some pretty hot dancers which were ably led by the Six Terrible Twisters. The mode of dancing disintegrated when John Thomas in bare buff and no boots did an Apache War Dance. Only one complaint was raised and this by George Whitt, who still reckons there should be 39 steps outside the Sergeants' Mess. He should



AT THE NEW YEAR BALL

Left to right: Bill and Mrs. Foley, Ken and Mrs. Bratt

know, as he claims to have hit every one of them. We feel that credit must be given to Bill Murphy and his team of barmen and waiters, who staunchly supplied our needs throughout the evening.

We faced the New Year with a new P.M.C. and Committee, namely John Redrup, Eric French, Don Stopp, Bill Lodge, Brian Morley, Bill Foley and Mick Aylward.

The local car dealers must have had an upswing in trade since our arrival judging by the lack of space around the Corporals' Mess, although it must be confessed that most of the room is taken up by "Ginger" Etherington's mobile penthouse (dare we say mobile?). Jack Roger's taste in cars seems to have deteriorated since England, but perhaps this will change up again in the new financial year. Whilst on the subject of Jack, we would like to congratulate him on training the winning Novices Boxing Team.

Charlie Barnes' status seems to be rising in the Battalion as he is now in sole command of the

Provost Staff, which include fire buckets. Owing to the Battalion duty commitments we have reluctantly permitted the Regimental Police to carry out the duties of permanent guard commanders during our stay in Gibraltar. Let's hope they keep up the good work.

Sportsmen not worth mentioning are Sonny Dowsett, Larry Lambourne and Mitch Fordham our pot-holing experts. We have been told that Mitch Fordham spends most of his time either down holes or in the NAAFI Services Shop. Dutch Holland is having a rough time in Morocco instructing our ski enthusiasts. Jack Shearing is still in great demand for the Rifle Company football team and Eric French has made his debut as a matador, as other Mess members already know. Whilst mentioning debuts, we must include Don Stopp, Eric French and Ernie



Cpl. Fisher with girl friend at the Tramps' Ball in the Garrison Naafi Club

Stubbings in this category as they have just attempted their P.E. Tests. Well done!

A welcoming hand is extended to Jock McFadyen, fresh from R.A.F. Regiment, straight to the top of the Unit Seniority Roll, and the newly-promoted Lance Corporals, Rigen, Murphy, Walsh, Robinson (did someone say "newly promoted?"), Randall, Jacklin, Rapetti, Watts, La Touche, Curtis, Rawlinson, Terry, Brown 90, Brown 83, Ives, Stewart and Marshall, who are all Die-Hards, and from the Corps we welcome L/Cpls. Meller, Fury, Truesdell, R.E.M.E., Bassett 67, Thomas, A.C.C., Cpl. Foley, R.A.P.C., and last, but not least, L/Cpl. Eldred from

the Regimental Band. It is rumoured that there is still a side drummer who has not been promoted.

We welcome back to the Mess Bill McLean, Ray Cousins and Ken Brett from their tours at E.R.E. John Redrup, Tony Blackburn and Bob Jones tried to rid themselves of the "Yoke," but we are pleased to say that they are still with us.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Jack Meacock, Bill Kerr and George Whittle, who left us for the Sergeants' Mess, and wish them all the best for the future.

Congratulations must go to Eric French and Bob Tuvey on attaining their substantive rank and to Paddy Warnock and Paddy Jamieson on their recent promotion to acting Corporal. We can also include in this paragraph Roy Ayliffe, Dutch Holland, Bill Williamson and Bill Macfarlane, who have been married since the last issue.

The stork has been busy recently visiting the homes of Bill Foley, Mick Aylward, Harry Creaser (again?), Derek Butler, Ken Brett, Paddy Warnock and Norman Rawlinson. The old men of the Mess, Jack Shearing and Andy Anderson, are now grandfathers. Congratulations all round.

#### THE CAMBRIDGE CLUB

Since the Wives' Club, with Captain Donovan's help, managed to obtain St. Barbara's Church, Europa, for its meetings, the Committee have been able to arrange for talks and demonstrations to be given on the first Thursday evening of each month. In January, Mrs. Lloyd gave a Beauty Counsel or Demonstration and Mrs. Robson, the Command Land Agent's wife, came in February to do some beautiful floral arrangements. Both these meetings were very well attended. At the latter we were delighted to welcome members of the Royal Engineers Wives' Club as our guests.

In March Mr. and Mrs. Broadbent are to show their own films taken in the Kenya National Park and a Mrs. Brinton-Lee is to talk on "Living in Spain" in April.

Our great project is to have a Fete in South Barracks on April 18 in aid of the Albuhera Flatlets Scheme and the Gibraltar Children's Welfare Guild. Local firms and shopkeepers have already been most generous in donating prizes for a raffle and for side-shows. Mrs. Eastap, Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Waite are running the Sewing Stall and Mrs. Meehan, Mrs. Dowsett and Mrs. Miles the Knitting Stall. Help is pouring in from many sources and we hope for a happy and profitable afternoon.

Mrs. Waite, Mrs. Stephenson, Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Mills are taking part as the Wives' Club team in the Forces Radio programme "Top of the Rock," and we wish them every success in the quiz.

We are very sad to have said goodbye to Mrs. Tarry and to Mrs. Young, both staunch members of the Club—to Mrs. Tarry particularly sincere thanks for a great deal of work towards the Fete.



## SPORTS

## Hockey

The standard of hockey in the Battalion has undoubtedly fallen, but there is still enthusiasm and support for the game.

The Forces run a Minor Units League only and we have entered H.Q. Company as one team, and the Rifle Companies ("A" or "B" Company with "C" Company) provide a second team. This has resulted in our best players appearing in different teams, and with one Company in Tobruk, it must be admitted that performances from both teams have been mediocre.

However, we have entered the Battalion team in the Gibraltar Hockey Association League, which has a much higher standard of play. At present, we are placed third in the League table. Our team should be further strengthened next month when L/Cpl. Bassett and Cpl. Flanagan return from Tobruk, and Capt. Gilham recovers from the injury to his foot.

The Army team in the Inter-Services League has five of our players, namely Drum-Major Howells, S/Sgt. Harrison, Sgt. Torrie, Cpl. McLean and L/Cpl. French. Cpl. Flanagan and L/Cpl. Bassett should also be in the team on their return to Gibraltar. In addition, Drum Major Howells and Sgt. Torrie are regular players for the Combined Services team.

It will be seen by this that the talent is here and it is only to be regretted that a full Battalion team cannot be produced more often, but by the end of this rather vigorous season, we might yet produce a few surprises.

## Football

This season the Battalion has fielded two teams, an H.Q. Company team and a Rifle Company team consisting of "C" Company and either "A" or "B" Company, depending on which team is on the Rock at the time. These teams play regularly in a Services League.

Unfortunately, the results have not been good. H.Q. Company took a hammering at the beginning of the season from teams far more used to the local pitches, and have spent the rest of the season recovering. The Rifle Company team held its own at first, but the changeover of "A" and "B" Companies in Tobruk produced a less experienced team and at present, our two teams are about half way up the League table with the Rifle Company above H.Q. Company. However, both teams have played hard against more experienced teams and have very often drawn and won games purely by determination and stubbornness, which has surprised many local teams.

Recently, H.Q. Company and Rifle Company

played each other, and as we expected, H.Q. Company, playing with only 10 men, lost by one goal in the second half.

Prominent players in the H.Q. team have been Sgt. Horder (M.I. Room), L/Cpl. Butler (Drums), C.S.M.I. Meadows (attached), Pte. Davidson (Drums), who was unfortunately injured in the game against Rifle Company, L/Cpl. Mason (Drums) and Sgt. Tarry, who has made some remarkable efforts in goal. The Rifle Company team have had a succession of captains—Sgt. Redmond, Sgt. Young, Sgt. Shave and now Cpl. McFadyen, who arrived recently.

Cpl. Shearing deserves a mention and a lot of credit for long service. Captain Gilham, together with Ptes. Clements and Gilham, have provided the inspiration that has kept the team together.

## Boxing

The Novice, Individual and Inter Company Team Championships were held on January 13, 14 and 15, 1964, at the Garrison Gymnasium. The courage and determination shown were very high, particularly by "Paddy Contingent" from "C" Company. For novice boxing the standard was of good quality, there being much energetic, clean boxing.

The result of the Inter Company Competition was:—

1st "C" Company	26 Points
2nd "A" Company	16 Points
3rd "H.Q." Company	8 Points

Individual results were:—

## Bantamweight

Pte. Kelly "A" Coy. beat Pte. Maguire "A" Coy. on points.

## Featherweight

Pte. Ward "A" Coy. beat Pte. O'Reilly "C" Coy. on points.

## Lightweight

Pte. O'Neill "H.Q." Coy. beat Pte. Russell "A" Coy. on points.

## Welterweight

Pte. Hayward "C" Coy. beat Pte. Quilter "C" Coy. on points.

## Light Middleweight

Pte. Tydeman "C" Coy. beat Pte. Waters "H.Q." Coy. Fight stopped 1st round.

## Middleweight

Pte. Childs "C" Coy. beat Pte. Piper "C" Coy. on points.

## Light Heavyweight

Pte. Wells "C" Coy. beat Pte. Hossack "H.Q." Coy. on points.

## Heavyweight

L/Cpl. Blackburn "A" Coy. beat Pte. Blackman "A" Coy. on points.

Sgt. O'Rawe (1960 Army Middleweight Champion) and Cpl. Rogers (1952 G.B. A.B.A. Welterweight Champion) gave a very fine exhibition bout and were

given a loud ovation at the end of their four round bout.

Pte. Heale (Battalion Champion for last three years) fought a special Bantamweight Contest with Spr. Napier of 1 Fortress Squadron R.E. After a very close fight Napier took the points verdict.

Two non-finalist prizes were awarded. Pte. Russell received his for being the most polished novice boxer and Pte. Cunningham for his fine display of courage and determination.

The Command Minor Units Novice Team Championships were held on February 3, 4 and 5, 1964, at the Garrison Gymnasium.

Seven teams entered the competition, the "Die-Hards" getting the first and third places. Team placings were:—

1st Rifle Coy. 1MX	20 Points
2nd 1 Fortress Sqd. R.E.	18 Points
3rd H.Q. Coy. 1MX	9 Points
4th R.A.F. Tech. "B"	3 Points.
5th Admin. Wing R.A.F.	2 Points
6th { H.M.S. Rooke	1 Point
{ R.A.F. Tech. "A"	1 Point

The individual results were as follows:—

## Bantamweight

McGaig 1 Fort. Squad. R.E. beat Chapman R.A.F. Admin. Wing on points.

## Featherweight

Ward Rifle Coy. 1MX. beat Roberts 1 Fort. Sqd. R.E. on points.

## Lightweight

O'Neill Rifle Coy. 1MX beat Maddocks 1 Fort. Sqd. R.E. on points.

## Light Welterweight

Constant Rifle Coy. 1MX. beat Morgan 1 Fort. Sqd. R.E. by W.O.

## Welterweight

Rodgers 1 Fort. Sqd. R.E. beat Clements Rifle Coy. 1MX. Fight stopped 1st round.

## Light Middleweight

Tydemann Rifle Coy. 1MX beat Waters H.Q. Coy. 1MX. Fight stopped 1st round.

## Middleweight

Webb H.Q. Coy. 1MX. beat Conner R.A.F. Tech. "B" on points.

## Light Heavyweight

May H.Q. Coy. 1MX beat McLean 1 Fort. Sqd. R.E. Fight stopped.

## Heavyweight

Gibson Rifle Coy. 1MX beat Stewart 1 Fort. Sqd. R.E. Fight Stopped.

The Finals Contest was excellent; the Rifle Coy. won five of the nine bouts fought. It was a very close victory for the Rifle Coy. as many of the decisions had very narrow margins.

A "Die-Hard" received a well deserved best losers prize. His name: Pte. Kelly of "C" Company. Well done!

The Command Individual and Team Open Championships will be held on March 4, 5 and 6. (Too late to give details of the results in these notes) and we look forward to plenty of bouts with successful results.

In conclusion, all participants in the Novices Competition are heartily congratulated for keeping the Regiment's sporting traditions in the front rank.

## Basketball

Hot from the Battalion's successes in the U.K. Army Championships, we arrived on the Rock to do business in a sport which takes an important place in recreation on the Rock. This we have done, but it is to be regretted that due to the absence of other major units here, only a minor units' league is possible. In this we have done justice, and at present, hold first and second places in this league with our two teams—"H.Q." Company and Rifle Company. Sadly, it will never be possible to field a Battalion team whilst we are here in Gibraltar, and this just at a time when interest and enthusiasm for the Battalion team were at a high peak.

At present "H.Q." Company team lead the league and appear to be unbeatable on the Rock (they remain unbeaten to date after nine games). This team is made up in the main by those members who played so successfully for the Battalion team in 1962/63—Sgt. Torrie, Cpl. French, L/Cpl. Harris and Cpl. Clarke. Their one new and invaluable acquisition (following in the traditional footsteps of C.S.M.I. Issitt, is the Battalion P.T.I., C.S.M.I. Meadows). Nevertheless, if this unbroken success is to carry on into the next season, they will have to look for new and younger talent.

Our second team in the Battalion is that of the Rifle Company. Despite the fact that its members change as the Companies change in Tobruk, they have had a highly successful season. At the time of writing, when half the season is completed, they are in second place in the Rock league, although hotly challenged for this position. Much in evidence in the first half of the season has been Sgt. Young, who, sadly, will not be with them for the second half.

As soon as he returned from Tobruk, L/Cpl. Peak showed his speed on the court and has been an invaluable pillar and an asset to the team scoring strength. Going from strength to strength to replace the irreplaceable "Cheese," is 2/Lt. Montgomery, who is learning the game fast and should be a useful asset in coming seasons.

Once the league is completed, a Services' Knock-Out Competition will be held. In this we can reasonably expect to provide the majority of the Army Team.

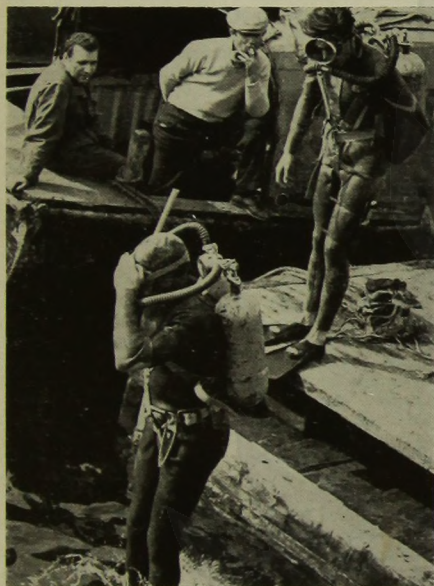
Climax of the season, if it can be organised in time, will be a Rock team visiting Morocco to play local teams there. Altogether, this should provide a vigorous and enjoyable season for the large numbers of the Battalion who now play this game.

## Sub Aqua Club

A cluster of oddly-clad figures on the quayside bustle among an organised shambles of extraordinary gadgets which are heaped at their feet. The afternoon sun is hot, their skin tingles under their clinging rubber suits and



their faces register an undeclared apprehension, for the sea beside them may look calm but it is dark and deep. The divers split into pairs and a series of sinister cylinders are strapped on bending backs. "On masks," worried expressions disappear beneath a hood of straps and buckles and reappear, peering, with noses pressed white against the glass. "On gas," shaking hands fumble at screws which hiss and wheeze. "Step forward," flippers flapping and hands groping, they shuffle towards the edge like penguins, unseeing through the steam they have breathed onto their face pieces. "Step off," legs fly, arms flail, splash! A flurry of spray, a cauldron of bubbles, and they are gone.



"GOOD-BYE CRUEL WORLD"

L/Cpl. Stewart goes off the quay watched by Pte. Weedon

Skin diving is not just a sport, it is an adventure. In one short jump, a diver enters a world quite divorced from the one with which he is familiar. Someone trying it for the first time always expresses astonishment on his return to land. The Battalion is fortunate in having the use of nine good aqualungs provided by the Nuffield Trust as well as face masks, flippers, rubber suits and spear guns. Gibraltar is ideal for this sport. The water is always clear and often calm and the shore is mostly rocky and inhabited by abundant fish.

This season we were able to continue diving until the end of November. We were accused of being soft when we gave up then, but our critics were those who haven't tried swimming 50 ft. below the surface.

For the most part we have been feeling our way until now and have not tried any ambitious diving. Within a week of starting in August, there were 66 names on the waiting list to "have a go" of which only two had actually dived before. Pte Weedon found himself promoted instructor immediately and it is largely due to his efforts that the aqualungs kept going. The majority of his pupils, however, having had a go, never returned for any more which is puzzling.

Most dives were undertaken in the harbour near the Army and Navy Yacht Club. There the water is always calm and warm, and there is an even depth of between 15 and 20 feet. With all the aqualungs in use there is enough air to give six beginners and two instructors about three-quarters-of-an-hour each. Everyone begins by spending a few minutes on the surface growing accustomed to breathing through a rubber tube and practising ducking without holding their breath. Then they climb slowly down a rope anchored to a buoy on the surface and a ring bolt at the bottom. By doing this a learner can grow used to the strange underwater world and practise "popping" his ears without all the fluster of keeping himself balanced. The trip down the rope to the bottom is a very long 15 feet and is usually interrupted by frantic returns to the surface with throbbing ears, water in the mask or water in the tubes. Finally though, teething troubles are overcome, bottom is made, and the harbour bed is open for inspection. Colour Sergeants would do well to take up this sport as the harbour bed yields an infinite variety of "buckshees." L/Cpl. Maloney, having triumphantly reached the bottom for the first time, unexpectedly came face to face with his first sardine. His eyes popped out of his head with such force that the glass fell out of his mask—an unnerving experience for the most experienced diver. Pte. Clifford remained manfully at the bottom for several moments before rushing for the surface, lungs bursting. It was discovered, of course, that his attendant had given him an empty aqualung. "I thought something wasn't quite right," was his unworried remark.

One sunny October Sunday ten divers boarded a launch in the harbour and sailed for the Costa del Sol. Pte. Weedon had befriended the skipper, "Ginger," who agreed to take us out for the day. The ten included Lt. Monypenny, 2/Lt. Searle, Ptes. Weedon, Stewart and Piper, Cfn. Houghton and Dmrs. Kendall, Ranger, Broadbent and Furlotte. These ten, by their diligence and determination in the harbour, had been accorded the coveted name of "Roughie—Toughie" and were now allowed to dive in pairs without an instructor diving with them. We sailed round the Rock in the wake of the Catalan fishing fleet and travelled about ten miles up the Costa del Sol. I don't think Pte. Piper enjoyed the trip very much and certainly lost his appetite for his packed lunch. However, once we were under the lee of the shore he brightened up again. On this day we achieved our record of having six people diving at one time. On the way back, Dmr. Ranger took over the wheel. Although the sea is large and Gibraltar is small, he found great difficulty in avoiding the Rock.

At the time of writing it is too cold to swim and our attention is directed to preparing the kit for the new

season. There is a large wreck that lies just outside the harbour wall and I have a feeling that the reportedly enormous fish which live in it are going to have their privacy invaded before long.

#### Sailing

There can be few places in the world where sailing is so readily available and cheap as in Gibraltar. The Army and Navy Yacht Club is not far from the barracks, well appointed in boats and bar, and costs a soldier only 30s. a year.

It is unfortunate that there are more recreational facilities here than people who wish to enjoy them. Hence not many of the Battalion have yet taken to the boats. However, when the speedboat engine fails for good, the aqualungs frighten away the divers and the canoes break up, more people will surely come to appreciate the safety and peacefulness of sailing.

The club possesses six Albacores, with four more to come shortly, three Victorias and three R.N.S.A. dinghies—quite enough variety to suit anyone's taste in sailing. Towards the end of last summer, Cpl. Flynn, L/Cpl. Stewart and Pte. Piper bravely started off in tricky winds. It wasn't only the sails that were flapping.

The coming season is full of promise, with plenty of racing, including races in Tangier, and very good opportunities for beginners. If half the people who sit on the beach watching the sails and wishing they were under them did something to realise their wishes, we should have a much more thriving club. It's not difficult, expensive or dangerous, but it is enormous fun.

#### Road Racing

The road-racing season of the Gibraltar A.A.A. opened with a race on October 26. Training and fielding a team presents a certain amount of difficulty due to the rather heavy duties and one Company being in Tobruk.

To date, there have been a total of five races and at present the league positions are:

Middlesex "A" Team	3rd (22 points)
Middlesex "B" Team	6th (4 points)

Future events are a league relay race and the Command and Gibraltar A.A.A. "Round the Rock" race, both of which are calculated to be very testing.

Team members include Lt. Hubert, Cpl. Foley, Cpl. O'Riordan, Pte. Whyte, Pte. Hannaford, Pte. Gilham, Pte. Daly (400), Pte. Hayes, Pte. O'Reilly, Pte. Maguire, Pte. Tofts and Pte. Munnis.

#### Rock Climbing and Potholing

There is a fabulous range for both rock climbing and potholing on "The Rock." By potholing, I should say caving, as there is little in the way of the tight squeezes that are usually associated with potholing.

There are about 17,000 feet of recognised climbs on "The Rock," each having its own characteristics that makes them a delight to climb time and time again.

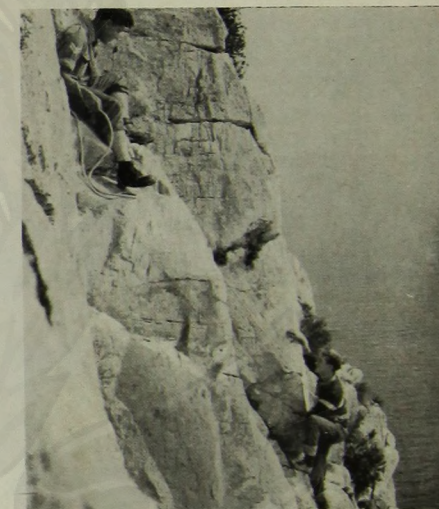
There is a disused war-time building within easy reach of all the climbing faces which has been converted into sleeping accommodation, with electricity laid on, where climbers can stay if they wish.

Three courses of a week's duration have been run by S.A.C. Marsden of the R.A.F. to teach rock climbing. Of those that attended these courses, Sgt. Da Costa, Cpl. Dowsett and L/Cpl. Lambourne passed at a grade sufficient for them to be granted permits to climb in Gibraltar without supervision.

Four climbers, Sgt. Lloyd, Cpl. Dowsett and Ptes. Calloway and Harris (32), recently took part in an expedition to the High Atlas Mountains, of which there is a complete story elsewhere in this issue.

It is unfortunate that with all the facilities available more soldiers cannot be initiated into the joys of hanging from dizzy heights by their finger-tips (or in some cases, teeth, chin, and stomach as well).

Of course, if heights worry you, you can also find out if you also suffer from claustrophobia by crawling down one of our caves. We have all types—dirty ones, filthy



Cpl. (Sonny) Dowsett and L/Cpl. (Larry) Lambourne, both of "H.Q." Company, climbing on Upper Rock "H.Q."

ones, wet ones, an oily one, and caves that will test both your vertigo and claustrophobia potentialities (ask Sgt. Briggs).

Lower St. Michael's Cave is by far the best attraction. This is a cave complete with stalactites, stalacmites, bottomless pit and lake and it is some 250 yards long. It takes about two hours to see it properly.

Sgt. Da Costa at the moment holds the Chief Mole position, having included in his list two caves which Cpl. Dowsett has not visited.

The one thing that we are waiting for is the day that we find an uncharted cave.

Sgt. Da Costa and Cpl. Dowsett are authorised guides to Lower St. Michael's Cave and they are willing to take parties around whenever required to do so.



# The Anti-Atlas Mountain Climbing Expedition—Morocco

January 1964

By Sgt. K. H. Lloyd

Four members of the Regiment combined forces with four members of the Royal Air Force stationed at R.A.F. North Front Gibraltar for an expedition to the High Atlas Mountains. In preparation, climbing courses were held for the Battalion by S.A.C. Marsden, R.A.F., who is a very experienced climber with a good knowledge of conditions in Morocco. The Middlesex team consisted of Cpl. "Sonny" Dowsett, Pte. "Mouse" Calloway and Pte. "Harry" Harris. I accompanied the team as photographer and to help drive the "Safari" Landrover which was part of the Nuffield Trust equipment on charge to the Battalion. The R.A.F. team consisted of Cpl. P. Clegg, S.A.C. K. Chaplin, S.A.C. A. Marsden, and Flt. Lt. A. Pye was in charge of the combined party.

We left Gibraltar for Tangier on January 11 by the

ferry boat *Mons Calpe* and, after landing in Tangier at midday, we headed south for a leisurely two-day drive. We were diverted south of Larache by a flooded road but, although this added a few miles to our route, and meant that we had to use minor roads, it was worth while because we saw the little mud and rush huts of the hamlets; and the life led by the small family groups of Arabs who harness a camel and mule for ploughing. The young boys spend all their time minding the flocks and the girls carry the water pitchers from the wells.

On January 12 we arrived at Imlil, which is a Berber village in the foothills of the High Atlas Mountains. The sole purpose of this village seems to be the provision of mules and porters for the French Alpine Club's huts in which we stayed. Unfortunately, the snow was soft and had come so low down that the use of mules was



THE CLIMBING TEAM AT TANGIERS BEFORE RETURNING TO GIBRALTAR

Back row (left to right): S.A.C. Ken Chaplin, R.A.F., Cpl. Sonny Dowsett, S.A.C. Tony Marsden, R.A.F., Pte. Harry Harris. Front row (left to right): Flt. Lt. Arthur Pye, R.A.F., Pte. Mouse Calloway, Cpl. Paul Clegg, Sgt. K. Lloyd

impossible, and even the porters refused to go up with heavy loads to the Neltner Hut which was 10 miles and some 3,000 feet further up. During the 13th we walked approximately six miles up to the snow-line to examine conditions for ourselves. As the villagers had forecast, we sank up to our thighs in the soft snow, so we descended via Chamarouche, a small village, which is marked only by two small huts and is used locally for honeymooning.

On January 14 we left Imlil and headed south towards the Anti-Atlas where there appeared to be a chance of some decent climbing in the Lkest Range. The first obstacle was the "Tizi-N'Test," a pass at 6,725 feet which the map identified as being threatened by snow in winter months. The ploughs were clearing the roads when we drove through and what little snow remained was soft and slushy. We went on to Taroudant, through its gateway in the crenellated wall which surrounded the town, and found that it is a very attractive, completely Arab town, built of mud and red sandstone, the buildings of which are square and flat-roofed.

The next morning we went back to sample their mint tea and for myself to take some photographs of the local Berbers. This is a difficult matter because they are not fond of being considered "tourist attractions." The elder Berbers think that, once you have their image on paper, you hold a power over them and for that reason turn their backs on the camera.

We travelled further south and chose the inland route, driving all day through a fantastic landscape of strange peaks of granite, sandstone and slate rising above the lava fields of extinct volcanos. Each area is grouped into a fort with a group of villages of square adobe houses limed in white. The inhabitants quickly pushed their women out of the sight of my camera then disappeared themselves. After camping the night we started off on the 16th and drove into Tafroute, where we dispatched a few postcards and drove on again. Whilst all the country had been impressive, there had been no good ground for climbing. It must be remembered that we had come to climb mountains—not isolated crags that could be found more easily in Gibraltar or Southern Spain.

We then entered into a sandstone area of the finest chaos. Every jagged freak of shape that wind and rain can impose upon this gritty rock was demonstrated. Suddenly, we arrived in an open space, green with palm and argon trees in the centre of which was a giant tower of rock 300 feet high and dominated the village at its base. It looked very bleak and challenging.

Three miles outside the town the hills were of a form of granite. They were nearly 8,000 feet high and took on a more mountainous appearance. We camped in a small oasis of palms near a stream which was only 10 minutes' drive from the mountain selected for our climb the next day. On Friday, January 17, we parked the "Safari" Land-Rover in a nearby village and divided into two parties. Flt. Lt. Pye and myself headed toward the gully with the idea of taking the easier route so that we could photograph the other party coming up the hard way. The remainder of our expedition headed as straight up the hillside as the scrawny terracing would

allow. At some stages they had to rope up and climb singly until the gradient eased. After 600 feet they reached the top of the ridge, but only two hours of daylight remained, and the summit of the final tower required longer time than this. The party then divided, with the R.A.F. members staying on the ridge for the night and the Army members descending back to the vehicle. Unfortunately, Flt. Lt. Pye and I had reached this same ridge much earlier, and, as we could not see the second party, had descended to reach the Land-Rover before dark.

The morning of Saturday, January 18, was warm and sunny. After breakfasting at 1100 hours the heroes were picked up. Apparently the ledge they had to sleep on



The Oasis of Palms in which the expedition camped on January 16—only 10 minutes from the mountain they selected to climb

was cold and they had kept a fire going till about 0300 hours. It was unfortunate that after all this the summit was not reached. S.A.C. Marsden told me: "We could have traversed underneath the slabs and made the summit by an easier route in time, but this would be a sorry second best."

On Sunday we climbed the sandstone pillar at Tafrabut and we were all successful. In the afternoon we drove to Tiznit, over the tight curls of the Col de Kerdous, and on to the ruined city of Agadir. The roads were good and we arrived at 1715 hours. No tall buildings remain after the earthquake, and what little still stands has a depressing air about it.



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At 0730 hours Monday morning, Flt. Lt. Pye and I were up before anyone else, so we had a swim. It was a wonderful start to the day. We drove off at about 1130 hours and covered nearly 400 miles in nine hours on the 20th despite a stop for coffee and to photograph some goats grazing amid the argon trees. Just north of El Jadida we found a good camp site in the sand dunes. The next day we pushed on to Casablanca where the morning was spent sightseeing.

We then drove to Tangier so as to spend the last night at a youth hostel and have a clean up. It was not to be, because there was a "closed" sign on the door for all to see and we were compelled to spend a very windy night camping on the beach. The next morning was used for sightseeing before boarding the *Mons Calpe* for our return to Gibraltar.

As adventure training or expedition training it was not a success because of the soft snow in the High Atlas. However, we wanted to see another country, to use S.A.C. Marsden's climbing experience, and to take photographs—this we did.

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## 5th Battalion (T.A.) Notes

Training during the last six months has been very much in the hands of companies, who in addition to more than usually interesting weekends notably in North Wales and rural Sussex. On the Battalion level there have been weekends for officers, for warrant officers and senior N.C.O.s and for junior N.C.O.s. These achieved the double distinctions so dear to our territorial hearts, of being both instructive and enjoyable. A number of officers attended the divisional study period in January and a very well run and enjoyable Brigade study in February.

A full round of social activities was enjoyed at Christmas by most of the Battalion. Our training officer, Major John George spent Christmas packing and flew off to British Guiana on the day after Boxing day. We wish him and Mrs. George a happy stay in the Caribbean.

In January, Major Geoff Norton arrived as training officer from a tour with the Nigerian armed forces. During his tour he was in the Congo for a considerable time. We look forward to finishing our Battalion exercises in future with the arrival of a UN truce commission, rather than the conventional grand assault. We welcome both Major Norton and Mrs. Norton and wish them a happy and memorable tour.

### "A" COMPANY

During the period from September to December, 1963 "A" Company has suffered the loss of their Sergeant-Major to the T.A. Reserve. C.S.M. Stack will be missed, for he was always active in company affairs. Another departure was that of Lt. Jim Walker who, apart from commanding Support Platoon, also wrote the detailed "A" Company notes of the last edition. This latter loss is only too acutely felt by the writer at this time.

We have, however, been pleased to welcome Lt. Martin Brown who has come to us from Birmingham O.T.C. It has been whispered in the bar after parade that, what with Lt. Brown, Lt. "Jock" Smith and Pte. Fraser, A.C.C. attached to "A" Company and the possibility of another new officer from Nottingham, "A" Company is the subject of a takeover bid from the north.

The company's parade on Remembrance Day was very well attended and many guests present in the church for the service, were afterwards received at the Drill Hall, Priory Road. We were particularly pleased to welcome Lady Gamman, M.P. for Hornsey, the Mayor and Mayoress of Hornsey and the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress.

During this period there have been a number of social functions. The dance in October was organised by a committee led by C.S.M. Stack and was a great success. On November 30, a joint evening was held with the

O.C.A. to officially open the new bar. This was very well attended and the bar was duly launched with plenty of good cheer.

The Company has been very active on the training side with three field firing weekends—the one on September 1 being noted for its appalling weather, but even this had the effect of testing to the full the new "pup" tents purchased by the Company. Fortunately we bought well.

Certain members of the company had an enjoyable weekend at Poole with the Royal Marines, this having been organised by Battalion H.Q. A number of other successful training weekends were organised during the period.

Recruiting has been progressing steadily during the last few months. The recruiting team is led by Lt. Jock Smith and Sgt. Graham and they have been out and about at every possible opportunity including a week at the Odeon, Highgate during the showing of "The Longest Day." Also a recruiting dance was held on November 2 which was well attended and a great success. The total of recruits during the period was 15.

### "B" COMPANY

A progressive and successful 1963 was crowned by a Company weekend exercise in Wales. On a Friday evening in late September over 50 members of "B" Company and 12 members of "D" Company, who were to act as enemy, embussed at the Drill Hall for what was the most ambitious weekend ever undertaken by the company.

Nearly eight hours later the travel-weary party arrived at Trevor in North Wales where they were welcomed by the advance party with hot soup and a ready made camp. Despite the fact that reveille was set for 0900 hours to facilitate recovery from the journey the enthusiastic territorials were all up at 0700 hours. The Saturday morning consisted of briefings for the exercise and Platoon rehearsals. At approximately 1200 hours the company organised into two rifle platoons with a Company H.Q. embarked at Trevor harbour in four hired motor boats.

Maintaining radio contact throughout the "voyage" the "fleet" sailed about seven miles to undertake a beach landing against positions defended by "D" Company. Eventually a beach-head was established by No. 4 Platoon and Company H.Q. and No. 5 Platoon were able to disembark. After the landing the company slowly fought their way up a valley against a fiercely resistant "D" Company until eventually the enemy was routed at about 1800 hours. After this a social evening was held at a local hostelry and the next morning Lt. Margand organised some hair-raising mountaineering instruction in the "Welsh Alps." This was undoubtedly the most interesting and successful weekend we have had



and thanks are due to "D" Company for their assistance.

The first in a programme of improvements to the drill hall was completed in January when the new bar, christened the "Albuhera Bar" was finished. Designed and built by Lt. Jones the bar is a credit to any drinking establishment and does much to improve the facilities at Ealing.

Shortly after the completion of the bar the annual dinner/dance was held and a record 120 attended this year. This event which has now become a feature of our social year was an even greater success than in previous years.

In conclusion congratulations to C/Sgt. Hawes and Sgt. Foster on their well deserved promotions. In their new appointments it is hoped that they will contribute to what augurs to be an even better year for "B" Company.

### "C" COMPANY

We started the period under review at the local cinema when the showing of the film "The Longest Day" provided us with the background for a display in the foyer of weapons and equipment. "Miss Enfield 1963" made a somewhat incongruous personal appearance on the opening evening, but the parade we had laid on was well received by the public and altogether we got some useful publicity.

A week or so afterwards, about a dozen of us had the opportunity to sample for ourselves something of the atmosphere of a seaborne landing when a party from the Battalion paid a weekend visit to the Royal Marines Amphibious Training Unit at Poole Harbour. After some basic shore instructions on how to get in and out of assault boats in one piece we were duly packed into two L.C.A.s and put to sea to practise landings some five or six miles away. These were accomplished without too much of a wetting and that evening we set out again to carry out a tactical night landing. This was performed most realistically and with the minimum of noise and fuss. Unfortunately the return journey did not go according to plan due to engine trouble which involved transferring the occupants of one craft to another at sea in the dark. Surprisingly enough, no one got a ducking.

The following morning we experimented with the R.M. equivalent of dodgems—six-seater rubber dinghies powered by 40-h.p. outboard motors. Despite the efforts of Cpl. Drage at the tiller no one got drowned.

The spirit of adventure prompted a party of some 20 of us to set out from Euston on Friday evening in mid-September to attempt the ascent of Snowdon. We arrived in North Wales in the not so small hours of a perfect autumn morning to find Sgt. Pritchard waiting behind the wheel of the 3-tonner. After an hour's drive largely along tortuous tracks we reached the bivvy area recced by Lt. Thomas, where we gratefully crept into sleeping bags.

In the morning in warm sunshine we trekked off across the foothills and after a couple of hours of plodding and scrambling we reached Snowdon itself. At this point Lt. Thomas's enthusiasm ran amok and just one hour later we found ourselves 800 ft. up the mountain having travelled less than 300 yards nearer the summit. After

this exertion we were glad to join the Miners track for a fairly gradual ascent before the final 1,000 ft. slog up to the peak itself.

Cpl. Yates and his mortar men were hot on the heels of Capt. Hume's party in getting to the top and Pte. Symonds celebrated one of his first T.A. weekends by reaching the summit.

It was altogether a most memorable weekend, particularly as the sun seemed determined to shine full blast from the word go.

We attended the Enfield Remembrance parade again this year and this event seems to have taken on a new lease of life. We feel justified in saying that this is in no small degree due to the support the Company has given it during the last two years. Once again the Mayor attended a gathering afterwards in the Drill Hall of those who had taken part in the parade.

A most lively dance took place in the Drill Hall on Bounty Night and the antics of the group were equalled only by those of Cpl. Brunton and L/Cpl. Cox. They really should learn to play the guitar. Bell and Parker did sterling work behind the bar and it was all a great success.

February saw the departure of our P.S.I., Sgt. Pritchard, at the completion of 18 months with the Company. He came to us with a reputation of having been an M.T. and Signals instructor and, whilst we have seen him performing both these functions, he seems to have been able to turn his hand to almost anything. We shall particularly remember his excellent bivouac barbecues. Our thanks and best wishes go with him and we welcome his successor, Sgt. Langford.

Looking back over the last few months we don't seem to have come out on top in any of the inter-company competitions and this in no way reflects the tremendous amount of effort put in by members of the Company. It would perhaps be fitting to mention in closing that, of the first 13 placings in the Corby Cup Competition 1962/3, no less than six went to "C" Company personnel, namely to Cpls. Drage and Yates, L/Cpls. Strange and Cox, and Ptes. Stacey and Waight.

### "D" COMPANY

Subversive activities in Africa, Cyprus and S.E. Asia have increased speculation within the Company as to possible mobilisation of the "Ever Readies" or even the T.A. as a whole, but so far the Regular Army has proved so elastic that all its commitments have been met. This threat has, however, provided an incentive for training, and the variety of exercises in recent months gives us confidence that we will be ready for any role that may be assigned to us.

In August we fought a battle against The Royal Sussex Regiment. This was a patrol exercise and our own base camp was astride a river in densely-wooded country. Torrential rain proved to us that England can simulate tropical conditions but despite a soaking all who participated enjoyed the experience and are resolved to battle with other units in the future.

This exercise was followed by an assault-boat training weekend on Hawley Lake near Aldershot where small heavily-armed groups were landed by night for realistic

fighting patrols. So intense was the fighting that "H.Q." Company camping five miles away thought they were being attacked.

At the end of September two officers of the Company joined the "pilgrimage" to Albuhera and returned triumphantly with a cannon ball which was used in the battle. Their return coincided with the Middlesex Tough Training Competition in which we were the only Company representing the Battalion and, although they were unsuccessful in their bid to retain the trophy, the team of 12 included many young soldiers. Their spirit during the competition augurs well for the future of the Company.

Other training highlights have been the "Escape and Evasion" Exercise in Sussex which was organised by 1st Battalion the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.). In addition to providing three teams the Company assisted as a defensive force and, in fact, were primarily responsible for the prevention of any teams reaching their destinations. Exercise "Get Lost" was a resounding success in January and, although some found the use of a prismatic compass a mystery, none of the teams of private soldiers was lost permanently. Congratulations to Pte. Stanford who won this competition.

Social functions have played their usual important part in the life of the Company and the bounty dance and dinner were their usual success and, in addition, enjoyable curry and cocktail parties have been held. Here, we must pay tribute to C.Q.M.S. Henry Rae, Pte. Charlie Mason and the Social Committee whose efforts have made our socials so enjoyable. A new feature has been the introduction of combined socials with the local police and it is hoped that the goodwill established will cast a favourable light over the extra social activities of the Company. Thanks to the efforts of Lt. Don Jones of "B" Company and his team of workmen the setting for our socials has been greatly improved and we now feel we have one of the best club bars in Middlesex. We were particularly pleased that Col. Brotherton was able to formally open the new bar on the night of the annual dinner.

Since our last notes we have welcomed Ptes. Sharples, Nightingale and McCarthy and No. 10 Platoon are pleased to have Lt. Holroyd of the Royal Leicesters as their platoon commander whilst on attachment to the company.

One notable departure has been that of Pte. Scoates who sailed for Australia in January. Scoates had quickly made his presence felt and we were sorry to see him go. However, several of the Company gave him a true British farewell at Southampton complete with Beate wigs, bowlers and rolled umbrellas.

Lt. Hamilton, who is training to be a sports producer for B.B.C.2, used several members of the Company for a basketball film and a top-class national coach instilled great enthusiasm among those who took part. We are now convinced that we will become the Hounslow Globe Trotters and look forward to the inter-company competition.

Finally, we note that despite the intensity of T.A. activities three members of the Company at least have

found time for activities in other spheres and this year will see the marriages of Capt. Couch, Lt. McMaster and Cpl. Malcolm Hart. We wish them success in their various endeavours and place on record their assurances that this will in no way affect their T.A. attendances.

### SERGEANTS' MESS

Our heartiest congratulations go out to Sgt. Collins on his marriage in September. We are glad to see that he is not yet under the thumb. We congratulate Sgt. Green on his promotion to C/Sgt. (M.T.) and Sgts. Stone, Foster and Godleman on their promotions and welcome them into the Mess.

In September we commenced holding monthly social evenings on the last Friday of each month. These have proved very successful with a very good response from members, in spite of the fact that we are so wide-spread throughout the county. In addition to our own members a considerable number of ex-W.O.s and Sgts. have appeared on these evenings.

The Christmas Draw and dance was held on Friday, December 13. A very enjoyable evening was had by all attending although the R.S.M. disappointed most members by not winning the Christmas Pudding, as his predecessor had done in the past two years.

We regret that Bandmaster Firth, Sgts. Guiver, McKerron and Barton have had to leave us due to their business commitments. Our best wishes go with C/Sgt. Salter on his posting to Brigade H.Q.

After his appearance before television cameras, we hear that Sgt. "Whipper" Sills is after a contract with I.T.V., if they have any cameras left.

Finally we must welcome Sgt. Langford who is just commencing his tour as P.S.I. and bid farewell to Sgt. Pritchard who has served the Unit and the Mess so well over the last two years.

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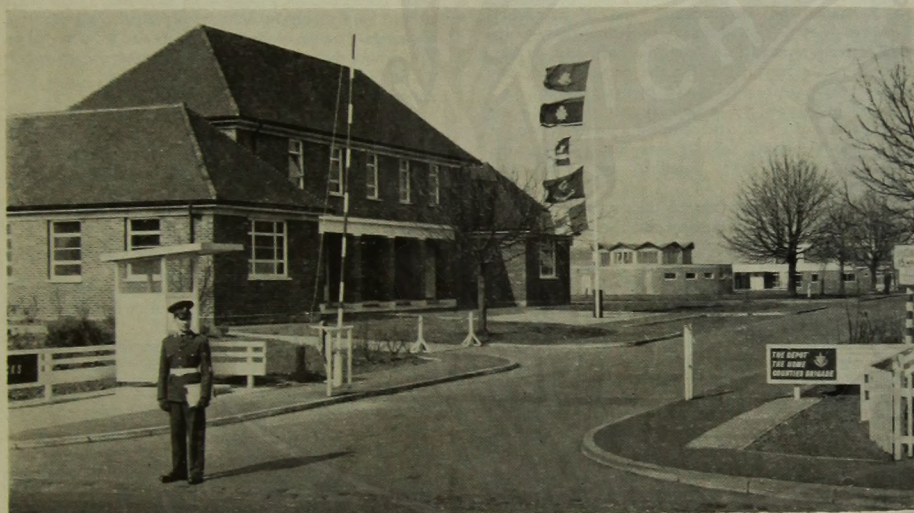
## HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE DEPOT

By the time that these notes are published we will, at last, have moved into our new and final home in Howe Barracks—"up the hill."

Anybody who has had anything at all to do with the Depot side of the rebuilding of Howe Barracks will realise the tremendous significance of "the move." From the start in early 1961, when the barracks was vacated by Depot, The Buffs, the rebuilding work has been attended by formidable difficulties and setbacks. This is not the place to dwell on such matters,

manent home for the Brigade and a training establishment for our young soldiers of tomorrow.

The main accommodation for trainees is in an impressive Sandhurst block (Hore Belisha era) which has been modernised and enlarged to take a total of 240 soldiers. The very modern cookhouse and dining hall are on the ground floor and the whole building is completely centrally heated—as is the rest of the barracks! Pessimists are already asking what is going to happen when the Quartermaster (Major Frank Waldron) cuts



Photograph: Kentish Gazette

**Howe Barracks, 1964**  
*The H.Q. Office Block and Entrance*

but it is worth while recording that everything has not gone as it should have done.

The official opening of the new barracks will not be before spring 1965 in order to allow many final works services and much external work and settling-in to be completed.

Nevertheless, in spite of all the drawbacks and difficulties our new home will make a tremendous improvement to everybody's comfort and well-being. Wemyss and Old Infantry Barracks have been a most uncomfortable and depressing place for a training establishment; perhaps a few will have happy memories of their time there, but, if so, they are keeping very quiet.

Our new Depot with its open green playing fields and modern buildings has a pleasant aspect and situation which are more in keeping with its function as a per-

off the heating at the official end of a late winter or when summer ends too early for the financial watchdogs. However, everybody will get the same treatment as there is only one central boiler-house for the whole barracks. Col. Norman Clayden optimistically hopes to connect up his cold and draughty married quarter to the underground steam pipes by next winter!

Accommodation generally seems very cramped after the rambling old barracks "down below," but I expect that we will settle in comfortably enough in a year or so. However, our numerous holdees (approximately 200 a month or two ago!), now that all four Regular Battalions are overseas, will be "out in the cold" down in Chaucer Barracks which we are re-occupying after some renovations in order to be able to evacuate Wemyss and Old Infantry Barracks completely. They will remain there

until regiments are up to strength and it is only necessary to train enough recruits to replace the wastage from regiments (196?). There should then be enough room for holdees in the main Sandhurst block. We might also have cut down the number of holdees to reasonable proportions by then!

The Junior Soldiers Company has a completely new modern block with (at the moment) such highly-polished and slippery floors that they may not be allowed to "bump" them! As we have more junior soldiers under training at the moment than our eventual long-term "ceiling," a number have to overflow into the Sandhurst block alongside, but separated from, the Training and Holding Company accommodation.

A number of visitors (of various ranks) have expressed total ignorance of the present "set-up" at the

up, and we are shortly to be joined by Col. and Mrs. Ian Battye.

Col. Battye is taking over from Col. Michael Jennings as Brigade Colonel with effect from April 1, 1964. Col. Jennings (ex-Queen's Surreys) has done a tremendous amount here to foster Brigade and inter-Regimental spirit in the most tactful way possible. He will be a great loss in directing Brigade affairs. We wish him and Mrs. Jennings every good fortune and hope to see them both at Canterbury whenever possible. At the same time we welcome Col. and Mrs. Ian Battye and are confident that they will, as always, look after us all as members of a large family and that Col. Ian will be a worthy successor in his new appointment.

Capt. Michael Deakin, who was instructing here before his attachment to A.A.C., paid us a flying visit



Photograph: J.C. and C.N.C. and Son

**Howe Barracks, 1964**  
*The Main Sandhurst Block*

Depot here at Canterbury so I have included a simple diagram which shows the organisation. The Brigade Depot was opened on April 1, 1960, in Wemyss Barracks; to mark this occasion the Brigade Council of Colonels has directed that, in future, we are to observe this day, "Depot Day," in the same way as a Regimental anniversary. We haven't yet decided whether there will be a holiday, but "All Fools' Day" seems a promising anniversary.

We, of course, welcome visitors at any time and hope that, now we are better situated and housed, many more will come. The Officers' and Sergeants' Messes are most comfortable and have plenty of room and the newly-built Junior Ranks' Club is first-class.

There is a strong Regimental contingent here to look

by helicopter before Christmas. Our photographer took a quick photograph of him at the controls. He has now taken up an appointment as a flying instructor to the Malayan Air Force. Happy landings.

At a final parade on January 31, Drum-Major J. M. Lewis was presented with his "Roti gong" by the Brigade Colonel. It came as a surprise to some that he could muster so much service! His conduct has never been in doubt, though, and we all congratulate him heartily on a well-deserved award.

The winter games are not yet over but to date we have had a successful season.

Soccer. The Depot won the 44 (Home Counties) Division/District Minor Units Cup and at present are in the Eastern Command Minor Units semi-finals and



top of the East Kent Wednesday League Division II.

**Hockey.** We have recently won the District Minor Units Cup.

**Cricket.** Not a winter sport, but we didn't mention in the last notes that, to their considerable astonishment, the Junior Soldiers Company won the Junior Army Cricket Cup.

**Basketball.** We were runners-up in the District Major and Minor Units Competition.

**Cross-country.** We were also runners-up in the District Minor Units Team Competition.

In the musical world, Pte. Bradford, now with the Battalion, was awarded the 1963 Cassells Prize for Music at Kneller Hall. A fine achievement for a young soldier.

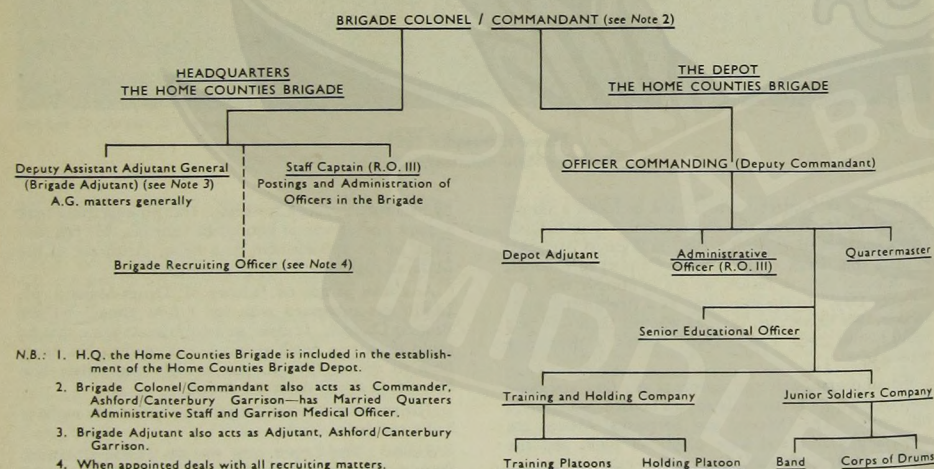
At the moment the annual administrative inspection is beginning to loom large over us and the next half-yearly postings meeting is due in early April; so the dusters are out and rumours are beginning to fly.

This seems a suitable moment to send our best wishes to "Die-Hards" the world over. Call in at Canterbury and see us when you have a chance.



Presentation of Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to D/Major J. Lewis by the Brigade Colonel, Colonel M. T. N. Jennings, on January 31st, 1964.

## DIAGRAM SHOWING OUTLINE ORGANISATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF HQ HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE AND HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE DEPOT CANTERBURY (See Note 1)



## OBITUARY

### Brigadier J. F. Charlesworth, O.B.E.

John Frankland Charlesworth, who died on September 20, 1963, at the age of 69, enlisted in the London Regt. (Queen Victoria's Rifles) on April 15, 1913, and served in France and Belgium with that unit from November 1914 until May 1915 when he returned to this country and was appointed to a T.A. commission in The Middlesex Regt.

The following year he obtained a regular commission and for two years served with the King's African Rifles.

On returning to the Regiment after the War he was posted to the 1st Battalion, then stationed at Gravesend, and remained with it until 1922, when he was appointed an instructor at the School of Signals. He held this appointment until 1924 when he became Adjutant of the School. In 1926 he transferred to the Royal Corps of Signals.

He served with distinction in India (North-West Frontier 1930 and 1931 and the Mohmand Expedition of 1933) and later Palestine.

During the 1939-45 War he served mainly as a Chief Signals Officer in the Middle East (Iraq), was mentioned in despatches and was awarded the O.B.E.

He retired in 1948 with the honorary rank of Brigadier. After his retirement he went to live at Taunton in Somerset where he was the Civil Defence Officer for many years.

### Lt.-Col. N. G. Gilbert

As reported briefly in the October, 1963, issue of "The Die-Hards," Norman Grant Gilbert died in Catterick Military Hospital on July 30, 1963.

He was commissioned into the Regiment from the R.M.C., Sandhurst, on February 4, 1926, and joined the 2nd Battalion at Ahmadnagar, India, the following month.

A keen sportsman he represented the Battalion during the next seven years in Athletics, Cricket, Hockey and Rugby.

After returning with the Battalion from Khartoum in 1931 it was not long before he was selected for a tour of duty at the Depot. Before, however, he had completed his tour he was, in October, 1933, seconded to the Royal West African Frontier Force. He was still so seconded at the outbreak of the 1939-45 War and, at the time, was commanding the 3rd Bn. Nigeria Regt. With this unit he served in Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Burma.

On returning to the United Kingdom after the war he became Second in Command of 1st Bn. Princess Louise's Kensington Regt., and, with that unit, moved to Greece in 1946 to supervise elections, later going to Germany to serve with our 1st Battalion until he returned to the United Kingdom in 1948. Then for a year he was employed at the War Office as a Lt.-Colonel on No. 2 War Crimes Board, until he retired on November 30, 1949.

On leaving the Service he returned once again to Africa in a civilian capacity and, for four years, was Director of Recruiting for a group of mines, and afterwards for the Gold Coast Chamber of Mines. Thereafter he became assistant secretary to the Prime Minister, Kwame Nkrumah, later working in other Ministries.

He returned to the United Kingdom in 1959 and got a Retired Officer's appointment at Headquarters, Northumbrian Area, where he was still employed at the time of his death.

He was married in 1943 and leaves a widow, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

Major E. L. Heywood represented the Regiment at his funeral which took place at Catterick Military Cemetery.

### Lt.-Col. L. F. Sloane-Stanley, O.B.E.

As reported briefly in the October 1963 issue of *The Die-Hards*, Lionel Francis ("Tod") Sloane-Stanley died in the General Hospital, Hereford, on September 18, aged 78.

The eldest of a Hampshire family of four, he was educated at Dulwich and Sandhurst, and was gazetted into the Regiment in January 1905. He joined the 4th Battalion, then stationed in Ireland, and later moved with it to Devonport.

At the outbreak of the 1914-18 War he went with the Battalion to France, landing at Boulogne on August 14, 1914. As M.G. Officer he was wounded and captured at Mons, being mentioned in despatches. Until 1918 he was a prisoner of war in Germany, spending the last few months as an internee in Holland.

After a period with the Repatriation Commission he rejoined the 4th Battalion in 1919, and served as A.D.C. to the Governor of Gibraltar, General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien, from 1919 to 1920.

In 1922 he was appointed Adjutant to the Herefordshire Regiment. From 1925 to 1926 he was in India with the 2nd Battalion and, after a few years at home with the 1st Battalion he went with it to Jerusalem in January 1932. During the final years of his Regular service he was in Cairo and Ismailia. He retired from the Regular Army in August 1935.

In November 1937 he became C.O. of the Herefordshire Regiment and was mobilised on the outbreak of war in 1939. He relinquished command in March 1940, on reaching the age limit, but two months later he enrolled in the L.D.V., later the Home Guard, and was appointed County Intelligence Officer. When the Home Guard was disbanded he was commanding the 4th Rural Battalion in Herefordshire.

He was awarded the O.B.E. in 1940 in recognition of his work in forming the 2nd Battalion The Herefordshire Regiment.

He was keen on most forms of outdoor sport, particularly fox and otter hunting, and was chairman of the Hawkstone Otter Hounds. He was a good shot, and for many years was chief range officer at Bisley. Among other activities he was president of the Herefordshire



County Rifle Association, a director of the Hereford Racecourse Company, a member of the Old Contemptibles Association and for 13 years after the 1939-45 War worked for S.S.A.F.A., where his services were highly valued.

Towards the end of his life he had four major operations and suffered great pain, which he bore with great fortitude in the true "Die-Hard" spirit and to the admiration of all with whom he came in contact in Hereford General Hospital.

He was a greatly-loved figure in Hereford, where he was known to everyone as "The Colonel."

At his funeral an Old Contemptible laid a wreath on his grave with the inscription "Serene in changeless prime of body and soul," for he never seemed to grow old and always retained his erect bearing.

#### Lt.-Col. F. C. G. Stratton, T.D.

Frank Stratton, who commanded the 9th Battalion for a period towards the end of the 1914-18 War, died in Kenya on September 18, 1963, aged 76.

He spent the earlier days of his life in London and was educated at St. Paul's School. On leaving school he applied for, and was granted, a commission in the 9th Battalion. At the same time he was articulated to a solicitor in London and practised there up to the 1914-18 War, on the outbreak of which he had become a Captain in the T.F.

He went overseas and served in India, and later Mesopotamia, with the 1/9th Battalion. At the end of the hot weather in 1918 he took over command of the Battalion from Lt.-Col. W. P. Hewett, who had been sent home on compassionate leave. He continued in command throughout the final operations in Mesopotamia when the Battalion was in the last battle at Sherghat.

After the Armistice with the Turks he returned to India, where he was demobilised, and joined Messrs. Orr and Dignum, a firm of solicitors in Calcutta. He remained with this firm until 1926 when he moved to Nairobi, Kenya, and formed the solicitor partnership of Delaney and Stratton. In 1938, after Mr. Delaney's retirement, he formed the partnership of Kaplan and Stratton, with whom he worked until he retired in 1956/57.

During the 1939-45 War he served in the Kenya Defence Force (the equivalent of the Home Guard) and commanded its 2nd Battalion from September 1941 to October 1942.

His first wife died in 1957 and he remarried in 1959. He leaves one daughter, Anthea, who is married to Major-General A. R. Fyler, C.B., O.B.E., the present Dir-

ector of Army Personnel Administration at the Ministry of Defence, and one son, Francis, until recently a Q.C. in Kenya, who is now a Colonial Magistrate in Hong Kong. To all his family we extend our deepest sympathy.

#### Major (Q.M.) R. T. Guscott, M.B.E.

Robert Thomas Guscott died on February 8, 1964, aged 75.

Bob, as he was affectionately known to so many of us, was born on November 10, 1888, and enlisted into the Regiment on his birthday in 1906.

He served with the 2nd Battalion at home until 1913 and then went to Malta when the Battalion started out on its overseas tour. This was cut short when war broke out in 1914, and the Battalion joined the B.E.F. in France in November of that year. By that time he had risen to the rank of Colour-Sergeant. He remained continuously on active service with the 2nd Battalion until Armistice Day 1918. For his services he was mentioned in despatches in January 1917 and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in 1919.

He rejoined the 2nd Battalion after the war and, in August 1919, he went to Egypt when the Battalion continued its overseas tour, which had been interrupted in 1914. He was posted for a tour of duty at the Depot in 1921 and, in 1923, he became R.S.M. at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall. There he remained until 1930.

On January 22, 1930, he was appointed to a commission as Lieutenant (Quartermaster) and in March of that year he was posted to the 2nd Battalion, then stationed at Madras. He returned to this country with the Battalion on completion of its overseas tour in the Sudan in December 1931, and remained with it until, in 1935, he was posted to the Depot on the death of Lt.-Col. (Q.M.) John English.

In October 1937 he was posted to the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong and, after the capture of the Colony by the Japanese in December 1941, he was reported missing. Nine months later news filtered through that he was a prisoner of war. He was repatriated on November 21, 1945.

For his distinguished services he was appointed an M.B.E. in the *London Gazette* of January 1, 1942, and later that month he was promoted to the rank of Major (Q.M.).

He retired on December 29, 1946, and went to live at Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, where he became a very popular figure, especially with the local bowling fraternity.

There was a very large attendance at the funeral service, which took place at St. Stephen's Church, Bexhill-on-Sea, on February 14, 1964. The Regiment was represented by Col. and Mrs. Hedgecoe, Col. and Mrs. Walden, and Major E. L. Heywood.

And so passes one of the most efficient, helpful Quartermasters the Regiment has produced. He gave 40 years of his life to the service of his country, and all those who had the privilege of serving with him mourn the loss of a sincere friend and a most staunch and loyal "Die-Hard."

#### Capt. G. J. Leatham, M.B.E., M.C.

George Leatham, who died on December 24, 1963, was born in Dublin on December 16, 1883.

He enlisted as a Boy in the Regiment on Albuhera Day 1898 and served with the 2nd Battalion, which had recently returned from India. Early in 1900 he was posted to the 3rd Battalion, then stationed at Woolwich, and towards the end of 1905 he joined the 4th Battalion in Londonderry. In January 1912 he was back with the 3rd Battalion in the East Indies, but he rejoined the 4th Battalion the following year on promotion to the rank of Sergeant-Major, and served with that Battalion in the early part of the 1914-18 War in France and Belgium.

On September 21, 1915, he was appointed to a commission as a Second-Lieutenant and joined the 6th (Reserve) Battalion.

In 1916 he was awarded the Military Cross whilst serving with the 1st Battalion, of which he became Adjutant in June that year with the acting rank of Captain.

Shortly after the Armistice in 1918 he was posted to the 4th Battalion and remained with that Battalion until May 1919 when he once again moved to the 3rd Battalion, which had just returned from Constantinople and was stationed temporarily at Aldershot before proceeding to B.A.O.R.

In September 1921 he was promoted Captain and transferred to the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment. In December of the same year he was posted to the 2nd Battalion of that Regiment, and became Adjutant in September 1922. Shortly before relinquishing the Adjutancy in 1926 he was appointed a M.B.E.

He retired in 1928, and shortly afterwards joined the staff of the Middlesex T. and A.F. Association. Initially he was employed as the accountant and later on he was appointed assistant secretary (finance), which post he held until he resigned in 1946.

The funeral service took place at St. Edward's R.C. Church, Golders Green, on January 2, 1964, Major E. L. Heywood attended as the representative of the Regiment.

#### Capt. N. B. McIvor, M.C.

Norman Belfour McIvor died at his home at Killin, Perthshire, on January 29, 1964, after 10 weeks of serious illness.

He was born on October 7, 1892, and started his military career a few years before the 1914-18 War by joining the London Scottish. He went to France with the 1st Battalion of that Regiment in September 1914 and was in its first action at Messines on Hallow-e'en, 1914. Shortly afterwards he was invalided home and was commissioned in the early months of 1915, and joined the 2/10th Battalion Middlesex Regiment at Ashford, Middlesex. With them he went overseas to Sulva Bay, Gallipoli, and subsequently saw further service in Egypt and Palestine.

Of his service in Palestine a brother officer writes:

"During the first battle of Gaza he was my 21C of 'D' Company, and when I was wounded he took over command and continued to command until practically the end of the Battalion's life. In his cheerful, unruffled way he was a very fine type of company commander, and when the capture and defence of Jerusalem were being decided his cool head and quiet bravery earned him a Military Cross and Bar, even before the original award had reached us in Palestine."

Norman McIvor's ability as a fighting company commander was acknowledged at that time by no less a person than the G.O.C. 53rd (Welsh) Division, who had the following Special Order issued on December 23, 1917:

"The G.O.C. Commanding wishes to express his admiration for the gallant conduct of the Company of the Middlesex Regiment under Capt. McIvor on December 21, resulting in the capture of the Turkish strong-point at White Hill after severe fighting."

After the 1914-18 War and until he died he was a most active member of the 2/10th Branch, O.C.A.

He had been a member of the Regimental Officers' Club for some years and, although no great golfer, he always enjoyed the occasions when he could attend a Regimental Meeting. He took a great interest in the Regiment and in meeting the officers of various periods and ages.

#### C.S.M. F. Hurst (2353)

Francis Hurst died in Basing Hospital on November 17, 1963, at the great age of 95 years and 9 months. With his death the Regiment has lost its last direct contact with the Battle of Albuhera.

As a young soldier he was one of the men who saluted the veteran Henry Holloway, the last survivor of the 57th Foot, which held the Ridge at Albuhera. This happened in 1888 when the 1st Battalion halted outside the old veteran's cottage at Dymchurch, and presented arms and dipped Colours in his honour.

Originally he enlisted in the Berkshire Militia and, on termination of his engagement, walked to London and joined the Middlesex Regiment in December 1887. He served with the 1st Battalion in England, Ireland and Gibraltar, transferring to the Army Reserve in December 1894.

On the outbreak of the South African War in 1899 he was recalled and joined the 2nd Battalion, which was about to sail for South Africa. He was present at the Battle of Spion Kop on January 24, 1900, and also the Relief of Ladysmith on February 28, 1900. At the end of active operations he took his discharge and worked in Paris.

When the Germans invaded France in 1914 he joined the British Section of the Foreign Legion, and manned the defences until General Gallieni rushed up reinforcements in a fleet of taxi-cabs. In December 1914 the British members were allowed to join their own Army

IT IS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE TO  
BECOME A REGULAR SUBSCRIBER



so ex-Cpl. Hurst returned to England and reported at Inglis Barracks to enlist in his old Regiment. The delays there were too long so he enlisted in the 24th (Sportsmen's) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers. With that unit he served in France until the end of the war. On demobilisation he again settled down and worked in Paris. There he remained until 1940, when he just managed to escape as the Germans marched on the French capital.

As soon as he arrived in England he joined the Local Defence Volunteers, later to become the Home Guard. Until the end of the war he served with the detachment at Dummer, the village near Basingstoke where he had his home. After V.E. Day he retired from the Home Guard, at the age of 73.

At the funeral service on November 22, 1963, his widow and family and many friends filled the lovely old church at the village of North Waltham, where his wife's family had lived for many years.

The Regiment was represented by Major E. L. Heywood, Major R. W. J. Smith, and Mr. R. H. Ferguson, and the "Last Post" and "Reveille" were sounded by Drum-Major Holdford.

#### C.S.M. A. F. Page (5047)

Albert Frederick Page, one of our ever-diminishing band of Spion Kop veterans, died on September 24, 1963, at the age of 84 years and 6 months.

He was born on St. Patrick's Day 1879 and enlisted in the Middlesex Regiment on July 9, 1897, at Hounslow, which was then the Regimental Depot. On conclusion of his recruit training he was posted to Woolwich to await the homecoming of the 2nd Battalion in February 1898, and was present on the ceremonial parade in August that year when the news was announced that the Regiment had been honoured by the appointment of H.R.H. The Duke of Cambridge as Colonel-in-Chief—the first in the Regiment's history.

The following year he sailed with the Battalion to South Africa and fought at Spion Kop and the actions of Tugela, Grobelaar's Kloof and Pieter's Hill. After the surrender of Ladysmith by the Boers on February 28, 1900, he moved with the Battalion to Pietermaritzburg and continued to serve in South Africa until invalided home suffering from enteric fever. He was then posted to the newly-formed 4th Battalion, with which he served continuously until he was discharged on completion of 12 years' service on July 9, 1909.

When the 1914-18 War broke out he was called up with the Reserve and was posted to the 1st Cavalry Divisional Supply and Motor Transport Company. He served in France and Flanders throughout the war and was mentioned in despatches. He was finally discharged on March 16, 1919.

At the outbreak of the 1939-45 War he signed on for National Service and served with the National Fire Service until October 1945.

After the war he still kept his connection with the Service, being employed with a R.E.M.E. unit until March 31, 1951, when he retired to take life a little easier.

He was a staunch "Die-Hard" and a member of the Mill Hill Branch for many years.

#### C. Sgt. F. G. Cummins, M.M.

Shortly before going to press news was received that the above Old Soldier of the 4th Battalion had died on October 1, 1963.

In spite of having suffered from heart and lung trouble for about 10 years he made a special effort to attend the Albuhera Day Parade last year on Horse Guards Parade. On the march back to Wellington Barracks afterwards he fell out three times and, in the end, had to get a taxi and go home.

If further details can be obtained a full obituary notice will be published in the next issue of *The Die-Hards*.

#### C. Sgt. F. G. Markham (6197647)

By the sudden and unexpected death of George Markham in Edgware General Hospital on October 9, 1963, the Regiment, and the Mill Hill Branch of the "Die-Hards" Club especially, has lost a very colourful and popular character.

Frederick George Markham was born on June 12, 1908, and enlisted in the Middlesex Regiment on December 30, 1926. After serving with the 1st Battalion at home until October 1928 he was posted to the 2nd Battalion, then serving in India and about to move from Ahmednagar to Madras. He went with the Battalion to the Sudan in April 1931 and served with it at Khartoum until January 1932 when he joined the 1st Battalion in Palestine. In January 1933 he moved with the Battalion to Ismailia and, after being stationed for three years on the Suez Canal, went with it to Singapore in October 1936.

Returning to the Home Establishment in 1937 he served at both the Depot and with the 2nd Battalion until the outbreak of the 1939-45 War. Then, when the Machine-gun Training Centre was being formed, he was posted to the Permanent Staff of 26 M.G.T.C. at Blacon Camp, Chester.

After the war he was posted to the 2nd Battalion in Palestine and served with it from November 1947 to June 1948 when the British Mandate ended and the Battalion returned to the United Kingdom. In December 1949 he was posted to the 1st Battalion, then serving in Hong Kong, and returned home in August 1950. He remained at home until 1957 and was for a considerable part of that time Sergeants' Mess Caterer at the Depot, where his witticisms were a part of the service looked forward to by visitors who knew him. His last posting was in March 1958 when he went to Malta on extra-regimental employment.

He was discharged to pension on October 3, 1959, having served with the Colours for nearly 33 years.

In his younger days he was in the boxing teams of both the 1st and 2nd Battalions. He was a staunch boxer, who could be relied on to fight well and courageously, often against heavier and more experienced opponents and, on this account, was very popular with the spectators.

On returning to civil life he became a postman in the Mill Hill area, and was so employed up to the time of his admission to hospital last October.

At the same time, he never lost touch with the Army,

which he had served so long and well, for, apart from regularly attending the monthly meetings of the Mill Hill Branch, he was also an honorary member of the Home Postal Depot Sergeants' Mess, and could be seen there every Sunday morning.

George Markham was a true Cockney with a cheerful, humorous disposition, and he could always raise a laugh and the spirits of his comrades in the barrack room when things were not going well. His death leaves a gap which will be hard to fill, and he will be much missed by his many friends and contemporaries.

At the funeral, which took place at Hendon Crematorium on October 14, the chapel was so full that many had to stand throughout the service. The Regiment was represented by Col. F. Walden and Major E. L. Heywood, and members of the Mill Hill Branch who attended were Major R. W. J. Smith, Major P. F. Newman, Major A. E. Peasley and Messrs. Palmer, Harrison and Mason. In addition, the Home Postal Depot were represented by their R.S.M. and Chief Clerk, and the G.P.O. by a number of friends from the local Post Office. The "Last Post" and "Reveille" were sounded by Drum-Major Holdford.

#### Sgt. G. Cullen (6189247)

George Cullen, whose death from a coronary thrombosis only came to notice last October, enlisted as a Band Boy in the Regiment on October 13, 1915.

For most of his Colour service he was in the Band of the 1st Battalion in which he was the leading cornet player for eight years and Band-Sergeant for five years.

Apart from being a first-class musician he was a very fine all-round sportsman in every sense of the word. He was a regular member of the 1st Battalion football team for some years, and played in many a thrilling Army Cup match when the Battalion was stationed at Aldershot. Earlier, during the Battalion's tour of duty with B.A.O.R., he was selected to play for the Rhine Army XI. In addition to his prowess at football he was also a very good athlete and was in the 1st Battalion team in B.A.O.R. and at Aldershot.

He left the Service on February 22, 1929, much to the regret of all with whom he had served in the 1st Battalion, and afterwards spent 27 years in the Bradford City Police Force Band in Yorkshire.

#### Sgt. F. J. Edwards, V.C. (2442)

On Monday, March 9, 1964, Frederick Jeremiah Edwards died in the Star and Garter Home for disabled servicemen, aged 69.

Born on November 4, 1894, he received his early education at the Royal Hibernian Military School for the sons of soldiers. It was at this school that he was taught to be a drummer and, on enlistment in the then newly-formed 12th (Service) Battalion in 1914, he became one of the Battalion drummers.

It was during the Battle of Thiepval on September 26, 1916, that he won the Victoria Cross. All previous efforts had failed to capture the strong-point which had for three months held out against all attacks the British

commanders had pitted against it. Lt.-Col. Frank Maxwell, v.c., commanding the 12th Battalion at that time, said in his orders:

"All of us are out to kill and reach our objective... don't stop and don't retire a yard. Be out to kill and get Thiepval on our Colours."

The story of the battle is too long to tell in this obituary but the following official account, in so far as it affects Pte. Edwards, is taken from the *London Gazette* of November 25, 1916:

"His part of the line was held up by machine-gun fire and all officers had become casualties. There was confusion and indications of retirement."

"Pte. Edwards, grasping the situation, on his own initiative dashed out alone towards the gun, which he knocked out with bombs. This very gallant act, coupled with great presence of mind and a total disregard of personal danger, made further advance possible and cleared up a dangerous situation."

When the 12th Battalion was disbanded in February 1918, "Patsy" Edwards was transferred to the Royal Fusiliers and promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

He was demobilised on March 31, 1920, and after various employments became mace-bearer to the Mayor of Holborn.

In 1954 he had a stroke which seriously affected his mobility and his speech. As a result of his disability he entered the Star and Garter Home, Richmond, in April 1955. He was able to attend various social functions and used a wheel-chair whenever he left the Home. Last May he was present at the Albuhera Day Parade on Horse Guards when the Association Standard was presented by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

On March 7 last he had a severe attack of bronchitis and collapsed and died about noon on March 9.

He was buried in the Soldiers' Plot at Richmond Cemetery on March 16. A very smart and well-turned-out detachment provided by the 5th Battalion (T.A.) met the cortege at the gate of the cemetery and followed the procession to the graveside where final compliments were paid as the buglers, Drum-Major Holdford and Cpl. Chacksfield, also from the 5th Battalion, sounded the "Last Post" and "Reveille."

The service at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. Father Davys, whose great-uncle, Surgeon-Major Reynolds, had won the Victoria Cross at Rorke's Drift in 1879.

Apart from the detachment referred to above, other members (past and present) of the Regiment present were Major E. L. Heywood, Major R. W. J. Smith, Major G. G. Norton, Major S. C. W. Weller, Capt. A. E. McManus, Capt. M. V. Hayward, Lt. T. D. Jones, ex-Sgt. R. E. Ryder, v.c., Messrs. R. Ferguson, J. Keating and A. E. West, the last-named an Old Comrade of the 12th Battalion. In addition, many other mourners attended, including His Honour Judge P. V. Storkey, v.c., ex-Cpl. T. W. H. Veale, v.c., Mr. Bremner of the Association of Macebearers, and Messrs. D. W. Roberts and F. Brady, two former school-friends of the Royal Hibernian Military School.



**Cpl. A. Stone (6192115)**

Alfred Stone, who died at Hendon on October 7, 1963, aged 79, was a 1st Battalion bandsman for many years.

He enlisted in the 13th Hussars as a Boy on January 30, 1900, at the age of 14 years and 11 months, and served with that Regiment until January 27, 1908, when he was discharged as medically unfit, whilst stationed at Trimulgherry, India.

At the outbreak of the 1914-18 War he re-enlisted and served with the Bedfordshire Regiment until July 22, 1915, when he was again discharged. During this period of service he sustained gun-shot wounds in the left shoulder.

When the Post Bellum Regular Army was forming in 1919 he again joined the Colours. This time he was posted to our 1st Battalion and served with them continuously until January 1936 when he was posted to the 2nd Battalion, then stationed at Portsmouth.

On his discharge on December 15, 1938, he became caretaker of one of our Drill Halls, and for many years he was at Hendon Drill Hall.

Towards the end of his life his sight failed but he remained cheerful and philosophical.

Alf Stone was a very good soldier indeed and an excellent example to the younger generation of soldiers who were joining the Colours in pre-war days. Of a cheerful disposition, he was a most reliable and hard-working man.

At his funeral on October 11, 1963, the Regiment was represented by Major E. L. Heywood.

**Mrs. Samuel**

We regret to announce the death on October 30, 1963, at a Bournemouth nursing home of Charlotte Emily, aged 77, dear wife of Col. W. H. Samuel.

She was the holder of the M.B.E., won in France in the 1914-18 War.

**Mrs. M. Lee**

Mrs. Mary Lee died at her home at 105 Ash Church Road, Ash, on Tuesday, January 28, 1964, after a short illness. She would have been 98 next September.

Mrs. Lee was a native of Balnafaick, Inverness-shire, and left Scotland at the age of 18. In 1901 she went out to India with her late husband, who was then serving



*The late Sgt. H. C. Hull, M.M., whose obituary notice appeared in the October 1963 issue of The Die-Hards.*

with the 1st Battalion, and returned to England in 1909. Two years later her husband was discharged from the Army and they lived in the Channel Islands, afterwards coming to the Ash area in 1913. Her husband rejoined the Army at the outbreak of the 1914-18 War and was killed whilst serving with the Devonshire Regiment in 1915.

Owing to space restrictions, obituary notices on the following have had to be held over till the next issue of *The Die-Hards*:

Sgt. C. W. Cox, M.M. (619440).

Sgt. O. S. Taylor (10415).

Cpl. J. Payne (L/10411).

**CORRESPONDENCE**

*From: Major-General J. M. L. Grover, C.B., M.C.*

Major-General J. E. F. Willoughby, C.B.E.,  
Colonel, The Middlesex Regiment,  
H.Q. 48 Division T.A.,  
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

DEAR GENERAL,

I am writing to you, as chairman of Lady Grover's Hospital Fund for Officers' Families, to invite your assistance in bringing to the notice of officers the facilities afforded by the fund.

The aim of the fund is to help officers who may be confronted by unexpected and possibly heavy calls upon their pockets, arising from illness of a dependant member of the family. The fund is administered by a voluntary committee including nominated representatives of the three Services and their medical services.

New scales of subscriptions and benefit have recently been announced in Army Council Instruction No. 133 of 1963. These new scales are intended to bring the rates of financial benefit into closer relationship with present-day charges for private nursing, while keeping the annual subscription at a very low rate—within the means of any married officer, and graduated in favour of the junior officer.

The question naturally arises whether, in these days, there is still any need for the fund, since free treatment for officers' families is now available under the national health services. While, for those who wish to obtain private treatment for their families, there are a number of comprehensive insurance schemes.

But such insurance is expensive, and the continuing

flow of applications for membership of the fund indicates that there is still a need for an "intermediate" scheme, at low cost, affording a measure of insurance against the need to provide private nursing treatment for members of an officer's family.

The fund's rules also admit of financial help towards the cost of essential home help necessitated by the illness of a member of the family, or of convalescence away from home. Further, the committee is empowered to make "ex-gratia" payments, in excess of the scale entitlement, in cases of genuine hardship. This power is exercised freely.

All of these are facilities not covered by the free Health Service; nor generally included in comprehensive insurances.

Despite the publication of A.C.I. 133/63, and of a revised notice in the Army List, my committee feel that information about the recent changes may not reach some officers who might wish to join.

We would be grateful, therefore, if you would kindly consider any steps that may be appropriate to bring to the notice of officers the opportunities now offered by membership.

We would be particularly grateful if mention of the fund could be made in your Regimental Journal.

Any help that you may feel able to offer towards making the existence and facilities of the Hospital Fund more widely known, will be greatly appreciated.

I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to your Brigade Colonel.

Yours sincerely,

J. M. L. GROVER.

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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. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L.*

*Secretary: Col. F. Walden, D.L.*

### 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, B.E.M. 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. E. C. Colebeck, Belmont, Chilton Road, Edgware, Middlesex.	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 Reunion

Negotiations have just been completed with the St. Marylebone Borough Council for the hire of the Seymour Hall for the annual reunion on Friday, October 23, 1964.

Further particulars will be issued to all concerned in due course.

\* \* \*

## Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the Regimental Association will be held at the Seymour Hall, London, W.1, on Friday, October 23, 1964, at 8 p.m.

\* \* \*

## Dunkirk Veterans' Association

The London Branch of the 1940 Dunkirk Veterans' Association is holding its annual Service of Remembrance in the City of London, at the Church of St. Lawrence Jewry, Guildhall, on Sunday, May 31, 1964, at 3 p.m.

As representative of the Lord Mayor, Alderman Sir Harold Gillett, Bart., M.C., himself a former Lord Mayor and a former officer of our 7th (T.A.) Battalion, will be attending, together with General Sir Ronald Adam, Bart., G.C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., president of the Dunkirk Veterans' Association.

A hearty welcome has been extended to members of our Association to attend the service.

The parade beforehand, on which the Association Standard will be carried by Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E., will assemble in Arthur Street (north side of London Bridge) at 2.15 p.m. and, headed by the Band of 254th (City of London) Regiment R.A. (T.A.), will march off at 2.30 p.m.

After the service, the parade will march off to H.M.S. *Chrysanthemum*, Victoria Embankment, where refreshments will be available.

\* \* \*

## Donations

The secretary gratefully acknowledges donations from the following to the Association Charitable Fund: Mrs. M. J. A. Taylor, Miss Olive Shedden (in memory of Capt. D. T. C. Rowley, 4th Battalion, died of wounds, July 2, 1916) and Mr. F. H. Nash, M.B.E.

\* \* \*

## Lord Lieutenant's Appeal for Widows' Flatlets, Albuhera Close, Enfield

The following in the *third* list of subscribers to the above appeal, corrected to March 31, 1964:

	£	s.	d.
Trustees, 2/7th Battalion	400	0	0
Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club	300	0	0
Trustees, Mrs. Smith Trust (per Lt.-Col. J. T. Dear)	100	0	0
Regimental Association Lottery (half of net proceeds)	76	5	4
Lt.-Col. C. P. Rooke	57	0	0
Gillette Industries Ltd.	50	0	0
Kodak Ltd.	50	0	0
Mrs. M. J. A. Taylor (second donation)	35	0	0
Mill Hill Branch (collections during 1963)	26	4	9
"Ex-Die-Hard"	25	0	0
Lt.-Col. D. M. Gluckstein	25	0	0
Capt. N. T. Neal (covenanted)	25	0	0
Sergeants' Mess, 5th Battalion (T.A.)	25	0	0
*Major and Mrs. A. E. Peasley	20	0	0

\*Making a total contribution of £25 in memory of Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P.

	£	s.	d.
Col. M. Cuthbertson	15	0	0
Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment O.C.A. (covenanted)	15	0	0
Mill Hill Branch (raffle at Christmas Draw, 1963)	14	5	0
"A" Company, 5th Battalion (T.A.) (half of proceeds of bingo session)	12	0	0
Major C. L. Lawrence	10	10	0
Marks & Spencer Ltd.	10	10	0
Lt.-Col. E. N. Trevor (second donation)	10	10	0
Lt.-Col. A. K. Clark	10	0	0
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayton	10	0	0
Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton (covenanted)	10	0	0
Col. M. Crawford (covenanted)	10	0	0
Lt.-Col. J. T. Dear (covenanted)	10	0	0
John Keeble Church, Mill Hill, Parochial Church Council	10	0	0
F. McNeill & Co. Ltd.	10	0	0
Major B. St. G. A. Reed (covenanted)	10	0	0
"B" Company, 5th Battalion (T.A.) (collection on Bounty night)	7	4	0
Hadley Wood Home Guard O.C.A.	6	6	0
Hall, Winder & Co.	5	5	0
Harmondsworth Parochial Church Council	5	5	0
Capt. C. H. Richards (second donation)	5	5	0
Col. S. C. M. Smith	5	5	0
Major F. J. Bennett (covenanted)	5	0	0
Col. I. D. Brotherton (covenanted)	5	0	0
Major I. F. Campbell	5	0	0
Cpl. A. Jackson	5	0	0
Lt.-Col. H. P. Lambert (covenanted)	5	0	0
Major B. H. Marciandi	5	0	0
Major C. H. Miville	5	0	0
Lt.-Col. A. E. L. Robey	5	0	0
Ruislip & District Caledonian Society (second donation)	5	0	0
Stannell Parochial Church Council	5	0	0
Mr. A. Todman	5	0	0
"B" Company, 12th Middlesex Home Guard Association	3	3	0
Mr. R. E. Booker	3	3	0
Rev. F. Chesnut-Chesney	3	3	0
Lt.-Col. A. B. McQueen	3	3	0
Brigadier H. A. D. Murray (covenanted)	3	3	0
Page Engineering Co. Ltd.	3	3	0
Col. A. Pritchard	3	3	0
Capt. A. W. Ramsay (covenanted)	3	0	0
Anonymous	2	2	0
Mr. F. L. Barker	2	2	0
Lt.-Col. J. H. Clowes	2	2	0
Lt.-Col. W. D. Coles (covenanted)	2	2	0
Major G. W. Hill	2	2	0
Major P. A. Mann (covenanted)	2	2	0
Mr. W. H. E. Northcott	2	2	0
Major A. A. Sexton	2	2	0
Lt.-Col. E. P. Shanks	2	2	0
Lt.-Col. J. W. Stephenson	2	2	0
Col. A. B. Walters	2	0	0
Major J. G. Chiverall (covenanted)	2	0	0
Major E. A. H. Jeffcoat (covenanted)	2	0	0
Major W. T. J. Lane	2	0	0
Capt. E. J. Pike	2	0	0
Lt.-Col. D. Sax (covenanted)	2	0	0
Mr. W. Turner	2	0	0
St. John's, Tottenham, Parochial Church Council	1	13	0
Col. A. V. G. Dower	1	10	0
All Saints', Highgate, Parochial Church Council	1	10	0
Major P. R. H. Elliott	1	10	0
Major C. H. K. Fisher (covenanted)	1	10	0
Major W. C. Newton	1	10	0
Col. A. H. Read	1	10	0
St. Andrew's, Sudbury, Parochial Church Council	1	10	0
St. Paul's, Winchmore Hill, Parochial Church Council	1	10	0
Mr. T. Simpson	1	10	0
Mr. E. G. Tulley	1	10	0
Col. I. R. Burrows (covenanted)	1	0	0
Capt. T. F. G. Carless	1	0	0
Major C. F. Carvell	1	0	0
Mrs. S. C. Diamond	1	0	0
Harefield Parochial Church Council	1	0	0
Mr. G. Hurlock (additional to weekly donations 1962/63)	1	0	0
Major G. O. Porter (covenanted)	1	0	0
Mr. F. J. Sadler (second donation)	1	0	0
Mr. J. F. Tigwell	1	0	0
Mr. W. J. Wigginton	1	0	0
Mr. A. P. Alexander	1	0	0
Capt. W. H. Craydon	1	0	0
Mr. W. Digby	1	0	0
Mr. J. H. Pullen	1	0	0

£1,556 10 1

## Hong Kong List

	£	s.	d.
Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	150	0	0
Wheelock, Marden & Co. (H.K. dollars 1,600)	98	16	6
Hong Kong Land Investment Agency Co. Ltd. (H.K. dollars 800)	49	8	3
Butterfield & Swire (H.K. dollars 500)	30	17	8
Taikoo Dockyard & Engineering Co.	25	0	0
Mr. R. C. Gardiner	20	0	0
John D. Hutchinson & Co. Ltd.	10	10	0
Mr. F. G. Nigel	10	10	0
Col. H. A. de Barros Botelho	10	0	0
China Provident Co. Ltd.	10	0	0
Lane, Crawford Ltd.	10	0	0
North Point Wharves Ltd.	10	0	0
Mr. D. C. Strellett	10	0	0
Mr. C. E. M. Terry	6	3	6
Brutton & Co. (H.K. dollars 100)	5	5	0
Col. H. B. L. Dowbiggin	5	5	0
Mr. G. C. Hamilton	5	5	0
Hong Kong Tramways Ltd.	5	0	0
Mr. M. G. Carruthers	3	1	10
Dairy Farm Ice & Cold Storage Co. Ltd. (H.K. dollars 50)	3	0	0
Mr. D. A. F. Mathers	3	0	0
Dr. The Hon. D. A. M. Rodrigues (H.K. dollars 20)	1	4	10
	£2,045	17	8
From 1st and 2nd lists	3,202	11	9
Total to date	£5,248	9	5

## MILL HILL BRANCH

"Where're you going, Dad?" "Up to the Old Comrades, son."

How often, I wonder, has this question and answer passed between son—or daughter—and father. Dad knows what he is talking about; his offspring does not, but, naturally, builds up a picture of bent-backed ancient warriors mumbling in their cups and absentmindedly feeling for their swords and shakos.

What a difference in reality! I feel the expression "Old Comrades," although not a misnomer, is misunderstood by those who, unhappily, have not experienced one of our gatherings. Folk are apt to place the emphasis on "Old" whereas we emphasise the "Comrade." We are not *OLD* Comrades, we are *OLD COMRADES*.

At our meetings the last few months we have seen many who served together in the last war and who were on National Service with us since then, and it gives me great pleasure when a rather apprehensive and bewildered chap walks in and is greeted with a whoop of joy from his comrades of the days when he was in the ranks, chaps whom he hoped he would meet but at the same time feared would not be present. The next time he comes, he invariably brings along another pal and so the company gets bigger each time. Also, his wife meets his old friends and their wives and the teenage sons and daughters who now and again come along with their parents make new friends and talk over their interests. It's not always bingo!

Whilst all this is going on, the older members are still happily beating up old Jerry at Le Cateau and remembering that "Old Sar'nt 'oo fell down the 'ole at Wipers in '16." Groups of Hong Kong men swap stories with the Korea chaps and compare with the more sere "Die-Hards" what it was like on the Somme. It can truly be said that we have a good mixture of the scarlet-tunic soldier, the General Service soldier and the

Service Dress soldier mixing with the battle-dress soldier and those still serving. There are still a number who wore the Slade-Wallace equipment when they enlisted too.

All this company, irrespective of year of birth, become the same age after an hour in the room, and the change is that the old become young and the young become younger still. Limbs may be getting stiff in some cases, but tongues are not. If you are in the Drill Hall and the door of our meeting place is opened by a chap off to the "gents," you hear a great buzz of conversation that sounds like a gigantic humming-top. A merry buzz that immediately tells you happy people are conversing. At times it's a dull roar and when the stranger looks in the doorway he sees dozens of bright faces. I know the Fairy Grog blossom helps the shine to some extent, but it's the inner joy of reliving happy days when sixpence meant a supper and not a token that goes into the one-armed bandit. Well might the chap say, as he did on his first visit: "Stone me, it's like an Irish Parliament, everybody talking and nobody listening."

Of late, the Grim Reaper has been busy amongst our older members, all who had passed their three score and ten—those names will be found in the obituary columns and in the monthly letters, but our number of members is increasing monthly. I'm afraid I can't mention the names here, as space forbids, but do come along and join us. If you don't find the chap you're looking for, ask and we'll try to locate him for you. A welcome is ready for all, be you an old defaulter or old Provost-Sergeant. Let that question and answer be heard in many more homes. "Where're you going, Dad?" "Up to the Old Comrades, son. Coming?"

MAJOR DICK SMITH.

## 9th BATTALION BRANCH

## Armistice Sunday at Mill Hill

This year with a fair morning for weather, quite a good gathering attended the annual service of Remembrance at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill.

About 50 members of our branch were on parade but we sadly miss the company of the many officers of our unit who so ably supported our annual services of Remembrance when we were in control at Kingsbury.

After the ceremonies we all moved back in either our own transport or in that specially laid on, to the 5th Bn. T.A. Centre at Deansbrook Road, Edgware, where a splendid buffet had been prepared, for which our sincere thanks go to the Regimental Association and in particular to Col. Walden for the most excellent arrangements.

## Annual Dinner, 1964

The annual dinner arrangements are now completed. I ask you to make now a particular note of the date, which is May 2, and to support it with your friends with all your might as a return to the organisers for the hard work and trouble they go to, to put this show on.

Because some thought that the dinner should be cheaper, to attract back some of the absentees of the last few years, we have put on a special show and the cost



of the ticket will be half of what it was last year, so if you want the annual dinner to continue, it is now up to each and every member of the 9th Branch to support it this year.

An official notice will come along in due course and when you get it please apply at once for your tickets and I look forward to seeing you.

#### Deaths

I regret to have to tell you of the following who have passed on:—

Sgt. Johnny McCarthy.

Sgt. Gordon Smith.

Sgt. F. A. ("Darsi") Reeves (Regimental Tailor).

Suitable floral wreaths were sent and certain members of your committee were able to attend the funerals.

HENRY J. FISHER,  
Hon. Sec.

#### BANDSMEN AND DRUMMERS' BRANCH

The December meeting of the Branch was not strongly attended and, as events proved, this was not a bad thing.

Colds (common) and fog combined to keep a number of members away but the former also laid our new bar steward low and this meant finding another meeting place at a few minutes' notice. Fortunately there is a good public house right opposite and members present soon found it. An extremely enjoyable evening followed (the publican being also very happy with such an unexpected addition to his custom) and the sandwiches prepared by "The Duchess" were enjoyed by everyone in the bar. I have since had an apology from S/Sgt. Polden and have been told that this will be followed by one from Sgt. Gray and an official one from the 47th Signal Regiment (Received).

A number of members have written to me and George Pocock was one of these. In his letter he mentioned that one of our ex-Bandsmen of 1921 (Cairo) came into his hotel and may be joining us. This is (now) Mr. Solomon who played the clarinet and piano and who was a champion swimmer of the 2nd Battalion.

It will be recalled that Col. Walden made a proposal for a summer outing which would replace the old Depot Cricket Week and that I furthered this proposal with the suggestion that this outing should take the form of a cruise along the Dunkirk Beaches with a service to our comrades who fell there. Although this fell through at the time, partly by reason of the lack of time to make enquiries and circularise members of the Association, I did continue my own enquiries and found that the General Steam Navigation Co. do run such trips and give a very reasonable reduction to parties. Perhaps members will give this some thought NOW and let me have their views. Rates were 40s. per day return and 36s. for parties of 20 or more.

Originally the idea of our own December meeting was to take the place of the old New Year's dance which was such a well-attended function when held at Mill Hill. However, it has not caught on and the last two December meetings have met with such "bad luck" that I am giving my own thoughts to abandoning this particular

month's meeting and joining in with the Mill Hill Branch at Edgware on the first Saturday of the month. This is another matter on which I would like members' views. For those living in the West London and nearby areas who have not cars, or who prefer not to drink and drive, I would give the reminder that I can still arrange for coaches to take us over and bring us back and this service need not be confined to members of the Bandsmen and Drummers' Branch only. The thing is to fill the coaches, which would mean a considerable saving on fares for those concerned and be even cheaper than the cost of petrol for many. In any case this year's meeting would fall on Boxing Day and next year's on Christmas Day and I cannot foresee either of those being a success. I am suggesting that we change our months from 1965 to January, April, July and October and would like your comments on this.

Lionel Smith has written me from Canada and given news of "Duke" Dunning, Les Cox, Bert Probert and Ralf Cook. I have all their addresses if anyone would like them.

"BREWER."

#### 17th BATTALION (1939/45)

The second reunion of 1/7th Battalion (1939/45) was held at the Drill Hall, Priory Road, Hornsey, on Saturday, March 14.

The occasion was memorable. We had the honour and privilege of welcoming as our guests General Horrocks, General Willoughby and Col. Gluckstein.

We did appreciate their presence which contributed so much to the success of the evening.

"Rocky" Knight proposed the toast of "Our Guests." General Horrocks, in reply, gave us a stirring address followed by General Willoughby and Col. Gluckstein. Then we all got down to reminiscences which are the essence of such gatherings.

It is difficult, and indeed superfluous, to write more about such a gathering. You must be there to feel the atmosphere and enjoy the camaraderie.

The attendance was good. But many were not there because we do not know where they are. Let every member of 1/7th Battalion 1939/45 who reads this, do just two simple things:

1. Come himself to the third reunion.
2. See that someone else who has not been to the first two, also comes to the third.

#### 2/10th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT O.C.A. (1914-18)

The 36th reunion dinner of this unit will be held at the Bolton Hotel, 326 Earls Court Road, London, S.W.5, on Saturday, May 16, 1964 (6.30 for 7 p.m.).

This will be a special occasion and will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the formation of the 2/10th Battalion in 1914. 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 men who may be unaware that such an Association exists.

#### "D" COMPANY, 1/10th BATTALION, THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

The 31st annual reunion was held at the Feathers Hotel, S.W.1, on March 21, with A. J. Gillham in the chair. In its inception in 1928 it was just a Company affair but its scope is widening and this year other Companies were represented with an odd son or son-in-law, 61 in all. The oldest present were C.S.M. Scrivener and Sgt. J. R. Dodd, both 83 this year, and the youngest a mere stripling of 67. There were men from Truro, Gt. Yarmouth, Taunton, Eastbourne, Barton-on-Sea, Worthing, Pewsey, etc.

The main speeches came from Col. F. Walden of Regimental H.Q., who brought us up to date, and from Lt.-Col. S. H. White (formerly O.C. "A" Company), Lt.-Col. R. Smallwood (I.A. Retd.), Capt. A. E. Bowker and R. C. Smith. Two founder-members of the Battalion concert party, Harry Bedford and Bob Smallwood, delighted the company with songs, a duet and a musical monologue. Two glees, "Mynheer Van Dunck" and "A Vintage Song," sung by St. Mark's men, had the usual enthusiastic welcome. L. P. (Chota) Jones was the accompanist. Archie Bowker, author of "Behind the Bar," etc., told tales of the law and H. J. (Jimmey) Fowler recounted more memories. C. E. Irving, secretary for over 30 years, was able to be present and to propose the toast of "Absent Friends." It was an evening to remember.

#### MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The Seymour Hall, Seymour Place, London, W.1, on Friday, November 29, 1963

Present: Major-Gen. J. E. F. Willoughby, C.B.E. (President), Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L. (Chairman), Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, D.L. (Vice-Chairman), Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Col. J. W. G. Ormiston, Major P. G. V. Bellers, Major R. M. Cain, Major I. F. Campbell, M.C., Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E., Capt. S. R. Bonnamy, Capt. H. W. Craydon, Mr. S. Bartle, Mr. A. C. Bate, Mr. T. R. Bennett, Mr. S. Buckle, Mr. C. Davies, Mr. A. R. Drane, Mr. R. H. Ferguson, Mr. C. Holdford, B.E.M., Mr. C. J. Howes, Mr. W. E. Leavis, Mr. S. Mason, Mr. A. Matthews, Mr. J. McKinley, Mr. J. Trunley, Col. F. Walden, D.L. (Secretary).

#### 1. Election of Branch Representatives to the Executive Committee for 1964

The 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. J. Castree; Mill Hill Branch, Mr. E. C. Colebeck; 9th Battalion Branch, Mr. T. R. Bennett; 12 (H.G.) Battalion Branch, Capt. S. R. Bonnamy.

The Chairman explained that, as there was no quorum present in accordance with Rule 34 (c) there

could be no election, and that, as laid down in Rule 34 (d), he nominated the following to serve on the Executive Committee for the ensuing year: Mr. T. R. Bennett, Mr. C. Holdford, B.E.M.

#### 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- (a) The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on October 12, 1962, were passed and signed by the Chairman.
- (b) Arising from the Minutes the following points were mentioned by the Chairman:
  - (i) *Lord Lieutenant's Appeal for Widows' Flatlets*—With the payments due from covenants during the ensuing six years, a sum of over £5,000 had been raised to date.
  - (ii) *Association Standard*—Great care had been taken over the making of the Standard, which was presented by the C.I.G.S. on May 12, and the finished article was a beautiful piece of craftsmanship.

#### 3. Revision of Rules

There being no comments it was proposed by Major Newman and seconded by Capt. Craydon that the amendments to the Association Rules as published in the October, 1963, issue of *The Die-Hards* should be adopted. *Carried.*

#### 4. Accounts for 1962

The Chairman asked if anyone present had any points to raise on the audited accounts for the year ended December 31, 1962, which had been circulated to Branches and published in the October, 1963, issue of *The Die-Hards*. No points were raised.

It was, therefore, proposed by Mr. Bennett and seconded by the Vice-Chairman that the accounts be received and adopted. *Carried.*

F. WALDEN, Colonel, Secretary.

#### MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION Minutes of an Executive Committee Meeting held at Guildhall, Westminster, S.W.1, on Wednesday, October 30, 1963

Present: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L. (Chairman), Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, D.L. (Vice-Chairman), Brigadier A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E., Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. S. F. Hedgecoe, Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., Lt.-Col. G. W. Webber, T.D., Major P. W. Galvin, Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major E. L. Heywood, Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E., Capt. S. R. Bonnamy, R.S.M. H. Boseley, Drum-Major J. Lewis, Col. F. Walden, D.L. (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., Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden, Lt.-Col. J. T. Dear, T.D., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D.



1. Before proceeding with the business of the Meeting the Chairman stated that he wished:

- (a) to place on record the excellent work which Col. Burrows had done for the Regimental Association during his period of office as Vice-Chairman and particularly in connection with the Standard and the Revision of the Rules. The Committee endorsed these observations and asked the Chairman to write and thank Col. Burrows on their behalf at the same time congratulating him on being granted the temporary rank of Colonel.
- (b) to welcome, on behalf of the Committee, Major Galvin, who was representing the Officer Commanding 1st Battalion, and D/Major Lewis, who was representing the R.S.M., 1st Battalion, whilst that Battalion was serving overseas.

## 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on June 27, 1963, were passed and signed by the Chairman.

## 3. Secretary's Report

(a) *Benevolent Cases—Applicants for Widows' Flatlets* (para. 1.)

In regard to that part of the Report dealing with benevolent cases Brigadier Rackham asked if any of the widows who applied for, and received, assistance from the Charitable Fund would be considered as suitable tenants for the widows' flatlets at Enfield, as they became available.

The Chairman explained that the Secretary did not normally deal directly with applicants, but through S.S.A.F.A., the Forces Help Society, or the British Legion.

It was agreed that the Secretary should be asked to keep this in mind and, should any case come to his notice of a widow or disabled soldier with a housing problem then the person concerned should be asked if he, or she, wished to be placed on the Waiting List.

(b) *Committees* (para. 4).

The Chairman drew the attention of the Committee to para. 4 (b) of the Report and asked for the views of members on the possibility of increasing the size of the Executive Committee with a view to introducing younger blood.

After some discussion it was decided that a Sub-Committee should be formed with a view to recommending a method of introducing new members and whether they advise increasing the numbers of the committee or not.

It was agreed that the Sub-Committee should be composed of the following:

*Chairman*—Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, D.L., Vice-Chairman of the Regimental Association.  
*Members*—Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Capt. S. R. Bonnamy.

The Chairman asked the Sub-Committee to let him have their recommendations before Christmas.

(c) *Lottery in Aid of Widows' Flatlets Scheme, Enfield* (para. 7)

Lt.-Col. Roberts asked if Lottery tickets would be available at the Annual Reunion at Seymour Hall prior to the draw, which is to take place that evening.

After some discussion it was agreed that tickets would be on sale up to a stated time prior to the draw.

(d) *Association Standard* (para. 8)

Brigadier Rackham said that he felt it was very disappointing that the Standard had not been used more by Branches.

The Secretary stated that it would be used at the Ceremony at the Field of Remembrance on Saturday, November 9, and at the Regimental Remembrance Day Service at Mill Hill on Sunday, November 10. It was also proposed to parade it at the Annual Reunion at Seymour Hall on Friday, November 29, in a similar manner to the way in which it had been paraded at the Lisbon Maru Reunion on Saturday, October 12.

(e) There being no further comments, the Report was adopted.

## 4. Correspondence

A file containing letters from the undernamed was passed round for members of the Committee to read:

A. *Letters of Appreciation for Charitable Grants*

(i) (a) Letter dated May 31, 1963, from Chief Welfare Officer, Middlesex County Council, for help towards a holiday for Mrs. E. Webdale, widow of ex-Pte. J. E. Webdale, late 17th (Service) Battalion.

(b) Mrs. E. Webdale's letter dated June 9, 1963, for help towards her holiday.

(ii) Letter dated June 24, 1963, from the General Secretary, Southend-on-Sea Civic Guild of Help, for purchase of shoes and under-clothing for the wife of ex-Pte. H. Elithorn.

(iii) Letter dated July 8, 1963, from the Welfare Officer, Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance, London, N.W.1, for help towards the settlement of outstanding debts of Mrs. A. D. Moore, widow of Mr. W. E. Moore, disabled in 1939-45 War and killed in a road accident in December, 1961.

(iv) Letter dated July 9, 1963, from the Almoner, Ashford Hospital, Ashford, Middlesex, for help towards a holiday for ex-Pte. A. Mapes, late 1st Battalion, 1913-19.

(v) (a) Letter dated August 9, 1963, from Chief Welfare Officer, Middlesex County Council for help towards a holiday for Mrs. W. Kemp, wife of ex-Pte. H. J. Kemp, late 7th Battalion, 1912-17.

(b) ex-Pte. H. J. Kemp's letter dated August 18, 1963, for help towards his wife's holiday.

(vi) Letter dated August 28, 1963, from Mr. A. H. Rixen (aged 80 plus), late 7th and 2/8th Battalions, 1914-18 War, for a small grant and suit of clothes.

(vii) Letter dated September 2, 1963, from Orthopaedic Almoner, Great Ormond Street Hospital, for a grant to help with the travelling expenses of Mrs. Allsop, wife of ex-Pte. R. F. Allsop, in visiting her daughter in hospital.

(viii) Letter dated September 7, 1963, from Mrs. E. Hawkins, widow of Pte. J. T. Hawkins, for help towards house repairs.

(ix) Letter dated October 6, 1963, from ex-Cpl. J. H. Farmborough, late 1/7th Battalion, thanking the Regimental Association for the help given towards his son's education.

(x) Letter dated October 7, 1963, from the Clerk to the County Almoner, Battle Hospital, Reading, for help given to ex-Cpl. A. E. Rose, M.M., late 1st and 21st (Service) Battalions, to enable him to pay off outstanding debts contracted whilst in hospital and unable to work.

(xi) Letter dated October 14, 1963, from ex-Pte. E. A. Carnie for a grant for the purchase of clothing.

B. *Miscellaneous*

(xii) Letter dated September 19, 1963, from Miss A. G. Woodrow thanking the Regimental Association for a cheque sent in appreciation of the large amount of voluntary typing undertaken in connection with the repairs to the Regimental Memorial Cottages at Mill Hill.

## 5. Finance Sub-Committee's Report

(a) *Investments*

Arising from Minute 4 of the Sub-Committee Meeting held on October 22, 1963, the Chairman stated that Lt.-Col. Dear had studied the investments held by the Regimental Association and had submitted a comprehensive report on them. In view of this report he had arranged for Lt.-Col. Dear to be personally introduced by him to Messrs. Mullens and Co., with a view to having a general discussion on the investments and deciding whether or not to recommend any changes in the portfolio at the present time.

In view of the possibility of an early General Election, the Chairman asked for the Finance Committee to be given authority to act immediately in regard to changes in investments if it was considered necessary.

After some discussion it was unanimously agreed that the authority asked for should be delegated to any two members of the Finance Sub-Committee.

(b) *Albuhera Parade, 1963*

Arising from Minute 5 of the Sub-Committee Meeting held on October 22, 1963, the Chairman reported that the Officers' Club had agreed to make a donation of £75 towards the expenses of the Parade, and that the Trustees of the 9th Battalion had made a contribution of £25.

Brigadier Rackham asked the Chairman to thank

the Trustees of the 9th Battalion for their generous donation.

(c) *Lord Lieutenant's Appeal*—The Chairman reported on the efforts made to date to raise funds for the Appeal, and asked members to let the Secretary have any further suggestions.

(d) *Widows' Flatlets, Enfield and Memorial Cottages, Mill Hill*—The Chairman explained in some detail how expenditure on the construction of the Flatlets at Enfield and the modernisation of the Memorial Cottages at Mill Hill had been met, and stated that, up to date, the Charitable Fund had not been used for this purpose.

(e) There being no further comments the Report was adopted.

## 6. Housing Sub-Committee's Report

(a) *Memorial Cottages, Mill Hill*—Arising from Minute 2 of the Sub-Committee Meeting held on September 16, 1963, Brigadier Rackham stated that application had been made to the Hendon Borough Council for aid towards the cost of the modification to the Memorial Cottages Nos. 3 and 4 at Mill Hill, and that this should be received in the very near future.

(b) *Allocation of new Flatlets, Enfield*—Arising from Minute 3 of the Sub-Committee Meeting held on September 16, 1963, Brigadier Rackham stated that the special Sub-Committee responsible had allocated two of the new flatlets to Mrs. Peacock and Mr. and Mrs. Saunders, who were both at present in occupation of houses at Albuhera Close, and that it was very possible that Mrs. Bagnall, who was at present living in No. 4 Memorial Cottage, Mill Hill, would occupy a third, since it was not certain that other accommodation would be obtained for her in Hendon.

(c) *Maintenance of Memorial Houses, Enfield*—Arising from Minute 5 of the Sub-Committee meeting held on September 16, 1963, Brigadier Rackham stated that the Architect, Major Millard, had reported that:

- (i) the cost of replacement of Yorkdale fireplaces would be approximately £70 per house.
- (ii) two Yorkdale fireplaces needed immediate replacement.
- (iii) all fireplaces would require replacement within five years, and refrigerators within seven years.

It was agreed that the two fireplaces now reported as unserviceable should be replaced, and that the others should be considered at a later date.

It was also agreed that the question of the regular servicing of both fireplaces and refrigerators should be investigated. At the same time it was strongly urged that the tenants should be reminded of their responsibilities in regard to keeping these important articles of household equipment clean.

(d) *Conditions of Tenancy for new Flatlets, Enfield*—The Chairman stated that he had received a draft copy of the suggested "Conditions of Tenancy" from Major Hardcastle.

It was agreed that these conditions should be considered by the Housing Committee who should



report any amendments they deem desirable at the next Meeting of the Executive Committee.

(e) There being no further comments the Report was adopted.

#### 7. Report of Special Sub-Committee dealing with the Scheme for the Construction of Widows' Flatlets at Enfield

(a) The Chairman stated that the flatlets would not be ready for occupation until later in the year, and a firm date had not yet been received.

(b) In regard to the alarm bell, Major Hardcastle asked if it would be possible to arrange for it to be rung from anywhere in the room by having a wire placed all round the room at a height of about 1 foot, since if an elderly person was injured and unable to move it might be impossible for that person to reach the normal type of bell-push.

It was agreed that the Secretary should take this matter up with the Architect.

(c) Lt.-Col. Webber asked if there was to be an official opening of the flatlets.

After some discussion it was agreed that an official opening was not necessary.

(d) There being no further comments the Report was adopted.

#### 8. Journal Sub-Committee's Report

(a) The Chairman stated that he would like to record the thanks of the Committee to the Editor for his efforts in getting more advertisements, which had resulted in an increased revenue to the Journal.

(b) Col. Walden stated that the October issue of the Journal was due for publication on October 22, but that it would be after that date, because special blocks had had to be made for some of the new advertisements from Gibraltar. He said that all readers at home should receive their copies by November 4 at the latest.

(c) There being no further comments the Chairman proposed that the Report be adopted with great pleasure and that an appreciation of the efforts of the Editor should be recorded in these Minutes.

Lt.-Col. Roberts seconded the proposal, which was carried.

#### 9. Branch Secretaries' Sub-Committee Report

(a) *Attendance at Branch Secretaries' Meeting*—Brigadier Rackham expressed concern that so few Branch Secretaries had attended the Meeting on October 16, 1963.

The Secretary stated that this was the first occasion on which the Branch Secretaries' Meeting had been poorly attended, and that those who were unable to attend had very good reasons for not doing so.

(b) *Association Membership*—Brigadier Rackham asked if there was any sign of younger members joining the Regimental Association.

The Secretary stated that certain of the younger members who attended the Lisbon Maru Reunion had

joined, but that none of those who had recently taken their discharge had done so.

In reply to a further question the Secretary said that he would not be in a position to state accurately the present membership of the Regimental Association until he had received up-to-date rolls from all Branches. He stated that the total number of members as at December 31, 1963, would be available at the next Executive Committee meeting.

In reply to a question from Major Newman, the Secretary stated that Association enrolment forms would be available at the Annual Reunion on November 29.

(c) *Association Standard*—Arising from Minute 10 (a) of the Sub-Committee Meeting held on October 16, 1963, Major Newman asked if it was intended that the Standard should be paraded at the Annual Reunion on November 29.

It was unanimously agreed that the Standard should be paraded, and that the time for doing so should be left to the Secretary.

(d) There being no further comments the Report was adopted.

#### 10. Any Other Business

(a) *Benevolent Case*—The Chairman asked the Committee to give consideration to the case of an ex-bandsman of the Regiment who had asked for a loan of £100 to assist him in the purchase of a house. He had offered repayment at the rate of £10 per month.

After discussion it was unanimously agreed that the loan should be made, and that repayment should be made at the rate of £5 per month, since it was considered that repayment at the rate of £10 per month, in addition to mortgage repayments, would be too great a strain on the man's finances.

Major Newman suggested that the man should be asked to insure himself against illness, so that payments on the mortgage would be kept up by the Insurance Company in the case of prolonged illness, the man only having to meet his loan repayments from his income.

It was agreed that this matter should be taken up when the loan is made.

(b) *Appeal by the Army Benevolent Fund*—The Vice-Chairman drew attention to an Appeal which was being launched by the Army Benevolent Fund in the County of Middlesex next spring, and which would be linked with the Regiment.

It was agreed that this should be considered later when more details are available.

(c) *Menu of an Albuhera Dinner held in Hong Kong*—Major Newman stated that about three years ago a menu of an Albuhera Dinner held in Hong Kong had been handed over to him by the Colonel of the Regiment, with instructions to keep it in safe custody, and that it had been placed on the table at every Annual Dinner of the Mill Hill Branch since. As he was himself moving from the district

he now asked the Regimental Association to take custody of the menu, which was of historic value, with a view to its being placed in the Regimental Museum.

The Committee unanimously agreed to Major Newman's request.

(d) *Next Meeting*—The next Meeting was provisionally arranged for Tuesday, February 25, 1964.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,  
Secretary.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, OCTOBER, 30, 1963

#### Secretary's Report

##### 1. Benevolent Cases

(a) During the period from June 1, 1963, to September 30, 1963, the sum of £281 13s. 10d. was spent on assisting 44 cases. The breakdown showing the service of these cases is as follows:

1914-18 War	... 29
Between Wars	... 1
1939-45 War	... 7
Post-War	... 7

(b) *Clothing Grants*. Seven grants were made. Of these one was to a widow living on a small income, and one to an elderly couple, who had suffered considerable financial hardship through illness since August, 1962.

(c) *Convalescent Holidays*. Eight grants were made. Of these one was to a widow in co-operation with the K.R.R.C. Association, one to an ex-T.A. member whose wife had been very ill, and two to elderly widows badly in need of a change.

(d) *Fuel Grants*. A total of eight grants was made for the provision of fuel to needy cases for the winter. One of these grants was made to the oldest ex-member of the Regiment, who is now aged 97.

(e) *Housing*. Five grants were made to assist with various housing problems.

In one case help was given towards the payment of mortgage arrears to an ex-member of the Regiment who had suffered brain haemorrhage as the result of an accident whilst serving as a parachutist, and is unable at present to work.

In another case a grant was made towards the installation of a wash basin in the bathroom of a severely handicapped ex-soldier who on account of deterioration in his condition, is now largely confined to his bedroom.

(f) *Rent Arrears*. Five cases were assisted. Of these one was an ex-National Serviceman who had difficulty in keeping his job, and another was the wife of a Reservist who had been serving a short prison sentence for larceny.

##### (g) Miscellaneous Grants

(i) Four grants were made to help clear debts incurred by ex-soldiers through sickness, one of these in co-operation with the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment O.C.A.

(ii) A grant was made to the widow of an ex-soldier who had been disabled in the last war and had later been killed in a street accident, to help clear debts incurred whilst she was ill and unable to work.

(iii) A grant was made to one of our disabled ex-soldiers of the 1914-18 War to enable him to instal a garage for his invalid car supplied by the Ministry of Pensions.

(iv) A grant was made to another disabled ex-soldier of 1914-18 War to enable him to have wiring laid on for the charging of batteries for his electrically-propelled tricycle.

(v) A grant was made to an ex-soldier, who had served in Korea, to help meet the heavy travelling expenses incurred by his wife in paying essential visits to their child whilst she was in Great Ormond Street Hospital, after undergoing a severe operation.

(vi) A grant was made to another ex-soldier, who had been invalided out of the service in Korea and was now in Napsbury Hospital, to provide food and groceries for his three young children.

(vii) A small grant was made to an elderly ex-soldier of the 9th Battalion to enable him to pay for new lenses to his spectacles.

#### 2. Members—Deaths

The deaths of the following members have been notified since my last report dated June 24, 1963: Lt.-Col. L. F. Sloane-Stanley, O.B.E., Lt.-Col. N. G. Gilbert, ex-Sgt. F. Bevis, ex-Sgt. H. C. Hull, M.M., ex-Sgt. G. Markham, ex-Pte. G. Poulson.

#### 3. Employment

The following ex-members of the Regiment have been found employment by the Regular Forces Employment Association since last May: Baston, J. M., 6295007 (G.P.O. Technical Labourer), Bellamy, R. G., 6463327 (G.P.O. Technician), Chipp, L. T., 2299926 (Postman), Clayton, S. A., 6203978 (Driver), Delaney, L. J., 6200389 (Storeman), Dillon, P. LS/3768525 (Works Handyman), Kelly, V. E. J., 23717467 (Government Training Course), Simmonds, A. E., 5384930 (Assistant Storekeeper), Taylor, N. A., 22542445 (Warehouse Clerk), Thom, J. A., 1520025 (Storeman), Thurley, C. F., 4130043 (Post Office Cleaner), Zorlu, M. H., 23664297 (Government Training Course).

#### 4. Committees

(a) *Executive—Ex Officio Members*. Arising from Minute 13 (a) of the Executive Committee Meeting



held on June 27, 1963, the following have been nominated to represent the Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major respectively, whilst the 1st Battalion is on service abroad: Major P. W. Galvin, D/Major J. Lewis.

(b) *Executive—Nominated Members.* Arising from Minute 13 (c) of the Executive Committee Meeting held on June 27, 1963, the following names have been submitted under Rule 21 (b): Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey, O.B.E., Major H. J. Evans, Major B. St. G. A. Reed, M.C., Major M. P. Weedon, M.C., Capt. P. J. T. Lane, Capt. A. W. Ramsay.

(c) *Housing.* Major E. F. Thompson, M.C., T.D., has agreed to serve as a co-opted member of the Housing Sub-Committee in place of the member previously found by the 1st Battalion.

#### 5. Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows

Mrs. M. H. Steadman, widow of C/Sgt. S. T. Steadman, applied for a vacancy at the Royal Cambridge Home, which she would most probably have been allotted. When, however, she visited the Home, she found that on account of arthritis in her leg, she was unable to negotiate the stairs. In view of this, therefore, she had to withdraw her application.

She has now applied for one of the bungalows under construction at Albuhera Close, Enfield.

#### 6. Reunions, 1963

(a) *Annual, November 29.* The number of tickets sold to date is as follows: Single, 22; Double, 49.

(b) *Lisbon Maru, October 12.* A second reunion of survivors of the 1st Battalion who fought in the defence of Hong Kong in December, 1941, and the sinking of the "Lisbon Maru" in October, 1942, was held at Regimental Headquarters on Saturday, October 12.

Although 132 accepted the invitation sent out, approximately 200 actually attended.

The excellent buffet, provided by Mr. Banks, the Caretaker at the T.A. Centre, was very much appreciated.

(c) *51st (Highland) Division, October 5.* The first reunion of the 51st (Highland) Division was held at Perth on Saturday, October 5, for all past and present members of the Division.

Arrangements were made for the 1/7th Battalion to be represented and a party of three ex-members, headed by ex-R.S.M. W. Knight, M.B.E., attended.

All concerned are full of praise for the splendid reception and the way in which they were looked after. Throughout the day they were invited to use the tent of our old friends, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, as their "base."

#### 7. Lottery in Aid of Widows' Flatlets Scheme, Enfield

The sum raised to date on the sale of Lottery tickets is £39 6s. 0d.

Branch Secretaries have been asked to sell as many tickets as possible before the Annual Reunion, when the Draw will take place.

#### 8. Association Standard

Since the Standard was presented on May 12 last it has been applied for and used on the following occasions:

(a) Albuhera Dinner, Mill Hill Branch.

(b) Lisbon Maru Reunion, October 12.

Branch Secretaries have been encouraged to apply for it on any suitable occasion.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,  
Secretary.

#### MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Executive Committee held at Guildhall, Westminster, S.W.1, on Tuesday, December 17, 1963

*Present:* Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L. (Chairman), Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, D.L. (Vice-Chairman), Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., Col. S. F. Hedgecoe, Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major E. L. Heywood, Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E., Col. F. Walden, D.L. (Secretary).

Apologies for absence were received from Brigadier A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden, Lt.-Col. J. T. Dear, T.D., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Major P. W. Galvin, R.S.M. H. Boseley, D/Major J. Lewis.

#### 1. Special Resolution of which due notice had been given under Rule 41

The Chairman informed the Committee that he thought it would be appropriate if he made a statement before the resolution was put to the Committee. He explained that for several reasons it was desirable that the money required to cover the cost of the flatlets should be found, if possible, without encroaching in any way on the existing Charitable Fund and he explained to the Committee how this could be achieved provided the sum of £2,000 was borrowed. He also explained the fact that, although the mortgage under consideration with the Enfield Borough Council was for a 60-year period, there was inherent in the terms a right to redeem the mortgage on giving six months' notice so that there was no question of a loan from this source having to run for 60 years whether the Association needed the money or not.

A full discussion then took place on the resolution to borrow from the Enfield Borough Council and the terms on which the Bank would make a temporary advance which they stated would not be called in

for seven years unless exceptional circumstances made it necessary. The following resolution was then put to the meeting:

"That in connection with the provision of four Widows' Homes at Albuhera Close, Enfield, the Association do borrow from the Enfield Borough Council, the sum of £2,000 repayable to the Council with interest at 6 per cent. per annum over a period of 60 years by half-yearly instalments of £61 15s. 7d. and that the Mortgage of additional land at Albuhera Close lately acquired by the Association and produced to the Meeting constituting the security for the loan be executed on behalf of the Association and the arrangement for the loan be carried into effect."

This resolution was approved unanimously on the understanding that the Committee will aim at redeeming the loan within five years and the Finance Committee be instructed to act accordingly.

#### 2. Loan to a Serving Warrant Officer

The Chairman reported that he had received an application for a loan of £800 from a Serving Warrant Officer to enable him to put down the necessary deposit for the purchase of a house. He was due for a gratuity on the termination of his service in July, 1964, which would allow him to commute a sum of more than this amount and thus he could redeem the loan in less than a year.

After some discussion it was decided that the Association was not geared to move into the House Purchase field and that to do so would establish an embarrassing precedent. The Secretary was instructed to explain the position to the Warrant Officer concerned with an expression of regret at being unable to help him in this way.

#### 3. Other Business

Lt.-Col. Roberts asked whether it would be possible to have a statement of the general financial policy prepared for submission to the Committee for approval.

The Chairman asked Lt.-Col. Roberts if he would be good enough to prepare a draft statement of policy on the lines which he had in mind and send it to him so that he could consider the matter.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,  
Secretary.

#### MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Minutes of an Executive Committee Meeting held at Guildhall, Westminster, S.W.1, on Tuesday, February 25, 1964

*Present:* Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L. (chairman), Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L. (vice-chairman), Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B., C.B.E.,

D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., Brigadier A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E., Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, D.L., Col. S. F. Hedgecoe, Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Major P. J. Hall, Major B. St. G. A. Reed, M.C., Major E. F. Thompson, M.C., T.D., Major M. P. Weedon, M.C., D/Major J. Lewis, Mr. T. R. Bennett, Mr. C. Holdford, B.E.M., Col. F. Walden, D.L. (secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden, Lt.-Col. G. W. Webber, T.D., Major P. W. Galvin, Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., R.S.M. H. Boseley.

#### 1. Report of Special Sub-Committee appointed to recommend a method of introducing new members to the Executive Committee

(a) The chairman stated that he wished to deal first with the report of the special sub-committee, which had been circulated to all members as appendix "A" to the agenda, and to consider its recommendations.

The chairman went on to say that, at present, the Executive Committee consisted of 20 members and, without detracting from its efficiency, it was for consideration as to whether it should be increased to 25 or 27 members, the increase to include an adequate proportion of ex-other ranks.

After a short discussion it was proposed by Lt.-Col. Roberts and seconded by Brigadier Baker that the Executive Committee should in future be increased to 27 members by the election of additional nominated members.

(b) At Col. Clayton's suggestion it was agreed that the secretary should invite a representative from each branch, in rotation, to be present at Executive Committee meetings in order to give first hand information of their branch activities etc., to the committee.

#### 2. New Nominated Members

The chairman welcomed the following new nominated members to the committee: Major E. F. Thompson, M.C., T.D., Major B. St. G. A. Reed, M.C., Major M. P. Weedon, M.C.

#### 3. Retiring Members

The chairman expressed his thanks and appreciation to the following, who had now retired from the committee, for all that they had done whilst members of the Executive Committee: Major E. L. Heywood, Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E., Capt. S. R. Bonnamy.

#### 4. Co-opted Members

The chairman asked members if they had anyone to put forward for consideration as a co-opted member under rule 21(d), whereupon the following proposals were made and approved by the committee: Capt. A. W. Ramsey—proposed Major Reed and seconded by Brigadier Green; Mr. W. Knight, M.B.E.—proposed by Col. Clayton and seconded by Mr. Holdford.



## 5. Minutes of Previous Meetings

(a) The minutes of the previous meeting held on October 30, 1963 and of the special meeting held on December 17, 1963 were passed and signed by the chairman.

(b) Arising from minute 3 of the special meeting held on December 17, 1963 the chairman asked members to consider carefully the draft policy statements prepared by Lt.-Col. Roberts and himself, copies of which had been issued to all present at this meeting, and let the secretary have their comments by not later than March 31, 1964.

## 6. Secretary's Report

There being no comments the secretary's report was adopted.

## 7. Correspondence

A file containing the following letters was passed round for members of the committee to read:—

- (a) *Letters of appreciation for annual donations.*
  - (i) Letter dated December 30, 1963 from S.S.A.F.A.
  - (ii) Letter dated December 30, 1963 from National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen.
  - (iii) Letter dated December 30, 1963 from the Gordon Boys School.
  - (iv) Letter dated December 31, 1963 from the Forces Help Society and Lord Robert Workshops.
  - (v) Letter dated January 1, 1964 from the Family Welfare Association.
  - (vi) Letter dated January 1, 1964 from The Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen.
  - (vii) Letter dated January 1, 1964 from the Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows.
  - (viii) Compliments slip from British Limbless ex-Service Mens' Association.
- (b) *Letters of appreciation for individual charitable grants.*
  - (ix) Letter received on December 9, 1963 from L/Cpl. L. Robertson, 1st Battalion, re his son, Alan.
  - (x) Letter dated December 16, 1963 from British Legion, Eastern Area, forwarding a letter of appreciation from Mr. W. S. Parrott.
  - (xi) Letter dated December 20, 1963 from Mrs. V. Chasney, widow of ex-Sgt. F. A. Chasney.
  - (xii) Letter undated from ex-Pte. H. T. Smith, late 2nd Battalion, 1914-18 War.
- (c) *Miscellaneous.*
  - (xiii) Letter dated November 14, 1963 from Mrs. P. L. Brooks.

## 8. Finance Sub-Committee's Report

(a) *Association Funds.* The chairman stated that the overall position of the funds on December 31, 1963, was not a happy one, in so far as it shows an overdraft of approximately £2,000. This was due to the fact that money had to be lent to the trustees of the War Memorial account to meet the contractors' bills until such time as the 5 per cent. Defence Bonds were redeemed. Part of these have now been redeemed and the balance of over £1,000 would be redeemed at the end of April next.

(b) *Investments.* Arising from Minute 5 of the sub-committee meeting held on February 19, 1964, the chairman stated that he wrote to members of the Finance Sub-Committee and the brokers in order to get their views separately and individually on the investment policy which should be adopted in view of the General Election this year. In their replies each member and the brokers agreed that we should hold our existing equities and that we should only sell any of our investments if there should be any special reason for doing so.

(c) *Lord Lieutenant's Appeal.* The chairman gave the following information in regard to the Appeal:

- (i) Since the last Executive Committee meeting Col. Clayton had initiated the appeal in Hong Kong, as a result of which a sum of approximately £440 had quite recently been received as a start. Further donations were expected.
- (ii) Lt.-Col. Dear had recently presented us with a cheque for £100 from a trust for which he acts.
- (iii) The estimated amount to come in from covenants during the next six years is £1,400.
- (iv) City companies are being approached.
- (d) *Rentals on Albuhera Close Estate.* The chairman stated that the houses at Albuhera Close had been built 10 years or more ago and that the cost of maintenance since then had increased considerably.

At the chairman's suggestion, therefore, it was agreed that an approach should now be made to the authorities concerned with a view to increasing the nominal rents of the houses from 5s. to 7s. 6d. weekly.

(e) *Contingent Liabilities of Widows' Bungalows, Enfield.* It was agreed that the auditor's attention should be drawn to the contingent liabilities arising in connection with the contract for the erection of the widows' flatlets and that an appropriate note be made in the balance sheet.

(f) There being no further comments the report was adopted.

## 9. Housing Sub-Committee's Report

(a) *Widows' Bungalows.* Arising from Minute 2 of the sub-committee meeting held on January 20, 1964, Brigadier Rackham stated that the rehabilitation of the site is likely to be costly. He said that the amount of land at the rear of the bungalows, even allowing for the garage space laid down by the local authorities, is much larger than he thought, and that a part of it near the boundary fence with the hospital is waterlogged.

It was agreed that this matter would have to be discussed with the architect and that, before doing so, Major Hardcastle should be asked to produce the title deeds, in order to verify the precise area acquired.

(b) *Waiting List for War Memorial House, Enfield.* Brigadier Rackham stated that very shortly the present waiting list of disabled ex-soldiers will be exhausted, and asked if steps could be taken to get in touch with other disabled ex-soldiers of the Regiment, of whom there must be many, with a view to building up the waiting list. In order to do this it was suggested, after some discussion, that:

- (i) Major Smith, the chairman of the Mill Hill Branch, might be one of the best persons to get information about disabled ex-soldiers of the Regiment, and
  - (ii) Steps should be taken to get in touch with organisations which deal with disabled ex-soldiers and their housing problems,
- and the secretary was asked to deal with this matter and report.

At the same time the secretary was asked to obtain a confirmation from Major Hardcastle that the trust deed permitted other ex-soldiers of the Regiment to occupy the cottages if no wounded soldiers were available to do so.

(c) *War Memorial Cottages, Bittacy Hill.* Arising from Minute 5 of the sub-committee meeting held on January 20, 1964, the secretary stated that the W.D. Land Agent, London District, had informed him that the War Department would take over Nos. 1 and 2 Cottages as they stand and would not insist on the Association either leaving them in a good state of repair, as required under the terms of the lease, or being responsible for having them demolished. The War Department would, however, require the Association to give them vacant possession and to pay the legal costs of a Deed of Surrender.

In view of the above it was agreed that the Association would:

- (i) Give up Nos. 1 and 2 Cottages to the War Department.
- (ii) When No. 4 Cottage is vacated by the present occupant, Mrs. Bagnall, offer it to Mr. and Mrs. Hayes, the present occupants of No. 2 Cottage.
- (iii) Give notice to quit to the present occupants of No. 1 Cottage, Mr. and Mrs. Stevens.
- (d) There being no further comments the report was adopted.

## 10. Journal Sub-Committee's Report

(a) *Advertisements.* Arising from Minute 2 of the sub-committee meeting held on February 18, 1964, Col. Walden stated that the following additional advertisements had now been obtained for the April issue of the Journal:

From	No. of Advertisements	Additional Revenue
Combined Services Publications .. ..	3	£18
Gibraltar .. ..	7	£24
Total .. ..	10	£42

This means that the total revenue from advertisements for the April issue should be approximately £172, as compared with £59 for the April 1963 issue—an increase of approximately £113.

(b) The chairman stated that the Journal had been a big financial problem for some years, and had had to be heavily subsidised. During the past year or so, however, it had made a remarkable recovery, and he very much appreciated all that Col. Walden had done to bring this about.

(c) There being no further comments the report was adopted.

## 11. Report of Branch Secretaries' Meeting

(a) In presenting the report of a branch secretaries' meeting held on February 17, the secretary stated that, apart from the dining branches, the only branches functioning well at the present time were Mill Hill and the Bandsmen and Drummers. On the other hand, he considered that the most unsuccessful branches, where there appeared to be little enthusiasm, were Ealing, Hounslow and Uxbridge.

Brigadier Baker said that he thought that the main reason for the lack of enthusiasm at Uxbridge was due to the fact that the Regiment no longer had a Drill Hall there, where meetings could be held. He considered that the present branch secretary, Mr. Bell, had done an excellent job of work in difficult circumstances.

(b) There being no further comments the report was noted.

## 12. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

(a) *Chairman.* Lt. Col. Fox reported that his was the only name on the list of nominations received by the secretary.

His re-election as chairman was unanimously approved by the committee.

(b) *Vice-Chairman.* It was proposed by Brigadier Green and seconded by Col. Clayton that Lt.-Col. Roberts should be appointed as vice-chairman for the ensuing year.

His election as vice-chairman was unanimously approved by the committee.

In thanking the committee for electing him Lt.-Col. Roberts stated that he would prefer to continue in office only until such time as a younger member of the committee could be found to take over the duties.



**13. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 30, 1964.

F. WALDEN, Col., *Secretary*.

**Secretary's Report****1. Benevolent Cases:**

- (a) During the period from October 1, 1963, to December 31, 1963, the sum of £357 9s. 2d. was spent on assisting 63 cases. The breakdown showing the service of these cases is as follows:

1914-18 War	..	38
Between Wars	..	5
1939-45 War	..	13
Post War..	..	3
Korean War	..	1
Still serving	..	3

- (b) **Clothing Grants.**—Fifteen grants were made, mostly to elderly ex-members of the Regiment or their widows. The few cases assisted, where the recipients were not elderly, were as follows:

- (i) the wife and children of a National Serviceman who saw service in Korea and is now a patient in a mental hospital.
- (ii) the children of an ex-member of the Regiment who saw service in the 1939-45 War, and had recently lost work through illness.
- (iii) a serving soldier whose child was attending a special school for handi-capped children, where uniform had to be provided at the parents' expense.

- (c) **Convalescent Holidays.**—Four grants were made, of which three were for elderly widows of ex-members of the Regiment.

- (d) **Fuel Grants.**—A total of fifteen grants were made for the provision of fuel to needy cases for the winter. One of these cases was the young widow of a National Serviceman who was killed in tragic circumstances when playing a game called "Russian roulette."

- (e) **Housing.**—Five grants were made to assist with various housing problems.

In one case help was given towards the repayment of a loan made by his employer to an ex-soldier who had won the Military Medal whilst serving with the Regiment in the 1914-18 War, and had had to give up work through a serious chest illness.

- (f) **Rent Arrears.**—Five cases were assisted, of which one was that of a husband whose rent arrears had been caused through his own illness and that of his wife, who, as a patient suffering from vascular disease in Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, had had to have her right leg amputated.

**(g) Miscellaneous Grants:**

- (i) A grant was made towards the renewal of the T.V. licence of an elderly widow, who was confined to her house.
- (ii) A grant was made to assist the young wife and child of a serving soldier, who had deserted them and left them temporarily penniless.
- (iii) A small grant was made to an elderly ex-member of the Regiment, living in Dublin, towards the replacement of his lost medals.
- (iv) A grant was made to a disabled ex-soldier to enable him to pay the premium on his car insurance policy.

**2. Members—Deaths.**

The deaths of the following members have been notified since my last Report dated October 25, 1963:—

Maj. R. T. Guscott, M.B.E.  
 ex-C.S.M. F. Hurst (aged 95)  
 ex-C.S.M. A. F. Page  
 ex-Sjt. C. W. Cox, MM.  
 W. L. Balfour  
 G. H. Redknap (ex-9th Battalion)  
 F. A. Reeve (ex-9th Battalion)  
 O. S. Taylor.

**3. Employment:**

The following ex-members of the Regiment have been found employment by the Regular Forces Employment Association since my last Report dated October 25, 1963:—

Baker, L. V. (6191883)—Clerk  
 Kingham, W. S. (2387336)—Driver  
 Simmonds, A. E. (5384930)—Salesman.

**4. Association Standard**

With reference to para. 8 of my Report dated October 25, 1963, the Association Standard was carried at the annual reunion on November 29, 1963.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,

*Secretary.*