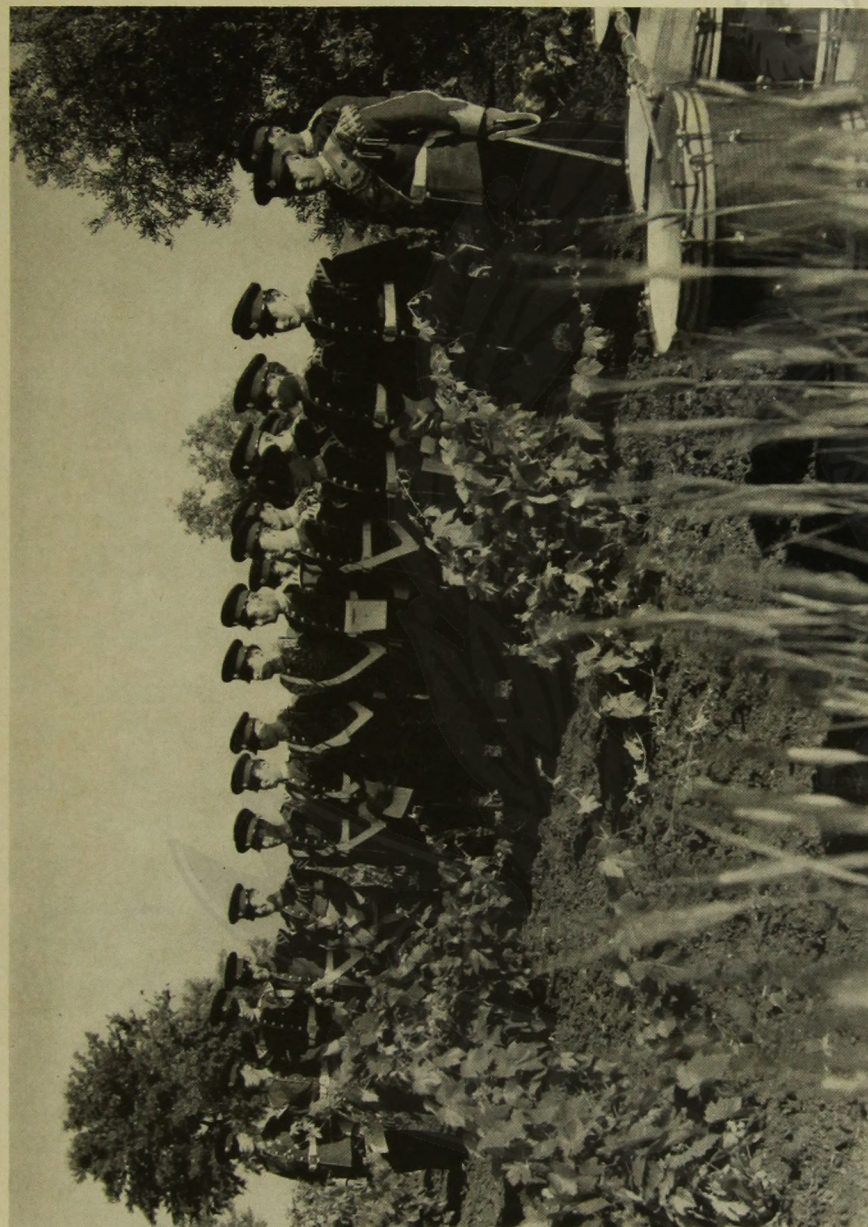


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The Corps of Drums on the Ridge at Albuhera, May 16, 1964

The Die Hards

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



HALF YEARLY : APRIL AND OCTOBER
VOL. XV No. 8 OCTOBER 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," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "17," "18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Bellewaarde," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "18," "Albert, 1916," "18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Flers-Courcette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancrè Heights," "Ancrè, 1916," "18," "Bapaume, 1917," "18," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "18," "Arleux," "Pillckem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrouck," "Bailleul," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suvla," "Landing at Suvla," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordon," "Tell 'Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18," "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murmman, 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": "Francofonte," "Sierro," "Sierro Hills," "Italy, 1944-45: "Anzio," "Carreccio," "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 Nederjijn," "Le Havre," "The Lower Maas," "Venraij," "Meijel," "Geilenkirchen," "Venlo Pocket," "The Rhineland," "Goch," "The Reichwald," "The Rhine," "Lingen," "Brinkum," "Bremen."

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

Colonel of the Regiment 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, D.L.
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,
"H.Q." Company } Middlesex.
"A" Company T.A. Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8.
"B" Company T.A. Centre, Churchfield Road, Ealing, W.13.
"C" Company T.A. Centre, Old Park Avenue, Enfield,
Middlesex.
"D" Company T.A. Centre, Hanworth Road, Hounslow,
Middlesex.

County of Middlesex Army Cadet Force

Headquarters: 456 Uxbridge Road, London, W.12.
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

5th Bn. (Wellington West Coast Taranaki) Royal New Zealand Infantry Regt.

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 M. P. Dracopoli, Queen's Own Buffs.

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.
Col.	I. H. Battye, M.B.E., B.A.	Brigade Colonel, Home Counties Brigade
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.	F. de R. Morgan, M.C.	Commander, 1st Battalion
Lt.-Col.	P. L. Pearce Gould, M.B.E., M.A.	A.Q.M.G., H.Q. Eastern Command
Lt.-Col.	C. N. Clayden	Deputy Comd., H.C. Brigade and Commander H.C. Brigade Depot
Lt.-Col.	D. Sax	T.S.O. 1, Ministry of Defence (A.E.P. 2a)
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. W. Galvin	D.A.Q.M.G., Q(A.E.) 2, Ministry of Defence
Major	E. A. H. Jeffcoat	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.)
Major	J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.)
Major	C. H. Mievile, 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	21C., 1st Battalion
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	B.M., 127 Infantry Brigade (T.A.)
Major	J. I. D. Pike, M.C.	A.C.C. Depot and Training Battalion
Major	B. H. Marciandi	1st Battalion
Major	C. L. Lawrence, M.C.	1st Battalion
Major	P. A. S. Wollocombe	11th Battalion The Kenya Rifles
Major	J. S. B. Pollard	1st Battalion
Capt.	R. D. Fisher	1st Battalion
Capt.	M. V. Hayward	Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham
Capt.	A. E. McManus	Brigade Recruiting Officer, Home Counties Brigade
Capt.	J. M. Hewson, M.C.	G.S.O. 3, H.Q. Cyrenaica District
Capt.	I. M. E. Lloyd	1st Battalion
Capt.	W. G. A. Crumley	Adjutant, 1st Battalion
Capt.	H. M. du V. Lohan	Adjutant, Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers)
Capt.	M. C. D. L. Gilham	G.S.O. 3, H.Q. FARELF
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 att'd. Royal Malaysian Air Force
Capt.	P. D. J. Clarke	Adjutant, 5th Battalion (T.A.)
Capt.	G. Bulloch	The Jamaica Regiment
Capt.	G. Goring	1st Battalion
Capt.	A. B. Cowing	1st Battalion
Lt.	R. C. Pitman	Trucial Oman Scouts
Lt. (T/Capt.)	J. G. Lofting	A.D.C. to G.O.C. 48 Div. (T.A.)/West Midland District
Lt.	P. J. Monypenny	Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion, Oswestry
Lt.	B. K. Finch	Malaysian Rangers

Lt.	P. J. Hubert	1st Battalion
Lt.	R. A. Bartlett	Home Counties Brigade Depot (P.S.)
Lt.	P. F. Packham	No. 42 Army Youth Team (Finchley)
Lt.	J. B. Hawkins	Home Counties Brigade Depot (P.S.)
Lt.	D. J. Daniell	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	M. B. Montgomery	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	D. M. Falcke	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	B. A. Carlston	H.Q. Forces, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland
2/Lt.	M. W. Deakin	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	A. G. D. Lowrie	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	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.)
2/Lt.	S. C. D. Searle	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	R. G. Truman	1st Battalion
Capt. (Q.M.)	E. J. Pike	3rd Battalion Border Regiment (T.A.)
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.
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T.A. Officers

Lt.-Col.	G. W. Webber, T.D.	Battalion Commander
Major	P. J. Hall, T.D.	21C.
Major	J. D. Gunnell, T.D.	O.C. "H.Q." Company.
Major	E. J. Naish	O.C. "C" Company.
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	21C "B" Company.
Capt.	H. E. Couch	21C "H.Q." Company.
Capt.	K. D. Murray	21C "D" Company.
Capt.	J. S. Richards	M.T.O.
Capt.	M. J. S. Doran	Signals Officer.
Lt.	D. O. M. Thomas	Platoon Commander.
Lt.	J. M. Robertson	Platoon Commander.
Lt.	J. McMaster	Platoon Commander.
Lt.	J. A. Van de Pol	Platoon Commander.
Lt.	J. C. Parkinson	I.O.
Lt.	R. G. Tett	Platoon Commander.
Lt.	D. J. Margand	Platoon Commander.
Lt.	J. J. Smith	Platoon Commander.
Lt.	T. D. Jones	Platoon Commander.
Lt.	J. S. Walker	Platoon Commander.
Lt.	D. S. Smith	Platoon Commander.
2/Lt.	F. J. Hamilton	Platoon Commander.
2/Lt.	J. M. Brown	Platoon Commander.
2/Lt.	M. L. Muirhead	Platoon Commander.

Attached Officers

Major	D. P. Winstanley (R.A.M.C.)	Medical Officer.
Major	R. L. MacQueen (R.A.M.C.)	Medical Officer.
Capt.	B. A. Hennah (R.A.P.C.)	Paymaster.
Rev.	R. Brown, R.A. ch.D.	Chaplain.

Permanent Staff Officers

Major	G. G. Norton	..	..	..	Training Officer.
Capt.	P. D. J. Clarke	..	..	..	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.

Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s Location Statement

(corrected to August 20, 1964)

REGULAR W.O.s AND SENIOR N.C.O.s

Bde Pos.	Rank or Appt.	Name	Unit	Bde Pos.	Rank or Appt.	Name	Unit
WARRANT OFFICERS CLASS I				WARRANT OFFICERS CLASS II			
1	R.S.M.	T. McMillan	Sennelager Trg. Cen.	10	R.Q.M.S.	P. Soper, B.E.M.	H.Q. 12 Inf. Bde. Gp.
8	R.S.M.	R. Dodkins	1 Mx.	19	R.Q.M.S.	K. Beale	H.Q. 11 Inf. Bde. Gp.
COLOUR-SERGEANTS				SERGEANTS			
3	C/Sgt.	J. Potter	1 Mx.	5	Sgt.	M. Butler	P.S. Staff
5	C/Sgt.	P. Dive	1 Mx.	7	Sgt.	A. Gibbs	1 Mx.
6	C/Sgt.	J. Moyse	1 Mx.	(O.R.C.)			
22	C/Sgt.	A. Nicholson	H.Q. 4. Div (4 Sig. Regt.)	8	Sgt.	R. Davies	1 Mx.
23	C/Sgt.	W. Smith	1 Mx.	16	Sgt.	R. Clements	1 Mx.
27	C/Sgt.	B. Warner	1 Mx.	21	Sgt.	K. Lloyd	1 Mx.
28	C/Sgt.	J. Martin, M.M.	1 Mx.				

Bde Pos.	Rank or Appt.	Name	Unit
188	Sgt.	F. Potts	1 Queens Own Buffs
189	Sgt.	J. Reynolds	1 Mx.

BANDMASTER

4	B.M.	J. McShane	1 Mx.
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ORDERLY ROOM SERGEANTS

4	O.R.Q.M.S.	G. Cripps	1 Mx.
---	------------	-----------	-------

DRUM MAJOR

2	D.M.	J. Lewis	Bde. Depot (P.S.)
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BAND SERGEANTS

1	Sgt.	G. Beechey	1 Mx.
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5th BATTALION (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. (Signals).
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.	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	"H.Q." Company.
Sgt.	H. C. Large	"D" Company.
Sgt.	N. K. Gasson	"D" Company.
Sgt.	A. C. Foster	"B" Company.

Sgt.	R. Stone	"A" Company
Sgt.	J. W. H. Morgan	"D" Company.
P/Sgt.	G. Graham	"A" Company.
P/Sgt.	V. Hill	"C" Company.
P/Sgt.	D. Harwood	"C" Company.
P/Sgt.	D. Godleman	"H.Q." Company.

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 (C.S.M.)	"B" Company.
Sgt.	E. Langford	"C" Company.
Sgt.	C. W. Partridge	"H.Q." Company.
Sgt.	G. R. Overton	"D" Company.

Essay Competitions, 1965

BERTRAND STEWART ESSAY COMPETITION, 1965.

Prize: £80.

Closing Date: June 22, 1965.

Subject: "The resources of our defence forces have become increasingly stretched over the past two years. The Army has been particularly affected, and has had to provide lightly equipped forces for IS and counter-insurgency operations world-wide while still maintaining more heavily equipped forces in B.A.O.R."

"The other two Services suffer to a lesser degree, and are not faced with the same difficulties of having to train, equip and allocate manpower for two such different commitments."

"How can these difficulties best be met? Discuss any measures (including financial measures) which you consider might help the Army to meet its varying commitments more easily and without any loss of effectiveness."

General conditions for this essay competition will be the same as for the 1964 competition and can be found in ACI 397 of 1963, except that the address of the Army Quarterly and Defence Journal shown in paragraph 5 is now: 43 Cardington Street, London, N.W.1.

GEORGE KNIGHT CLOWES MEMORIAL PRIZE ESSAY, 1965.

Prizes: 1st prize, £35; 2nd prize, £15.

Closing Date: March 31, 1965.

Subject: "Because of the revolutionary development in weapons, and changes in the pattern of war during the past 50 years, some people now doubt the value of military history as part of an officers education curriculum."

"Give your views on this, and discuss in general terms how best the experience of the past can be reconciled with modern trends and made to serve present and future needs in the military field."

General conditions for this essay competition will be the same as for the 1964 competition and can be found in ACI 243 of 1963, except that the address of the Army Quarterly and Defence Journal shown in paragraph 7 is now: 43 Cardington Street, London, N.W.1.

Editor's Comments

As notified in *Regimental Newsletter* no. 4, the Colonel of the Regiment has been selected for the appointment of General Officer Commanding, Middle East Land Forces, and I feel sure that all our readers would like me, on their behalf, to congratulate Major-General Willoughby most sincerely, and to let him know that our best wishes go with him when he takes up this new, and most important, command in May next year.

Since the publication of the last issue of *The Die-Hards* two Memorials have been dedicated in which the Regiment has had a direct interest.

The first of these was the restoration of a unique monument at Biarritz which the Bishop of Fulham, Dr. Coote, re-dedicated on Sunday, April 12. It was the porch of St. Andrew's Church, added in the last century to commemorate the British soldiers and sailors who fell in that part of France in 1813-14. The names of six officers and twelve rank and file of the 57th Foot, who fell at the Battles of the Nivelle and the Nive, are amongst them. Major H. J. A. Moore, from the 1st Battalion, represented the Colonel of the Regiment at the re-dedication ceremony. He was accompanied by Lt. J. B. Hawkins.

The second was erected to those killed in the Zulu War, in which the 57th won the battle honour "South Africa 1879." The Memorial took the form of a Pavilion of Remembrance overlooking the battlefield of Isandhl-

wana, and was opened on Sunday, July 5. Lt.-Col. S. F. W. M. del Court, who lives in the Cape Province, very kindly made the long journey to Natal to represent the Colonel of the Regiment at the ceremony.

By the time this issue of *The Die-Hards* is published Major E. A. H. Jeffcoat will have handed over his duties as Sub-Editor in the 1st Battalion, and I cannot let the occasion pass without recording my thanks to him through these columns for all that he has done, not only in inducing so many firms in Gibraltar to advertise in the Regimental Journal, but also in his very careful preparation before submission of the Battalion's notes, which has eased my burden as Editor.

I much regret that, owing to the postmen's strike, there was some considerable delay in the despatch of *Regimental Newsletter* no. 4. Being graded as second class mail it was not until nearly midway through August that it was accepted by the postal authorities.

It has been decided to discontinue the allocation of serial numbers to each copy of the Regimental Journal as from this issue.

Personalia

An article in the *Palmers Green Gazette* recently brought news of an old Die-Hard, G. E. Ashley (87045). He enlisted in the 17th (Footballers') Battalion in 1916, was later transferred to the 21st (Service) Battalion (Islington) and finished up in the war in the 1st Battalion when he was wounded in October 1918.

Many of our readers who knew him will regret to learn of the death early in August of Mr. H. O. C. Bethell, who for some years was employed as a Civilian clerk in the Depot Orderly Room.

Ex-Signaller Percy Connor (G19511), now living in Canada, who joined the 21st (Service) Battalion

(Islington) at Highbury Fields in 1915 and won the Military Medal, is anxious to locate any former members of his old Battalion. A few names have been collected by Regimental Headquarters, but there must be many more. Anyone, therefore, who can help is requested to forward details to the Editor.

Major P. L. Crutchfield, having completed his tour of duty as GSO 2, Intelligence, at GHQ FARELF, has returned to this country and is now on leave pending retirement.

Sergeant Frank Finnis, who was born in South Africa, has been selected to captain the British modern

pentathlon team for the Olympic Games in Tokio. Congratulations and the best of luck!

Henry J. Fowler (290215), who was Pioneer Sergeant of 1/10th Battalion in India during the 1914-18 War, wrote to say that, although he was unable to attend the Service of Remembrance in connection with the 50th Anniversary of the Outbreak of the 1914-18 War, his thoughts and memories were with us all that day.

Congratulations to Major Peter Hall on the award of the Territorial Efficiency Decoration which was notified in *The London Gazette* of July 14, 1964.

Lt. John Hawkins, who was posted to the Permanent Staff of the Brigade Depot last August, has been earmarked for a Platoon Commanders' appointment at the Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion, Oswestry, next January.

We congratulate Capt. Mike Hayward on being selected to attend a course at the Naval Staff College, beginning in January next.

We also congratulate him and Mrs. Hayward on the birth of Christopher Robin Martin on April 9 last.

Ex-L/Cpl. G. W. Holding (10480), now aged 79 and living at Bournemouth, has written an interesting letter, giving some of his experiences in the Regiment both in peace and war. He enlisted in August 1905 and spent most of his Colour service with the 3rd Battalion in the Far East. At the outbreak of the 1914-18 War he was recalled from the Reserve and joined the 1st Battalion at Woolwich. After being badly wounded on the Western front in April 1915 and spending two years in hospital he was eventually discharged with a disability pension.

Efforts are being made to trace any contemporaries of ex-Pte. John Spencer James (G.98666) who served in the 2nd Battalion from 1914 to 1918.

Any reader who knew Pte. James is requested to get in touch with the Secretary of the Regimental Association.

Those who remember him will be interested to hear that Bill Kemp, who was in "C" Company of the 2nd Battalion in Ahmednagar days, and finished up

the 1939-45 War as a Major in the Royal Sussex Regiment, is now living in Perth, Western Australia, and working for the Australian Legion.

His son, Bruce, who got married fairly recently, has been commissioned into the Royal Australian Engineers.

We were very pleased that Lt. John Lofting had again been selected to play cricket for the Army during the past season.

We congratulate Capt. Tony McManus on being selected to attend a Technical Staff Course at Shrivenham, beginning next January. In preparation for this course we understand that, since he gave up the Adjutancy of the 5th Battalion in the summer he has, when not performing the duties of Brigade Recruiting Officer, been trying to learn what he failed to do at school!!

We congratulate Major Willoughby Newton on being selected for the Irish Fly Fishing team for the international match against England, Scotland and Wales, which took place at Loch Leven earlier this year.

According to our records this is the first time any member of the Regiment has acquired international status as an angler.

Lt.-Col. Peter Pearce Gould, on completion of his tour of duty with the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment, has been appointed A.Q.M.G. at Headquarters, Eastern Command.

Congratulations to Major and Mrs. folliot Powell on the birth of a daughter on April 9, 1964.

A spate of promotions was notified in *The London Gazette* of July 31 last. Amongst them were those of Capt. John Pollard to Major, and Lts. George Goring and Andrew Cowing to Captain.

Congratulations to all! We were glad to note that, on his recent fleeting visit to Regimental Headquarters, John Pollard had not yet assumed a field officer's figure!!

We were very pleased to hear from Major Bill Raindle and to get news of his whereabouts. He has apparently been at the British Embassy in Paris for the past two years, but he says that he does not like Paris as a city as much as Moscow, where he was previously.

We wish Pte. T. Russell (23784894) and his young bride, Miss Maureen Vivien Purkiss, who were married on August 8, 1964, many years of happiness together.

Padre Harold Spooner, who was Chaplain to the 1/9th Battalion in India during World War 1, is taking part in the B.B.C. Television film "The Great War Series," which started on May 23 last and goes on for 26 Saturdays.

He is due to appear on the scene (or screen!) on October 31, when he tells two stories—one about the Battle of Ctesiphon and one about the Siege of Kut.

On August 17 last the engagement was announced of Mrs. Joan Tidbury, widow of Brigadier Ord Tidbury, to Major Hugh D'Oyly Lyle, Royal Welch Fusiliers (Retd.).

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50th ANNIVERSARY OF OUTBREAK OF 1914-18 WAR

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Outbreak of the 1914-18 War, a Service of Remembrance was held at the War Memorial in the Regiment's old home, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, on Sunday, August 23, 1964—the fiftieth year after the first action, the Battle of Mons. The ceremony was not to commemorate the Battle of Mons alone, but in remembrance of the four years of that mighty conflict and appalling casualties.

Apart from the many past and present members of the Regiment and their relations and friends, we were particularly pleased that the Vice-Chairman of the Middlesex County Council (County Alderman Mrs. Rex White), representing the Chairman, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Hendon (Councillor and Mrs. John Shock) honoured us with their presence.

The day and the date were well chosen. It was at Mons that the first British infantry rifle shots of the war were fired by the 4th Battalion of the Regiment. In the four years that followed the Regiment was to fight on every battle front, its forty-six Battalions and seventeen Works and Labour Companies were to gain 93 Battle Honours, and 12,694 men of all ranks were to lay down their lives. It was also at a position three miles from Mons that the 2nd Battalion were to fire what may well have been the last shots of the war on the morning of November 11, 1918.

On parade were veterans of the Regular Battalions, the Territorial Battalions and the specially raised Service Battalions. The Standard of the Regimental Association was carried and escorted by a representative of each group of these Battalions, the three so honoured had fought with the Regiment during these years. The Standard bearer was ex-Sgt. W. A. Wright, a regular who was present at the Battle of Mons, the Right Escort to the Standard was ex-Sgt. S. V. Edge, D.C.M., a Territorial who had gone overseas with his Battalion soon after mobilisation in 1914, and the Left Escort was ex-Sgt. E. A. Weddell, M.M., a member of the Service Battalions—those Battalions which fought so well and suffered such grievous casualties in the maelstrom of the Somme battles of 1916. As well as the veterans who had fought on the Western Front, the old soldiers who had fought in Italy, Macedonia, Gallipoli, Gaza, Mesopotamia and the frozen wastes of Russia were in their respective groups, proudly wearing their medals and marching with a swing as the band played them past the saluting base and off the square.

The parade was commanded by Major G. Stewart Sutherland, there being two hundred old soldiers present although all could not march in the ranks due to wounds or the infirmities of age. Disappointment was expressed by a number of men in the ranks at the paucity of their old officers at the ceremony but it was pointed out that age and the Grim Reaper had taken toll in the last few years.

Even if all could not march, they certainly took a deep interest in both the Service at the Memorial and in the Parade. Of the service many complimentary

remarks were made by those present. The Padre evidently reached the soldier congregation, both old soldier and young soldier alike. The Rev. Michael Dean who took the service, is the incumbent of St. Paul's, Mill Hill, the church where so many of the Colours of the Service Battalions now hang, and to where many generations of "Die-Hards" have marched for religious services since 1905. It was a pleasure to know that it was possible for the Padre to arrange a relief at St. Paul's and so be able to conduct our service.

Marching in the ranks was a veteran of Spion Kop, G. E. Ford, who was in action during the battle on January 24, 1900. Not able to march, but an interested spectator was the oldest soldier present, C. C. Baldry, who enlisted as far back as 1896.

A uniformed detachment from the 5th Battalion (T.A.) in addition to the Band and Drums added colour to the morning, a morning of bright sunshine and ideal for the occasion. From the Home Counties Brigade Headquarters at Canterbury came Col. Ian Battye, the Commandant and Major K. J. Carter, the D.A.A.G. and Brigade Adjutant. In addition, a number of old comrades of the years following that of the Great War were proud to join the older generation in the ranks.

Present on the dais with the Colonel of the Regiment was ex-Sgt. R. E. Ryder, v.c., now our only living recipient of that most coveted decoration. His decorations and medals were shown superbly in a splendid close-up by the B.B.C. in the programme "Town and Around", on Monday, August 24. This same programme showed the service at the Memorial and the Parade marching past with the Association Standard and its proud bearer and escort well displayed to the viewers watching.

Returning to the Drill Hall at Edgware for refreshments after completion of the Parade, it was surprising to learn of the number of "Die-Hards" meeting again for the first time since the 1914-18 war. Some had not met since 1914 and the writer of this article had the pleasure of re-introducing old soldiers who had lost contact over the years. These re-unions of old friends in itself made the Parade worth while.

The happy faces of the company assembled, plus the satisfying number of people attending, was very encouraging and when the remark "it's the best show I can remember" was overheard in the Drill Hall it was the accolade that completed a joyous occasion.

R. W. J. S.

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VISIT OF OFFICERS FROM AFFILIATED CANADIAN REGIMENT

At Regimental Headquarters, Edgware, on July 8 and 13, we had the pleasure of meeting and entertaining senior officers of our allied Canadian unit, the 50th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery (The Prince of Wales Rangers).

On Wednesday, July 8, Major O. F. C. Cook, the 2IC, was entertained to lunch and afterwards presented the Regiment with the head of a Canadian timber wolf, mounted and inscribed:

"Presented to the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) by the Commanding Officer and officers, 50 Field Artillery Regiment (Prince of Wales Rangers) Peterborough, Ontario, Canada."

Col. Walden accepted this most gratefully on behalf of the Colonel of the Regiment and, in return, handed over to Major Cook a framed reproduction of "Steady the Drums and Fifes" for his unit.

At the presentation were Majors E. L. Heywood and R. W. J. Smith of Regimental Headquarters, Capt. M. V. Hayward, 1st Battalion, Lt.-Col. G. W. Webber, Majors G. G. Norton, S. C. W. Weller, Capt. A. E. McManus and P. D. J. Clarke of the 5th Battalion and Major P. G. V. Bellers, who had been acting as Liaison Officer.

The affiliation of the two Regiments dates back to January 9, 1912, when the following notification was published, "H.M. The King has been graciously pleased to approve of the 57th Regiment, 'Peterborough Rangers,' Canadian Militia, being shown in the War Office Army List as allied to the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment)."

By the first available post from Canada came a letter dated January 27, 1912, from the O.C. 57th Peterborough Rangers to the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, then in India:—

SIR,
It is with great pleasure I received, in orders on 26th instant, the official notification that H.M. The King has been graciously pleased to approve of our application to be allied with the (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.

It is very gratifying to me and all members of the Regiment under my command and of which we are very proud, to feel that we have as comrades the D.C.O. Middlesex Regiment, particularly when the 1st Battalion is the old 57th associated with which are deeds and traditions that so enrich the annals of the service. I think that the words of our motto "Quis Separabit" will apply to the alliance for all time and that it may inspire us to be in readiness at all times to do our share if called on.

I would ask you to be good enough to convey a hearty greeting from all ranks of the 57th P.R. to their comrades in India.

G. B. Clegg, Lt.-Col.,
Commanding 57th Regiment P.R.

In reply, the following letter was posted to our allied unit:



Major O. F. C. Cook presenting the Canadian timber wolf's head to Colonel F. Walden. (From left to right) Major P. G. V Bellers, Capt. M. V. Hayward, Col. F. Walden, Major O. F. C. Cook and Lt.-Col. G. W. Webber

SIR,

Your letter of January 27, has been received with great pleasure by all ranks of the Battalion.

I can assure you the old "57th" will always watch the career of the young 57th with pride and interest.

As a memento of the affiliation and as a token of friendship, the officers, N.C.O.s and men of this Battalion are presenting your Battalion with a shooting challenge cup and it will always give us great satisfaction to hear details of the competition.

With heartiest good wishes from all ranks of the "Die-Hards" to all ranks of our youngest brother the 57th Peterborough Rangers.

Believe me,

Sincerely Yours,

B. E. Ward, Lt.-Col.,
Commanding 1st Battalion D.C.O.,
Middlesex Regiment.

Major Cook stated that this cup presented by the 1st Battalion is still one of the trophies competed for annually. The gift of a canoe in silver was presented by the Peterborough Rangers to the 1st Battalion and is still one of the items displayed with their Regimental silver.

On Monday, July 13, a cocktail party, attended by a representative gathering of serving and retired officers

of the Regiment, and their wives, was held at R.H.Q. The guests of the evening on this occasion were Lt.-Col. and Mrs. T. W. Stanley. Col. Stanley is the Commanding Officer of 50th Field Regiment, R.C.A., and was on a visit to the United Kingdom with other officers of the Canadian Forces. In order to meet our Canadian guests the Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex (Lt. Gen. G. C. Bucknall), the Chairman of the County Council of Middlesex (County Alderman John Barter, accompanied by Mrs. Barter) and the Mayor and Mayoress of Hendon (Councillor and Mrs. John Shock) honoured us with their presence.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

Small advertisements may be inserted in the Journal at a charge of twopence per word, with a minimum charge of 2s. 6d.

Matter for insertion, accompanied by the appropriate remittance, should be addressed to the Editor.

RETIREMENT IN MALTA

Malta, in the centre of the Mediterranean, has for a long time been chosen as a place of retirement by many people. The reasons which prompted these persons to retire in Malta are not hard to find. The incomparable, agreeable climate throughout the year, efficient health service, suitable, cheap accommodation, ease of access, the traditional hospitality of the islanders together with many other advantages contribute towards making Malta an ideal place.

The climatic year in Malta may be broadly divided into two seasons, winter (November to April) and summer (May to October) the average winter temperature being 57.9 degrees F. and 71.6 degrees F. for the summer. The average daily sunshine hours in winter is 6.4 and in summer 10.6 hours. There are no biting winds, fog, snow or frost and rain falls for very short periods at a time, averaging a total of 22 inches a year. The heat in the hottest months of July and August is tempered by the prevailing cool west and north winds.

The island is steeped in history, renowned for its archaeological treasures and adorned with historic monuments.

Malta enjoys a high standard of health due mainly to its agreeable climate, hygienic conditions, freedom from major infectious diseases and the absence of serious epidemics. A medical and health service is efficiently run by the Government.

There is a number of hotels in the Island offering good food and accommodation at moderate charges.

Furnished accommodation is easily available at rents varying between £8 and £30 a month depending on the number of bedrooms, locality and degree of amenities provided. Furnished houses have modest polished furniture, refrigerator, gas cooker, geyser and radio set. Houses with 5 rooms complete with kitchen, bathroom and garden may be purchased in good residential areas away from the sea for about £3,500. The same degree of accommodation in Sliema on the sea front fetches about £5,500. No rates are payable in Malta.

For those who want to retire in Malta an important tax concession was recently made. The benefits are twofold; higher personal deductions and a low flat rate of tax. New residents are allowed a personal allowance of £500 above the normal entitlement, namely:—

Single	£240
Married and accompanied by wife	£420
Children	£80 for every child
Dependants	Up to £60 per dependant
Life Insurance	Up to £100, or one-sixth of total income, whichever is the smaller of the two
Medical Expenses	Up to £20 per person

They suffer no surtax and the rate of income tax is reduced to a flat rate of 6d. in the £. To qualify, the new resident born outside Malta must prove that, in the year before the year of assessment, he brought to the Island at least £800 income from overseas. Individuals enjoying the new provisions would still be able to obtain double taxation relief for which the Act provides. This holds good even in cases where the doubly taxed income

is that which is now exempted from surtax and charged only at 6d. in the £. Relief to such individuals, however, is now restricted to the rate of 6d. in the £.

Fresh fish, meat, fruit and vegetables are abundantly available from local sources in season at prices comparing favourably with those in the United Kingdom. Bread is of the English, French or local type. Practically everything available in Britain can be obtained in Malta.

Scotch whisky sells at 29s. a bottle. Local wines cost between 1s. and 4s. Imported French, Italian and other wines cost from 4s. to 15s. a bottle.

Local beer is good, wholesome and cheap. Cigarettes manufactured locally by branches of British firms cost 2s. 8d. per twenty.

Domestic help is easily available on the Island. The services of maids may be engaged at wages of between £2 and £4 per week, excluding mid-day meal.

The quarterly rent of electricity meters is 2s. 6d. The first 12 units per room in the household, excluding hall, corridors, bathroom and boxroom, are charged for at the rate of 5½d. a unit, the rest at 2d. For example a household with five rooms pays the first 60 units consumed during a quarter at 5½d. a unit and 2d. a unit above 60. Liquid gas is available everywhere on the Island at 24s. a cylinder, lasting approximately one month.

There are good Social Clubs, and outdoor recreational activities can be enjoyed to the full, chiefly because of the agreeable weather. Malta's winter climate, with temperatures seldom falling below 50 degrees Fahr., encourages golf, tennis, cricket, hockey and walking. There are countless country lanes, particularly in the northern and western parts of the Island which offer delightful, scenic views.

The shoreline around the Island is greatly indented creating numerous sandy and rocky beaches. On most popular beaches deck-chairs, umbrellas, sun mattresses, showers, toilets, changing cabins, and a bar are provided right on the water's edge.

There are six cinemas in Valletta, four in Sliema and some thirty others on the rest of the Island. British, American and Continental films are shown. The national theatre, the historic Manoel Theatre in Valletta, is open between October and May for an opera season, ballet performances, concert recitals and plays. During the summer months opera is held in the open at the Argotti Gardens outside Valletta. Television is found in many houses and establishments. Two Italian programmes, as well as Eurovision relays, are very clearly received in Malta. The local station transmits for five hours daily and British canned programmes are shown regularly.

All towns and villages are linked to the capital, Valletta, by regular public bus services. Fares work out at approximately 1d. per mile. All major roads and secondary roads linking the villages as well as access roads to the beaches are macadamized. There are over 600 miles of asphalted roads.

Malta's religion is Roman Catholic but there are other churches including the Church of England, Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church, Greek Orthodox, Salvation Army and Jewish Synagogue.

There is no language difficulty on the Island. Educa-

! don't forget
! october 23
! annual reunion
! seymour hall
! london
! near marble arch

tion is compulsory up to the age of 14 and English is spoken throughout the Island. The number of English people settling on the Island is increasing and, therefore, those who settle in Malta will not find it lonely. Malta is also a holiday resort and a number of people from the U.K. spend their holidays there.

Air fares to and from Malta at extremely low rates are available to visitors travelling via London or Rome—full details are available from British European Airways.

The Maltese have characteristics which distinguish them as a peace-loving nation with a sense of hospitality for which they are renowned. "The inhabitants showed us no small courtesy" commented St. Luke when he referred to the welcome extended by the Maltese to St. Paul.

In cases where the Government is satisfied that a person has adequate means at his disposal such as a state pension of not less than £800 a year he is given permission to reside in Malta, subject to the following conditions:—

- (a) As there is substantial unemployment in Malta, intending settlers are not encouraged to take up employment or engage in trade unless their experience, training, skill, etc. is such that it is to the advantage of Malta that it should be put to good use.
- (b) that he or she lives in hotels, furnished accommodation or in premises built post-war;
- and (c) that he or she does not engage in political or in undesirable activities.

The Tourist Information Section of Malta House, 24 Haymarket, London, S.W.1. will be only too pleased to furnish all other information to those seeking retirement in Malta.

CHRISTMAS CARDS 1964

Stocks of the single card with badge and greeting, which has been quite popular in the past, are now exhausted.

This year an experiment has been made and the badge and greetings are now on a *double* card—badge on the outside and the greetings inside. This makes it possible for a photograph of the sender's choice to be inserted opposite the greeting.

The price of these cards is 5d. each (5s. per dozen) to which must be added postage as under:—

For 1 dozen	—	9d.
" 2 "	—	1s. 0d.
" 3 "	—	1s. 3d.
" 4 "	—	1s. 6d.

and so on, adding an additional 3d. for each further dozen.

The card number is 4, which should be quoted when ordering.

Other cards available are:—

Card No.	Subject
2	— Pioneer Sergeant, 77th Foot, Peninsular War Period.
3	— 77th Guard Room Verandah scene.
7*	— Colonel STRATON and his charger in the Crimea.
8*	— General Sir William INGLIS, K.C.B.

(*These cards are tied with ribbon in Regimental colours).

The price of cards 2, 3, 7 and 8 is 1s. each or 10s. per dozen, to which must be added postage as under:—

For 1 dozen	—	1s. 0d.
" 2 "	—	1s. 6d.
" 3 "	—	2s. 0d.

and thereafter 3d. for each additional dozen.

If required, a dozen or more can be made up of mixed cards, but it is essential to quote the card numbers when ordering.

All cards are available NOW and may be ordered at any time. A second choice of cards should always be given in case the first choice is sold out.

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The object of the Fund is to assist to the fullest extent possible in the provision of financial support to Corps, Regimental and other Charitable Organisations which directly or indirectly benefit Service and ex-Service men and women and their dependants.

Since 1945, the Army Benevolent Fund has given over £5,000,000 to Corps and Regimental Associations and those National Charitable Organisations which care for the needs of the soldier, whether Regular, Territorial, Emergency Reserve or War Service, and his dependants. In the first instance most of this money came from wartime N.A.A.F.I. profits, but much of the capital has now been spent and there is little money coming in to replace it.

The present need for your help.

The Army Benevolent Fund now appeals nationally for help. The object is not only to restore the earlier level of grants to Corps and Regimental Associations and to National Charitable Organizations, but to build up a fund for rehabilitation in the most deserving cases. With your help this can be achieved and you can in this way bring new life and hope to thousands in distress, who have deserved well of their country.

The New Plan.

The income of the Army Benevolent Fund must be increased by £350,000 a year. The plan is for the Army in the first instance to contribute towards this by raising £200,000 and it is hoped to raise the remaining £150,000 by appealing to the country as a whole on a regional basis.

THE TARGET FOR MIDDLESEX IS £25,000 TO BE RAISED OVER SEVEN YEARS.

Donations, which cannot be too large or too small, may be paid to the Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

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REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Since the publication of the last *Die-Hards* the following items have been added to the exhibits in the Regimental Museum and Archives:—

- British Crimea medal of Col. T. G. Egerton, 77th Regiment.
- Group of Medals of C/Sgt. John McCordle, 57th Regiment.
- Group of Medals of Lt. A. L. Wade, 17th Battalion.
- Group of Medals of Cpl. H. W. Callard, 17th Battalion.
- Letters of Lt. J. C. Ingham, 57th Regiment.
- German Relics and Snapshots of 1914-15.

British Crimea Medal of Col. T. G. Egerton, 77th Regiment

A description of the Crimea medal issued to all British personnel who took part in the war in the Crimea 1854-56 was given in the *Die-Hards* of October 1962. The medal of Col. Egerton is the same as that awarded to all others who fought in the campaign but must be nearly, if not, the most expensive medal of its kind auctioned. It was purchased against great competition and is now on display in the Regimental Museum.

I doubt if any general history of the Crimea has been published without mention of Col. Egerton and this is especially so of Kinglake's great story, the authoritative work on the Crimea War.

Thomas Graham Egerton transferred to the 77th Regiment in 1838. He had already served with the 18th of Foot (Royal Irish), the 2nd West India Regiment and the 90th (Perthshire Volunteers) who later became the 2nd Scottish Rifles (Cameronians). He was the son of a distinguished soldier, General Sir Charles Bulkeley Egerton and a grandson of Admiral Sir Thomas Troubridge, who had been commissioned on the frigate *Seahorse* with Nelson. From such stock a good leader and fighting man could be expected.

During the elections in Montreal, January 1848, the 77th were under arms day and night for the two days 11th and 12th. This was a severe duty fraught with difficulties and producing situations requiring the maximum of tact and personality. How well these duties were carried out can be judged by the following General Order published on January 17, 1848, saying that their conduct, "Demands the approbation of the Commander of the Forces who desires, also, especially to praise the energy, firmness, and sound judgment of Major Egerton of the 77th Regiment, and the services of the two divisions of that Corps under his immediate orders, commanded respectively by Captains Griffiths and Forbes, which restored order in the town at two critical periods of dangerous riot and confusion."

Returning to England in June 1848, the 77th were the following month stationed at Portsmouth and it was here that Major Egerton commanded the first

guard which had been mounted over the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII). Previous to this, the heir to the Throne had always been accompanied by the Queen and Prince Consort. The Prince's own standard was being displayed for the first time since the reign of King George III and, when in addition to this, the young Prince saw his own plume on the Colours of the Regiment, he commanded that it should be brought to him for his inspection. This was done by Major Egerton. The Prince must have been gratified with both the fact of the guard having his own device emblazoned in their Colours and also in the physique of its commander. Col. Egerton was a giant of a man and one correspondent says of him during the Crimean War "He is one of the biggest men I have ever seen in uniform." A painting of him with a sentry of the Grenadier Company makes the comparison showing him as tall as the height of the top of the Grenadier wearing his shako.

In 1850 he succeeded to the command of the 77th and in every subsequent report from the inspecting General Officers, the highest praise was given to the efficiency and tone of the Regiment. It was chosen to furnish the Guard of Honour to the Queen and Prince Consort and the Royal Family when they stayed the night in Derby, the Grenadier and Light Companies travelling from Weedon for this purpose.

The 77th sent a detachment to the funeral of the Duke of Wellington in November, 1852. This was the first time that a detachment of every corps in the British Army had appeared together.

The card to admit Lt.-Col. Egerton to St. Paul's Cathedral has added interest as not only does it give the location of the position, "209, Nave, South side," it shows on the reverse, an aside, in ink "Lord Hardinge's seats." Viscount Hardinge, an old 57th officer, was at that date the General Commanding in Chief and evidently desired to show his appreciation of Col. Egerton.

On the outbreak of the conflict in the Crimea, the 77th was dispatched to the theatre of war, forming part of the Light Division. The 77th fought at the Battle of the Alma, September 20, 1854 where Col. Egerton had to make a decision contrary to the orders received from the general. It was an unfortunate fact that the three generals in command at that time suffered from short sight and could not see the ground as could Col. Egerton. The C.O.'s decision saved many lives. Kinglake says of him of this incident. "Col. Egerton, a firm, able man took upon himself to refuse." Events proved him right. It was at this battle the Russians said they did expect to meet British soldiers, but not red devils.

Five days later, the affair at McKenzie's Farm took place. Here the enemy fled leaving an immense quantity of ammunition and baggage in our hands. The Russian

Commander, Prince Menchicoff, had a narrow escape, his carriage being taken whilst he managed to gallop away. An officer of the 77th—Ensign Butts—took the Prince's riding boots as his share of the loot. These are now on display in the Regimental museum alongside the medal of Col. Egerton.

The following day, the castle at Balaclava was attacked. The 77th under the command of Col. Egerton was in advance and after a heavy fire from a battery of Horse Artillery, and H.M.S. *Agamemnon*, plus the 77th, the Governor hung out a white flag. Col. Egerton went down with the Light Company to take possession of the Castle and the Governor surrendered his sword to him. Lord Raglan declared that the four mortars with which the Russians had defended the Castle were the lawful prize of the 77th.

To tell the story of the Battle of Inkerman is not for this article but the part played by Col. Egerton is recorded in all accounts of the battle. He was named in Lord Raglan's dispatch and "Honourably mentioned for distinguished service in the Field." After the war, it was written in the journal of the R.U.S.I. "Col. Egerton was the brilliant officer who, with only four companies of his 77th Regiment, proved able to exert a strong sway over the issue of the great Inkerman battle."

Throughout the bitter winter of 1854-55 the troops were in the trenches before Sebastopol. Early April saw the beginning of the second bombardment and on the night of April 19, Col. Egerton, in command of, as Kinglake writes, "his splendid regiment" captured two of the Russian rifle pits. Capt. Lemprière, his adjutant, known to the rank and file as "the Boy Captain" was shot through the lungs and mortally wounded. Col. Egerton lifted him up and carried him to shelter in the trenches and then returned to the attack. Later Sgt. McDonald of the Royal Engineers, who was subsequently awarded the Victoria Cross for this action, was badly wounded by grape shot and again Col. Egerton went to the aid of a wounded man, giving him a drink from his flask. The enemy at this moment made another vigorous effort to recapture the position but were repulsed under the direction of Col. Egerton. At the moment of the enemy's retreat, Col. Egerton was struck in the mouth by a Russian bullet, which "carrying away four of his front teeth passed through the spine at the back of the neck, and he fell dead."

The next day he was buried along with Capt. Lemprière and six of his soldiers in the Regimental graveyard. Lord Raglan, and his staff, General Sir George Brown and most of the generals and officers of rank in the army attended the funeral.

To Lord Panmure, the War Secretary, Lord Raglan, the commander in the Crimea, wrote "Col. Egerton was a man of superior merit, and conducted all his duties greatly to the advantage of the public, and Her Majesty's service could not have sustained a more severe loss, and it is so felt in this army and in the 77th where he was much beloved and is deeply lamented." That was the opinion of his commander. His fellow men held as high an opinion as can be seen from an extract from a letter by the Rev. Edward Eade,

A.C.F., 1854 etc. written from the Crimea, April 20, 1855.

"Last night we lost the finest commanding officer in the British Army, Col. Egerton of the 77th. He was killed in an attack on some Russian rifle pits two of which were taken in gallant style, though the regiment being by some mistake left unsupported (there are always mistakes) were unable to hold more than one. The other will have to be re-taken tonight with fresh loss."

The foregoing was published in the Army Quarterly, October 1931 in "Parson Eade in the Crimea," by Brigadier General Stewart.

In the Gazette of July 1855, it was notified that the Queen would have made Col. Thomas Graham Egerton a companion of the most honourable Order of the Bath, if he had lived.

His memory lived on in the regiment and in the army. When new Colours were presented to the 77th in 1876, H.R.H. The Duke of Cambridge, in his address said "I cannot close my remarks without reference to your brave commander in the Crimea, Col. Egerton, who fell with his equally brave adjutant in that campaign, and I know how much he was beloved by the corps and looked up to by all." This was 21 years after the death of Col. Egerton and still his name and reputation lived on. Another 45 years were to pass before the last of those who referred to him as "my splendid Commanding Officer" passed away. In 1921, Lt.-General Kent, the Colonel of the Regiment and himself a successful Commanding Officer of the 77th for 13 years, died at the age of 95 years. It was with pride that this veteran officer would always tell how he tried to live up to the standard set by Col. Egerton, a statement that perhaps will be remembered by one or two readers of these notes.

The medal, with the three bars, "Alma," "Inkerman" and "Sebastopol" is now in its rightful home and amongst other relics of the campaign where his regiment outnumbered every other regiment serving in the Crimea in the matter of the "died of wounds" casualty returns. As said in the opening paragraph, it may be the highest priced medal of its kind, but there is no doubt that it was won by a commander of the highest degree.

Purchased Group of medals C/Sgt. John McCordle, 57th Regiment

The medals of 1061 C/Sgt. John McCordle are the British Crimea with bars "Balaclava," "Inkerman" and "Sebastopol," the Long Service and Good Conduct medal, the French Military War medal and the Turkish Crimea.

The British Crimea medal is the general issue as described earlier; the three bars, or clasps, are those common to the 57th. The Long Service and Good Conduct medal differs from the issues made during and since the reign of King Edward VII; the later issues bear the Royal effigy in the obverse. The medal dated from July 30, 1830 and was instituted by King William IV. To qualify, the soldier must have served 21 years in the Infantry, or 24 in the Cavalry, and be of

irreproachable character. (The reason for the difference in the length of time is not given in earlier accounts, but it may be that two sore feet are apt to cause twice the profanity from a soldier than one sore rump!) The medal, which is silver, has on the obverse, Pistrucci's design of a trophy of arms including helmets, shots, cannon, arms, flags, etc., surrounding a shield bearing the royal arms. The reverse has the inscription in plain bold lettering "For long service and good conduct." The medal is suspended from a deep red ribbon that could easily be mistaken for the ribbon of the Victoria Cross but is not so wide. Owing to the confusion caused on the rapidly expanded army in 1914, the colour of the ribbon was changed to deep red with white edges, the ribbon as worn today. The conditions for the award of the L.S. and G.C. medal are also much different from those of earlier date.

The French Military War medal of 1852, was founded by Louis Napoleon, when President of the Republic (he was later Napoleon III). The medal is a silver gilt badge of one inch diameter formed of two laurel branches, tied below with a gold band. On the obverse is the head of the Emperor within a blue enamelled circle inscribed "Louis Napoleon." On the reverse, within a blue enamelled circle, the motto "Valeur et Discipline." The medal is surmounted by the Imperial Eagle displayed (wings opened) with a loop for suspension; the ribbon is orange watered silk one and a half inches wide with green edges.

Five hundred of these medals were distributed to the British Army, eight of them to N.C.O.s and soldiers of the 57th. Only two officers received this medal—H.R.H. The Duke of Cambridge and Sir William Cardington. C/Sgt. McCardle was present at the Battles of Balaclava—October 25, and Inkerman—November 5, 1854; the assault on the Redan at Sebastopol, June 18, 1855, and in the trenches throughout the siege.

The Turkish Crimea medal is one of 667 issued to the 57th. There were three different types issued to the British Army. The original type had on the obverse the inscription, "Crimea 1855" under a cannon and the flags of the four allies, England, France, Turkey and Sardinia, the English flag second from right. The French medal had "La Crimée, 1855" on the exergue and the French flag second from the right. The Sardinian medal had a cannon with "La Crimea 1855" and the Sardinian flag second from the right. Owing to the ship carrying the medal for issue to the British troops being shipwrecked, an indiscriminate issue of all three types was made to our troops. All three types can be found as issued to both 57th and 77th Regiments. The reverse of the medal does not vary; it is the Sultan's cypher within a wreath of laurels. The ribbon is watered crimson with green edges. The medals were originally issued with a small ring for suspension, the original ribbon being very narrow. But there is a great variety of suspensions to be found, that on C/Sgt. McCardle's medal being similar to that of the British Crimea medal.

C/Sgt. John McCardle not only served for many years in the 57th, but he also encouraged his two sons to

join—one Robert, served in the Corps of Drums and the other James, in the Band.

The medals, which were purchased, are once more on show in the Regimental Museum where they were in 1934. They were then part of the wonderful collection of the late Bobby Morris who had loaned three cases of medals and badges for display.

Purchased

Group of medals, Lt. A. L. Wade, 17th Battalion

The medals of Albert Luvian Wade are the 1914-15 Star, the British War medal and the Victory medal for the war of 1914-19. In addition to the campaign medals there is also the bronze medallion given to the next-of-kin of those who lost their lives in the war and the telegram of condolence expressing the sympathy of His Majesty King George V on the loss of this officer.

Lt. Wade was promoted Lieutenant on April 1, 1916 whilst serving with the 17th (Service) Battalion (1st Football) of the Regiment. He was killed in action on April 28, 1917 during the disastrous fight at Oppy Wood. The battalion gained its first objective with few casualties. The two Stokes Mortars (Lt. Wade was a T.M.B. officer) were on the right flank and gained the objective under heavy machine gun and rifle fire from the village. The units on both flanks were unable to carry out their advance and the enemy was able to work his way round both flanks of the battalion. The enemy then put in a counter attack so that all communications were cut off, and runners who tried to get through were either killed or wounded. At night, one officer and 41 unwounded men were able to get back to join the three officers and 106 other ranks who had been wounded at the beginning of the fight.

The losses to the battalion during the action were 11 officers and 451 other ranks killed, wounded and missing. The historian says "Again the Die-Hard spirit was demonstrated in the stubborn resistance against superior numbers of the enemy, and in the grim manner in which both officers and men fought to the very last."

Lt. Wade was one of those who fought to the last in the traditions of the Regiment.

Presented by Mrs. Gosse.

Group of medals of F/422 Cpl. H. W. Callard, 17th Battalion

The medals of Henry William Callard (the name is mis-spelt "Collard" in the Roll of Honour) are the same as those given above for Lt. Wade.

Pte. Callard, who was born at Southwark, enlisted at Kingsway, Middlesex from his home in Walworth in December 1914, being one of the first of the volunteers for the newly formed 17th (Footballers) Battalion when it was raised by the Rt. Hon. W. Joynson-Hicks, M.P. He joined the BEF with the battalion in November 1915, having his first period of duty in the trenches the following month.

The next February he was with the battalion when it garrisoned an area that was nothing more than a sea of mud. At that time, the front line at Festubert was a series of 16 "islands" with about a dozen men on each who could only be relieved during the hours of darkness.

During the last week in July 1916, the battalion occupied a position in Delville Wood. The "Devil's Wood" at this time was nothing but tree stumps, shell holes and the ground covered by undergrowth and reeking of poison gas and rotting bodies. Snipers were, at times, only 20 yards from their victims. On July 27 the 17th Battalion were sent to reinforce the 99th Brigade which was being heavily counter-attacked after a successful operation. The enemy gave our troops a heavy pounding, the terrific bombardment lasting all the afternoon and evening. The next day, only two battalions were left on the Brigade front when a fierce counter attack was beaten off with great loss to the Germans. Cpl. Callard took part in all this vicious fighting, but on July 30, during the withdrawal to Montauban Alley, he was killed in action. Of him and his comrades it is recorded "All ranks behaved with great gallantry. The devotion to duty was magnificent. The division has been thanked by the G.O.C. for capturing the Wood."

The casualties for this operation were one officer and 25 other ranks killed, eight officers—including the C.O., Adj. and M.O.—and 192 other ranks wounded.

Presented by his sister, Miss C. A. Callard

Letters of Lt. J. C. Ingham, 57th Regiment

This group of letters, five in all, cover the period December 22, 1854 when he was posted for service in the Crimea—"I'm off to the wars at last"—to June 8, 1855. They were written to his father and as well as containing regimental gossip, emphasize the character of the writer.

Joshua Cunliffe Ingham was gazetted Ensign in the 57th (West Middlesex) Regiment on November 23, 1852, 11 days before his twentieth birthday. He purchased his next step in rank two years later and was at that time an excellent shot and interested in the welfare of his domestic animals. The day's shoot before he went on leave saw his bag amounting to 7½ brace of snipe, a partridge, a hare and a wood pigeon. The nearest his competitors could do in his absence was to total four brace.

He sailed to the seat of the war on H.M.S. *St. Jean d'Arc* 101 guns and 600 horsepower screw. The captain, the Hon. H. Keppel, he described as "a most good natured man." (This naval officer later distinguished himself before Sebastopol where he commanded the Naval Brigade and later became Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Keppel). At Cape St. Vincent they struck a gale that split the main top sail to shivers. Whilst writing of the discomfort of people who are unaccustomed to sleeping in hammocks, he casually mentions that he has a sofa in the wardroom where he spreads his camp bed and makes himself very comfortable. He certainly had sufficient common sense not to make himself a martyr unnecessarily.

Within three weeks of arriving in the Crimea he writes telling his father of the hard conditions of war during the Russian winter although he does not express them as such. He is fit himself, keeps fit by plenty of exercise during his slack periods and makes light of trials and tribulations. The conditions at this time are

graphically described. The men's cooking huts blown down and snowed up and when they come out of the trenches in the morning they could get nothing to eat until the evening except raw pork and biscuits, and they could not get the icicles in their whiskers thawed for hours after they came in. He does not mention that he also had whiskers that must have been full of icicles but makes light of his own sufferings and getting ecstatic over his servant who is a good cook saying "our dinner today is pea soup, mutton pudding and rolly polly—not bad for a camp."

The next month he describes the long range shooting the Russians indulged in at this period. These were heavy guns with a very high elevation and the shots "Whistling Jimmies" as the troops called them—would fall in the tented lines. Once, hearing the approach of the shot, he and Lt. Forsyth threw themselves to the ground. As his cheek touched the ground he caught a glimpse of the shot passing about two feet above the middle of his back. The projectile turned out to be a 32 pound round shot. That would have caused irretrievable ventilation had he not been prone!

By the time he had been in the Crimea two months he begins to feel the ties of home and, as we all have experienced in our soldiering, finds an insatiable thirst for domestic news. This extract could well have been written by a lad serving today in Aden. "There is very little truth in what you see in *The Times* and our official despatches are almost as exaggerated as the Russians. I suppose everything at home goes on as usual; some of you ought to write twice a week so that I may get a letter by every post, for I like to hear everything from home. Tell everybody to write to me and put on three stamps or they won't deliver the letters. How are my puppies? Give my love to all."

Many officers of the 57th are mentioned in the letters and some of the remarks are very enlightening to the student of Regimental history, but need not be mentioned here. As the weather improves, so do his spirits and those of the army. After the French and Sardinian advance to the Ichnaya he says "I rode out there the day after the French went out and had capital fun, we had a picnic in an orchard at the Sardinian advance post . . . on that day everyone looked as though they had escaped from prison, the whole plain was covered with grass up to your middle, some were riding about and shooting quail, others were hunting hares with a pack of cur dogs and others were fishing."

The next day the letter tells of another kind of party. Of the 62nd (later the 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment) he says "One round shot knocked over the Colonel, two Captains, two Colour Sergeants and afterwards killed two men of another Regiment."

The last letter is dated June 8, 1855, 10 days before the abortive attack on the Redan when the Commanding Officer of the 57th lost his life and Lt. Ingham himself gave gallant service. Kinglake says, "These men of the proud 57th might soon find death . . . but, to ratify the exigency of their great Albuhera tradition, they needed to be at close quarters with an enemy, so as not to be dying like saints, but rather fighting like men." Also on the 18th, he had the opportunity to see

one of the subordinates of the "most good natured" naval officer win the Victoria Cross. This was the occasion when Lt. Raby, R.N., under heavy fire, rescued a soldier of the 57th who had been shot through both legs. Commander Raby had the unique privilege of being the first person on whom Queen Victoria pinned the Victoria Cross.

Capt. Ingham was gazetted to his Company with effect from July 27, 1855 and for his services, in addition to the campaign medal for the Crimea with bar "Sebastopol" was awarded the Turkish Order of Medjidie 5th Class. He died on the last day of the year 1877 aged 45 years and 27 days.

Original letters presented by Major F. R. Ingham

German relics and snapshots

The following relics of 1914 and 1915 were presented by Major R. H. Brodie:—

German soldier's field cap.

Medal ribbon taken from the body of a Saxon officer.

Disc from a pickelhaube (German spiked helmet).

Three photographs taken at Nery 1914.

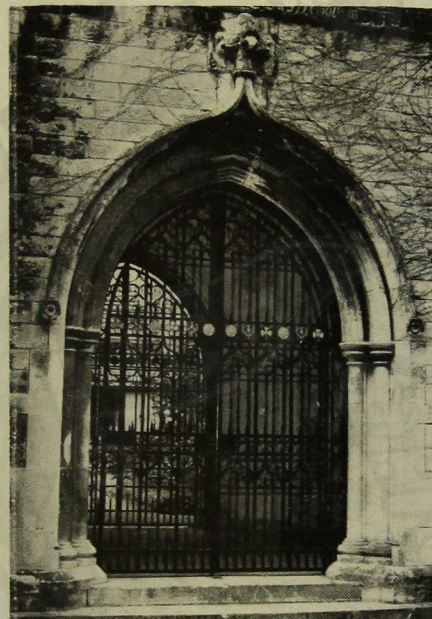
The photographs were taken after the capture of the eight guns at Nery on September 1, 1914, by "D" Company, of the 1st Battalion. One photograph shows 2/Lt. Brodie mounted on a horse captured from 9th Uhlans, who were escort to the guns, whilst another shows the horse plainly branded "U 9" and the weapons of the original rider, i.e. 9 mm. carbine, sword, automatic pistol, plus a pair of binoculars. The last photograph shows a group of Uhlan prisoners with a British Cavalry escort.

In view of the controversy about the capture of these guns it is interesting to have the officer who was next to Col. B. E. Ward when he gave the order for these guns to be charged by "D" Company and who saw the action. At that time Lt. Brodie was, as transport officer, mounted and able to see the field and has fortunately been able to give an eye-witness account.

Although on the strength of the 3rd Battalion, Lt. Brodie was attached to the 1st Battalion and was mobilised and went to France with them in 1914. He took part in the earlier actions including Mons and the Retreat, Le Cateau and Nery. On September 8 the transport were heavily shelled at La Haute Maison, nine horses being killed, but all the transport was saved except one water cart, which resembled a colander after being riddled with shrapnel. Lt. Brodie was mentioned in Sir John French's despatch of November 20, 1914.

Carrying out a reconnaissance at La Boutillerie during the morning October 25, 1914, he was wounded and repatriated to England to recover from his injuries.

After recovering from his wounds he joined the 3rd Battalion at the time the Battalion moved to Zonnebeke Ridge, where it shared the line with the Buffs and East Surreys. This was on April 10, 1915 and it was 12 days later, during the 2nd Battle of Ypres at Gravenstafel Ridge that the Germans put in the first gas attack where the 3rd and 1/8th Battalions suffered dire casualties.



The restored Memorial Porch, St. Andrew's Church, Biarritz (See Editor's comments)

The three German relics were taken from the bodies of dead Germans whilst Lt. Brodie was at Zonnebeke Ridge and have now joined the other relics of 1914-19 in the Regimental Museum.

Major Brodie was no stranger to war when he went to France in 1914. He had served with the Foreign Legion in North Africa before the outbreak of the Great War and whilst the writer of this article was serving in India, he read an account of Major Brodie's experiences. The result was that he and a comrade, who later became Drum Major, decided to see for themselves and make their way to Africa to join the Foreign Legion. However, sanity prevailed, and instead of pounding the sands of the desert, he is pounding the pen telling readers of the exploits of the Regiment's noteworthy sons.

Erratum

In Table I of Appendix I on page 395 of the April issue of *The Die-Hards* the New Annual Rate of Basic Pay shown against the rank of Major-General should read £4,406 and not £1,406.

OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES

OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER, 1964

The Regimental Officers' Club Dinner was held at the United Service Club, Pall Mall, S.W.1, on Friday, June 26, 1964.

Major General J. E. F. Willoughby, Colonel of the Regiment, presided, and the guests of the evening were Major G. A. J. Hadow, representing the Colonel of the 91st/93 Foot (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders); Col. G. J. McNaught, Chairman of the Wellington, West Coast and Taranaki Regimental Association; and the Rev. L. W. Mathews, Chaplain to the Household Brigade.

Others present were:—

Lieutenant General G. C. Bucknall, Major P.G.V. Bellers; Major J. I. Bromwich, Capt. S. R. Bonnany, Lt. R. A. Bartlett; Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey, Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden, Lt.-Col. H. Cook, Major R. M. Cain, Major K. J. Carter, Capt. H. A. B. Claypole, Capt. A. B. Cowing; Lt. R. T. Douthet, Lt. G. A. Dudson; Major H. J. Evans; Brigadier E. W. C. Flavell, Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, Capt. R. D. Fisher, Capt. J. S. C. Flavell; Lt. E. C. Graham; Col. S. F. Hedgecoe, Lt.-Col. A. S. Hewson, Major H. K. Harcastle, Major E. L. Heywood, Capt. A. R. K. Harcastle, Capt. M. V. Hayward; Major Sir Arthur Lewey, Capt. C. A. Lamb, Capt. P. J. T. Lane; Major-General C. M. M. Man, Col. A. M. Man, Capt. P. F. Murray; Col. J. W. G. Ormiston; Col. A. Pritchard, Major H. T. Pemell, Major J. I. D. Pike; Brigadier B. B. Rackham, Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, Major B. St. G. A. Reed, Capt. A. W. Ramsay, Capt. F. Redpath; Col. R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker, Lt.-Col. E. P. Shanks, Major J. N. Shipster, Major R. W. J. Smith; Major E. F. Thompson; Col. F. Walden, Major M. P. Weeden, Capt. C. G. Walker.

GOLF

Regimental Spring Meeting

The Regimental Spring Meeting this year was held, by kind permission of the North Hants. Golf Club, at Fleet on Saturday and Sunday, April 11 and 12.

Whilst attendance naturally suffered on account of the absence of the 1st Battalion abroad, yet it was good to see many of our golfing stalwarts still supporting the Meeting. By all accounts everyone enjoyed themselves and there is little doubt that "a good time was had by all."

A very pleasant interlude was provided by Major General and Mrs. Pat Weston, who kindly invited all those attending the Meeting to cocktails in their house at Fleet on Saturday evening, and we would like once again to take this opportunity of thanking them very much indeed for their kindness and hospitality.

The results of the various competitions were:—

Singles Medal Competition (18 holes)

Scratch and Handicap

	Gross	Hcp	Net
Col. M. Crawford (winner, scratch)	84	15	69
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey (winner, handicap and runner up, scratch)	88	14	74
Capt. M. S. Gedye	89	10	79
Mr. R. H. Wollocombe	89	10	79
Capt. R. D. Latham	96	14	82
Capt. G. Goring (runner up, handicap)	98	24	74
Mr. T. M. H. Wollocombe	101	16	85
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden	103	20	83
Capt. M. V. Hayward	104	18	86
Brigadier A. E. Green	No card	18	—
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton	No card	18	—

Stableford Foursomes

	Points
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton and Capt. M. S. Gedye (winners)	29
Col. M. Crawford and Capt. R. D. Latham (runners up)	28
Capt. M. V. Hayward and Mr. R. H. Wollocombe	23
Brigadier A. E. Green and Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden	22
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey and Mr. T. M. H. Wollocombe	18

Battalion Foursomes v Bogey

1st Battalion (Col. M. Crawford and Mr. R. H. Wollocombe) winners	7 down*
Brigade Depot (Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden and Capt. G. Goring) runners up	7 down
2nd Battalion (Brigadier A. E. Green and Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey)	9 down
Regimental Depot (Capt. R. D. Latham and Capt. M. V. Hayward)	12 down
7th Battalion (Capt. M. S. Gedye and Mr. T. M. H. Wollocombe)	14 down

(*The winners in this competition were decided on the better score on the Inward half.)

At the conclusion of the Meeting Brigadier Green very kindly presented the prizes.

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It may not be generally known that the Officers' Club makes a regular annual subscription to the above Hospital, and that applications by members of the Club for admission would be favourably considered.

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57th/77th OFFICERS' DINNER

The above Dinner will be held at the United Service Club, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1, on Thursday 19th November, 1964, at 7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m.

Any officer, whether Regular, Militia, TA, Short Service or National Service, who has served at any time with any Regular or Militia Battalion of the Regiment is eligible to attend.

Unfortunately, unlike the Officers' Club Dinner,

there is NO subsidy, which naturally makes it more expensive and, as costs have also risen, the charge this year will be 40s. per head.

All Regular and Militia officers will be circularised but others who served with either the 1st or 2nd Battalions, particularly during the 1939-45 War, are requested to write to Regimental Headquarters for particulars, if they are interested.



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Accounts Weekly or Monthly

1st Battalion Notes

EDITORIAL

When these notes are published the Battalion will have spent approximately 15 months in Gibraltar and in all probability entered into the second half of its tour. It is therefore a suitable time to examine our past achievements (and failures!!) before looking forward into the future.

In Gibraltar, we have attained a good standard for the various ceremonial duties that we are expected to perform. A quick glance at "B" Company's notes outlines the frequent occasions when the Battalion is on show to the public and the support which the Gibraltarians give us is very much appreciated. The opportunities for liaison with the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force are far greater than most overseas stations provide because we are the only major Army unit here and as a result nearly everyone has been to sea with the Royal Navy and spent some time as a guest of the Royal Air Force at North Front. In return we have managed to persuade quite a number of Naval Ratings and Airmen that there are quite a few advantages in Army life; our own troops have also begun to realise that the other Services have their problems too. A certain Naval Rating became extremely popular with everyone when he declared that he had no intention of staying in the Royal Navy after his present engagement ended but he thought that the R.A.F. offered him best chances for promotion. (His trade was a chef!!!)

We have already mentioned in our previous editorials about the facilities available to visit Morocco and Spain. Although most people have taken advantage of these opportunities there is still a very small core of soldiers whose passports remain unblemished! For some people Gibraltar has too many attractions—including Moorish Castle.

Both "A" and "B" Companies have now had two tours in Tobruk and many people prefer the sandy wastes, school teachers and Pilastrino cockroaches to the Kremlin, ceremonial occasions and Gibraltar night life. When the Battalion 2IC had to inform the Tobruk detachment that their relief had been delayed one week because no aircraft were available there were cheers and smiles from most of the bachelors. The only reason that the "married pads" refrained from showing too much enthusiasm was the fear that their wives in Gibraltar would be informed accordingly. Tobruk affords excellent training facilities but the strength of the Battalion detachment there is limited to the capacity of one aircraft. Considerable changes in the Officers, N.C.O.s and men of the two rifle companies are essential to ensure that the best use of these training facilities is obtained and these changes are reflected in the various sub-unit notes. When the demands for all ranks for appointments outside the Battalion have been satisfied,

together with the consequent chain reactions inside the Battalion, it is fair to say that the cry "Ring a Bell, All Change" is well understood.

The many changes at all levels are mentioned but we should like to mention the relief of the Deputy Fortress Commander. Brigadier and Mrs. Boulter left us in August and our best wishes go with them on retirement. We are particularly grateful to them for their interest and participation in the Peninsular War Battlefield Tour in May. We welcome their successors, Brigadier and Mrs. W. R. Chambers, as these notes go into print.

Where is our next posting? The question which is asked by everyone at frequent intervals because our tour in Gibraltar will probably end in August 1965. The civilian cooks and bottle-washers tell us it must be Berlin because previous units have all moved there from Gibraltar. Others think that this is the best reason why this Battalion should not follow suit. Whatever the answer, the problem of maintaining a good standard of fitness and producing an efficient unit remains. With the approach of cooler weather we will settle down to plenty of competitive shooting, training for PE Tests and participate in the many and various sporting events. These are not easy tasks merely for gladiators but for everyone; finally, it is the encouragement given by the spectators which will help to produce a better team spirit at all levels.

TOUR OF PENINSULAR WAR BATTLEFIELD IN SOUTH-WEST SPAIN—MAY 1964

The plan to tour the Battlefields of the Peninsular War originated from the fact that the Regiment has seven Battle Honours from that Campaign in addition to Albuhera, and three of the four Regiments in the Home Counties Brigade have a similar number of Battle Honours.

It is thought that the 1st Battalion have never had the ideal opportunity, which a base in Gibraltar provides, to organise such a tour.

Permission for the tour was obtained from the Foreign Office and the Spanish Government and we were helped very considerably by the support given to the project by His Excellency The Governor, General Sir Dudley Ward, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O. To foster an interest in the military history of the other Regiments in the Home Counties Brigade and bearing in mind the distances which had to be travelled and the interest value of the various battles the particular ones selected were:—

July 27/28, 1809—Talavera (Queens Own Buffs, Queens Royal Surrey Regiment).

May 16, 1811—Albuhera (Queens Own Buffs, Queens Royal Surrey Regiment, Middlesex Regiment).

April 7, 1812—Siege of Badajoz (Middlesex Regiment).
June 22, 1812—Salamanca (Queens Royal Surrey Regiment).

The tour was carried out by using private cars and the two Nuffield Landrovers because military vehicles are not allowed into Spain from Gibraltar. Originally it had been planned to set up a tented camp in approximately the centre of the tour area at Cáceres but unfortunately permission was not granted—much to the relief of the P.M.C. and Officers' Mess Staff—and so the actual programme carried out was:—

May 8—A central lecture in Gibraltar on the complete Peninsular Campaign up to the end of 1812.

May 11—The move to Badajoz (300 miles).

May 12—A description of the Siege of Badajoz by Major H. J. A. Moore and the move to Salamanca (190 miles).

May 13—A description of the Battle of Salamanca by Major B. K. Clayden and the move to Talavera (225 miles).

May 14—A description of the Battle of Talavera by Captain J. M. Hewson, M.C., and the return journey to Badajoz (190 miles).

May 15—A description of Albuhera by Major E. A. H. Jeffcoat and a visit to Albuhera Village. The Corps of Drums arrived by air and Beat Retreat in Badajoz in the evening.

May 16—Commemoration of the actual Battle with a Drumhead Service on the ridge followed by a Memorial Service in the Village and the presentation by the Commanding Officer to the Mayor of Albuhera of an inscribed copy of Lady Butler's Picture "Steady the Drums and Fifes." The return of the party to Gibraltar.

It is interesting to record for future visitors that the scenes of battle are easy to envisage because the ground is untouched by modern development and remains as it was in 1811/1812. Those actually attending the tour were Lt.-Col. F. de R. Morgan, M.C., Major E. A. H. Jeffcoat, Major H. J. A. Moore, Major B. K. Clayden, Capt. J. M. Hewson, M.C., I. M. E. Lloyd, W. G. A. Crumley, P. Mallalieu, P. D. J. Clarke, P. Donovan and M. Wild, Lts. Pitman, Packham and Hawkins, W.O.I R. Dodkins, W.O.II E. Steward, C/Sgt. Warner and Sgt. Meacock. We had hoped to interest members outside the Battalion and we were very pleased to see the Deputy Fortress Commander, Brigadier H. E. Boulter, D.S.O., and his wife and also Major J. I. D. Pike, M.C., who came out to Gibraltar on leave and at his own expense from the U.K. Mrs. Morgan and Mrs. Jeffcoat joined the party for the last two days in Badajoz and Albuhera.

On May 11, the various cars crossed into Spain and arrived at Badajoz during the early part of the evening. The incentive to arrive early was the invitation to a Reception arranged by the Military Governor of Badajoz, General Juez Lozano, and his Staff, and it is interesting to record that the car driven by W.O.I Dodkins completed the journey in the fastest time! and the Q.M.'s party were unable to account for their spare wheel on arrival. It just disappeared! The Military Attache from the British Embassy in Madrid, Brigadier M. J. A. Paterson, D.S.O., attended the reception and he

was hard worked as an interpreter as well as a liaison officer throughout the evening. The party were entertained so well that certain members were still discussing the merits of the reception in loud voices at 4 a.m. for the benefit of the whole hotel. In fact the hospitality and help given by the Spanish Governor and in particular the Military Forces throughout the tour was almost overwhelming. Everything was given that had been requested and every comfort anticipated.

Everyone assembled by 9 a.m. on May 12 at the top of Fort San Cristobal where Major Moore described the final English Siege of Badajoz. A subsequent visit to the fortress itself, which is on the South bank of the River Guadiana, made everyone appreciate the problems of siege warfare because sufficient ramparts remain today. A visit was also made to the Memorial of General Monachio, the Spanish commander of the fortress in 1811, and an excellent commander who had been killed during the early stages of the Siege by the French. It is agreed that his unfortunate death undoubtedly led to a loss of morale by the besieged Spanish troops and their subsequent defeat became inevitable before the relieving British force could arrive from the north.

The move to Salamanca was uneventful for most people but Capt. Hewson had to judge his speed without a working speedometer and the 13th morning presented him with a flat tyre as well which prevented him attending Major Clayden's description of the Battle of Salamanca. The R.V. was on the Lesser Arapiles and after the determined efforts of the Spanish guide to take a non-existent short cut to the R.V. and Major Clayden's equal determination not to be bluffed, a brilliant description of the battle was given by Major Clayden with some assistance by Capt. Crumley. No doubt 127 Bde. (T.A.) will now be told to study Wellington's Campaigns in detail.

On arrival at Naval Moral that night, because only a few people could be accommodated in Talavera itself, there was some concern because a bed had been reserved in the name of "Mayor Picque" and only after certain difficulty was Major Pike consoled. It was on this move from Salamanca that Major Clayden's vehicle, in which Major Pike was a passenger, lost its carburettor jet. Fortunately spares were available to prevent all concerned from a very long walk. It had been agreed that Capt. Hewson's car with passengers should occupy the hotel accommodation available in Talavera so that he would be more rested and refreshed prior to his presentation of the Battle of Talavera. However, the location of the local fair which only works at night deemed otherwise! Despite this disadvantage the Battle was well described on the 14th morning from Cerro de Medellín—the high ground just outside the town which was so bitterly contested during the battle by the French and British and where once again the French learned to respect the British soldier and his fighting qualities in adversity.

For the fourth consecutive day another long drive, but at least the drivers knew that they were on the return journey and that there would be a more restful day to follow because this journey to Badajoz completed the non-Regimental part of the Battlefield Tour. We tried

to persuade Brigadier and Mrs. Boulter to complete the tour with us, having travelled so far, but they regretfully declined to stay after the 15th morning when the description of the Battle of Albuhera had been given and the first visit to the village completed.

ALBUHERA REVISITED—MAY 15/16, 1964

The culmination of the Battlefield Tour described above was the visit to Albuhera and the opportunity to commemorate this Battle actually on the ground. As it was essential to return to Gibraltar (300 miles) as quickly as possible on May 16, to rejoin the Battalion and take part in their functions according to Regimental tradition, the actual description of the Battle and the visit to the village of Albuhera itself was carried out on May 15.

May 15, 1964, was a hot, sunny day and although the description of the battle movements by both sides was easy because the ground is undeveloped and remains exactly as it must have been 153 years ago—only covered by crops and a few trees—the actual weather conditions for the battle, when it was raining, cloudy and dark, were a little more difficult to imagine. It is still easy to pick up souvenir musket balls which are ploughed up each year when the crops are being sown.

After everyone had walked over the fields and stood on the famous Ridge, the party moved into the village and firstly visited the house owned by Sr Don Antonio Garcia Orío-Zabala which was originally built before 1811. A large number of battle relics and plans have been collected and our host spoke through an interpreter at great length and with tremendous interest about the Battle. He presented two pieces of shell shrapnel from the battle, suitably engraved, which are now the property of the Officers' Mess and the Warrant Officers' Sergeants' Mess. Photographs of the visit by a party from The Buffs 38 years ago were also displayed by Sr Orío-Zabala and those have now been linked with copies of the visit of the Battalion this year, including a photograph of the Albuhera Cup.

Next, a visit to the Albuhera Memorial at the top of the hill in the village and subsequently to the Mayor's Parlour where the party was entertained by the Mayor, Sr Manzano. A picture presented by The Buffs in 1926 was seen in the Mayor's Parlour and it is in this building that the copy of "Steady the Drums and Fifes" will hang in future. The streets had already been decorated with red and yellow flags and the main street had been specially flattened by a steam roller to enable the Corps of Drums to march up to the Memorial on May 16.

The Corps of Drums and Padre Dick Hambley were flown into Badajoz from Gibraltar by R.A.F. Hastings aircraft during the 15th afternoon, together with the Editor and a photographer from "The Soldier" Magazine. Accommodation and messing were provided for the Drums in a Spanish Barracks in Badajoz and everything had been spotlessly cleaned and whitewashed—even the beds had been made up before their arrival. The Drums beat Retreat in Badajoz during the evening in ceremonial dress and before a crowd of approximately 5,000 people. This is the first occasion since 1911—the

centenary of the Peninsular War—that a British Corps of Drums or Band has been able to carry out this ceremony and Drum Major Howells with the Corps of Drums was given prolonged applause after every item. At the end of 30 minutes' performance the Commanding Officer asked the Military Governor, General Juez Lazaro, to take the Salute as the Drums marched away to the Regimental March.

Afterwards, the Battalion gave a reception party in the Hotel Madrid for approximately 100 guests including both the Civil Governor, Excmo Santaolalla de la Calle, and the Military Governor, General Juez Lazaro. The Commanding Officer presented Regimental Plaques to the Military Governor and his Staff, to the Commander of the Independent Infantry Regiment of Castilla, who accommodated the troops, and to the Commander of the Blindada Hernan Cortis Brigada who provided the transport for the Drums. During his Speech the Commanding Officer emphasised the need for maintaining the link of friendship and understanding between the British and Spanish troops who had fought so bravely together at Albuhera.

By 8 a.m. on May 16, everyone, including the Military Attaché from Madrid, Brigadier Paterson, who had rejoined the party on the previous evening, had driven the 15 miles from Badajoz to Albuhera and gathered on the actual Ridge which is approximately 1½ miles from the village. The Drums were piled and a simple Drumhead Service of Commemoration was conducted by Padre Dick Hambley, after the Battalion 2IC had read the description of the Battle which is published as the Order of the Day each year. A Service of this nature has never been held since 1811 by the 57th and certainly no one present will ever forget its meaning. Photographs were taken of the Corps of Drums standing on the Ridge and the Battalion will have no problems in selecting its Christmas Card this year.

After a quick breakfast "in the field" the Drums formed up at the bottom of the gaily decorated village street in ceremonial dress (by now the temperature was over 80 degrees F.) and marched up the hill to the Memorial which had been covered with fresh roses. The British, Spanish and Portuguese flags were flying on the left of the Memorial and the Regimental flag alone on the right. The Battalion Party was now joined by a large group of Spanish Army Officers and all the local population which had thronged the little village square. The Last Post was sounded by the Buglers and a Two Minutes' Silence observed at 9.15 a.m. followed by Reveille (it will be remembered that the actual battle began at approximately 9 a.m. in 1811). Wreaths were laid by the Commanding Officer and the Military Governor of Badajoz.

Everyone moved across the Village Square to the Mayor's Parlour where the Commanding Officer, speaking in Spanish, presented a copy of "Steady the Drums and Fifes" for safe custody to the Mayor which had been suitably inscribed in Spanish. In return, the Mayor handed a framed Memorial Scroll to the Commanding Officer for retention by the Battalion. At the same time special presentation cards for the day which had been prepared by Sr Orío-Zabala and pennants from

*The Memorial at Albuhera**The Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. F. de R. Morgan, M.C., presenting an inscribed copy of "Steady the Drums and Fifes" to the Mayor of Albuhera May 16, 1964*

the Blindada Hernan Cortis Brigada were distributed to everyone present. Shortly after 10 a.m. the party returned to their cars and motored safely back to Gibraltar by 7 p.m. to complete the Battlefield Tour and participate in the normal Battalion activities on Albuhera Day.

In conclusion, a pride of achievement must be felt by all those who participated and the only regrets were that it was not possible for a larger party from the Battalion to be present because military transport is not allowed into Spain. It was equally unfortunate that other representatives from the Regiment from elsewhere were unable to join us. Anyone visiting Albuhera in future will certainly be welcomed by Sr Orio-Zabala and the Mayor, Sr Manzano, to whom the sincere gratitude of the Battalion is offered.

A Kodachrome colour copy of the cine film taken by Sgt. Meacock and edited by Major Moore will be retained in Regimental Headquarters as well as in the Battalion for an historical record of the complete tour. If funds allow, a further copy will be kept at the Home Counties Brigade Depot.

MILL HILL SCHOOL C.C.F. VISIT

Those of us who have served with the Combined Cadet Force, or with its ancestors the Junior Training Corps and the Officers Training Corps during our

school days, have memories of "Corps Camps" in the Summer holidays. For these we exchanged the Spartan rigours of the dormitory for the even more primitive amenities of the tented camp for what usually turned out to be the wettest fortnight of the year. Nevertheless they were fun.

It appears that nowadays "Corps Camps", like everything else, have changed. Section attacks across Salisbury Plains have given way to expeditions to Germany, France or some other known exotic military sphere. At the Mill Hill School the study of travel brochures was even more enterprising and they decided that the smell of Spain, or more particularly Gibraltar, offered both military and holiday opportunities.

Such breadth of the imagination, and all the detailed planning that went with it, deserved success. And on Sunday, July 26, after an exhausting 3 day train journey from England the school camping party arrived in Gibraltar. Lt.-Col. G. S. Baker, T.D., who in his less military moments is the school's Arts Master, brought three detachments, an Army group of one officer and 24 cadets who stayed with us in South Barracks under C Company, a naval contingent of one officer and 16 who stayed with H.M.S. *Rooke*, and a R.A.F. party of one officer and 20 who stayed with the R.A.F. at North

Front. Also with the party was S.S.I. Maloney who renewed old acquaintances in the Sergeants' Mess.

Their programme included a guided tour of the Rock, mornings with the Royal Navy and the R.A.F., a demonstration of Infantry Weapons by the Battalion at Sandy Bay, and a visit to 1 Fortress Squadron R.E. Afternoons were left free for bathing, sailing, water-skiing and other sporting activities. The highlight of the week was a trip to North Africa on Saturday, August 1. Leaving the docks at 0830 hrs. in two Naval launches they had a smooth crossing to Ceuta, seeing several large schools of porpoises on the way. After some unusually brief (for Spain) passport formalities the party travelled by bus to Tetuan where guides took them on a tour of this fascinating old city. This included a visit to the magnificent royal palace, and ended with a visit to the Medina, the ancient shopping quarter, where much hard bargaining for leather goods took place. Lunch on the boats, a bathe and the return to Ceuta followed by another pleasant journey back to Gibraltar during which a school of whales was seen close by.

On Sunday, August 2, the whole contingent attended the Morning Service at King's Chapel as a parade, and then spent the afternoon in Spain bathing, after which most of the boys took the opportunity to see a Novillada at the La Linea Bullring, and were lucky in seeing a good one.

Bank holiday Monday was a free day for the cadets though some were able to pay a visit aboard H.M.S. *Dreadnought*. The main body left early on Tuesday, August 4, on their long train journey back, leaving about half the party who were either joining other parties in Spain or finding their own way back home.

The Cadets and their officers showed flattering enthusiasm for their stay here, and seem to have enjoyed themselves, which was the main aim of the visit. We enjoyed having them, and were very happy to renew links with a school with which we have had many pleasant contacts in the past. We hope it will not be their last such visit.

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

April saw the departure of Capt. Hewson our Adjutant for the past two years, and Lt. Monypenny the Assistant Adjutant. Capt. Hewson went to B Company as 2IC but has since "fiddled" himself a Staff job at HQ Cyrenaica Area. We wish him and Mrs. Hewson the best of good fortune in their new station. Lt. Monypenny wasn't quite so lucky. After much protest he was banished to the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, quite the opposite of what he expected as his new appointment. We hope he will produce some interesting juniors for us, perhaps good enough for Bn. H.Q.—we need 'em!

Capt. Crumley is our new Adjutant, an old hand at the game, and Lt. Freeborn the Assistant Adjutant, not quite so old but equally game. Lt. Pitman had a short spell with us but the volumes of classified files and documents proved far too frightening and he quickly volunteered for the Trucial Oman Scouts and left us in July. Our good wishes go with him for a successful tour in that far off place.

The elevation of Capt. Crumley to Bn. H.Q. prompted him to buy a smart new car. He becomes the first two-car owner in the Battalion and can now transport his brief case daily in one while Mrs. Crumley does the shopping in the other.

We have no change in Orderly Room Staff to report, but outside activities are reducing our strength by 90 per cent. after lunch-time. The O.R.Q.M.S. spends all his time coxing the Whaler crew, Sgt. Gibbs with visits to breweries, Cpl. Flynn with photography and rowing and L/Cpl. Fordham motoring between the N.A.A.F.I. Shop and North Pavilion in his new VW. It's been a struggle to get all the Diehard notes typed in time for despatch to the Editor, who is obviously getting his own back on the O.R.Q.M.S., whose name has been left off the Regimental Seniority Roll for the last two issues (Ernie Colebeck to note!). Pte. Pedley has been the sole survivor after 1400 hrs., and with back firmly to the filing cabinet, has been fighting off all-comers with requests, other than cups of coffee. Poor Pedals hasn't yet seen the sun outside North Pavilion and we fear that an hour in the Nuffield Pool may well provoke a serious attack of sunstroke.

Sgt. Gibbs is on six weeks leave again—quite amazing how his application for leave always coincides with his turn to write these notes—we strongly suspect that the O.R.Q.M.S. is being turned-over. L/Cpl. Walsh is back in Tobruk for his second tour; he really loves the place and will no doubt wish to volunteer to stay over for Christmas in the desert!

After one or two false starts, L/Cpl. Fordham finally tied the knot on February 15 with a local girl. Our belated congratulations to you both. Mrs. Fordham is the Manageress of the N.A.A.F.I. Shop in the Barracks, but we still pay 8d. for our cold drinks, and can't have any "tick" despite family connections.

Pte. Doran has been on the longest U.K. Clerks course on record. We cannot remember when he left Gibraltar as it's so long ago, but he has created an unusual precedent by being nominated for a BI course followed by a BIII course; did someone err? However, it will be good to see him back; we have a pleasant surprise in store for him.

P.R.I.

The P.R.I. Department continues to labour for the welfare and entertainment of the Battalion but nothing very exciting ever seems to happen on the ground floor of North Pavilion where its offices are situated. Since the last edition, Capt. P. D. J. Clarke has left to take up the appointment of Adjutant of the 5th Battalion. Capt. Clarke was an enthusiastic and industrious P.R.I. who handed over a "going" concern with much goodwill to his successor as P.R.I., Capt. I. M. E. Lloyd. Also new to the department is Pte. Flanagan, Capt. Lloyd's batman, who was quickly initiated into the mysteries of the P.R.I. Shop, booking Welfare Transport and looking after the Central Hall, now re-named South Barracks Hall. Cpl. Stopp and Pte. Webb are still the hard working backbone but both have found that they are spending a good deal of their time away from the Office these days. Cpl. Stopp is out several times a week driving the P.R.I.

Bus for all manner of parties into and around Spain, while Pte. Webb has been very active in the sporting world. Together with Capt. Lloyd, he is a member of the Battalion Whaler crew which trains practically every day in the Harbour for the monthly Regatta. Webb has also found the energy to play an important part in the H.Q. Company Swimming Team win in the Command Minor Units Competition. He is now 200 yards Free-style Champion of Gibraltar and was runner-up in the 100 yards race. A very good effort indeed.

On the Messing side, W.O.II Hynson continues to hold the reins of a good team of Cooks, both Regimental and A.C.C. They provide us with meals of a high standard day in, day out and even find themselves with the Rifle Company in Tobruk for a three month tour of desert service!

I speak for all ranks in extending the heartiest congratulations to W.O.II Hynson and his Staff for the excellent Albuhera Day meals which they produced. W.O.II Hynson is also to be congratulated on his recent marriage, as is Sgt. Cowan on his promotion from Cpl. We welcome Cpl. Taylor and L/Cpl. Eccles, both A.C.C., to the Battalion and hope they have a happy tour with us.

Visits by Publicity Agents

Following a visit by an advertising agent in February a recruiting poster is appearing in the national press this summer showing Cpl. Dowsett, Cpl. Fisher and L/Cpl. Lambourne on patrol in the heat and dust of that vast unmapped area, Windmill Flats.

In March reporters and photographers from two local Middlesex newspapers visited the Battalion for a week. They worked hard and photographs and interviews by the dozen were sent to England, saturating local papers with news and views from the Middlesex in Gibraltar. One of the reporters, Mr. Harris, had accompanied the Battalion to Volos in September 1962 to cover the exercises against the Para Brigade.

Mr. Wood, the editor, and a photographer from "Soldier Magazine" and a photographer from the Central Office of Information, descended on the Battalion in May. The brunt of this attack was borne by C Company

who were stalked and hot by day and night all over the Rock.

Some excellent likenesses were obtained of Ptes. Frost and Gurr silhouetted against the lights of the harbour. The ubiquitous Cpl. Fisher, now nearly as well known as the man in the Amplex advertisement, was photographed still leading his patrol across Windmill Flats.

Mr. Wood accompanied the Officers and Sergeants on their battlefield tour which culminated on the ridge at Albuhera on May 16.

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GIBRALTAR

"H.Q." COMPANY

Training

There has been little drama to report in the military life of the Company, which is probably just as well since the period in question covered the Annual Administrative Inspection. Worth-while training, for those elements of the Company interested in such a word, can only take place in Tobruk. With a Company "slice" of about 18 on each Rifle Company tour, a high proportion of those who can be dug out of South Barracks have now had the benefit of three months away from Gibraltar. A martial note is however struck twice a week here when normally well hidden soldiers are prised from cover to fire their classification course. So well has the C.S.M. managed this, that some 90 per cent. of the Company have classified during the past four weeks, and (an even greater feat) this has been achieved in a spirit of remarkable harmony both on and off the range. Some soldiers, blinking in the strong sunlight, have been heard to remark that a day on the range makes a pleasant change.

Sport

This is a pleasure to write about. The Company basketball team won the Gibraltar League, and this was followed by Company teams winning the Command athletics, swimming and diving competitions. Congratulations to all who took part, to those who coached, and to those who encouraged these teams in their successes. The only jarring notes are struck by the cricket team, which has had only moderate success, and by Pte. Graham, who has to clean the various trophies in the Company Commander's office. Details appear elsewhere, but below are the names of those who represented the Company in the finals of these events:

Basketball: Sgt. Torrie, L/Cpl. O'Brien, L/Cpl. Meehan, L/Cpl. French, W.O.2 Meadows and Sgt. Young.

Athletics. Sgt. Miles, Pte. Tydeman, Pte. Lampshire, Cpl. O'Riordan, Pte. Phillips, Pte. Markham, L/Cpl. Cleasby, Pte. Hayes, Cpl. Flanagan, L/Cpl. Hackney, Pte. Waters, L/Cpl. Clarke, Cpl. Tuvey, L/Cpl. Stevenson, L/Cpl. Meehan, L/Cpl. Morley and W.O.2 Meadows.

Swimming. Pte. Webb, Pte. Bonner, L/Cpl. O'Brien, Pte. Amor, Cpl. Dowsett, L/Cpl. Eldred, Ptes. Wilson and Piper, L/Cpl. Pearson, S/Sgt. Harrison.

Diving. W.O.2 Meadows and Ptes. Davidson and Bonner.

Personalities

Major B. K. Clayden

Command changed in June when Major Pepperall took over from Major Clayden, who left, officially to become B.M. to a T.A. Brigade in Manchester, but unofficially to watch the fourth test (his remarks on this have not yet filtered through). He knew the Company really well—too well for some—and he will be missed in many ways, not least for his pungent comments. The very best of luck to him and Mrs. Clayden.

C.S.M. Eastap

A very welcome arrival in the Company, even though he does unfairly know who is in it and where they should be working. Has remained sane and cheerful for six months which must be some record.

Congratulations to C/Sgts. Eldridge, Clements, Willis and Lagden on their promotions.

Sgt. O'Rawe

We were sorry to lose him but feel that as Provost Sergeant and heavyweight boxer he brings a refreshing approach to his new task of Special Recruiter.

Finally, a word of appreciation for the real desert veterans in the Battalion—The R.E.M.E. Detachment. Being a small select band, the fitters and armourers virtually do alternate tours in Tobruk. L/Cpl. Meller and Cfn. Houghton, for instance, will play Cox and Box for two years.

Signal Platoon

During the last few months, which in Gibraltar get quite hot, we have been fairly busy doing cadre work for each Rifle Company as they return from Tobruk and giving a helping hand to the Gibraltar Regiment when they fire big guns. This gives us practice in operating A40s over a distance of 12,000 yards with much success.

The submarine supply ship H.M.S. *Adamant* arrived in Gibraltar and stayed for a fortnight. Crew members paid us so many visits that we thought that the Navy had taken over South Barracks. Sgt. Briggs was heard saying that "Our speed for Morse is about 20-22 w.p.m., etc., etc." Still, some very enjoyable times were spent aboard the submarines, and some underwater hours were put in by members of the Platoon. By the way, A40s will not work underwater—take note you underwater fishermen.

Cpl. Dowsett has left his abode half way up the Rock, and moved into town—the ape look took about 14 days to wear off. A Platoon party was held at the Victoria Hotel for the people who have left or about to leave us for future horizons: Capt. W. G. A. Crumley, to Adjutant; Sgt. A. J. Briggs, Weapons and Drill Course in U.K.; Cpl. T. P. O'Riordan, Demob.

Other guests included Sgt. B. Pritchard, who once stated "I will not be back," now returns to the fold and will dominate the stores, and Pte. West from the Boys' Battalion who joined us in April.

On the sports field we have gained a very good reputation in winning the inter-Company football and athletics and a close second in the swimming. Cpl. O'Riordan has broken a few records on the running track this season. Helping him were Ptes. Hannaford and Phillips. Our swimmers, Cpl. Dowsett, L/Cpl. Lambourne, L/Cpl. Morley, Ptes. Wilson, Calloway, Weeden, did very well against strong opposition from Battalion Headquarters to gain second place in the inter-Company match. L/Cpl. Morley represents us at football and Cpl. Stewart at cricket. All the above have represented the Company and some the Battalion.

H.Q.
Company

1. Cpl. O'Riordan winning the 880 yards Final in the Command Athletics Meeting

2. Pte. Webb winning the 200 yards freestyle race in the Command Swimming Competition

3. L/Cpl. Jacklin winning the long jump in the Command Athletics Meeting

4. H.Q. Coy. Swimming Team: (Back Row: left to right): Pte. Webb, Pte. Wilson 95, W.O.2 Meadows, Major N. G. Pepperall, L/Cpl. O'Brien, Dmr. Davidson and L/Cpl. Pearson. (Front row: left to right): L/Cpl. Eldred, Pte. Piper, Cpl. Dowsett, Pte. Bonner and S/Sgt. Harrison

Pte. Phillips has got engaged to one of the local young ladies and we are hoping he gets married soon, so that we have more room in our living accommodation. We hear that Pte. Price is bringing his wife out from the United Kingdom to join him. That will leave us about seven living-in members to do the work.

DR Section

L/Cpl. Lambourne (fastest man in the section); Ptes. Gillham, Theobald and Hunt.

These we think must be the four hardest working men in the Battalion, because when they are wanted for an odd job the fatal cry is heard "Phew we are too busy." L/Cpl. Lambourne has paid a visit to the Royal Naval Hospital for allowing his motor bike to run him over.

And last but not least, L/Cpl. Morley will be attending Hythe Signals Wing to rise above the clouds as an R.S.I. We wish him all the best on his course.

For all ex-Signallers (1959-64) Ptes. Slater and Edge are still with us, if you are thinking of coming back! Pte. Edge is still that keen that he even reports for work on Bank Holidays.

Quartermaster's Department

In our constant search for talent in the battalion we are sometimes successful and recently we have found another carpenter, Pte. O'Connor, who was hiding his light in a rifle platoon in "A" Company. Needless to say, he was leapt upon with great glee and forced into labour in the Pioneer Shop. We have not heard him complain!

For the first time in living memory the Department, as a whole, has taken an active part in sport. We entered a team for the Inter-Platoon H.Q. Company Athletics and, strange to relate, we did not come last! Cpl. Tuvey, our sportsman of the year, did quite well in the High Jump, being placed second. He was picked for the H.Q. Company Team and entered for the Command event. He did reasonably well against the very good competition from the other contestants. He was also entered for the Gibraltar A.A.A. Competition, but refuses to tell us why he did not win this event. Cricket has also loomed well in his life and has meant quite a few afternoons off to play for both H.Q. Company and the Battalion Teams, so his claim to the title of "Q.M.'s Department Sportsman of the Year" seems well founded.

We entered a team for the Inter-Platoon H.Q. Company Swimming Gala, and although, as a team, we only managed to hold down last place, Pte. Amor came a very good second in the Butterfly Stroke, and fourth in the Spring Board Diving (we still feel he was robbed of first place, degree of difficulty indeed!). He is, however, assured of a place in the Company Team, and we look forward to great things from him. It must be noted at this point that S/Sgt. Girling, our R.E.M.E. Armourer, who was a surprise entry in the Free-Style Relay, very nearly won his stretch from lying last, and all that with a game leg. So that shows what the "old uns" can do!

We are sad to report that one of our more colourful members, C/Sgt. Nicholson, has left us to go on posting to B.A.O.R. We shall miss him and wish him luck in his new venture. His place has been taken by C/Sgt. Lagden, whom many will remember from Hamelin days. We welcome him to the staff and hope that his stay with us will be a happy one; it will certainly be a busy one.

We have it on good report that the family Williamson will be enlarged by one by the time these notes are published, so we offer our congratulations to "Daddy" and Mrs. L/Cpl. Williamson in advance.

Most of the staff, especially the single members, are in grave danger of qualifying for an aquarium, as they spend most of their spare time these days either in the Swimming Pool or in the sea. One would have thought that, with all this practice, we could have romped the Swimming Gala, but everybody else seems to be doing the same thing (and they have more spare time than we do!).

Cpl. Jamieson, who has just returned from leave in Londonderry, tells us that the local Guinness has not deteriorated in his absence. No doubt all the other Northern Irishmen in the Battalion will be pleased to hear this. Whilst on the subject of alcohol, Cpl. French, who plays for the local civvy club, has been holding up the Q.M.'s staff reputation at darts. He has devoted quite a few evenings to this pastime during the past months. His club, by report always a successful one, has done really well this season, winning innumerable trophies for the art. Though "Froggie" tells us that this is mostly his doing we are inclined to take it with a pinch of best-bitter. L/Cpl. Caton had aspirations on these lines, but his money ran out!

Cfn. Houghton, one of our R.E.M.E. Armourers, has recently passed his A1 Trade Test and we offer him our congratulations, and hope that his rise in pay does not go to his head in alcoholic bubbles. L/Cpl. Meller is now in the U.K. taking the same course, and, it is rumoured, planning to be married. We wish him luck on the course and no doubt we will find out the truth of the other matter in due course.

In May seven members of the staff hired out one of the Welfare Safari Land-Rovers and we took a trip in to Spain. Our trip took us first to a walled village in the mountains, and, although none of us can remember the name of the place, we were suitably impressed with all we saw. Having visited this we decided to have a trip to Algeciras, where we spent a few hours sightseeing, among other things. Becoming more ambitious we decided to round off the day with a drive up the Costa del-Sol as far as Malaga. Unfortunately, this took us far longer than we had anticipated and so left us little time to see the town. Coming back we had to hurry to avoid being caught by the border-gates, which close at 1 o'clock a.m. Not only this, but we had the bad fortune to run out of petrol half way back and only just managed to find the last open garage. We finally made it back to Gibraltar and I think that everyone agreed that the trip had been well worth it. We shall have to try it again some time (remembering to take some spare petrol!).

Finally, after over three years with the Q.M., L/Cpl. Caton has decided to get out and give someone else a chance. He has been the Q.M.'s clerk now since Hamelin and thinks that he deserves a rest. So, after a re-settlement course in October, he leaves the service to make his mark in civilian life. He will be closely followed by Pte. Pollard, the Q.M.'s Batman, who will be leaving the Army early next year. We wish them both good luck in their future careers.

M.T. Platoon

The Associated Company of "Wilds West Transport" under the chairmanship of "Jimmy the One" has during the last six months kept abreast of all requirements of the Battalion plus such others as Fortress H.Q., Gibraltar Regiment, Cadets, Signal Troop, etc., etc.

In anticipation of the transport requirements in a new station being five or six times as much as it is at present, the Chairman has increased cadres for Standard I Class I drivers and learner drivers. By mid 1965 there will be a requirement for some 200 drivers in the battalion and, although we would like to keep them all *a la* Q.M.'s, we are having to wave goodbye to a group each time the Tobruk Company changeover occurs. Ptes. Goddard, Jennings, Markham, Nagle and Beall have departed for "B" Company. In return we received Ptes. Acton, Dowdell, Kaye, Soall, Saunders and Tarry. Congratulations to L/Cpl. Brown on his promotion in his capacity as C.O.'s driver.

John Moyse was traded in for a newer model Tom Steward, who is suffering a few running in problems. It is far too early to see who got the better bargain, yet.

John has gone to get a bit of sand in his bucket before taking over London Transport (Helicopter Department) in Civvy Street. Best of luck John, where and whatever you decide to do. Two who have already gone are L/Cpl. Butler, commonly known to all as Percy, and Barrow Boy May. Hope they print these notes before they both re-enlist.

The Tobruk Group this time is small. Cpl. Baxter wangled a three-month pass from his wife, Cpl. McIntosh to save enough to put his head in the marriage noose, Cfn. Tomlinson to escape from the Camp Barber and Pte. Acton just got detailed.

During April—May after much sweat, toil and tears, Sgt. Peacock got L/Cpls. Brown, Cleasby, and Harding and Pte. McNab to pass their Standard I Class I tests. Just to show our appreciation of George we gave him another course to run. Well done George. In May the Chairman left on a tour of the Battle Fields of Spain. By the way, if anyone on holiday between Gibraltar and Cadiz finds a spare Land-Rover wheel the telephone number is Fortress 337.

We now have our own club room, dominated by a 23-in. TV set and, thanks to a loan by the P.R.I., a washing machine. At present it is not producing that brightness it should but time will tell. The club room was decorated some time ago by a Sapper Imossi to form a complete bull ring—just the job whilst watching El Cordobes on Spanish TV. A new addition to the Yard is the largest money box on the Rock marked Coca Cola and watched over by the eagle eye of Tom Steward, who sits and watches the empties pile up with a mind like a cash register.

Taking over the Technical Stores headaches is Sgt. Dave Miles. John Eldridge has departed for the Pink Gin Palace (hospital) after a series of heart attacks. We wish him a speedy recovery. The problems of getting spares, repairs and servicing done by the Senior Service has not been resolved yet, but you know what they say "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em."

Recently joining the platoon from the cadres and "A" Company are Ptes. Wright, McGlade, Wiles, Adams, Tofts, Cullen, Mallon, Murray and Flahant—the last named as yet unseen.

L/Cpl. Stewart, who is having his first taste of end of the month worktickets, is still trying to find such places as Sandw Bya; Naffa; Town Air; Coaling Inland; Galpas; to name but a few. The fitters are still trying to repair such faults as poor starting in the morning, engine keeps cutting out and the fumes are terrible; W/W stops and goes; Capolla new one needed for vercle; bracks need attention; seal gone; indector pails to work; hole in exhourst; Jer-Can H Bamg. If any ex or present member of the platoon has any idea where or what these are just let L/Cpl. Stewart know, before he has to go back into hospital to get his thoughts as straight as his nose.

At present the platoon is second in the Inter-Platoon Dept. Sports League, which is not bad going when we have to compete against such people as the Band and Drums etc. Sgt. Miles won the Gibraltar A.A. Victor Ludorum Silver Cup as the best all-rounder. He also plays for the Army Cricket team amongst other sports.

During the recent opening of the Arow Street tunnel on July 30 the platoon was complimented on the turn out of their vehicles.

At this stage we must say farewell to the longest serving member of the platoon, Sgt. Danny Burke, who will join the 5th Battalion in 1965 after a Platoon Weapons course. Danny served his National Service in the R.A.O.C. as a driver during 1949-51. After having got the taste, he re-enlisted in the Middlesex in 1956. In those five years in civvy street Danny tried his hand as a cabinet maker. He joined us in Cyprus, and to prove this the marks are still on the gate posts of Alma Camp where he tried to take them away with a 3-ton truck. On the unit move to B.A.O.R. Danny was promoted corporal and loaned to H.Q. 11 Brigade to run their transport, when he was very highly respected by not only the M.T. but by the frauleins; so much so he got married and was promoted to sergeant. Rejoining the platoon at Lydd he again put in sterling work but the grey hairs were telling their tale.

In Gibraltar, with the changing systems and the new Ministry of Defence procedure changes, he has still kept the M.T. out of hot water and thanks to him many problems with the Naval workshops have been smoothed over (aided, of course, with a very big dog called Wolf).

Cheerio Danny and from all of us, many thanks to you and Mrs. Burke for all your very fine services to the M.T. and the Battalion. Our very best wishes for you in the future and may you come back some day as the new chairman.

Corps of Drums

The most important event in recent months was undoubtedly the trip to Spain in May to celebrate Albuhera Day on the Ridge.

We flew to Badajoz by RAF Hastings, and the trip was uneventful but very hot. On arrival we were met by an officer in the Spanish Army who conducted us to the barracks where we were to be put up for our stay.

The accommodation was not luxurious but the Spanish troops were first class hosts and everyone enjoyed themselves.

We beat Retreat while in Badajoz in a beautiful palm-lined square in front of a large and enthusiastic audience.

The rest of the evening was our own and we set out to do Badajoz; judging by the state of the eyes the following morning everyone had a very good time.

May 16 saw us up at an early hour as we had some distance to travel to Albuhera. On the ridge itself we sounded Last Post and Reveille in remembrance of Col. Inglis and the men of 57th Foot.

We then marched through the town to the memorial where, after a short service, we were requested to give a short display, which was very well received.

We welcome Cpl. Holman, who comes to us from teaching Junior Drummers at Canterbury. When he discovered how arduous the duties were in Gibraltar he quickly broke his leg, but we are glad to say he is nearly fit now.

By the time this is in print Coombes will be a married man; we wish them both all the best.

We hope to take the Drum Major to Morocco in early September for a spot of adventure training.

The Band

The Band have been kept busy with many and varied engagements during the past six months—garden parties, dinner parties for His Excellency, rowing and boating regattas, not to mention mess dinner nights, Ceremonies of the Key and Naval Divisions.

The Band played for the Commissioning of H.M.S. *Carysfort* and the *Messina*. Later we were cordially invited to spend a day at sea on the *Carysfort*, which was much appreciated and enjoyed by all. Our help to the Royal Navy also included Divisions for the First Sea Lord and a dinner party for him in the evening.

The Social Club is still thriving and recently held a Stag Dinner in La Linea. The Dinner was a success and was enjoyed by all attending. A local Spanish Band provided the background music. All are wondering how "My Mother-in-Law" is—we hope she is well!!!

We welcome Bandsmen Richard McDonald, Phillip Taylor and David Barclay, and hope that they will enjoy their new surroundings. We also welcome back to the Band Cpl. Ivan Routledge; his family joined him a few weeks later. The Band said farewell to L/Cpl. Joseph Chester and Bandsman Richard Green, and in doing so, feel that whatever vocation they choose in civilian life they will do well.

We lose "Tweet" Bird (French Horn) and "Beatle" McDonald (Clarinet/Guitar) for one year. Both are going to Kneller Hall for further musical training. We are looking forward to a returning four—Bandsmen Tony Nash, Michael Roberts, Victor Johnson and Bandsman Tubb. We congratulate Sgt. George Beechey on his marriage and wish them every happiness and good health in the years to come.

"A" COMPANY

Return to Tobruk

Everybody knows "A" Company likes Africa, so it was difficult not to appear too anxious to return to Tobruk. This time it was assaulted from three sides—a combined operation from land, sea and air—Cpl. Holland by land, Lt. Freeborn and fellow sailors on HMS *Leopard*, and the main body airborne.

Life in Tobruk from March onwards was probably even more enjoyable than the original three months there. This time there were no P.E. tests, no formal classifications, and training was much broader, more advanced and therefore more interesting. We were spared the nine-mile bash up the Derna Road, although a 60-mile bash was substituted, with varying degrees of success, around the "back streets" of Acroma and Knightsbridge (Knightsbridge, Libya, that is). Shooting was largely conducted in the field, which was a tremendous advantage—it being far easier for a section just to get down and shoot at realistic targets such as beer cans, sheep and Arab policemen, rather than at Platoon Sergeants, and the butt party on a range. Corporals very often had sole control of their sections, being sometimes separated by many miles from the platoon base. This aspect of running sub-units as much as possible well away from Tobruk was better exploited this time—instead of one week, platoons went out on their own for two weeks at a time. No. 4 Platoon will say they were out all the time; if they were it was only to avoid being duty platoon at weekends!

Duties and the distribution of responsibilities were better organised this time. The Corporals were very often in sole charge of their sections, Platoon Sergeants became able administrators and the Colour Sergeant organised food, water, old mattresses for bayonet fighting, "buckshees," reconditioned jerry-cans (real "jerry"-cans one might say judging from the markings), explosive stores and camp beds and blankets which were quite capable of making their own way out to the training area. Platoon Commanders—they were there too.

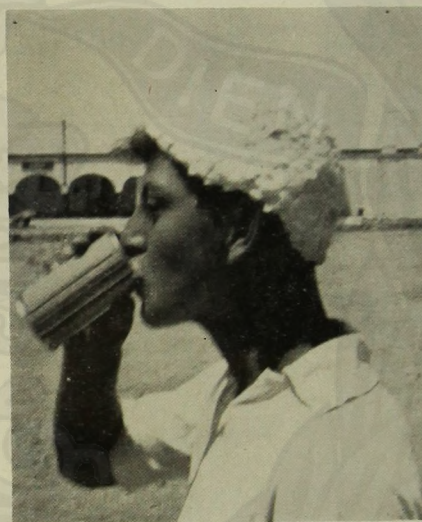
Memories float back briefly and sweetly—compo at Pilastrino—eggs at Um Er ezzum—Lt. Hubert's map reference (60 miles off target)—Lt. Freeborn and his wild game hunting—2/Lt. Montgomery's North Star which set about midnight (due west)—Apartheid in the Sergeants Mess—Pte. Ward penetrating a bayonet dummy completely and sinking his bayonet three inches into a telegraph pole (bent through about 30 degrees)—"Mrs." Harris playing soft-ball—L/Cpl. Fordham refereeing soft-ball—sweet memories all of them. Pte. Manning house cleaning—Pte. Hatch operating a wireless set, Pte. Conyers mortaring, Pte. Zeikenopasser walking, Cpl. Whitt worrying, Pte. McGaffigan racing—brings tears to your eyes.

Visits and Events

About half way through our tour, the Battalion 2IC came out on a visit. No. 1 Platoon was scaring the pants off the sheep at Ras El Tin and performing one of their well-known impromptu and completely un-rehearsed Platoon attacks. No. 2 Platoon was "resting" on the

Knightsbridge-Acroma circuit and No. 4 Platoon had done the famous Hubert/Seager/Argent disappearing trick into a new (to us) part of the desert some ten hours drive up towards (and damned nearly into) Benghazi.

We had of course many other visitors in Tobruk, including the French Consul from Benghazi, the Australian journalist who is collecting material for a book on the Siege of Tobruk, and Col. C. A. Morris, Commanding Cyrenaica Area, who came down from Benghazi to see us off (presumably he may even have noticed "B" Company arrive).



"Mother" Harris

The tour offered a number of diversions from the routine desert training. The two high-lights were No. 4 Platoon's desert trip to Bedda Fomm and Sgt. Kerr's "short" range desert group that set off for Kuffra. Accounts of these two journeys can be found later on. The 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards helped us out and gave us some lively but dusty infantry tank training and in return they came to Tobruk to play us at soccer, narrowly beating us 2-1 and leaving us a wounded Pte. Morgan with the largest bandage ever seen.

During the tour L/Cpl. Robinson started up his own business by building the O.C. a caravan and by getting married (first things first). Many congratulations go to him and his wife, and also to the O.C. for daring to sleep in the caravan and so avoiding the fate that nearly befell Sgt. Seager by becoming desert cats' meat.

Mid-May brought the Company a very new task, that of re-burying eight French soldiers who died down near Kuffra Oasis during the last war. A small guard of honour was provided at R.A.F. El Adem when the air-

craft with the bodies arrived and was inspected by the French Consul. It then escorted the bodies to the French Cemetery where a brief ceremony was held. Cpl. Cousins, ex-Foreign Legion, who had already marked Cameroon Day by a short ceremony attended by Cpls. Aylward, McFadyen and L/Cpl. Leworthy, had the honour of lowering the French Tricolour during the service.

Albuhera Day was marked by a short but most appropriate service held in the local school hall, followed by an inter-Platoon soft ball match (it looked more like a fashion parade of beach wear with "Mother" Harris and L/Cpl. Fordham taking leading roles). The R.A.F. arranged a magnificent lunch for us all and the Sergeants visited the Officers' Mess for a pre-lunch drink, to put them all in the mood for an impromptu cabaret in the cookhouse. Finally, when all had recovered after a long sleep, the officers and Sergeants held their own dinners in their respective Messes.

The final month was crowded with events. The Queen's Birthday Parade held by the Royal Air Force at El Adem, for which the Company became No. 1 Squadron and the Platoons Nos. 1 and 2 Flights. There was our contribution towards the completion of the new Forces Broadcasting Service, when Sgt. Kerr, with a few stalwarts, raised a 98-foot aerial. After a second glance it seemed to have a bend in the middle and a rather drunken list, but it was okay when we left ("B" Company please note).

Finally, the Subalterns got caught up in the paths of history and did a repeat performance of their presentation on the desert campaigns. This was followed by a battlefield tour to Sidi Rezegh with a bevy of school children and their teachers who came to maintain order.

The Royal Air Force came to our rescue when we found that we had more men than there were seats available for the return trip to Gibraltar, by sending a dozen soldiers back on indulgence passages to the U.K. for a month's leave.

Sport in Tobruk

Athletics

The Company fielded a team for the El Adem Meeting which, considering that two days before we had been scattered all over the desert on training, produced marvels. Pte. Ward excelled himself; by having had his first introduction at pole vaulting only two evenings prior to the Meeting (in jeans and winkle-pickers), he came second on the day. Lts. Hubert and Montgomery and L/Cpl. Peak ran back and jumped well to earn themselves numerous, but empty, vacuum flasks as prizes. Pte. Wright laced up his boots and marched his way round two miles to come second in the walk against experienced R.A.F. walkers; L/Cpl. Blackburn won the shot putt and came second in the javelin; Cpl. Foley came third in the steeplechase and Cpl. Dowsett came fourth in the hammer. Ptes. Temple, Tofts and Zeikenopasser also turned out to help and prove that results can be achieved by everyone helping each other regardless of particular ability.

The tug-of-war team, under the able leadership of C/Sgt. Smith, pulled their way into the final, and C/Sgt.

Smith into the water-jump afterwards. The Company team produced the very satisfactory result of being second out of seven teams, having secured at least third place in every event but one. It was really an excellent performance all round.

Swimming

Three meetings were held—one against the Inniskilling Dragoon Guards and two against R.A.F. El Adem. In all meetings we won the swimming (helped, we are happy to say, by our "H.Q." Company attached personnel) but we took severe beatings at water polo. Pte. Seatory produced some very valuable turns of speed and Calloway too, looking like a large tadpole, did his lengths to help us to victory.

Basketball

The Barclays Bank continued to be our main opponents, playing some 12 matches of which they won just under half, and showing a considerable improvement in form. Matches were also played against R.A.F. teams but here we were unbeaten. Our stalwart players were 2/Lt. Montgomery, L/Cpl. Peak, L/Cpl. Meller, L/Cpl. Lambourne, L/Cpl. Marshall and Pte. Temple.

Football

Several matches were played against local teams but we were unable to snatch a victory from them until just before we left, although the gap between the two teams narrowed as the tour wore on. Ptes. Ward and O'Connell gave much aggressive play and L/Cpl. Peak did valuable work co-ordinating the team's efforts.

By H.M.S. Leopard to Tobruk

As a change from the normal air passage and in the interests of inter-Service Liaison, a party from "A" Company decided to go to Tobruk in H.M.S. *Leopard*.

This ship, an anti-aircraft frigate, having taken part in exercises in the Western Mediterranean, was sailing for the Far East. The party, consisting of Sgt. Argent, L/Cpls. Robinson, Marshall, Ptes. Gray, Cobbold, Elliott, Davey, Corcoran, Berry, Love and Blackman, was commanded by Lt. Freeborn.

We sailed from Gibraltar early in the morning on March 4. The Rock looked very attractive at that time with the pale light of the winter sun just illuminating the barracks we were not to see for three months.

As we left the harbour, the party formed up on the Flag Deck and as the "Still" was piped in salute to the other ships, *Leopard* resounded to the crash of military feet. At sea we were detailed to messes and learnt, to our delight, that although we were not on the ship's books we would get our tot of grog when "Spirits Up" was piped. The pipes "Spirits Up" and "Stand Easy" (N.A.A.F.I. Break) were soon as familiar as the call "No Parades."

We discovered that the Laundry on board was very efficient and everyone took advantage of this to get all their kit "Persil" white. Other amenities on board included a very good R.D. System run in off duty hours by the 2nd Officer, which put the Gibraltar one to shame, and an extremely good canteen.

During the afternoon of the first day we were told off as gun numbers loading the ammo hoists for a firing exercise at a towed target. We saw little of the firing as we were below decks but we were told that the target was demolished. The following day we had the opportunity of serving the 4.5 inch guns in an anti-aircraft role. This was followed by the firing of the twin Bofors at a sleeve towed by a Hunter and this time we were able to see the effectiveness of the fire as we were on deck.

Two days later we berthed in Grand Harbour, Malta G.C. The Captain, "in the best traditions of the Service," refused the tugs and carried out this tricky operation under his own power.

We had to disembark at Malta as we had not been granted diplomatic clearance to land from H.M.S. *Leopard* at Tobruk. However, before we finally said goodbye to our mess mates, the "Die-Hards" and "Leopards" had a "run ashore" and had a riotous night proving that the British Services were better than the combined American and Dutch Fleets. The patrol report presented to the No 1 and the boat loads of battered Yankee sailors testified to this on the following morning.

In Malta we stayed with the Royal Sussex Regiment at St. Andrews Barracks. While there we beat their Training Company at soccer.

L/Cpl. Robinson was the first to continue the journey to Tobruk so that he could see his fiancée and "bull" the regimental badge on the O.C.'s Land Rover. The remainder of the party continued their journey in twos and threes by way of Tripoli where they stayed for a few days and attended a dance and sunbathed and swam at the Forces' Beach Club. We eventually arrived in Tobruk an hour before the main body.

Overland to Tobruk by Cpl. R. Holland

After the long awaited "yes" we, Cpl. "Satch" Phillips, L/Cpl. Kevin Brown, my wife Barbara and I, set about getting all our provisions together and soon after having gone through the whole trip in our minds we ended up with something like "Steptoe's and Son" junk yard. With a final look at the straining springs and a wistful glance at the roof rack, which looked like the Rock, we set off on the initial stage of our journey.

Sunday morning being the planned day of departure we set off through the barrier at Gibraltar only to be held up by the Spanish Customs for over an hour while they searched for spirits and the like. On arrival at Algeciras I found that much to my dismay we had to wait eleven hours for the ferry across to Ceuta so we spent the time looking at the place. The crossing being very efficient, we finally chugged in to rain-soaked Ceuta at about midnight. Not being able to see Ceuta we drove on through and camped on the outskirts in what we found to be the next morning a rather soggy farmer's field. Early breakfast, wet tents, sleeping bags, beds, etc., loaded we set off with "Satch" at the wheel and Kevin mumbling something about having stiff limbs.

The countryside appeared to be something rather like English countryside on a wet misty day, with only the sight and smell of poverty to tell us differently. The

"A" Company



1. At last! The Company explaining for return to Gibraltar
2. "It's slow by my watch." L/Cpl. Peak and Sgt. Argent check the sun compass
3. Salute to the French. (Left to right) Cpls. Cousins, White, McFadyen, Aylward
4. Pte. Ziekenopasser performing at the Minor Units Diving Competition
5. Fleas? Cpl. Aylward gets a haircut whilst Pte. George looks on

roads were extremely bad and the progress was very slow. Night had approached and we had only covered a distance of 190 miles—our aim being 250 miles per day in order to reach Tobruk by March 16.

Thinking that we had had a rough time we pulled into a coastal town and for the grand sum of 10 Dirhams (approx. 13s.) each, we secured ourselves four beds—much to the delight of the almost out of work proprietor.

However, his delight was soon to vanish as we began to tramp in with gas cookers, frying pans, mugs, cooking tins, water carriers, candles and enormous boxes of food for what was to be the beginning of a grand feast in style.

With delight and relief we were waved goodbye early next morning by a proprietor who had been well and truly enlightened to the fact that "Mad dogs are the Englishmen."

The necessity of having to visit a bank brought to light the fact that the time had altered and so gave us an extra hour's start.

Determined to reach the Algerian Border, we set off at a steady 40 m.p.h., the car behaving extremely well under its heavy load. The scenery was that of pleasant green fields with little gatherings of yellow mud huts. By 8.30 that evening we had passed from Morocco into Algeria with no trouble at the Borders and had reached the town of Tlemcen where, unable to find a camp-site, we stopped by the side of the road and put up the tents. With Barbara cooking for me and "Satch" cooking for Kevin, we often had to eat the cooking of trial and error and that of experiments mixed with a little ignorance; nevertheless, we were sure to get a meal which did us all proud.

With "Satch" at the wheel, we once again set off having totalled some 550 miles at the end of Tuesday. At Oran we went to the British Embassy to report our arrival and were confronted with an ex-Sergeant Major of the Grenadier Guards who, on giving us a quick and experienced glance, invited us in. Taking full advantage of his hospitality, "Satch" walked away puffing at his new cigarettes while I stuffed my pockets with English newspapers and maps of the route. Barbara, with the help of his maid, got down to cleaning herself up while Kevin enjoyed the comfort of the place.

With our spirits high, we set off for Afferville, a distance of some 265 miles. Climbing now, the scenery turned to that of England with beautiful rolling grass-covered hills showered with brilliant red and scarlet flowers. We soon covered the distance with seemingly little tiredness until that night when we arrived in Afferville where the effects of the long journey soon set in. Algiers was now within easy reach and with a good breakfast inside us and myself at the wheel, we covered the distance of 100 miles in three hours. On arrival we once again checked in at the British Embassy there and almost immediately set off again to cover another 150 miles to make up our average for the day. This brought us to Constantine where we camped in a ploughed field just outside the town.

Tripoli was more than just a second home to us; it was like a security which had been lost when we left Gibraltar and with that feeling, we set off to cover the

685 miles all at once and thus reward ourselves with a day's rest in Tripoli. We set off at 9.30 a.m. and hardly stopped until we reached the Tunisian Border at 8 o'clock that evening. We finally got through the only troublesome border and passed the Libyan Border on the Saturday morning after having to wait two hours before it opened. The distance of "no man's" land between the two borders was about 30 miles and therefore nobody was allowed to pass through the border on foot. By this time our money situation was getting rather desperate, the price of petrol being 6s. 8d. per gallon. On crossing this border the time went forward by one hour and some twenty miles further on it jumped forward another hour. We were getting nowhere fast and then it happened—a puncture!! The mental thoughts were all the same "well it won't take long to mend." After another three punctures we finally reached Tripoli.

We were soon rewarded for our pains by the hospitality that was shown to us by the R.A.S.C. who immediately made us welcome and provided us with beds and hot showers. Barbara was made welcome by one of the wives and we all slept perfectly. Sunday, being a day of rest, we all worked like mad sorting ourselves out and getting the tyres up to scratch. That evening we were given the freedom of the cinema; opportunities like that don't come every day.

The saying was now "Benghazi here we come," but we soon found ourselves with a leaking connection pipe running from engine to radiator. Bringing out the first aid kit and using the bandages to wrap the pipe we effected temporary repairs. It would have done a matron's heart good to see it. In trying to make up for lost time we travelled through the night with "Satch" and myself taking turns at the driving every four hours. This was rewarded by yet another puncture—this time almost splitting the tyre in two—and with tempers under our hats we once more did the necessary. At last we were off again and this time into the face of a sandstorm and high winds making the job of filling the radiator a pat on the back for the person doing it. Water was getting low and the leak was getting worse. A glance through the windscreen showed just how desolate the land was and it was with much relief that we arrived in Benghazi at about 8 a.m. on the Thursday morning.

Here we made good use of the R.E.M.E. Workshops. Difficulties arose when we tried to signal Tobruk to explain our whereabouts for the security staff took one look at us and thought the worst. After many questions we were able to escape and move on over the final lap to Tobruk which was through comparatively familiar country. The following evening we reached Tobruk and heaved a great sigh.

We had covered 2,800 miles, used 80 gallons of petrol, worn out six tyres and drunk some nine gallons of coffee—but it was well worth it all.

To Bedda Fomm

As a result of lectures on the Western Desert Campaigns, our interest was aroused in the much used desert route from Tobruk to Msus. It was therefore decided that No. 4 Platoon would carry out, as part of

its desert training, a journey over the route used by General O'Connor in his victorious campaign against the Italians which ended near the sea South of Benghazi, at a small bir set amongst a lot of sand dunes overlooking the coast road—Bedda Fomm.

The journey was planned to take five days and would take the Platoon from Tobruk to Knightsbridge, a flat plain some 20 miles south-west of Tobruk and the scene of one of several defeats inflicted on General Richie's army by Rommel. This area is still heavily mined, but there is a good, well-marked track through them. This track, the Frigh Cappuzo, was the main desert supply route for all armies during the desert war. Pte. Temple nearly missed his route and Sgt. Seager's wife would certainly have had something to say. From Knightsbridge, travelling on a bearing using a sun compass, the Platoon moved over varied lunar looking country to El Meckili, an important desert water point and the scene of another of Richie's defeats. On the way we came across an old battlefield where two platoons had fought it out; L/Cpl. Peak found a couple of old helmets and Mallon a very live Arab during their souvenir hunting.

On leaving Meckili the Platoon travelled over the worst country we were to meet—very rough sand covered with mounds and bushes. This was followed by rolling rocky ridges which damaged the springs of the 3-tonner and the 1-tonner—our only damage. These ridges were interspersed with huge salt flats that were now dry, leaving an excellent driving surface over hard flat mud. By one such mud flat we found an old war-time aircraft—a Kitty Hawk.

Just before arriving at Msus, the Desert Rescue paid us a visit to check that all was all right. Msus, the next stopping place, is a small ruined Turkish fort on the western edge of the Cyrenaica desert. Here bombs, grenades and other unexploded objects nearly proved too great a temptation to the souvenir hunters.

The last hop took the Platoon on to Bedda Fomm, the battlefield where the Italian Army was finally annihilated in 1941. Now it is just a couple of Arab tents by a small bir. There is nothing here to remind people of the historic event that took place there more than 20 years ago.

The journey was now over, in that the aim had been achieved. During the whole journey, the navigation of which was done in turn by all members of the Platoon, we managed to maintain accuracy of a quarter of a mile even on legs of 80 miles without a check-point en route. Much else had been achieved. We had also seen the desert in most of its forms; Pte. Manning became a very good masseur; Sgt. Whittle had managed to persuade Sgt. Seager to give up letter writing just for a week; L/Cpl. Peak became brown enough to be mistaken for "another b.... Arab," and L/Cpls. Fensom and Harmer passed on much useful information on the art of card dealing to Pte. Wilson. Altogether a most worthwhile trip.

Exercise "Redeye"

The Company party of eight men under Sgt. Kerr set out on May 19 for Benghazi and, they hoped, Kuffra. After a miserable and rainy journey we arrived

in Benghazi and were met by the leader of the main party, Major Pearson, R.A.S.C. At Benghazi we completed our administrative preparations and received our briefing. All this done, we left for Kuffra with a convoy of nine vehicles including a 4-tonner and a 1-tonner—the latter soon earned the nickname of "The Red Shield Van" on account of the amazing speed of the occupants in producing the inevitable brew-up.

The first night saw us at Agadabia. The next day we began to experience sand and at one stage of the day whilst crossing a very sandy wadi, the party moved only half a mile in six hours, using sand channels all the way. There were many aching backs and sore hands that night, but that did not hinder Ptes. George and Sutherland from doing wonders with compo meals. Although we had moved only a very short distance we had gained a great deal of experience.

The next couple of days were spent in similar manner, pushing and pulling, and cursing overheated vehicles over through and round sand dunes, until finally, we hit good going on the salt flats. This improved going continued until we reached Hildi 31, a check point and a marked track to Gialo. Alas, our troubles were really to start now. On the fourth day out from Benghazi we left Hildi. Three trucks broke down, one beyond repair, and it was a tired and battered party that reached Gialo. The first vehicle in was Sgt. Kerr's, who was now scouting ahead on the look out for better tracks. It was 24 hours before the remainder of the convoy struggled in.

Here Major Pearson regretfully announced that, as the trip was so far behind schedule and the vehicles were suffering from the rough going, we would go no further but would, after a rest, return. After three miserable days in the fly infested oasis we departed, nursing the sick vehicles back to Hildi. On the way the "Red Shield" van broke down with water gushing from the radiator. To make matters worse, we suffered a sandstorm which pushed the temperature up to 120 degrees. We just sat under the vehicles drinking bitter warm water. Cpl. Aylward, digging a latrine, discovered a pile of Piat bombs, so deep latrines were out. The crew were later evacuated to Hildi where stories were compared with other members of the party.

Benghazi was the next stop where, we hoped, cold beer would be waiting for us. There was a lot of regret, especially among the "Die-Hards" of the party, that it was all over so quickly and that we had not reached Kuffra.

Despite our suffering, perseverance and perspiration the Company had the nerve, on our return, to nickname us the "Short Range Desert Group."

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WHY NOT DO SO NOW

Return to Gibraltar

The Company returned here on July 26 for a further stint of public duties. A large number of the "desert" veterans left for comfortable holes in the Battalion administration. The H.Q. element that had served us so well in Tobruk were the first to leave; Cpl. Dowsett with his signallers L/Cpl. Lambourne, Ptes. Calloway, Weedon and Walsh, and Cpl. Whitt of the M.T. to pass on the knowledge they had amassed. Following close behind them we saw the departure of many others—L/Cpl. Leworthy and Pte. George to the cookhouse, L/Cpl. Ives to the Regimental Police and Ptes. Temple and Zeikenoppasser arrived in the gymnasium just in time to take part in the P.T. display for the Gibraltar Arts Festival Week.

In early July the Company was relieved of guards for a week thus enabling them to send out a number of parties touring the caves and guns on the Rock and to send a party over to Tangier for a weekend. Pte. O'Connell nearly found himself in "Davy Jones' Locker" by falling down the hatch of the M.F.V.—he left behind a tooth and damaged a couple of toes. Coming shortly are two adventure training trips to the High Atlas mountains.

Sport in Gibraltar

Swimming

Swimming has taken top priority. On July 14, the Company had its swimming gala to enable it to select a team for the Minor Units Competition. Though a rather informal affair, this went off smoothly. Pte.


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Zeikenoppasser gave a very good diving display and Pte. Davey showed a marked improvement. For the swimmers, lack of fitness was a great problem, but Pte. Williams swam two very good freestyle relays. Other notable performances were by Pte. Wilson (91) at breast-stroke and Pte. Soloman at his own style.

This meeting was shortly followed by a "Friendly" against "H.Q." Company and the Royal Engineers, in which we came second to "H.Q." Company. Finally, on July 29, there was the Minor Units Competition. In this we were in the finals for all events, except the medley relay, which was most creditable. Our end position was fifth out of nine teams. Williams was again a most valuable swimmer and Sgt. Seager did more than his fair share and seemed to be in most races.

Water Skiing

This is still in its infancy as a sport, but Pte. Twigg has the honour of being the first Member of the Company to mono-ski—a braver man than the rest of us. We hope to send more people to do as well.

Rowing

This is an entirely new sport for the Company but, thanks to a good response to an appeal for volunteers, we hope to enter a team in both the Yola (four-man crew) and Whaler (six-man crew) races in the forthcoming regattas. L/Cpl. Brown (90), Ptes. Daly (400), Herridge, Lyons, Lomas and Murphy are our Yola men and they are all in the same Convent Guard. The Whaler team is expected to be selected from Sgts. Lloyd

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and Quinn, Cpl. Foley, L/Cpl. Peak, Ptes. Soloman, Kely, Corcoran, Gurr and Armitage.

Personalities

Company H.Q. has undergone its usual turnover of those who can stand the strain for a brief period only, Capt. Durnnell left us in April and in his place we welcomed Capt. Gilham, but he too has had to leave for Singapore. W.O.2 Cakebread is continuing his tour of the Companies and has left us for "C" Company. In his place we welcome W.O.2 Simmons ("a swig of red and yellow will work wonders" he says).

Sgt. Argent, now busy keeping the Army in the public eye, with Ptes. Blackman (72 and 94), Long, Manning, Dann, L/Cpl. Jones and L/Cpl. Marshall, also leaves us for the Depot where he is shortly to be joined by Sgt. Seager. Sgt. Kerr is going recruiting and Sgt. Whittle is being posted to Warminster. Pte. Dent joins Pte. Savage by going to an Army youth team.

To replace all those stalwarts who have left, fresh blood has been injected in the form of Sgts. Scott, Quinn and Barnes and the following Ptes. from "B" and "C" Companies: Ptes. Patrick, Lomas, Lyons, Twigg, Gurr, the Barlow brothers, Harris (02), Braddock, Herridge, Murphy, Frost, Nixon, Charman, Sandum, Gatehouse, Williams, Pethurst and Couzens. Oh, and of course Cpl. Fisher and L/Cpl. Brett.

Ptes. Cullen, Mallon, Tofts and Murray are finding that life isn't one long swan in the M.T. and Ptes. Cook, Clarke, Kely and Morgan are dabbling with death on an M.T. Cadre. Ptes. Norman and Rolph are our sole survivors and are at present sweating it out on an N.C.O.s' Cadre.

Congratulations to Cpl. Aylward and Pte. Ayliffe on the recent additions to their families—to Cpl. Aylward, a son, Stephen; and to Pte. Ayliffe, a son, Paul.

Limelight I—Cpl. M. Aylward

Cpl. Mike Aylward, native of Crystal Palace and recent veteran of Tobruk, has been with us in body, if not in spirit, since July, 1962. He was one of the batch of Stanford P.T.A. Lance-Corporals in April, 1963, and has only recently attained the giddy heights of full Corporal. In Tobruk, famous as co-director in "Digger's Caff," he achieved immortality as a kind of spontaneous driver and was awarded a driving licence as a memento.

His connections with the Regiment go back to his Father who, unfortunately, lost a leg in action in 1917 whilst serving with the 11th Battalion in France and

Belgium. It was not therefore surprising that Cpl. Aylward had a natural bent towards the "Red and Yellow."

He and his wife are already the parents of a little girl; and as previously mentioned in the notes he became the proud father of a son, Paul. Who knows, we may soon see some more "Die-Hards" wearing the name of Aylward.

Limelight II—Pte. W. Conyers

"It's alright Sarge, it is loaded." Bill Conyers peered nervously over the rim of his 2-in. mortar barrel, quite unperturbed by the screams of horror from Sgt. Lloyd. He leant back gingerly fingering the cord, "bang," and his first bomb twisted up into the air heading somewhere out to sea.

Although not perhaps one of the most professional soldiers, Bill Conyers introduces a note of cheerfulness into field life. Not overworked in Platoon H.Q., he nevertheless found plenty to do. He developed a fine ability to improvise under the direction of Pte. Sutherland and erected a convenience that would have done credit to McAlpines—the most magnificent within 30 miles of Derna.

He has a fine love of animals and is most concerned for their welfare; "Sarge, do you know what glow-worms eat?" a worried voice asked one night. His toils rewarded, he now rests in the Company Stores.

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"B" COMPANY

Since the last notes there has been an unusual number of changes in the Company. Major Pepperall left in May to command Headquarter Company, Capt. Lloyd has gone to "cook the books" as P.R.I., C.S.M. Steward and C/Sgt. Martin have gone to the more comfortable surroundings of the M.T.

We welcome Major Lawrence as Company Commander, Capt. Hewson as Second-in-Command, Capt. Goring as Support Platoon Commander, C.S.M. Benson as Sergeant Major, W.O.II Moyse as A/R.Q.M.S., Sgt. Davies as C/Sgt., Sgt. Da Costa as 6 Platoon Sgt. and Sgt. Meacock as 5 Platoon Sgt. Other departures and arrivals are mentioned in platoon notes.

We returned to Gibraltar on March 16, 1964, and had a few glorious days leave before starting the endless round of guards. At the end of March we put on an Internal Security Demonstration for a ship of the Canadian Navy which called in at Gibraltar "en route" to Cyprus. The ship concerned was R.C.N.S. *Restigouche* and we worked with the ship's complement for two days, but during this short time we built up a very friendly relationship both on and off parades.

Guard of Honour for C-in-C Mediterranean

On Thursday, April 9, the company provided a Guard of Honour for the Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Fleet, Admiral Sir John Hamilton, K.B.E., when he officially called on His Excellency the Governor. The Guard was commanded by Captain Lloyd. The Regimental Colour was carried by 2/Lt. Hawkins and Sgts. Williamson and Scott were the Colour Escort. 48 men of the company were on parade in No. 2 Dress. The Admiral spoke to a large number of those on parade and complimented the Guard Commander on the high standard of bearing and turnout.

The Queen's Birthday Parade

Over 70 men of the company took part in the parade held on No. 1 Naval Ground. Even C/Sgt. Martin was dragged from his stores to participate! After having difficulties with the majority of the rehearsals—when the wind and sand storms reminded the company Tobruk veterans of that part of the world—the parade on June 13 was a credit to the company, and in particular to C.S.M. Benson, who spent many difficult hours on the square moulding the company into presentable shape. As usual guard difficulties interfered with these parades, so he seldom had the same body of men twice. The "feu-de-joie" after nearly 3,000 rounds had been spent in practice was a great success.

Ceremony of the Keys

We provided the outpost Platoon for the ceremony of the Keys on June 23, which was the last ceremonial parade the company did prior to moving to Tobruk three days later. As we had been on the Queen's Birthday Parade only ten days previously the number of rehearsals required was reduced and the standard of drill and turnout high. Pte. Monaghan was complimented on an exceptionally good turnout. The platoon was commanded by 2/Lt. Hawkins.

Athletics

We held a company meeting on May 25 to choose a team for the Command Athletics in June. The meeting was run on an individual basis and, thanks to C/Sgt. Martin, the winner of each event was awarded an ice-cold beer. Having got over the initial shock of being told that everyone would enter at least two events, the company thoroughly enjoyed the events, which were well organised by C.S.M.I. Meadows. The following day the company entered into a triangular match against Headquarter Company and 1st Fortress Squadron R.E. This proved to be a very close finish with only six points between the 1st and 3rd teams.

The climax to our athletics achievements came on June 4 with the Gibraltar Command Meeting. We were disappointed at having been beaten into second place by $\frac{1}{2}$ a point, but the "gods" were with us. A few days after the meeting it was found that there was an error in the scoring and that Rifle Company should have been awarded another point. What joy when we realised that 1M.X. had come 1st and 2nd in the championships!! Some of the star athletes were:—

Pte. Phipps	3 miles and 1 mile
L/Cpl. Jacklin	Triple jump and long jump
Pte. Murphy	220 and 440 yards
Pte. Whyte	880 yards
Pte. Wittig	Shot

In the 100 yards Pte. McDonald broke the record of 10.35 seconds by achieving 10.2 seconds.

After a very early Reveille on June 26 the Company flew, by courtesy of B.O.A.C., to El Adem, where we were met by Col. Morris, the Area Commander, and the Company advance party, Capt. Hewson, A/R.Q.M.S. Moyse, Sgt. Davies, Cpls. Baxter and Stephenson. It was the first visit to Tobruk for about two thirds of the Company and they were favourably impressed by their new surroundings.

Training was initially confined to the Tobruk Area for lack of transport, as three weeks after our arrival the R.E.M.E. Unit Equipment Inspection took place. All those who took part in the preparations of M.T., weapons and equipment for the inspection were congratulated on the hard work they had put in prior to this inspection. The fact that after the inspection the majority of our transport was off the road is another story!

Details of the sports we have been playing are in the platoon notes. The company is taking part in a R.A.F. league, playing cricket, swimming, and tennis, with enthusiasm if not with success. Not only are the "Gladiators" playing games, but the "Rabbits" are having a go at volley ball and soft ball, which are popular in Tobruk.

We look forward to some interesting training in the desert away from Tobruk during August and September. Not even the lack of transport can save us from going out in the desert, as rumour has it that the company commander has bought a whip to give us encouragement whilst on the march!



1. The "Old Soldiers" of 5 Platoon. 2. A/tks at Square One. Instructor, Cpl. Hills. (Left to right) Ptes. Barnard, Higgins, Howard, Wells, Quilter and Washer. 3. 5 Platoon emplaning for Tobruk, June 26, 1964. 4. Volley Ball in Tobruk. (Left to right) Pte. McDonald, L/Cpl. Dobell, Ptes. Gallagher, Davy, Wills. 5. The Mortars on revision. (Left to right) Ptes. Wall, Allen and O'Connell. 6. Pte Phipps, 6 Platoon, in Tobruk.

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5 Platoon

Over the last six months 5 Platoon has seen a lot of changes. From an original 26 men we are left with 9 "old sweats," the other 17 being "new boys." We sincerely hope that our departed brethren will not object if we omit mentioning them all by name as space is limited. We are delighted to welcome to the platoon from "C" Company, Ptes. Bob Marsh, Roy Davison, Tuffy Fryers, John Childs, Danny Glynn, Muscles Bryant, Paddy Bias, Paddy Kelty and L/Cpl. Bill Foley.

From Headquarter Company we welcome Ptes. Cuffs Lovegrove, Mick Markham, Mick Ball. L/Cpl. John Doyle has come to us from 6 Platoon and Pte. Pip Sturley has decided to better himself by coming to us from 8 Platoon.

Congratulations to Ptes. Hayes and Beadle on their promotion to L/Cpl. We wish them all the best in the future.

It is with disappointment that we mention that Lt. Hawkins was sent home on compassionate leave and we extend our sympathies to him. We wish him every success in his new appointment with the Junior Leaders and we welcome 2/Lt. Gladden in his place.

From July until September we are pounding the desert sands in Tobruk, once again where we are kept very busy with P.T. and route marches. Our training has been interrupted just lately by the arrival from Malta of a R.E.M.E. U.E.I. team who promptly grounded all but one of our vehicles and left us quite literally on foot. The one vehicle which is still on the road strangely enough is the O.C.'s (no comment!).

In a moment of inspiration our acting platoon commander decided to have a night compass march by sections, and as a safety precaution issued Section Commanders with Very Pistols, with instructions to fire only in serious emergency. Sometime later with sections marching "lost" over miles of desert a certain N.C.O. decided to send up a flare in order to find out where he was, and if necessary guide other sections to him. The Platoon Commander, some miles away on the main road, is reported to have run five miles and laid on Land-Rover, stretchers and various rescue organisations. I leave the rest to the reader's imagination to picture the interview which took place later on!

6 Platoon

In February we paid a visit to Cyrene, an old Greek town dating back about 2,000 years, and also Barce, which is now in ruins after the fatal earthquake there about eighteen months ago. We also completed a 100 mile march before leaving for Gibraltar. What a "shattering experience" that was—five days of marching at about 20 miles per day!

Our return to Gibraltar brought with it the loss of many of the older members of the platoon. The platoon commander, Lt. Bartlett, after about 18 months with the platoon, was posted to Home Counties Brigade Depot, Canterbury. We all send him our regards and hope that the "standards" there come up to his expectations. We also lost Sgt. Jim Redmond to 8 Platoon; their places were taken by 2/Lt. Searle and Sgt. Ron Da Costa.

The platoon also lost many others, including Cpl. Fisher and Pte. Bert Barnard, who have joined the Support Platoon. Cpl. Cairns, after leaving the Army in March, has just returned and joined Support Platoon. Pte. Milsom whose wife has been ill has stayed in Gibraltar, Pte. Clarke attended an N.C.O.'s Cadre and was then transferred to the Regimental Police. Pte. Boyd went to the M.T. as Tech. Storeman.

When we were in Gibraltar we gained some new faces from "C" Company and we welcome Ptes. Hayward, Dobell, Hardy, Ashton, Carty, Charlton, Wills, O'Regan, Gaffey, Jeffries, McDonald, Davy, Nesbit and last but not least Pte. Phipps, and it is hoped that they will be with us for some time yet. Our hearty congratulations go to L/Cpls. Herbert and Crook for passing the N.C.O.'s' Cadre in Gibraltar and to L/Cpl. Dobell for being made up in Tobruk. He certainly deserved it. We wish them all the best in the climb up the long promotion ladder.

We were able to take part in many varying sports in Gibraltar. Many of us tried our hand at water skiing, causing much amusement to those who had not yet attempted it. Like many others L/Cpl. John Dobell found difficulty in getting on top of the water. Pte. Tarr had the same sort of problem and so did Pte. Charlton. The platoon commander didn't do so well either! However, practice makes perfect so they say. I am beginning to have my doubts.

Now we are back in the hot sun doing a lot of good military training, much enjoyed by everyone! We have again shown our power in the sports field, beating a Lyban Army Unit 2-0 in a game of volley ball. Many of us are representing the company in such sports as cricket, tennis, swimming and we have also had reasonable success at softball.

8 Platoon

Since the last edition of the Journal many changes have taken place within the platoon. Lt. Pitman has left us for the Trucial Oman Scouts—via the Assistant Adjutant's throne. We all wish him good luck in his posting; at least he should not have to pay any traffic fines there.

Sgt. Blackwell left us just after our return to Gibraltar to go to the R.M.A. Sandhurst as a W.T. Instructor. We have since heard that he has been accepted and we wish him every success. Cpl. Caston suddenly disappeared whilst on a course. We suspect that some "Empire Builder" got at him but we hope he will not forget us altogether.

We have a lot of new blood in the platoon. Sgt. Redmond now directs the Anti-Tank section, complete with chairs director Mk 1 and Fly Swatter Modified.

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The platoon order of battle is:—

Platoon Commander	Capt. Goring
Platoon Sgt.	Sgt. Plumb

Anti-Tank

Director	Sgt. Redmond
Chief Instructor	Cpl. Hills
N.C.O. i/c Char	L/Cpl. Bassett
Ptes. Higgins	Howard
Ramadan	Washer
Wells	Quilter
Beall	Barnard

Mortar

Chief Whip	Sgt. Plumb
2 I.C.	Cpl. Fisher
Section Cpl.	Cpl. Cairns
Ptes. Allen	Butcher
McVeigh	O'Connell (Q.C.)
Wall	Goodman
Walsh	Lawrence
Wood	

Some of the platoon have been to the U.K. on a spot of leave; these few were to be identified by their "prison pallor" and feeble movements in the hot sun. One day Pte. O'Connell (Q.C.) was heard expounding his theory on U.K. leave; he was crushed by the chiefs as usual, but to give him his dues he is right sometimes! Support weapons work in Gibraltar was confined to lectures to a group of Submariners R.N. who tried land work for a change; they appeared to have enjoyed themselves and we were pleased to have them.

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One of the first things to happen after our arrival in Tobruk in June was the mystery of the kicking showers. Cpl. Hills stepped under the jet and was promptly thrown across the washroom by an electric shock. The fault was traced to an iron being operated by Pte. Shonker Higgins, whose unusual physique appears to have caused a shock.

The support weapons stores we took over from "A" Company were in good order, thanks to "Ron the Springbox" Seager and 4 Platoon. Training began almost at once and the progress has been good. We have a full and varied programme ahead of us and we are looking forward to some interesting training in the desert. P.T. forms part of the training, and the Anti-Tank Section can be seen tossing their drill rounds about in a nonchalant manner. It is rumoured that these rounds are hollow. The Mortars play Indian clubs with their bombs and everyone seems to benefit by it.

The Anti-Tank director has developed a few new twists to the old routine of inspection. Guns are checked from 15 yards with the aid of a telescope and rooms are inspected from a sitting position, his chair being borne aloft by litter bearers; canes have been replaced by plastic fly swatters.

Most of the men swim as much as possible in the afternoons "except the fat slugs" (to quote O.C. "B" Company) who practise Egyptian P.T. with vigour, if allowed!

Most of the usual sports are being argued through and the platoon do their share in all. Q.C. O'Connell actually caught a man out in a soft ball game; this being a miracle it has to be recognised.

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"C" COMPANY

"C" Company continues its efforts on assorted cadres-continuation, potential N.C.O.'s, N.C.O. refresher, pre-Hythe and, if that isn't enough, a five-day course for a total of 400 RN ratings.

The latter, if producing no recruits, at least unveiled to another service the mysterious activities of the P.B.I. In return our soldiers have become part-time submariners (rating observe when "pongo" seen gyrating periscope) Another—John Mills").

For the benefit of posterity and statisticians between the period January to July, we have had 62 recruits through our sausage machine, 14 promotions to Lance-Corporal from potential N.C.O.'s Courses and four to corporal on refresher courses. Further courses are running at the time of writing, which we hope will produce more budding R.S.M.'s. We congratulate Cpl. Redrup on returning from Hythe with a "B" result.

One might think that "C" Company, hidden quietly away, would avoid the change over turmoil both in personalities and rotation which is the lot of "A" and "B" Companies. Such is not the case. By the time these notes are read, all the officers will have changed—Major Moore and 2/Lt. Falcke to "A" Company; Capt. Mallalieu and 2/Lt. Gladden to "B" Company; and Lt. Packham to U.K. Come to think of it we did not welcome some of them in our last issue because they had not even arrived. Do not think this is confined to officers—C.S.M. Simmons, C/Sgt. Warner, Cpl. Fisher have moved or shortly will remove themselves to "A"; Sgt. Meacock, L/Cpl. Foley to "B"; Sgt. Shinn and Cpl. Pryor to U.K. C.S.M. Power who is to be congratulated on his promotion takes over R.Q.M.S. duties in Tobruk in September; Pte. Piper has departed for the Pay Office on probation for transfer to R.A.P.C. but we are grateful to him for his support of Company activities in so many fields.

Nevertheless, "C" Company continues under new management and with new blood (possibly not an appropriate word in Gib—Soberano and soda might be better). Major Marciandi, having personally felt "the wind of change," is now the boss of another tiny corner of Empire with Capt. Fisher, and 2/Lt. Truman who should arrive in September. C.S.M. Garraty took over the duties of C.S.M. in August (I do hope the reader is able to follow these fascinating manoeuvres!) Sgt. Williamson from "B" Company taken over as W.T. and P.I. Sergeant with the assistance of Pte. Harper who is determined not to be removed from his stores by such carrots as N.C.O.'s Cadres.

Three new musketeers have been added to the Permanent Staff—Ptes. Constant and O'Reilly as batmen/mess staff/stall builders (explained later), professional enemy on exercises and generally thoroughly useful numbers and Pte. Williams as the new Company clerk who is daily more proficient at bumpf-bashing.

Let us not forget the "Old Boys"—Ptes. Burns and Keemer who continue to dominate the stores and armoury.

We had an annual inspection at the beginning of March. Naturally the "work" up was far more

hair-raising than the day which seemed to pass off to satisfaction although there has been an ominous silence ever since.

Mention was made of our stall builders. These were knocked up by our Permanent Staff under the direction of Lt. Packham for the bottle stall at the Regimental fete in aid of the Albuhera flatlets and for the buffet at Officers' Mess ball in June, and highly successfully they were in both cases. For the former the attractiveness of the stall together with most generous contribution from within and without the Battalion raised the creditable sum of £70.

The Company was well represented on the battlefield tour which is covered elsewhere. Our only comment is that having now first had knowledge of the geography and route signing to our most famous battle honour, we feel that one should revert to the rightful spelling of Albuhera.

Finally although written in July, this will be the last opportunity for wishing all members and ex-members of "C" Company a happy Christmas wherever they may be and the best of British luck in 1965.

SERVICES DISPLAY

Soldiers are traditionally "brutal and licentious." They are not supposed to be artistic. Yet whenever an Arts Festival is held the organisers invariably turn to the Army for a tattoo or display. The Gibraltar Arts Council ran true to form by advertising a Military Display on the opening night of their festival on Saturday, July 4 on the Naval No. 1 Ground.

This date, coinciding with the changeover of the Tobruk Company meant that the Rifle Companies could not take part and limited the scope of the programme, which had to last one hour. To introduce more variety it was decided to call it a Services Display and invite the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force to contribute. The Navy declined, but lent spotlights and other help. The R.A.F. offered to give a fire-fighting display. 1st Fortress Squadron R.E. operated the lighting system, and 642 Signal Troop provided their public address equipment. The final programme was:—

2130—	Arrival of His Excellency The Governor
2130—2140	Band and Drums playing on the march
2140—2155	PT display
2155—2205	Drums display
2205—2215	R.A.F. Fire Fighting display
2215—2230	Finale by Band and Drums

The P.T. display was provided by C.S.M.I. Meadows, his assistant instructors and the 15th Intake of recruits who stayed in "C" Company at the end of their continuation training.

They trained hard for a month, and despite a few minor casualties achieved a very high standard. The whole display was done by using the high horse, starting with single star jumps, through and stride vaults (some at high speed) working up to more difficult head rolls, flying angels and somersaults, and was climaxed by C.S.M.I. Meadows somersaulting through a paper

screen. "H.Q." Company provided a team of scene shifters who set up the equipment in record time.

Full rehearsals on the ground were bedevilled by bad luck. The first was washed out by unexpected bad weather. The next came to a grinding halt when all the lights failed exactly as the bands raised their instruments to play the opening anthem; luckily they were repaired after about half an hour. This was the only occasion when the R.A.F. could produce their equipment for a full rehearsal, and their pumps failed to produce the required pressure to the mixed amusement and alarm (depending on where they were standing) of officials and spectators. After some anxious moments they were able to put out the blaze, though the dummy that had to be rescued continued to smoulder for some time.

The final rehearsal went without a hitch as did the actual performance, which received tremendous applause from a large crowd of spectators. The Band and Drums who had appeared in No. 3 Dress did a quick change before the last item, the Band into No. 1 Dress and the Drums into scarlet; this gave an added splendour to their spectacular display, with the drums arranged as the spokes of a wheel and the Band contra-rotating in single file.

The verdict—a very successful and well-received effort.

The Charitable Fund of the Middlesex Regimental Association needs your help. See leaflet at the end of this Journal for details.

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OFFICERS' MESS

The Social whirl of Gibraltar continues to be reflected in the variety and frequency of Mess activities for which a pattern has now been established. There is a monthly Guest Night, a monthly Curry Lunch, drinks parties for the majority of visiting ships of all nations, lunch parties assorted and as one now retired officer so succinctly put it, "365 onces." The job of the Mess Committee and staff is no sinecure.

For the statisticians, during the period December of last year until August of this year we have entertained 97 guests to dinner, 26 to lunch, an average of 40 guests to curry lunch and had six official cocktail parties. It is not possible to mention all our guests by name but in particular we were pleased to see Colonel Graham Fox for lunch on May 6.

The completion of the Battlefield tour was marked by a concourse of officers haring South from Albuhera on May 16 in order to be back in time for the traditional visit to the Sergeants Mess and the Albuhera dinner. We made it and for all of us the atmosphere inherent in the evenings' commemorations took on a new and more vital meaning, having had the unique opportunity of being on the Ridge on The Day.

For our own amusement and the entertainment of only private guests we had a June Ball organised on such traditional lines as to include all the ingredients of a Hunt Ball; many were to be found in the Night Club at 5 a.m. It was a good party and our thanks to C/Sgt. Willis and his sturdy band of Staff must be recorded.

The Mess contribution towards the Albuhera fete took the shape of, appropriately enough, the organisation of a Bottle Stall. This achieved the satisfactory result of a clear £70 and a number of very tired officers by the time the fete ended.

We welcome 2/Lts. David Falcke and Frank Gladden to the Regiment and the return of Majors Brian Marciandi, Chris Lawrence, John Pollard, Cpts. George Goring, Ronnie Fisher, Paul Mallalieu, Lt. George Freeborn. We were sorry to see the departure of Major Ken Clayden, Capt. John Hewson, Lts. Peter Monypenny, Brian Finch, Roger Pitman and Peter Packham. Peter Monypenny liked Gibraltar so much that he returned for a brief holiday in August. The reason could have been Wine? Women? or just song?

To the joy of the author P.M.C.'s duties have been handed over to Brian Marciandi whose team is Jimmy Wild (House), David Daniel (Silver Property), David Falcke (Wines) and George Freeborn (Messing). No doubt all will have changed by publication day.

We did enjoy seeing Col. Ormiston for 3 weeks' leave in July when he was accommodated in the Mess between his visits to Morocco and Spain.

Make a note of the Date

Details of the forthcoming events which concern the Regiment will be found on the inside front cover.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Some Mess Members have now been in Gibraltar for over 12 months and have had an opportunity to get used to the frantic social whirl. The highlight of the year must surely have been the period during February and March when the various N.A.T.O. Fleets were stationed here for exercises. The celebrations, in many languages, were frequent and fierce and, after three weeks of it, one member complained to the Brigadier on the Annual Administrative Inspection that he was suffering from blood in his alcohol stream. Many ships' companies were made welcome and adopted the Mess as their shore base. In return, we were entertained on board most ships. H.M.C.S. *Bonadventure* invited the Mess and their families on board for a Sunday visit. We tried to warn them just what was in store for them, but with true Transatlantic hospitality they waved aside all doubts and insisted that we all come and bring the little ones. Little did they realise that the Mess could muster over 100 children—and did!

The beginning of April saw Mine Hosts change once more and Clem departed our bar to be called to the Law Bar. But not before he had seen H.M.S. *Yarmouth* pay their mess bills. Even the R.S.M. thought the Barracks was in safe hands and ventured back over the border for the first time since driving here last August. Jack Warner keeps up his ski-ing by being press-ganged into trips to the Sierra Nevada.

As reward for being surplus to establishment in Lydd and having to revert, Bob Power has been promoted W.O.II—congratulations Bob. This summer we have also welcomed Charlie Barnes and Bob Reynolds into the Mess on promotion. Our R.A.M.C. strength has been increased by the posting in of W.O.II Mellor as the Garrison Sorter-out of Smelly and Horrible Horrors. Early in the summer our versatile P.T.I. "Beagle" Meadows was presented with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by the Governor, not in the Mess (as he might have wished), but on the Parade Ground at the Ceremony of the Keys. Inspired by this the R.S.M. put in for his, and got it too!

Early in the summer, April that is in Gibraltar, and despite many appeals and bribery attempts, H.M.C.S. *Bonadventure* and H.M.C.S. *Restigouche* docked on their way home from Cyprus and called in for a few gallons. On Wednesday, April 22, once again a party from the Mess took part in a pilgrimage to Jerez for a check-up on the wine. Just another duty to ensure that the wine arrives in England in good condition. Should any firm in the U.K. wish for our expert services, just send their requests via the Bar.

Saturday, April 25 we combined with the Garrison Sgts. Mess for a St. Georges Ball in the Central Hall, not up to the full Hong-Kong standard but an enjoyable evening.

By this time Tom Steward was back from organising things out in Tobruk, and settling into Rosia on the policy "if you can't beat the M.T., join them!"

May 1 the Mess dined out C/Sgt. Nicholson for his services to charities and just for being a first class member of the Mess and the Regiment. On the 8th he was towed

out of Barracks on his posting to Herford B.A.O.R. and everyone was so busy they forgot to take a photo. The best of luck, Nick, and remember your corner stool is always ready should you return. We understand that B.A.O.R. Regimental Reunion No. 1 has already taken place between R.S.M. McMillan, R.Q.M.S. Beale and Nick.

Mrs. Cripps presented George with the promised twins right on the dot—Katherine and Francis John.

At the crack of dawn on Monday, May 11 a collection of cars crossed the frontier on their way to the Battlefields of the Peninsular War. From the Mess went the R.S.M., Tom Steward, Jack Warner and Jack Meacock and if Austins want a write-up for their minis, we could give them one. All four fitted in, and what is more after some 1,200 miles and five days later, they got back O.K. But more of this wonderful trip will be written somewhere else. To prove that they got there, they brought back a cannon ball fragment from the Battle of Albuhera, which had been made into an ashtray by Señor Cri Frabala, who has devoted part of his house to a Museum of the Battle.

Under the excellent management of Roy Benson the Albuhera Ball was held in the Central Hall. Thanks to Roy's Committee, a very successful evening was enjoyed by the Mess and our guests.

Sgt. Pritchard (Beardless one) arrived to get in a few guards before relieving Frank O'Rawe in the Mess for a spell, but at the moment of going to print he has just returned to the Signal Platoon. Frank has gone on

THAT COURSE at Pirbright, after which he goes to the Press Gang in North London. Don Lagden has returned to the Battalion and joined Donovan's Gang at the Pink Castle.

For three Sundays during May, June and July we enjoyed lunchtime band concerts and curry lunches. But these have been suspended as the call "Back to the Beaches" has proved a greater appeal. The hot weather has also led to a reduction of the numbers seeking out the Mess on a Saturday evening. Hope to see you all again when the weather gets cooler!

The Company change-over in June saw Johnny Moyle fly out as Acting R.Q.M.S. Tobruk. This will be John's last duty before departing for civilian life at the end of the year. Cheerio, John, but send your subscription to Regimental H.Q. so that the ties are not completely broken.

July saw Clem once more elevated to colour sergeant and along with him Dan Willis and Don Lagden. An increase in establishment made this possible. Congratulations, and we enjoyed the little celebration! About this time we had published the Commanding Officer's new moves in the game of Brigade chess and having said cheerio to Blacky Blackwell to R.M.A. Sandhurst; during the next few months we will be losing John Eldridge to the 5th Battalion, Sgts. Cliff Shinn and Bill Kerr to recruiting.

We have not had many visitors this season, but notable among these was Col. Ormiston, who made a very welcome visit to the Mess during July. We had

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previously been pleased to see Col. Fox. At the time of writing this, Ken Partridge is visiting for a while. One visit we must not forget was that of Fred Cullen, the postman in Lydd, who took advantage of the strike to have "a swan" on the Continent with Mrs Fred, and we were all pleased to meet them again.

In the last few days the Mess has had the pleasure of looking after W.O. Maloney during the visit of the Mill Hill School Cadets, who were here for the August Bank Holiday period. Pat Maloney left the 1st Battalion as a sergeant in Hong Kong just prior to the last war. Now we are looking forward to a visit from Ken Beale, driving down on leave from B.A.O.R.

Our handful of single members are talking of getting married; even Clem is not going to be left out this time. Watch it Clem, it is even worse than sun burn and you know what that is like! and it is a lot more permanent!!

Some Mess members will remember Paul Gillies, formerly the sergeant clerk of the Battalion during the latter part of our tour in Cyprus. Paul is now an Inspector in the Northern Rhodesia Police Force. We note from the National Press that Paul distinguished himself in true "Die-Hard" spirit during a rather tricky situation in the recent religious disturbances in Northern Rhodesia. Well done, Paul!

One story before these notes close. Yes, "Chrome Dome," it is about you! Having been posted to the Buffs T.A. this active Warrant Officer went on annual camp on Dartmoor, and, as usual he put his foot into it, but this time it was a bog. According to the Kent press he was only just rescued in time by Jake Mathews—not by his hair of course! This in is no way to thank Jake, but just to let him know that we all agree, next time it happens "let nature take its course Jake!! That Curly will do anything to get his name in print.

CORPORALS' MESS

Socially this has been a quiet period with one dance and one social evening. The social evening was enjoyed quietly and the dance, although well organised and lavish, did not draw as large an attendance as was expected.

Charlie Barnes, having commanded the Provost Staff for a month, leaves us for the Sergeants' Mess with Jim Reynolds and Hugh Cowan, to whom we extend a welcome and farewell in one breath.

We welcome back to the Mess from Canterbury, Mitch Mitchell, Brian Barratt, Mick O'Brien, Holman and Flash White also Ron Burrows grounded for low flying while with the Army Air Corps.

Many new members have joined us and we extend a welcome to them, namely Brown 96 (that's the third we've got), Harding, Crook, Read, Herbert, Doyle, "Sunbeam" Clarke, Taylor and Eccles from the A.C.C.

Frank Cairns gave civvy street a short trial but found he had to work for his living so he is now back with us.

Del Caston, having done a course in the U.K., has wangled himself on to the Demonstration team at the School of Infantry.

Sonny Dowsett and Larry Lambourne took time off potholing to pose with Trevor Fisher on Windmill Flats for some sort of advertisement.

We said goodbye in this period to Percy "Watercart" Butler, Wornes of the Band, Mack Macfarlane, and Jim Flanagan. And before our next edition we lose Jock McLean, Flash White and Frank Peak, so we will take this opportunity of wishing them well.

Dutch Holland, having motored to Tobruk and back, left us with his car looking more like a gipsy caravan than ever.

Congratulations must go to Graham "Blanko" Fleet and Jerry Robinson on getting married since the last issue.

Donald Stopp chanced his arm at the Casino and miraculously left with £120 profit in his pocket. On the strength of this he went on a month's leave.

THE CAMBRIDGE CLUB

The Club's Fete on April 18 raised a total of £307 15s; of this, £221 was sent to the Albuhera Flatlets Scheme, £71 15s. to the Gibraltar Children's Welfare Guild and £15 to the local S.S.A.F.A.

The fete was opened by Mrs. H. E. Boulter, wife of the Deputy Fortress Commander, her bouquet being presented by Cheryl Eastap. Many thanks are due to Major Moore, Lt. Hawkins, Lt. Packham and Lt. Falcke for raising £71 on the Bottle Stall. Also to the

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Quartermaster for allowing his Stores to be turned into a miniature fairground, to Corporal Baxter and the M.T. for the "Barrack Square Express," and finally to R.S.M. Dodkins and the Sergeants' Mess for running the sideshows—they even provided a fortune teller, Madame Zai-Zai O'Rawe. The wives themselves did a tremendous amount of work and all felt delighted with the success of the afternoon.

Congratulations to Mrs. Waite, Mrs. Dodkins, Mrs. Stephenson and Mrs. Mills on reaching the semi-finals of the Forces Radio Quiz "Top of the Rock."

During the summer Mrs. Dodkins, Mrs. Steward and Mrs. McShane have been organising afternoon outings into Spain. In the meantime, evening meetings at Europa have been continuing with talks and demonstrations. In May Mrs. Jeffcoat gave a cooking demonstration, in June Mr. Holliday of "Sakata" gave a talk

and showed slides on the cultured pearl industry, afterwards donating another pearl necklace to the club as a raffle prize.

For the future, the Albuhera film will be shown and Mrs. Eastap and Mrs. Steward are to give a sewing demonstration.

Thirty-six wives had dinner at the Rio Grande Hotel on July 16 and Cpl. Stopp broke all records on the return journey to get his harem across the border in the "bus" with three minutes to spare. The committee are now in the throes of organising a barbecue at the Nuffield Pool.

We welcome back to the Club Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Lagden and Mrs. Elston and are sorry to have said "Goodbye" to Mrs. Jeffcoat, Mrs. Joan Clayden, Mrs. Blackwell and Mrs. O'Rawe.

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Girls normally attend Church of England services and religious instruction is given in the Home, but children of other denominations are welcomed and instruction in their own faith can be arranged for them.

Further particulars would be supplied on application to the Secretary/Treasurer.

SPORTS

Athletics

The Gibraltar athletic season is a very short one, but whilst it is in progress, everyone works and trains at a furious pace. From mid-April until mid-May the Companies and Departments practised and encouraged their hopefuls and the known Company "Gladiators" all got used to wearing the correct dress of tracksuits and dirty towels once again.

During Whitsun Week the Rifle Company and "H.Q." Company teams were selected from amongst all the "also rans" at Company meetings and the season proper could be said to have been launched.

The first match was on Tuesday, May 26 and was a friendly three-cornered match between Rifle Company (160 strong), "H.Q." Company (242 strong) and 1st Fortress Squadron R.E. (approximately 180 strong). This turned out to be a very close and genuinely friendly match in which the points were level almost all the way through. The afternoon ended in a win for the Sappers with "H.Q." Company second and Rifle Company third. There were only 6 points between the 1st and 3rd places. It was a very slick meeting with very good sportsmanship being displayed by all competitors.

"H.Q." Company and Rifle Company both entered teams at R.A.F. North Front in their Invitation Relay. The opposition was extremely stiff and the local "Calpean" team, together with a school team, showed all service entries the way home. It certainly made all the Army entrants realise just how hard they would have to go to get anywhere at the Gibraltar A.A.A. meeting later in the season.

On Wednesday, June 3 and Thursday, June 4 the heats and finals of the Command Athletics meeting were held on the sports ground at Europa. We were honoured by the presence of His Excellency The Governor, General Sir Dudley Ward, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O. and Lady Ward on the finals day. In spite of a strong, cold wind things went off very well, with the Band "doing their stuff" between events. The meeting is run as:— (a) A Minor Units Competition, and (b) An Inter-Services Competition.

The final placings were as follows:—

"H.Q." Company 1 Middlesex	..	..	1st
Rifle Company 1 Middlesex	..	..	2nd
Admin. Wing R.A.F.	..	..	3rd
1st Fortress Squadron R.E.	..	..	4th

These were followed by two R.N. teams and two more R.A.F. teams.

At the end of the meeting, the R.A.F. Admin. Wing had been given 2nd place, by a $\frac{1}{2}$ point, but a re-check by the chief judge (an R.A.F. Officer!) found that Rifle Company had been under-credited by 1 point. Such a discovery cheered 1 Middlesex up no end! Inter-Service wise, the Army were well in front of both

the R.A.F. and the R.N. and so all ranks of 1st Middlesex came away from the meeting extremely well pleased with themselves and their teams. Without a shadow of doubt, the fact that 1st Middlesex had so many supporters out there cheering the athletes in their efforts, made the meeting a good one with the members of the teams going all out to please the crowd.

On June 11 and 13, the Gibraltar A.A.A. held their heats and finals. When placing the entries it was discovered that the R.A.F. had entered in the meeting and all as one team. With their superior numbers it was obvious that our tactics of entering two teams, one from "H.Q." and one from Rifle Company, would be the wrong way to meet the threat from the "Fly Boys." Accordingly, we entered the same numbers in each event, as there was no limit in that direction, and called our entry the "Army" team. We were able to get three first class athletes from the Royal Engineers to come into the team and had the satisfaction of overwhelming the opposition in solid fashion. Once again, we made this victory in front of His Excellency The Governor.

The final results were:—

	Points
Army	98
Calpeans	70
R.A.F.	69
St. Jago's	8

Sgt. Miles won the Victor Ludorum Cup for the best all-round athlete with the highest total of points scored. He managed this without winning any single event, but he had got a place in all the field events and in all the short track sprints.

The team did extremely well to come second in the Medley Relay to the Calpeans and Pte. Murphy (41) ran like a man inspired to snatch second place in the final 440 yards. A meeting of this nature, run by a few well meaning types, makes one grateful for a Slick Service meeting where there are enough officials to do their own job, without a lot of doubling and filling in.

We almost finished the season with a match against the 2nd Sub Squadron R.N., but someone must have warned them. They cried off and challenged us to a swimming match instead. No doubt the O.I.C. Swimming has got his alibi ready.

Swimming

The end of June saw the beginning of the swimming season for the Battalion. To help Companies select teams for the Minor Units competition, galas were held. These were informal occasions and were most successful. "H.Q." Company came first at the end of June and it produced a certain amount of new talent as well as confirming that the old stock was still up to standard. Pte. Webb was the most outstanding new swimmer, being a very powerful free stylist of short and medium distance. He won both events in the gala. L/Cpl. O'Brien remains the good breast stroke we knew him to be and Cpl. Dowsett is certainly good for yet another two seasons backstroke. Pte. Bonner has proved himself to be a good up and coming diver.

The Rifle Company had its gala in early July and this was most valuable too. Here another all-round free-style swimmer was found in Pte. Williams. Pte. Zeikenopassor gave a very good all-round display of diving, but was bettered by Cpl. Clarke.

In order to confirm Company teams, a "friendly" match was held between the Companies and 1st Fortress Squadron R.E. "H.Q." Company won this convincingly, Pte. Webb winning both free-style races, and L/Cpl. O'Brien winning the breast stroke and butterfly. The backstroke was won for the Rifle Company by Lt. Hubert.

With W.O.2 Meadows as coach the standard of diving was good. He will have to be careful lest any of his proteges overtake him. At the end of the meeting a water polo match was held to give all teams an opportunity to get some practice. The "Die-Hards" were outclassed by the Engineers and, through lack of fitness, suffered from cramp, but the team showed a lot of potential. Webb and O'Brien were both useful players and Dowsett's experience was of great help. New players in Ptes. Davidson, Bonner and Williams will, with experience, also be very valuable.

With the forthcoming Minor Units competition, and Inter Services meeting, this all bodes well.

Rowing

The Battalion is always ready to have a go at any sport for which facilities are available. Gibraltar offers excellent opportunities for rowing and for the first time in many years, interest in this field has been started and is quickly becoming popular.

Each year a series of Regattas takes place in July, August and September at which all Arms of the Services are invited to enter crews for Yola and Whaler racing. The Battalion eagerly accepted the challenge to participate in this series of Regattas and a whaler crew commenced vigorous training in May for the first leg to be held in July. It is doubtful whether any member of the crew even knew what a whaler looked like, let alone pulled an oar in one, but under our P.T. expert, C.S.M.I. Meadows, A.P.T.C., a crew consisting of Capt. Lloyd, O.R.Q.M.S. Cripps, C.S.M.I. Meadows, S/Sgt. Girling, R.E.M.E., L/Cpl. Jacklin, Pte. Harper, Pte. Temple and Pte. Webb were soon knocked into shape. Training consisted of rowing at least two miles each day to produce the required stamina necessary to race over a distance of $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. Evidence of the vigorous training was soon to be seen from the multitude of blisters which quickly appeared on the hands of the oarsmen. Despite the bloodied hands, however, no one shirked the hard going and interest has been maintained and spread amongst the Battalion.

On July 15 the whaler crew entered the heats for the July Regatta. Strong opposition was drawn in the second heat against the R.N. "A" Team, and after a very strong and gallant effort by our crew, we were beaten by four lengths by these experts. We were by no means disgraced, in this, our first attempt at competition rowing and in fact recorded the second best time of the day. The lessons learnt from this race have been invaluable. We were naturally disappointed in not

making the finals on July 16, more especially because a large number of supporters from the Battalion stood on the Quayside and gave the crew wonderful verbal encouragement.

However, training has continued with determination to do even better in the next Regatta which takes place on August 12 and 13, and we hope to avenge our defeat by the Royal Navy. Cpl. Flynn has been recruited to take the place of S/Sgt. Girling who will be away on leave during the August Regatta. For this Regatta also, "A" Company have produced a promising Yola crew from L/Cpl. Brown, Ptes. Murphy, Lomas, Kerridge, Daly and Lyons. They are quickly grasping the techniques of "feathering" and should make good opponents for the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and Sappers who specialise in this event.

The results of August and September races will be given in the next edition of the Journal and we hope to be able to record our first successes.

Water Skiing

It is not often that Water Skiing appears on the list of Battalion Sports. Gibraltar, however, offers excellent facilities for this sport as the Battalion is provided with a Nuffield Speedboat and all the equipment required.

During the first half of the season there have been minor setbacks because of mechanical failures in the outboard motor and Lt. Packham's unfortunate mishap with a "fast-moving dockside." However there are now several competent skiers notably Pte. Twigg of "A" Company, the first man in the Battalion to ski successfully on one ski, Pte. Constant "C" Company and Pte. Kowatch of H.Q. Company (M.T.). Many others including Pte. Harper "C" Company, Pte. Piper, Pay Office and Pte. Painter "B" Company, have also shown themselves to be above average.

It is hoped by the end of the year that most of the soldiers in the Battalion will have taken advantage of this exhilarating activity.

Cricket

Cricket on the Rock is inevitably an inbred affair with the same faces appearing throughout the season. With so few Units, almost the only variation is found by different Competitions, not by different teams. Thus the Headquarter Company team in the Minor Units League one day, may find itself with slight changes, the Army team in the Major Units Knock-out the next. At least there has been plenty of cricket for the star players, others not being quite so fortunate as it is hard to find time for "friendly" matches amongst the profusion of league fixtures. However a start has been made, notably by the Band, who have virtually taken root at Europa.

The first of the competitions, the Minor Units League, is almost completed. The Battalion found two teams as usual, Headquarter Company and Rifle Company. Both unfortunately have been lingering in the bottom half of the league table, although Headquarter Company did take advantage of the Company Commander's absence on leave by winning three matches in a row. With one to play they may end about midway.

There is no Battalion side in any of the competitions although the majority of the Army side is from the

Regiment. Capt. Crumley is the regular Captain of the Army, Battalion and Headquarter Company sides. He is an attractive and forceful bat who has made several good scores. He is also an efficient reserve wicket keeper.

The Commanding Officer who normally keeps wicket was promoted abruptly from his chosen position of No. 11 against H.M.S. *Adamant* so that he could get away early for a meeting. He saw the Battalion half way home before he had to retire—late. Ever since he has opened the batting with success he had little chance of showing as last man. Other regular players for the Army are the two all rounders, Sgt. Miles and Cpl. (head up) Hutchison, Sgt. Horder, Cpl. Stewart and L/Cpls. O'Brien, Berry and Peak. Sgt. Miles is a powerful hitter who doesn't believe in wasting time by playing himself in. When not bowling too fast, he is a good opening bowler with a dislike of batsmen, umpires and defensive field placings. Cpl. Hutchison has also done well when bowling medium pace and has made some useful scores despite his liking for an occasional tail-enders' swipe which is earning him demotion in the order.

L/Cpls. Berry and O'Brien are alike in that they are both hitters, look vulnerable, but often come off thanks to a good eye. Apologies to other players not mentioned here, and also for the absence of statistics for those who like them—the scorebook has proved too elusive.

Basket Ball

Still one of the Battalion's strongest sports, basketball has enjoyed a considerable measure of support this year. Although the teams have met only with mixed success,

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they can at least claim to be among the most formidable on the Rock. It is unfortunate that it is necessary to split the Battalion in order to conform with the requirements of the Minor Units League—as a single unit there would be no challengers to our superiority. Even as it is, "H.Q." Company won the league having been defeated only once, and Rifle Company, who, to give them their due, were constantly obliged to change their team, came sixth.

In the knockout competition towards the end of the season Rifle Company unfortunately drew against "H.Q." Company in the first round, and therefore did not reach the second round. After their 46-28 victory over Rifle Company, "H.Q." Company continued by defeating the Gibraltar Regiment 42-20. In the final they met Electronics wing R.A.F., the only team capable of beating them. Thanks mainly to strong defence work, scores were low at half time, only 13-10 in "H.Q." Company favour. The second half was faster and even closer, but victory went ultimately to "H.Q." Company 23-21.

Since then only a couple of friendly games have been played—a defeat by the R.A.F., a victory over the Sappers—players are just managing to keep their hands in. The season starts soon, and we hope to do as well again. The players—"H.Q." Company—C.S.M.I. Meadows, Sgt. Torrie, Cpls. French and Clarke, Ptes. Brown, Harris, O'Brien and Tomkinson. Rifle Company—2/Lt. Montgomery, Sgts. Young, Miles and Da Costa, Cpls. O'Riordan, Rogers and Jacklin, L/Cpls. Peak and Marshall, Pte. Temple.

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Skiing

Snow, it appears, is a very rare occurrence on the Rock, so expeditions were forced to travel further afield in search of it. Fortunately, sufficient ski equipment and camping kit is held by the Battalion to support an expedition of about ten men, and skiing was planned to give as many soldiers as possible an opportunity of enjoying a change of mountain.

The first two expeditions, largely composed of "A" Company, set off for Morocco and the High Atlas. The parties took one of the Nuffield Landrovers and spent one week each in Morocco. Unfortunately the snow was late, too late for either party to enjoy it. What started off as a ski expedition finished up, therefore, as a sightseeing tour of Morocco, but no one seemed to enjoy it any the less for this.

In March all three Services combined to send parties to the Sierra Nevada for five consecutive weeks. Capt. Crumley led the advance party, in the Battalion's Minibus, which, very much down on its springs, duly trudged towards the hills.

The Sierra Nevada rises to about 7,000 feet and provides splendid background to the city of Granada. The University of Granada maintains a mountain albergue and it was here that the parties had arranged accommodation. Like most mountain huts it had the reputation of being simple, clean, warm and very friendly.

After a most eventful journey and many stops for "brew ups," every time in the radiator unfortunately, the advance party reached the albergue. It was past midnight and blowing a full blizzard when the bus, still boiling merrily, limped in. Muscles were cramped and spirits low. The albergue looked bleak and deserted, but the door opened to reveal a very snug little interior with bowls of steaming soup already being served. It was sobering to reflect that there are still simple and kindly people whose chief concern is the comfort and well-being of their guests irrespective of personal inconvenience. One hour later the blizzard had completely closed the road, but the advance party were by then happily oblivious to the full extent of their good fortune.

During the next five weeks Combined Services parties enjoyed the excellent facilities and more snow than they really needed. There is obviously much scope for the development of skiing in this part of the world. There are not many resorts where you can happily ski all morning and drive down to the sea for a swim in the afternoon.

It is all too easy to remember the pleasures of such expeditions and forget the things which really made them possible. Before, then, the Sierra Nevada Expedition 1964 becomes a very happy memory of crisp snow, limitless vino and the singing and guitar playing of the students from the University, we should all gratefully acknowledge:—

The friendliness and hospitality of Antonio and Lolita, who managed the albergue, even if some drummers do not enjoy Spanish cooking. The efforts of the Minibus drivers, L/Cpl. Butler and Pte. May, driving sometimes in very dangerous and hazardous conditions.

The generosity of the Nuffield Trust who supplied all the equipment, and the training grant which made such an enjoyable week possible at a cost of £5 to each individual.

There will be many next year who will hopefully lift up their eyes unto the hills and set off for them as soon as the sun sparkles on the white tops.

Hockey

The Battalion team finished the season in fourth place in Division I of the Gibraltar Hockey Association League Championship. The only other Service team was supplied by the R.A.F.; the remainder were 5 civilian clubs. The standard is high, and on the hard, mud pitch, the game is played with the speed one associates with tarmac pitches. However, there is none of the accuracy and smoothness of a tarmac pitch. Instead, one gets the bumpiness of a grass pitch because the ground is not completely level, and it is also covered with small stones. It takes several games to get used to these conditions. Also, the injury rate is high!

In the Minor Units League, seven teams from the three Services competed and "H.Q." Company finished in third position, with Rifle Company in sixth position. These matches were played in mid-week during working hours, so there was seldom a shortage of players or spectators!

Congratulations to Drum-Major Howells and Sgt. Torrie on being selected for the Combined Services team on every occasion. Both reached peak form early in the season, and maintained it throughout. It is regrettable that they are not playing in U.K. where their standard of play would undoubtedly receive greater recognition.

Cpl. McLean and L/Cpl. French continue to improve with every game and are automatic choices for the Army team in Gibraltar. We shall miss the enthusiasm and tireless efforts of Cpl. Flanagan in the half-back line, and wish him every success in civilian life.

Football

The Battalion has found football in Gibraltar a very different proposition to the football played in England. The pitches in Gibraltar are composed of compressed earth and gravel, and are in consequence fast and very dangerous, as the cuts and grazes sustained will testify.

In Gibraltar there are a host of different leagues and the opportunities for football are numerous. Apart from Inter Company/Department matches, there is an Inter Services League, a Minor Units League, a combined services team and knockout competitions. The season started with L/Cpl. Butler (Drums) and Pte. Wittig ("B" Company) being picked for Combined Services (Gibraltar) against R.A.F. Coastal Command (U.K.). In the Minor Units League the season began quite well, Rifle Company being placed fourth and "H.Q." Company sixth. The Army (Gibraltar) team began to look rather like a Battalion team, C.S.M.I. Meadows, Sgts. Young, Redmond and Miles, Ptes. Davidson, Herbert, Wittig and Clements making very regular appearances in the team.

As the season progressed, however, the increasing ceremonial commitments of the Battalion meant that we were often unable to field our full teams. Also the continual changeover between Gibraltar and Tobruk meant that our teams lacked continuity. At the end of the season these factors had resulted in a serious drop in our positions in the league.

Towards the end of April, a Gibraltar six-a-side football competition was organised, twenty-six teams taking part. The Battalion entered four teams, but only the "A" team reached the second round, and were defeated by Gibraltar Regiment, 10-8. It was, however, good practice for the Albuhera six-a-side which followed. This competition, with the finals on Albuhera Day, provided the most competitive football that Gibraltar has seen in many years.

Twelve teams entered the competition, with the M.T. Pl., Sigs. Pl. and "C" Company Permanent Staff as equal favourites. The competition saw many "new" players come to light. Major Pepper and C.S.M. Benson share in the "B" Company H.Q. team honours.

The final was between "C" Company Permanent Staff and Signals Platoon, the latter winning by two goals and a corner, to a corner. Among the excellent display of football, Cpl. Shearing showed us all that you are only as old as you feel, and Pte. Hayes gave a passable demonstration of American football, which was rather lost on Sgt. Briggs who was as immovable as the "Rock" itself.

Although the league results were not as good as we had hoped, the Battalion have gained much experience in the fast, hard Gibraltarian type of football which should stand us in good stead in the coming season.

Badminton

Undoubtedly this is one of the most popular sports on the "Rock" where the standard of play is exceptionally high due to the numerous competitions held. Such was the cauldron confronting the Battalion at the start of the competition season with possibly Sgt. Young as the only experienced player on which to build the two teams to represent 1st Middlesex in the League. Fortunately a nucleus of enthusiasts came forward and, after many evenings spent in the Gym, our two ever-improving league teams were formed from the following:

"H.Q." Company who finished 5th in the Minor Units League out of ten minor units were represented by: Capt. Jones, W.O.II Meadows, Cpl. French, Cpl. Foley, Cpl. Flynn, Cpl. Eldred and Bdmn. Reide.

Rifle and "C" Company (combined) League team who were 7th in the league were represented by:

Sgt. Young, Sgt. Miles, L/Cpl. Jacklin, Pte. Clements, Pte. Harper and Pte. Piper.

During a short period of four months it is remarkable just how marked the improvement in the standard of play has been. Cpl. Foley, Cpl. French and L/Cpl. Jacklin along with C.S.M.I. Meadows were all ever present in the Army Team that finished "runners up" in the Inter Service and Civilian League.

Practice is still the key word, and through the summer, the gymnasium has still been extensively used for practice despite the excessive heat. This augurs well for

the season's competition when we hope to do even better than last year. The Battalion were well represented in the Garrison Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles but unfortunately were not experienced enough to carry off any titles.

Two competitions were held within the Battalion at the end of the season to establish a basis for seeding the RMX players, the following ten placings being awarded to ten out of the twenty players who contested:

1st C.S.M.I. Meadows	6th Capt. Jones
2nd Equal Pte. Clements	7th Pte. Harper
Pte. French	8th Equal Cpl. Eldred
4th L/Cpl. Jacklin	Cpl. Flynn
5th Cpl. Foley	10th Bdmn. Reide

Boxing

The Command Open Boxing Championships were held on March 2, 3 and 4, 1964. Out of a total of 32 entries, the Battalion entered 16 boxers.

Six boxers got through to the finals but, unfortunately, four of them were paired in two contests. "A" Company won three of the seven weights contested and were beaten by only one point for the Minor Unit Cup (21-22). Sgt. Lloyd was the only competitor who had to fight in every round and although beaten on points in the finals deserves much praise for his efforts. Sgt. O'Rawe fought as only O'Rawe can fight, with plenty of skill and guts. He was leading by a big margin until half way through the third round, when he ran out of wind. This is most understandable as his opponent was at least twelve inches taller and over four stones heavier. A very good show O'Rawe!

Our holders are:

Featherweight—Pte. Ward, Rifle Company.

Lightweight—Pte. O'Neill, Rifle Company.

Light Welterweight—Pte. Constant, Rifle Company.

On the final night the standard in general was good and in the words of His Excellency, The Governor, "it was a jolly good evening's entertainment."

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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: Miss Dorothy Longe, Major F. J. Nunn and Capt. O. G. Johnson.

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5th Battalion (T.A.) Notes

The period covered by these notes has seen a vigorous six months training and includes the Battalion Annual Camp, held this year at Oakehampton in Devon.

Early in April the Battalion again won the 56 Brigade Fire Control Competition with a strong team from "A" Company under Sgt. Graham. This was shortly followed up by winning the Young Soldiers match in the Divisional Rifle meeting on April 19.

We won the Brigade M.M.G. competition outright, proving that our Reconnaissance Platoon have got effective "teeth" as well as eyes. In the mortar competition, whilst not victorious, we acquitted ourselves well.

This has been the Brigade training year, and is (allegedly) the combination of a three-year training cycle. In fact it meant that at camp Battalion Headquarters and the Battalion Signals were tested to the full. Great credit is due to the Signals Platoon for maintaining good communications on the final Brigade exercise when the Battalion was extended to a maximum on more than one occasion. Perhaps the only drawback of this formation exercise is that companies were taking part in an exercise not designed specifically for them. This on occasion caused a degree of "hanging about," and an enemy which was rather more unrealistic and unprepared than the normal aggressive bodies found on T.A. objectives!

Immediately prior to camp saw the arrival of Capt. Peter Clarke to take over Adjutant from Capt. Tony McManus. This meant that at camp we were blessed (or was it cursed?) with two Adjutants. But now, and with regret, Tony McManus has left us and goes to the Technical Staff College, Shrivenham, at the end of this year.

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Before proceeding to Annual Camp in June we were delighted to welcome Capt. Peter Clarke who replaces Capt. Tony McManus as Adjutant. The fact that Capt. McManus' posting to Singapore was cancelled gave us a bonus of two Adjutants. Never before has the camp administration of 5 Mx. spun on such well-oiled wheels!

Congratulations to Capt. and Mrs. Clarke on the birth of a daughter on June 20 (the first day of camp).

Congratulations to Capt. McManus on gaining a place at the Technical Staff College, Shrivenham. On leaving the Battalion he was last seen polishing his slide rule.

A welcome, too, to our new Padre, Father Ralph Brown, who many readers will remember as a subaltern of the 1st Battalion in Korea. At a camp drum-head service the Padre was heard to utter a fitting Amen to the Bandmaster's ejaculation, when the Band struck the wrong key.

On the Brigade exercise the Battalion in company with the London Scottish and Queen's Royal Rifles found themselves opposed by an enemy commanded by their former C.O., Col. Ian Brotherton. Though commanded with the usual Brotherton dash, as is the way of all exercises, the enemy lost.

As a replacement to Capt. Slack, Lt. John Parkinson has been appointed I.O. and we wish him well in his new job.

"H.Q." COMPANY

Since the last edition of this Journal "H.Q." Company's training has been mainly concentrated on the deployment and movement of Battalion Headquarters with specialist help being given when required to the rifle companies. There was a deployment exercise early in the year followed by the Battalion Signals exercise and the training cycle was completed by the Battalion and Brigade schemes at camp. The Brigade scheme set by the Divisional Commander was ambitious and particularly valuable for senior ranks whose main preoccupations throughout the year must necessarily be with administration and training. A duality of Adjutants gave rise to certain difficulties; the old rule that if you heard "Seagull speaking" over the air he could not possibly be standing a yard behind you no longer held good.

At camp the Company was commanded by Major Naish in the absence of Major Gunnell. This opportunity can be taken publicly to deny rumours that our Company Commander is to be seconded to the A.C.F. as being entirely without foundation. Capt. Couch joined us from "D" Company as 2IC and is to be congratulated on his recent marriage.

At camp the first week was spent on Platoon training. The Assault Pioneers spent this week at Fort Tregantle with an R.E. unit and rejoined the Battalion for the second week. Detailed notes on the M.T. and Signals Platoons appear elsewhere but both worked hard at camp. The M.T. were heavily involved in running repairs and the mysteries of petrol accounting and S/Sgt. Green juggled expertly with the vehicles that were available, even if it meant allocating field officers the water truck for visits to Brigade H.Q.! The Signals Platoon did well to man the sets on the schemes continuously when numbers did not allow for reliefs.

The Recce Platoon played its usual highly mobile role. They always appeared to have an air of great urgency, rarely seemed to stand still and were either advancing towards the enemy or retreating hurriedly. No vehicles disappeared into Dartmoor bogs but they all have the scars of battle at the end of the fortnight. It was generally concluded that this kind of Recce role cannot be adequately carried out in soft-skinned vehicles, but possibly this will not be the last occasion when the tasks



The Band and Corps of Drums Beating Retreat in the main street of Okehampton. Annual Camp 1964

of the 1960s T.A. prove impossible to fulfil realistically with the equipment provided.

Recruits at Edgware are now being given their basic military training with the Assault Pioneers. Unfortunately for geographical reasons it is not generally possible for a recruit to serve with a Rifle Company before being transferred to a specialist job in "H.Q." Company and with the great pressure of events care has to be taken that the specialist is given basic training early in his T.A. life.

Lt. Parkinson has taken over from Capt. Slack as I.O., the latter having retired to T.A.R.O. to take up a full-time cricketing career.

In conclusion mention must be made of the Provost Section, who had the opportunity of working with a detachment of the R.M.P. at camp; the Cooks, particularly W.O.2 Banks, who ran a cookhouse for two Battalions at Okehampton under great difficulties, and the Pay staff who have displayed their usual efficiency.

Signals Platoon

Though small in numbers, the Signals Platoon has continued intensive training since the last publication of these notes. A great deal of time has been taken up with administration and the maintenance of equipment. The standard of kit is expected to be as high as the Regular Army, but it is possibly not appreciated that in the Territorial Army there is a greater diversity of radio kit, five types of sets being used in the Unit, and maintenance is restricted to two evenings a week and weekends when there are no Company or Battalion com-

mitments. In many ways this administrative burden is proportionately greater than in a Regular unit, particularly for such a "technical" Platoon. Some of the work has to fall on Permanent Staff instructors, who have many other calls on their time, and in particular the thanks of the Platoon are due to W.O.2 Michel and Sgt. Overton and "H.Q." Company's own Permanent Staff Instructor, C/Sgt. Partridge, with his own particular brand of enthusiasm for the Territorial Army.

Okehampton was a very good area for communications, not too easy, but well suited for testing theory learnt in the classroom. All the sets, particularly the recently acquired 22 sets, performed well.

During the second week two members of the Platoon were evacuated by helicopter suffering from heat exhaustion, but partially recovered miraculously in time for the Platoon party 12 hours later.

For the first time we experienced the phenomenon of sets bursting into flames due to the battery leads shorting out on the chassis of the F.F.R. vehicles. This became less frightening after the fifth occasion, and it is to be hoped that the special vehicle conversion kits, which have been held for some time in the Q.M.'s Stores, will cure this trouble.

Cpl. Snowden has qualified in the bending of telescopic antennae as a specialist. There is nothing more embarrassing than embarking on a night exercise on Dartmoor with a bent antenna.

This year considerable reliance was placed on Company operators. This system was found to work well

despite the well known evils of decentralisation. Company Commanders co-operated and sent some of their best men to attend the Cadre run by the Platoon in the first week of camp, and these operators were assigned to their respective Companies for the exercises in the second week.

If this trend continues the Regimental Signals Officer will not be out of a job in a few years time, but if this does happen there are unlikely to be howls of protest.

M.T. Section

The M.T. Section went to Camp at Okehampton with the prospect of "one-in-five" hills and narrow lanes. Those of us who had taken vehicles down beforehand were a little "put off" by the weather, then, but the preceding unit fortunately absorbed all the rain on our behalf.

Certainly it was amazing to see the whole of Battalion H.Q. crawling up the side of Yes Tor, but the stony tracks took their toll and the R.E.M.E. section had their busiest camp ever. On the Battalion exercise, when the M.T.O. was called to investigate what seemed like the tenth breakdown, his driver was heard to remark that the only thing that worked in the T.A. was the "poor bleeding soldiers!"

Now we look forward to some more extensive driver training, later combining with the Signals Platoon and practising some of the moves we learned at camp.

Last year the M.T. Section provided a large proportion of the Company .22 Rifle team and this year we hope to make a "take-over bid" for the whole thing.

Band

Sgt. Andy Mason assumed the duties of Bandmaster in January and we are now able to congratulate him on his promotion to W.O.1. Morale is high, attendances are good and furthermore we are growing in numbers. We welcome to our midst L/Cpl. Briggs, D.C.M., Bdsman. Hurley and Boys Checkley and Fish. With the entry of Fish, we now have father and son in the Band.

We were very proud this year to be the only sub-unit of the Battalion to have a 100 per cent. attendance at camp and the general consensus of opinion is that it was the best camp for many years. In collaboration with Drummy Holdford and his boys we were able to beat Retreat in Okehampton, Hatherleigh, Tavistock, Launceston and Torrington. The ceremony at Hatherleigh was a "quicky" organised by the Drum-Major and, in spite of its spontaneity, was a terrific success. Happy memories are also held of Launceston, whose townfolk were most hospitable.

A sad note was struck when we had to say goodbye to L/Cpl. Bill Elms. Bill has been a Regular and Territorial for nearly 50 years and we feel as bad about losing him as he feels in going. You are always welcome to a "blow," Bill.

Finally we would like to congratulate our Bandmaster and Sgt. Duncan Hogg on the award of their Territorial Efficiency Medals.

"A" COMPANY

The Company has had a very active half-year since January, but first we must report on the comings and

goings among the personnel. In January we lost Lt. D. Herriott to the T.A. reserve but he has been replaced by Lt. M. Brown, from Birmingham University O.T.C., who is now in London studying biology—one way or another. In February we had a glut of promotions with L/Cpls. Barton, Slack, Braime, Garritty and Newman going up to Corporal and Ptes. Kavanagh and Davis to Lance-Corporal. Also, in June of this year Cpl. Muirhead, after attending an officers' course at the Honorable Artillery Company, was commissioned into the Battalion as a 2/Lieutenant. It must be mentioned that he passed out top of his course, which is a very creditable performance.

The Company managed to win, for the second year running, the Brigade .22 Harmonisation Cup and also the Battalion .22 Shooting Competition. At the beginning of the Battalion Rifle Meeting it looked as if "A" Company were going to do very well in this too having won the first two matches, namely the Team Rifle and L.M.G. pairs, and the following individual cups were won:

L.M.G. Pairs: Sgt. Stone and Cpl. Muirhead.
Young Soldiers' Cup: Pte. Edwards, G., and L/Cpl. Davis.

After this, however, things went a little awry, the Company appearing more determined to wipe out the Butt party to a man than hit the targets. The excuse given for this was that three young ladies on horses arrived on the range and this put them off.

Camp at Okehampton this year found the Company combining with "C" Company, making a strong composite unit, which settled down to a very active training programme during the first week. This showed itself to advantage during the Battalion and Brigade exercises of the following week. On the Saturday of the middle weekend 20 volunteers, led by Lt. Jock Smith, acted as enemy for the London Scottish. It was felt that our Scotsman would be best suited to deal with the idiosyncrasies of the London Scottish and this certainly proved to be the case.

Now to the social side of "A" Company's activities. Two dances were held, one in January and one in May, both of which were great successes. During the January dance C/Sgt. James, Sgt. Elliott and their wives ran a Tombola stand, the profit from which went to the Widows' Flatlets Fund, and in May, with the additional help from Sgt. Stone and his wife, more money was raised in the same way for The Mayor of Hornsey's Fund for the Handicapped Children's Home. Another event we must mention was on March 29, when Sgt. Stone, despite the advice of all his friends, was married. His wife, Margaret, has insisted that he remains in the T.A. and we on our part are doing our best to ensure that he takes his pay straight home! A few days before the wedding "A" Company were pleased to hold a party for them, at which they were presented with an electric fire. On Albuhera Day the Company held a combined social with the Hornsey O.C.A. organised by a committee drawn from both sides.

"B" COMPANY

Shortly after the last notes were written we saw the completion of the two Platoon rooms and large Company

lecture room. Grateful thanks are due to Lt. Jones, whose Company carried out the improvements, as the new rooms add considerably to the Drill Hall facilities.

The highlight of this half-year was of course Annual Camp and this saw the most successful one enjoyed by "B" Company in many years. Altogether nearly 60 attended and we were consequently able to operate two rifle platoons as well as a Mortar Section. We had many interesting exercises of which the most enjoyable and challenging was a night defensive operation against "D" Company.

The Brigade exercise in the second week proved to be the most expensive in terms of manpower as we had five "hospitalised" NODUF casualties following an assault on Yes Tor. Pte. Latham experienced a very realistic evacuation in that he was taken off the feature in the Brigadier's helicopter.

We seem to be pursuing our 1963 policy of being "runners-up" in Battalion competitions. Yet again we were second in the Weapon Training Competition and were also held in second place by "D" Company in the Rifle Meeting. In desperation we have turned to the expedient of providing our own silverware and we thank our caretaker, Mr. Smith, and his wife, who have very kindly presented the Company with two cups, one for .22 shooting and the other for attendance.

No "B" Company notes would be complete without reference to our P.S.I., C.S.M. Adkins. His continued enthusiasm and good humour (with occasional lapses in the good humour!) are inspiration to all and his contribution to the improving fortunes of the Company are greatly appreciated.

In conclusion congratulations are due to Lt. R. Tett on his appointment as 2IC; Lt. D. Smith on his promotion; and to Lt. D. Jones on his recent, but long-awaited marriage. Everyone in the Company wishes Lt. Jones and his wife every happiness.

"C" COMPANY

Springtime was the season of competitions and outdoor training but despite our efforts, competition results were unfortunate and unflattering so far as we were concerned. Nevertheless, in the Weapon Training Competition, C.S.M. Payne achieved the top mark in the Platoon Commanders Test and C/Sgt. Elderfield's Falling Plates team was just pipped at the post at the Rifle Meeting.

The Junior N.C.O.s' Cadre took place at a particularly rainy weekend, but we were well represented, and Cpl. Drage and L/Cpl. Fowler were among those who emerged with good reports.

It was a fairly open secret that we should combine with "A" Company for Camp, and in preparation for this we held a joint exercise at Long Valley. The Cadets and Drums provided the enemy, but at dusk it was the mosquitoes who put in the counter attack. In the morning their buzzing was replaced by that of motor cycle "scramblers" who had to be seen off before the attack could go in.

At Okehampton we duly reinforced "A" Company with our expert resources, and in fact, slightly superior numbers. The resulting combined Company was not

only for respectable strength, but we hoped, battle-worthy by the end of Camp.

We are grateful to "A" Company's Social Committee for their hospitality during Okehampton and also for including us in their officers' and N.C.O.s' social just before Camp.

Two features of our own social life were a dance in March, supported by the loudest-ever Group—the amplifiers hardly seemed necessary—and a visit to the Royal Tournament.

Recruiting has held an important place in our programme and as a result we have gained a number of new faces amongst us. In this connection we are grateful to the Commanding Officer who visited a number of factories in the Enfield area during the summer months.

We were sorry to lose both Capt. Hume and Lt. Phillips but pleased to welcome 2/Lt. Muirhead. On the 1963-64 H.A.C. Officers' Training Wing Course, 2/Lt. Muirhead passed out as the top Cadet—with a monster silver tankard to prove it. Congratulations and good wishes!

"D" COMPANY

Congratulations to Cpl. Ted Humes on winning the "Corporals and Below" Cup as Best Shot in the Battalion at the Battalion Rifle Meeting on April 11 and 12, 1964, at Henley Park.

2/Lt. Trevor Holroyd of the Leicesters left us after a short attachment. We wish him luck for the future and will miss his voice in the choir.

We welcome back to the fold Capt. Ken Murray as 2IC after one year's "attachment" to "H.Q." Company.

It seems as though we had a 100 per cent. turn-out for weekend training when Lt. "Jungle" Jim McMaster married Miss Monica Roberts, at Margate. Monica has promised he can stay Platoon Commander of No. 12 Platoon. We wish them every happiness.

This year's Camp at Okehampton brought another successful year to an end for "D" Company. Training Area "D," with its bogs and marshes, provided an hilarious day's training for the Company, practising section and platoon attacks. Nos. 10 and 12 Platoons attacking No. 11 Platoon in the morning covered the ground (.) often waist deep. Amongst those to disappear were L/Cpls. "Mike" Joyce, Cpl. "Ginger" Lee, Ptes. Waddingham, "Mousey" Hills, Jarvis, Mandeville, and various members of their Section. In the afternoon No. 11 Platoon covered the same ground (?) followed and jeered on by a large gallery from the metalled road. Notable for their disappearances were Pte. Ray Jones, L/Cpl. Rodger Hart and Pte. Terry Caley. Sgt. Ward went down, but was saved from going too deep by rather a large expanse of stomach.

Our night Company attack on "B" Company went well and the Company Commander, Capt. Hogg, made full use of the eclipse of the moon. After a long day and a long night everyone was tired but managed to snatch a short nap before the final assault. Cpl. Paul Hart, never quick to surface after a kip, recovered sufficiently to lead his section, but somehow managed to light his thunderflash and throw his rifle.

Recruiting has been quite good and we welcome to our ranks:

A Drinkwater, R. Walker, C. Crawford, G. Hills, L. Bennett, B. Hayes, D. Horton, A. Jarvis, R. Lovelock, P. Rolfe, K. Smith, R. J. Taylor.

OFFICERS' MESS

We were sorry to lose our P.M.C. and sad when we had to say goodbye to Major Bob Leighton. When dining him out, however, we were able to express our pleasure at the award of a bar to his T.D. Through pressure of civilian business, we were also forced to say *au revoir* to Capt. John Slack, our most efficient I.O.

At dinner on April 3, we were pleased to see Majors J. I. D. Pike and E. F. Thompson. Major Pike will be remembered as a Territorial member of both the 7th Battalion and 11 Para. Battalion; and Major Thompson an erstwhile Regular Adviser to the 7th Battalion.

Our Albuhera celebration on May 15 was honoured by the Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General J. E. F. Willoughby, our Hon. Colonel, Major-General B. P. Hughes, Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Col. F. Walden and Lt.-Col. F. G. Barber, an old member of the 8th Battalion and 11 Para. Battalion, now commanding 4/5th Northamptonshire Regiment T.A.

Camp this year saw social functions kept to a minimum and to do this we held a cocktail party at Edgware the week before. This party was a qualified success, in that many guests and members had cause to wonder exactly what Col. Geoffrey's Manhattan consisted of. The conclusion of the morning after was that the constituents were correct but the quantity formula wrong! Who *did* mix those drinks? With the paucity of social events we had but one dinner night at camp and here the Corps of Drums, with some assistance from the Band, performed a masterly Retreat.

As the author writes these notes the Mess is gallantly preparing for its annual cricket tourney with Penn Street, Col. Geoffrey's village. This pleasant sporting fixture usually leads into a Western style barbecue. I should add that the Western influence begins when the C.O. gives an "edited" version of "Little Redwing."

Felicitations to the following:

Capt. Harold Couch on his marriage to Miss Dorothy Plumpton at Formby, Lancs., on August 8, 1964.

Lt. James McMaster on his marriage to Miss Monica Roberts at Broadstairs, Kent, on August 15, 1964.

Lt. Don Jones on his (long awaited!) marriage to Mrs. Jean Rixon at Harrow on July 18, 1964.

Apart from their indisputable charm these three girls are known to be very pro-T.A. Further congratulations to Harold, Jim and Don.

SERGEANTS' MESS

We must open these notes by congratulating Sgt. Mason on his promotion to W.O.1 and his appointment as Bandmaster. Sgt. Partridge is congratulated on his promotion to Colour-Sergeant whilst Sgts. Hogg, Dowling and Morgan are congratulated on their promotions and welcomed into the Mess.

The monthly social evenings have continued to be a success although they have ceased temporarily over the holiday months. We shall, however, recommence holding these evenings in September and look forward to seeing any serving Mess Members or any ex-Mess members of the Regiment who may be in the area. Late June and early July saw us in camp at Okehampton, where we renewed our acquaintance with the local police fostered by the 7th Battalion Sergeants' Mess in 1959. This year we were pleased to have "Q" Battery 254 Field Regiment R.A. (T.A.) sharing the Mess with us. Officers' Night and Corporals' Night were both very successful, particularly for the "H.Q." Company syndicate.

At the moment we are looking for a lead guitarist, to form our own "group." We already have Drummy Holdford on drums, C/Sgt. "Henry" Rea on piano, C/Sgt. Hawes on spoons and "Whipper" Sills on the fiddle.

C.S.M. Ron Birmingham was detached for the first week of camp with the Assault Pioneers and since his return the main topic of conversation has been the Ghost of Fort Tregantle.

The standing joke since the Brigade exercise has been the fact that the R.Q.M.S. who did not proceed on it, was wounded by one of the enemy, our old friends, the London Irish Rifles, kicking a football at him.

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HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE DEPOT

Recruits have been enlisted in good numbers during the past few months and the Training Company Staff is now very busy. It is good to see the increased activity in the new barracks which, now the grass cutters and gardeners have got to work, is looking first class.

On Albuhera Day we again held a small ceremony, together with members of The Queens Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment, in the Warriors' Chapel in the Cathedral Church of Christ. The simple but moving service was conducted by Canon Hughes, our officiating chaplain. We afterwards visited the memorials to Sir William and Lady Inglis. It is intended to establish this as an annual ceremony in conjunction with The Queen's Own Buffs.

There have been a few changes amongst the Permanent Staff and we are glad to see Sgt. Shave and Cpl. Pryor here. We hope that they will enjoy their tour. In spite of its many trials and routine nature, the training of young soldiers to take their place in the battalions of the Brigade is a worth-while and rewarding task. It is most important that it is done well. The Die-Hards on the staff here are all well up to Brigade standards and are worthy representatives of the Regiment. Those of you who have served here will appreciate the work that they are doing for the Brigade and the Regiment.

The Junior Soldiers' Company continues to be in good spirits. At the end of March they threw down their instruments and picked up their muskets and went off to the All Arms Training Centre at Sennybridge in South Wales. It was an excellent hotted camp with a vast and good training area. The training finished with live firing and section attacks. Off duty activities included canoeing on the Monmouth Brecon Canal, archery and roller skating.

During the Easter holidays (they work on a school timetable) a party of junior Bandsmen and Drummers went ski-ing in Scotland. It was a thoroughly enjoyable trip although snow was a little short. Bird watching filled the gaps in the programme. The Band and Drums toured schools in the Brighton area after Easter giving concerts and Beating Retreat. They also played at Streatham, Finchley and Canterbury Carnivals. The Annual Beating of Retreat at Canterbury was of a very high standard. The weather was showery but the rain held off until the very end of the ceremony. The distinguished guests were most impressed with the performance. Some "Die-Hards" noted familiar tunes.

Parents Day was held on August 15 when the Band and Drums again beat retreat.

The Middlesex Platoon won the Junior Soldiers Company Inter Platoon Athletics Meeting and Drum Major Lewis is at last hoping to produce some Middlesex gladiators.

We all like news of the battalion here and were particularly pleased to read the excellent notes and articles in the April "Die-Hard" and look forward to the next one. Do please call in and look up your parti-

cular friends here when at all possible. So that you may know who to look out for a list of the members of the Regiment here is included:—

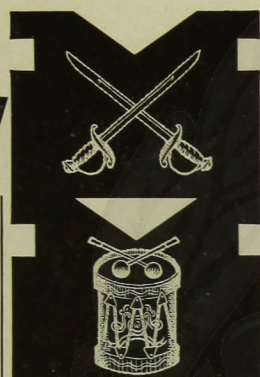
Col. I. H. Battye, M.B.E.	Brigade Colonel
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden	Depot Commander
Major K. J. Carter	Brigade Adjutant
Major A. E. F. Waldron	Quartermaster
Lt. R. A. Bartlett	Training Officer
Drum Major Lewis, J. M.	Junior Soldiers Company
Sgt. Barr, J.	Quartermaster's Sergeant
Sgt. Ford, R. G.	Training Company
Sgt. Dickens, J.	Training Company
Sgt. O'Gorman, A. P.	Orderly Room
Sgt. Shave, R.	Training Company
Cpl. Mullender, B. J.	Training Company



"Shifting the top of Brecon Beacon" Lt. J. Docherty, R.A.E.C. (right) and D. Maj. J. Lewis

Cpl. Bartlett, D.	Training Company
Cpl. Pryor, T.	Training Company
Cpl. Marquiss, E. J.	Junior Soldiers Company (Drums)
Cpl. Stevens, A.	Training Company
Cpl. Turner, W. J. E.	Training Company
L/Cpl. Parker, B.	Junior Soldiers Company (Drums)
Pte. Naylor, F.	Officers Mess
Pte. Penfold, S.	Officers Mess
Dmr. Reed, B. G.	Bugler
Pte. Hedges, B. W.	Regimental Police
Pte. O'Sullivan, J.	Depot Commander's Batman

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OBITUARY

Lt.-Col. W. W. Jefferd

The news of the death on February 28, 1964 of Walter William ("Job") Jefferd at Gisborne, New Zealand, was notified by his sister, with whom he had lived since his retirement in 1939.

Born in 1888 he was commissioned into the Regiment on August 29, 1906, and posted to the 1st Battalion. With this Battalion—the first complete unit of the B.E.F. to arrive in France after the outbreak of the 1914-18 War—he was soon in action, and distinguished himself at Nery when he was in charge of the Battalion machine guns. His horse was killed under him, and he was wounded. For his part in this action he was mentioned in despatches and awarded the Legion of Honour, 5th Class.

His wounds, however, did not keep him away from the fighting for long, for in November 1914 he was with the 2nd Battalion in France and remained with that Battalion until August 1915 when he was posted to the 1st Battalion.

In July 1916 he was taken prisoner of war and remained in captivity in Germany, and later as an internee in Holland, until he was repatriated just after the Armistice in 1918.

On rejoining the Regiment after the war he was posted to the 2nd Battalion, then commanded by Lt.-Col. H. N. Blakeney, D.S.O., and temporarily stationed at Shorncliffe before continuing the foreign tour which had been interrupted by the War. He was appointed Adjutant and served overseas as such first in Egypt (Abbassia) and then in Singapore.

On completion of his tour of duty as Adjutant he was posted to the 1st Battalion at Aldershot.

In 1926 he was given command of the Depot but, unfortunately, during his period of command, he had to spend some time in Millbank Hospital with a knee injury caused by a ski-ing accident in Switzerland.

He rejoined the 1st Battalion in 1929 and attended a course at the Senior Officers' School the following year.

He was on parade at the presentation of new Colours to the 1st Battalion by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales on October 21, 1931, and was one of the Field Officers who handed the new Colours to His Royal Highness.

He went overseas with the Battalion in December 1931 and served with it in Palestine and Egypt.

In 1935 he took over command of the 2nd Battalion then stationed at Colchester, and about to move to Portsmouth. Throughout 1936 the Battalion reorganised as a Machine Gun unit and, when in May 1939 Col. Jefferd gave up command, it was a smooth-running concern with an already established reputation as machine gunners, having won the A.R.A. Machine Gun Cup in 1937 and again in 1938.

Being in New Zealand when the 1939-45 War broke out, he offered his services to the New Zealand Government and in July 1940 was given command of the 1st Battalion The Hawkes Bay Regiment. In December that year he was given command of the 7th Infantry Brigade.

To complete his military career he later became a Group Director of the Home Guard.

Throughout his service "Job" Jefferd was noted for his immaculate turn out; he always looked as though he had just stepped out of a band-box.

Lt.-Col. W. H. Samuel

William Henriques Samuel died suddenly on May 17, 1964, aged 82.

He was commissioned into the Regiment on May 8, 1901 and, less than a year later, found himself on active service in South Africa with the 2nd Battalion.

On returning from South Africa with the Battalion he was stationed at Hounslow in 1903, moving to Portsmouth in 1905, and to the Channel Islands two years later.

He was promoted Captain in 1909, and very shortly after the outbreak of the 1914-18 War, was appointed a temporary Major and served with the 11th (Service) Battalion for over a year with the B.E.F. in France.

He became the first Commanding Officer of the 21st (Service) Battalion (Islington), which was formed on May 8, 1915. He took the Battalion to France in June of the following year where it soon entered into the routine of trench warfare. In 1917 he was twice mentioned in despatches—the second time as a result of the Battalion's part in the capture of Bourlon Wood between November 23 and 28.

After the War he served in Egypt and Singapore with the 2nd Battalion, where he gained the reputation of being a highly successful P.R.I.

He retired on February 28, 1923 with the honorary rank of Lt.-Col., and eventually settled down at Brockenhurst in Hampshire, where he lived until quite recently. When, however, he and his wife found themselves unable to compete on their own they moved to a nursing home in Bournemouth. It was there that his wife died last October. He then moved to another nursing home nearby, but he was only there a short while before he himself died.

He was a keen cricketer and golfer, and before and after the 1939-45 War he played regularly in the Regimental golf meetings.

"Sambo," as he was affectionately known, was a charming, friendly personality—one of the old vintage which is now, unfortunately, becoming all too rare.

At the funeral service at Bournemouth the Regiment was represented by Major E. L. Heywood.

Second-Lt. M. F. K. Young

Information was received earlier this year that Martin Young, who served as a National Service officer in the Regiment, was killed in a car accident whilst motoring to his house in Warwickshire on December 21, 1963, at the early age of 27.

He was born on March 4, 1936, and educated at Cheltenham College, where he was in the Cricket XI and played against Haileybury at Lord's in 1953.

He started his National service in his uncle's old Regiment, the Queen's, and was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment on June 1, 1957. He was later seconded for service with the Royal West African Frontier Force and was posted for duty with the 3rd Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment.

On completion of his military service he joined his uncle's Company, Redland Holdings Ltd., as a Sales Representative and was undoubtedly making a success of his business career when he was killed in such tragic circumstances.

He married in July 1962, and to his widow, who gave birth to twin girls on January 3, 1964—a fortnight after his death—we extend our deepest sympathy.

R.S.M. E. R. Furniss (6188348)

The death of "Shan" Furniss on March 7, 1964 cut one of our few remaining links with the old 3rd (Regular) Battalion, who served in South Africa during the Boer War.

Edward Richard Furniss was born on February 7, 1883 and enlisted into the Regiment at Hounslow, then the Regimental Depot, on April 12, 1901. He was an intelligent youth, and a month after enlisting he was in possession of his Third Class Certificate of Education and appointed a L/Cpl.

On completion of his recruit training he was posted to the 4th Battalion, then stationed at the Tower of London under the command of Lt.-Col. C. R. Simpson.

On May 10, 1902 he was one of a draft of 103 N.C.O.'s and men who were posted from the 4th Battalion to the 3rd Battalion, then stationed at St. Helena for guard duties over the Boer prisoners. From St. Helena he moved with the Battalion to Stellenbosch and later, in 1904 to Middelburg in the Transvaal. It was here on February 3, 1904 that the 3rd Battalion received their Colours, presented to them by Viscount Milner.

From Middelburg he moved with the Battalion in 1906 to Durban and embarked for Hong Kong. From there he went to North China with the half-Battalion stationed at Tientsin and Peking.

Service in the Far East was to continue for two more years. After leaving Hong Kong his next station with the Battalion was Singapore, followed by a tour in India, where he served at Calcutta, Dum Dum, Dinapore, Lebong and Cawnpore.

After the declaration of war in 1914 he sailed with the 3rd Battalion for England, arriving on Christmas Eve 1914, and, after some feverish preparations, embarked with it for active service with the B.E.F. in France on January 18, 1915. Later that year he moved with the Battalion to Egypt, and from there, on to Salonika, where he remained with the Battalion till the end of the war in the Balkans. Soon after the surrender of the combined force of Germans, Bulgars and Turks he went with the Battalion to Constantinople.

For his war services he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and was mentioned in Despatches.

When the 3rd Battalion reformed after the war at Clipstone Camp, near Mansfield, Notts., "Shan" Furniss was the R.Q.M.S. and moved with it to Aldershot and later to the British Army of Occupation on the Rhine. When the Battalion moved to Upper Silesia as

part of the Plebiscite Force he was promoted R.S.M. He held this appointment until he took his discharge to pension on April 11, 1922, on completion of twenty-one years service.

For some years he had been a staunch member of the Regimental Association, and he made it his business to travel from Surbiton to Mill Hill and latterly, Edgware, to attend the monthly meetings of the Mill Hill Branch.

Recently he had been very seriously ill and, though he made a remarkable recovery due, without much doubt, to the devoted attention of his wife, Alice, the news of his death on March 7 was not entirely unexpected.

He was buried at Surbiton Cemetery on March 13, and a number of his old comrades, including Syd Buckle, Tim Harrison, Bob Hadley and Chic Holmes, were there to pay their final respects to a most loyal and staunch "Die-Hard" who had a real, lasting love for the old Battalion he had served so faithfully and well.

Major E. L. Heywood, who had served with him in Salonika, attended the funeral as the representative of the Regiment, whilst Major R. W. J. Smith represented the Mill Hill Branch of the Regimental Association.

Bandmaster A. E. Judge (3847070)

Albert Ernest Judge, who died on May 10, 1964, enlisted as a boy in the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment on August 4, 1915, and was appointed a Bandsman on November 6, 1918 some eight months before coming on to man's service.

He was a Corporal when he was selected to attend a Bandmaster's course at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, in January, 1928. Having successfully qualified he was transferred to the 1st Battalion and promoted W.O.I (Bandmaster) on April 12, 1931. He served with the Battalion in Palestine, Egypt, Singapore and Hong Kong, and was discharged to pension on August 9, 1938.

On leaving the Army he entered the Civil Service as a temporary clerk (Grade III) in the War Office, and in 1939 he was transferred to the Record and Pay Office, Ashford, Middlesex, as a Grade IV clerk. In 1941 he was promoted to Clerical Officer and on January 18 was transferred to the Infantry Record Office, Warwick, and finally to the Record Office, Exeter, in September 1958. During his tour at Warwick and also at Exeter he filled the acting rank of Executive Officer on many occasions.

He lived at Exmouth and in his spare time taught the woodwind instruments of the Orchestra to the students of Rolle College and, largely owing to his excellent tuition, they were able to form a small Symphony Orchestra.

The officer under whom he was employed at the Record Office, Exeter, writes of him as follows:—

"Mr. Judge was a very kindly man and would go to a lot of trouble to help people. He was in the Enlistment Section of this Office and I personally found him very helpful when I had to go to him over obscure points of enlistments. Nothing was too much trouble and we will miss him here very much."

C.S.M. R. J. Stretton (6196357)

Robert J. Stretton, who recently suffered the amputation of a foot, died suddenly on June 16, 1964.

At the time of his death it was understood that he was progressing favourably. He was, in fact, in excellent spirits on the previous day when talking to an old friend, Don Brew (6197304), who had served with him overseas.

"Pop," as he was affectionately known to many of his generation, was the son of a gifted newspaper cartoonist and the brother of Corporal Jack Stretton, a well-known athlete of the 1st Battalion.

He served with the 2nd Battalion Band for many years and was appointed Band Corporal in 1939.

During the 1939-45 War he was a member of the staff of the Machine Gun Training Centre, where he was eventually promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer, Class II and appointed a Company Sergeant Major.

He was cremated at Enfield Crematorium, where many relations and friends were present, including cadets of his Cadet Corps, Major R. W. J. Smith, Messrs. Brew, Patterson (29) and Patterson (36) of the Regiment.

The Regiment was represented by Major E. L. Heywood.

Sgt. C. W. Cox, M.M. (619440)

Charles William Cox, a cheerful veteran of the Boer War and one of the oldest and most regular members of the Mill Hill Branch of the Regimental Association, collapsed and died on February 1, 1964, in his 80th year.

He originally enlisted in the newly re-numbered 5th (Militia) Battalion of the Regiment on May 6, 1900 and, with that unit, took part in the Boer War. This was the last time that Militia Battalions went to war as independent units, for in 1908 they were changed to Special Reserve Battalions and supplied reinforcements for the Regular and Service Battalions.

Returning home at the end of 1902 he was posted to the Depot at Hounslow and was present when the Regimental facings were restored from white to the original yellow.

On May 6, 1903, he took on a regular engagement and was posted to the 4th Battalion, then stationed in Dublin. In July of that year he was one of the soldiers who lined the street at Fitzwilliam Place on the occasion of the visit of the recently crowned sovereign, King Edward VII.

From 1905 to 1906 he was a member of the Depot staff responsible for recruit training and, when the Depot moved from Hounslow to Mill Hill, he marched up Bittacy Hill with the first men of the Regiment to occupy the only Regimental Depot the Regiment has had to itself.

In 1907 he was posted to the 3rd Battalion, then stationed in Hong Kong, and was a member of the Guard of Honour found by the Battalion when the late Duke of Cambridge visited the Colony. He continued to serve with the Battalion in Singapore and India, and was present at the Delhi Durbar in December 1911.

He was transferred to the Army Reserve in 1913, and was mobilised at the outbreak of the 1914-1918 War,

when he joined the 1st Battalion at Woolwich. He was present at the Battle of Mons and all the battles subsequent to this action fought by the 1st Battalion until he became a casualty. In January, 1915, he was blown up and buried by a German shell and, after being dug out, was repatriated to England to recover from his wounds. He was discharged on medical grounds on May 5, 1916, but managed to re-enlist on June 30, 1916, in the Labour Corps. As soon as he was up-graded medically he was transferred to the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment and later to the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. It was whilst serving with another unit—1097 Company, Army Service Corps—that he was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field.

In June, 1919, he returned to the Depot at Mill Hill and, whilst there, was posted to the 4th Battalion, then re-forming at Colchester under the command of Lt.-Col. H. W. E. Finch. He moved with the Battalion to Gibraltar and it was here that the Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, spoke to him, recalling their meeting at an earlier date. This was at Kemmel where the Prince was visiting the trenches and gave Sgt. Cox a cigarette. The Royal memory was not at fault!

From Gibraltar he moved with his Battalion to Egypt, but in 1922 he returned to England when the 3rd and 4th Battalions were disbanded.

On the disbandment of the 4th Battalion he took his discharge and retired to pension on August 3, 1922.

After his retirement he took up employment with the Hendon Borough Council, and became a valued member of their staff.

In 1940 when the Local Defence Volunteers were formed he immediately enrolled and continued to serve with them, and later when they were re-designated Home Guard, until 1945.

He was a very keen and successful gardener up to the time of his death and each year won prizes at the various local flower shows.

About 18 months ago he was knocked down by a motor cyclist, and, as well as extensive bruising, suffered from a badly-gashed face and broken ribs. It says much for his toughness that his stay in hospital was of only short duration.

He was cremated at Hendon Park Crematorium, the service being attended by a large gathering of friends and relations who filled the Chapel. His relations included his widow and daughters, and two of his sons who served in the Regiment—Mr. A. Cox, late 2nd Battalion, and Mr. L. Cox, who was with the 1st Battalion during the Battle of Hong Kong. Representatives from the Regiment included Major E. L. Heywood (representing the Colonel of the Regiment), Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E. (representing the Mill Hill Branch of the Regimental Association), Messrs. W. Bratby, H. Coxhill, J. Davis, R. Ferguson, E. Green, M.M., T. Harrison, W. Hayes, J. Holmes, W. Hollingsworth, D/Major C. Holdford, B.E.M., E. Rudd, C. Trowt, Mesdames Smith, Honeybun, Harrison and Kerswill.

As the Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Drum/Major Holdford the vast congregation bade farewell to one of the truest and most loyal *Die-Hards* of our time.

Sgt. O. S. Taylor (10415)

Oliver Taylor, who fought with the 4th Battalion at Mons, died on February 17, 1964, aged 77.

He enlisted on August 21, 1905 at the age of 18 and, after his initial training at the Depot, he was posted to the 4th Battalion then stationed in Ireland. The following year he sailed for foreign service, joining the 3rd Battalion, and remained with that Battalion until October 1912 when he left from Leborg on transfer to the Army Reserve.

He was recalled to the Colours on the outbreak of war on August 4, 1914 and was posted to the 4th Battalion at Devonport. He sailed with the Battalion to France and on Sunday, August 23, 1914 he was fighting in the initial action of the War.

He was later repatriated to England with gun shot wounds and, after recovering from them, was transferred to the Machine Gun Corps. He was posted to the 2nd Reserve Battalion of this Corps and served with this unit for the remainder of the war, being promoted to the rank of Sgt. He was transferred to the Reserve in January 1919 and finally discharged on March 31, 1920.

After the war he became very active with the British Legion and Old Contemptibles Association, and was a member of their committees for many years. In addition he was a keen member of the Mill Hill Branch of the Regimental Association, and was particularly helpful with his advice and experience in the early days after the Branch was formed.

For the past few years his sight had been failing, and this prevented him from taking part in the activities which he loved.

He was buried at Edmonton Cemetery on February 24, 1964 and, at the funeral, the Regiment was represented by Major E. L. Heywood, and the Mill Hill Branch of the Regimental Association by Major R. W. J. Smith.

Cpl. J. Payne (L/10411)

Jack Payne, who was born on November 2, 1885, died on March 11, 1964, at the age of 78.

He enlisted into the Regiment on August 16, 1905 and was posted to the 4th Battalion. He served with that unit throughout his Colour service and was transferred to the Reserve in 1912.

At the outbreak of the 1914-18 War he was recalled to the Colours, and was posted to the 1st Battalion, remaining with them for the period of the war, during which he suffered two gun shot wounds in the legs.

He was appointed a lance corporal for employment with the Regimental Provost Staff and later promoted to Corporal as a Gas Instructor.

His total service was 14 years 228 days, of which 10 years and 185 days were with the Colours.

At his funeral at West Norwood Crematorium on March 18, 1964 the Regiment was represented by Major R. W. J. Smith.

L/Cpl. A. W. Havard (L/12418)

Arthur William Havard enlisted in the Regiment on December 17, 1908—three months after his eighteenth birthday.

He was posted to the 2nd Battalion in January 1909, then stationed in Germany and Alderney, and remained there until September 1910 when he was one of a draft posted to the 1st Battalion serving in India. He joined the Battalion at Allahabad and served with it subsequently at Dinapore, Poona and Kirkee, before returning with it to the U.K. on the outbreak of the 1914-18 War.

He went on active service with the 1st Battalion to France on 12 August, 1914 and took part in the Battle of Mons and the subsequent withdrawal to Le Cateau. It was here that he was grievously wounded and, by good fortune, was got away before the enemy had occupied the line previously held by the British. So severe were his wounds that he was in hospital for three years being discharged from the Army as unfit for further military service on May 17, 1917. The wounds in his left leg were to cause him trouble for the remainder of his life.

He died on May 9, 1964 and was cremated at Golders Green Crematorium on May 14, 1964.

Major R. W. J. Smith attended as the representative of the Regiment.

Pte. A. E. Clark (10857)

Information has been received that Albert Edward Clark who served in the Regiment from December 15, 1905 to February 2, 1914, when he was transferred to the Army Reserve, died on August 1, 1964, aged 76.

Pte. G. W. Hanks, M.M. (6188443)

George William Hanks was born on March 11, 1889 and enlisted into the Regiment on October 28, 1905.

His Colour service was spent in the 2nd and 4th Battalions, the majority of it as a groom or batman. Whilst he was stationed with the 2nd Battalion in Alderney he was groom to Major B. E. Ward, then the senior Major and in Command of the half-battalion garrisoning the island. Another of his jobs was the care of "Jimson," the Mule—the Regimental mascot—which paraded with the Battalion on all ceremonial occasions.

When Major Ward was posted to command the 1st Battalion, Joe, as he was popularly called, took employment as batman to Capt. Bicknell, and remained with him until 1922.

He sailed to Malta with the Battalion on September 3, 1913 and returned with it to the United Kingdom on the outbreak of the 1914-18 War. On November 5, 1914 he went to France and took part in the battle at Neuve Eglise where the 2nd Battalion suffered its first casualties.

During the German Offensive in March 1918 Joe was rushed up to the front line with a batch of cooks, grooms, batmen and anybody else who could fire a rifle. Here he was a tower of strength and set a magnificent example to his comrades during the bitter fighting, which earned him a well-deserved Military Medal.

After the 1914-18 War he served with the 4th Battalion at Colchester and in Gibraltar, moving to Egypt in December, 1921.

CORRESPONDENCE

From: *The Friends of Malta, G.C.*

Portland House,
Stag Place,
London, S.W.1.
July 1, 1964.

DEAR SIR,

May we ask for the hospitality of your columns to bring to the notice of your readers, the benefits of settling in Malta following retirement from the Army.

The attached paper, giving details of life in Malta and the cost of living, has been prepared by the Friends of Malta, G.C., in conjunction with the Malta Government Tourist Board.

The Friends of Malta, G.C., is a charitable, non-political society with no government affiliations. It was formed by a responsible body of people to help the people of Malta through their economic difficulties brought about by the run down of British forces, stationed in or based on, the island.

May we also point out, the attractions of Malta as a holiday resort. Malta's sun, sea and bathing are second to none, the people are friendly, the setting ideal. The island has all the ingredients essential for a successful and unforgettable holiday.

Yours faithfully,
E. G. H. CLARKE.
Director-General.

The Editor,
THE DIE-HARDS.

(The paper referred to is published on page 475 and headed "Retirement in Malta"—*Editor.*)

From: *Major-General A. R. Fyler, C.B., O.B.E.*
Director of Army Personnel Administration
Ministry of Defence,
Lansdowne House,
Berkeley Square,
London, W.1.

May 21, 1964.

MY DEAR COLONEL,

Very many thanks for the copy of *The Die-Hards* which your office has sent me.

I am sure that the Obituary on Frank Stratton would very much have met with his approval. He would have been very pleased to have known that his service with your Regiment found recognition for he was, I know from personal experience, very proud of having been associated with it.

Yours Sincerely,
(Signed) R. FYLER.

Colonel F. Walden,
Regimental Headquarters,
The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.),
Deansbrook Road,
Edgware, Middlesex.

In June 1922 he returned to the United Kingdom and was discharged to pension at his own request on November 15, 1925.

He died after a painful illness on August 9, 1964, and was cremated at the Mortlake Crematorium on August 13, 1964.

Major R. W. J. Smith represented the Regiment at the funeral of this gallant old "Die-Hard."

Pte. W. C. Munro (6691)

William Charles Munro was born on August 5, 1882, and enlisted at Hounslow at the age of 18 on November 13, 1900.

During his Colour service he served in South Africa and India before being transferred to the Army Reserve on November 12, 1908. He was finally discharged on November 12, 1912.

On the outbreak of the 1914-18 War he re-enlisted and was posted to the London Regiment, with which he served until he was discharged early in 1919.

He spent the last two years of his life in hospital, and died on April 8, 1964.

At the funeral service at Kensal Green Cemetery on April 13, 1964 the Regiment was represented by Major R. W. J. Smith.

Pte. E. E. Wiggans (6208214)

Ernest Edward Wiggans died in tragic circumstances on June 21, 1964.

He had served with both 1st and 2nd battalions, and was with the 1st Battalion in 1941 during the Battle of Hong Kong, and subsequently as a P.O.W. of the Japanese.

On Sunday, June 21, he played darts with a number of his friends, and appeared to be in good spirits when he left them to rejoin his large family of eleven children for dinner. After the meal he retired for a rest. Later in the afternoon one of his children took him a cup of tea and found him in his bedroom with the windows sealed and the gas taps full on. Artificial respiration was tried, but proved of no avail.

He was cremated at Hanworth Crematorium on June 29, and many of his neighbours and friends attended the service.

Majors E. L. Heywood and R. W. J. Smith represented the Regiment.

Mrs. Appelbe

We regret to announce the death on May 24, 1964, of Gwen (née Price), widow of Capt. E. N. Appelbe.

The funeral took place at Bournemouth on May 29. Major E. L. Heywood represented the Colonel of the Regiment and the Officers' Club.

Remembrance Day Service

November 8, 1964

Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill

From: Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, T.D.

Hornsey Diehards Club,
T.A. Centre
Hornsey, N.8.
June 19, 1964.

The Editor,
THE DIE-HARDS
DEAR SIR,

In the April issue of the Journal under the Regimental Association Notes I see that at an Executive Meeting it was reported that only the branches at Mill Hill and the Bandsmen and Drummers were doing well (page 461).

I would like to use your columns to draw attention to this branch, which is very active, meeting every Wednesday, has within it a 22 Rifle Club which enters a local Middlesex League, and which has 133 paid up members (June) and about 60 more who are on the books and in touch with the Branch but who are in arrears.

You will agree, Sir, I hope that this is not an insignificant branch, and also it should be noticed that some of the members are serving Territorials in the 5th Battalion of the Regiment.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) D. E. SIMPSON
Lt.-Col., Chairman.

From: Mr. H. G. A. Eden.

c/o Barclays Bank D.C.O.,
Adderley Street,
Cape Town, South Africa.
June 4, 1964

DEAR SIR,

I recently received the April, 1964, edition of *The Die-Hards* Journal and, as usual, found much of the contents most interesting.

As a member of the 9th Battalion Branch I note that in his notes on Armistice Day Sunday at Mill Hill, the Branch Honorary Secretary states that on that occasion the company of many "officers" was missed. Surely the company of some "other ranks" was also missed but no mention is made of this fact.

I am not aware of the strength of the 9th Battalion Branch but assume that it must be in excess of 50, which number is stated to have attended the annual service of Remembrance and if my assumption is correct, it would appear that a number of "other ranks" were, for various reasons, precluded from being present.

I was very sorry to learn of the death of Lt.-Col. F. C. G. Stratton, T.D., this officer being well known to me during my service with the Regiment from 1912 to 1918.

May I once again congratulate the Editor of the Journal on the manner in which it is compiled. The general set-up certainly makes it easy and interesting to read.

With best wishes to all 9th Battalion members and particularly those who served between 1914 and 1918.

Yours sincerely,
H. G. A. EDEN,
ex-1/9th Battalion.

From: Major G. O. T. Bagley.

807 North Ridgewood Place,
Los Angeles 38, California, U.S.A.
May 12, 1964

DEAR SIR,

I have lived in America ever since 1921, when I retired after 15 years service in the Regiment, and among many things that are odd and strange to a Britisher, nothing is more fantastic than the way they number houses.

I think that your readers would be interested and amused at some of the more unusual ones I have listed below. In order that they do not think I am recording numerical nightmares, I also include the newspaper clippings from which the addresses are taken.

- (1) Antelope Valley Board of Trade, 43321 North Sierra Highway, Lancaster, California.
- (2) Mr. and Mrs. Cruise, 35090 Avenue G, Yucaipa, California.
- (3) Mr. and Mrs. Pratt, 10157 East Q—14 Avenue Palmdale, California.
- (4) Mr. and Mrs. McIntire, 41809 North 10th Street West Lancaster, California.
- (5) Karen Lee Apartments, 4122 South 4000 West, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- (6) Hart Bros., 2152 South 11th East Street, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- (7) Larch Tire Service, 497 South 2nd West Street, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Old comrades in the Regiment have written to me asking why the number on my door is so high. In Yank language I would say "Brother you ain't seen nothin' yet."

With best wishes to all *Die-Hards*.

Yours sincerely,
G. O. T. BAGLEY.

Commissioned in August, 1906.

[The newspaper clippings are in my possession.—EDITOR.]

From: Mr. F. A. Nicholls.

151 Clevening Road,
Brondesbury Park,
London, N.W.6.
August 17, 1964

DEAR SIR,

Thank you for your Circular of the 5th inst re the 50th Anniversary of the 1914-1918 War. But I am sorry but owing to illness in the home, I shall be unable to attend the Ceremony. I am very disappointed at not being able to be present, especially as I well remember we had to call on the old "Die-Hards" to assist us on September 1, 1914, to keep the "Huns" on the run, as I happen to be one of the few survivors of the "L" Battery (NERY) R.H.A. who were caught at "NERY" on September 1, 1914, and no doubt you have heard or read the story of gallant "L" Battery and how the remnants of the old Middlesex Regiment came to our help and I shall always take my hat off to any member of your Regiment.

During the last war I served in the Home Guard as Platoon Sergeant of the 203 Platoon "A" Company, as I was too old for the Regular Forces, and if at anytime I am able to get to Edgware I should like to make the acquaintance of your members.

Please convey my regards to any old Home Guard members who may attend and I wish you have a full Parade.

Your sincerely,
F. A. NICHOLLS.

From: Mrs. Elizabeth Hurst.

Meadow View,
Dummer,
Nr. Basingstoke,
May 19, 1964.

DEAR SIR,

Thank you so much for your kind thought putting that delightful note in *The Die-Hards* of my dear husband.

And I'm ever grateful to you dear gentlemen for him to have his last wish.

I still miss him very much; life doesn't seem the same without him, and my children so far away. Thanking you for your kindness to me.

Yours Sincerely,
(Signed) ELIZABETH HURST.

(The obituary notice on C. S. M. Hurst was published in the April 1964 issue.—Editor.)



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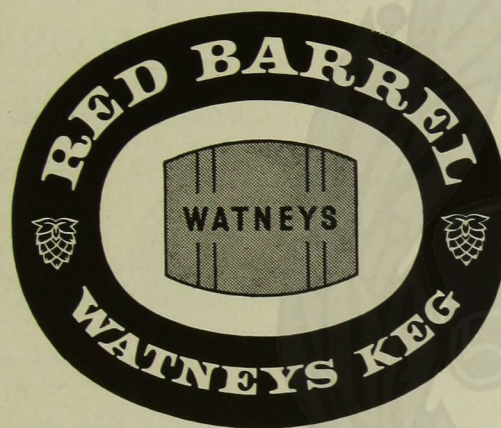
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THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

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 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.

Donations

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations from the following to the Association Charitable Fund:—
Mr. A. P. Alexander, Mr. R. E. Booker, Mr. V. H. T. Fields-Clarke (in memory of Lt.-Col. W. H. Samuel), Mr. M. E. Lattaway, Mr. E. W. Prosser and Mr. and Mrs. R. Michael Samuel (in memory of Lt.-Col. W. H. Samuel).

Lord Lieutenant's Appeal for Widows' Flatlets, Albuhera Close, Enfield

The following is the fourth list of subscribers to the above appeal, corrected to August 21, 1964:—

	£	s.	d.
Cambridge Wives' Club, 1st Battalion (part proceeds of Regimental Fete) ..	221	0	0
Regimental Derby Sweepstake (half of net proceeds) ..	88	7	3
Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox (covenanted) ..	15	0	0
St. Mathews Church, Ealing Common, P.C.C. ..	14	8	3
Col. J. G. E. Reid (American Dollars 30) ..	10	8	6
Lt.-Col. S. F. W. M. del Court (second donation) ..	5	5	0
Friern Barnet Branch, British Legion ..	5	5	0
Major C. S. Goulding ..	5	0	0
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton (covenanted) ..	5	0	0
Mr. G. D. M. Block ..	3	3	0
Eastcote Branch, British Legion ..	3	3	0
Brigadier E. W. C. Flavell (covenanted) ..	3	0	0
Major M. A. Jacob ..	3	0	0
Capt. P. J. T. Lane (covenanted) ..	3	0	0
Acton Branch, British Legion ..	2	2	0
Mr. R. E. Booker (second donation) ..	2	2	0
Highgate Branch, British Legion ..	2	2	0
Potters Bar British Legion Club Ltd. ..	2	2	0
Ruislip (North) Branch, British Legion ..	2	2	0
Wembley and Sudbury Branch, British Legion ..	2	2	0
Major J. G. Chiverall (covenanted) ..	2	0	0
Major H. Farrow ..	2	0	0
Major W. T. J. Lane (second donation) ..	2	0	0
Lt.-Col. S. Mirams ..	2	0	0
Highbury Branch, British Legion ..	1	1	0
Potters Bar Branch, British Legion ..	1	1	0
Major M. P. Weedon (covenanted) ..	1	1	0
Col. I. R. Burrows (covenanted) ..	1	0	0
Islington South & East Branch, British Legion ..	1	0	0
Cpl. A. Jackson (second donation) ..	1	0	0
Kenton Branch, British Legion ..	1	0	0
Mr. A. J. Lee ..	1	0	0
Major H. T. Penell ..	1	0	0
Mr. F. Powell ..	12	6	
Noel Park Branch, British Legion ..	10	6	
Capt. W. H. Craydon (second donation) ..	10	0	
Mr. P. W. Hitchcock ..	10	0	
Mr. G. F. Engwell ..	7	6	
Mr. M. Goulding ..	7	6	

Hong Kong List

The Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) ..	51	3	3
Col. H. B. L. Dowbiggin (second donation) ..	5	5	0
Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Anderton ..	2	2	0
Miss Aileen Woods (H.K. dollars 20) ..	1	5	0

From 1st, 2nd and 3rd Lists £477 8 3

Total as at August 22, 1964 £5248 0 5

£5725 17 8

Vacancies for Civilians in Military Establishments

Vacancies in the following grades and trades exist in military establishments and units in the London Area:— Clerical Assistants (Male or Female); Typists and Shorthand/Typists (Male or Female); Drivers; Cooks; Night Watchmen; Verger; Greasers.

Anyone interested should apply to The Secretary, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

WEARING OF UNIFORM BY RETIRED NCOs

It may not be generally known that certain retired WO's and NCO's are now allowed to wear uniform on appropriate occasions. At the request, therefore, of the Ministry of Defence the following extracts from Army Council Instruction No. 49 of 1964 are republished for the information of those concerned:—

"1. Warrant officers and sergeants of substantive rank who retire or are discharged from the Army having completed not less than ten years' unbroken service on a regular engagement, and in possession of a military character assessed at not lower than "Very Good" may upon making application, be granted permission in writing by the appropriate officer i/c records to wear a prescribed uniform under the conditions and upon the occasions set out in the following paragraphs. Permission once granted remains in force until withdrawn.

2. *Conditions.* (a) Only the current pattern of No. 1 or No. 2 Dress or Mess Dress may be worn. When the uniform is worn it will always carry the letter "R" above the badge of rank on each sleeve. The symbol "R" will be of metal as for officers, 4/10 inch high, 3/10 inch wide.

(b) The uniform will be provided at the wearer's expense and shall, upon all occasions when worn, conform with the standard of repair and smartness required of a serving warrant officer or sergeant.

3. *Occasions.* A uniform prescribed in paragraph 2 (a) above may be worn when attending:—

(a) an officially-sponsored function in celebration of the Sovereign's (official) birthday;

(b) an officially-sponsored function in connection with Remembrance Day;

(c) a regimental function in barracks or any other military establishment, with the approval of the appropriate regimental authority.

(d) any occasion concerning which a special War Office announcement has been made regarding the wearing of uniform.

Applications to wear uniform other than on the above occasions will be made in writing on each occasion to the appropriate officer i/c records. Applications to wear uniform outside the United Kingdom will not be granted.

4. All warrant officers and sergeants who may wish to avail themselves of this permission should note that it is a privilege which, if abused, may be withdrawn either generally or in a specific instance."

HONG KONG BRANCH

News from the Hong Kong Branch is as always very short, but nevertheless we enjoy the pleasure of having our notes in the Journal.

Our Annual celebration took place as in the last years, with past and present members of the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) celebrating Albuhera Day in true form.

Saturday the 16th May, 1964 we attended a short Ceremony at the Cenotaph where Lt.-Col. D. C. L. Nolda, O.B.E., laid a wreath, also with the kind permission of Lt.-Col. J. Laurence Smith, R.T.R., Commanding Officer, The Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) the flag of The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) was flown at their H.Q. This was followed up in the evening by several Diehards dining in the Officers' Mess of the Royal Hong Kong Defence Force, and the evening was well and truly celebrated.

As our guest on that occasion we were pleased to welcome the Commanding Officer of the Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) Lt.-Col. J. Laurence Smith, The Royal Tank Regiment.

Annual Church Service

On Sunday the 17th May, 1964, we held our Annual Church service in St. John's Cathedral, when Captain H. M. du V. Lohan, laid a wreath at the foot of the Regimental War Memorial and turned a page in the Roll of Honour.

After the Church service we held our usual gathering in Petty Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of the Royal Hong Kong Defence Force and, after a few discussions about old times, the afternoon was spent visiting the Cemeteries at Little Sai Wan and Stanley, at each of which a short service was held by the Very Rev. J. W. Foster, B.E.M., Dean, and a wreath laid by Major W. T. J. Lane, M.B.E., at Little Sai Wan and by Lt.-Col. J. Laurence Smith at Stanley.

We are all very pleased to welcome Capt. H. M. du V. Lohan as Adjutant to the Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) and hope that his tour with them will be an enjoyable one.

The writer of these notes will be leaving Hong Kong on retirement at the end of this year, and is looking forward to meeting many old members of the Regiment on his return.

The Hong Kong Branch of the Association send best wishes to all Old Comrades in the Association at home.

W. T. J. LANE.

MILL HILL BRANCH

Since the publication of the last Regimental Journal, the Mill Hill Branch of the "Die-Hards" Club continues to meet on the last Saturday of each month in the Drill Hall, Deansbrook Road, Edgware. This will be so except for the month of December, when we have our Christmas Draw and monthly meeting on the first Saturday, i.e. December 5, 1964.

Albuhera Day

Many new friends have joined us recently and our special Albuhera Day celebrations were well attended, the refreshments and hire of the hall, etc., costing our



Mill Hill Branch

Proposers of the Loyal and Regimental toasts, Albuhera Day 1964. Ex-Sgt. Bob Ryder, V.C., and Pte. Phillip Hammond

funds very little due to the generosity of various members who wish to remain anonymous. Telegrams were sent to Her Majesty, to the Colonel of the Regiment and to our 1st Battalion in Gibraltar.

The Loyal Toast was proposed by ex-Sgt. Bob Ryder, V.C., the assembled company standing whilst the first six bars of the National Anthem were played and we made our pledge. The toast to those who fell at Albuhera was proposed by 23999380 Pte. Phillip Hammond, the grandson of old "Driver" Cox; he was the youngest soldier and member of the branch present. After proposing the toast, the 57th March, "Sir Manley Power," was played whilst we paid tribute to those original "Die-Hards." It was very touching the way people applauded when it was announced who was to propose the toast. In the Shades, I'm sure old "Driver" nodded his head with pleasure.

The Derby Sweep

Six members were fortunate enough to draw horses in the Derby Sweep in Aid of the Widows' Flatlets, one being the lucky holder of "Indiana," the horse that came second in the race. That was quite a coincidence as George Corby who held the ticket tells me his wife was speaking of her girlhood days in India just prior to him receiving the letter notifying him that ticket number 8424 was the one for the horse.

Visiting Obourg and Mons this year were six members of the branch; they were Messrs. Ashby, Bratby, Corby, Coxhill, Matthews and G. J. Smith, M.M. Their presence there prevented them attending the Remembrance Service with us at Mill Hill, but it is a pleasure to know



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BRITISH LEGION, 49 PALL MALL, S.W.1

so many of our own particular friends were able to make the pilgrimage to the actual scene of the battle, fought half a century ago.

At the special parade and service held at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, to commemorate the Great War of 1914-18, our own members were well to the fore. Whilst writing of the attendance at this parade, I must congratulate our sister branch of the 9th Battalion. They made an extremely creditable turn-out, both in bearing and in numbers.

The report of the parade appears elsewhere in this issue so I will not waste your time or the Editor's space by repeating it. Many of our members were on parade and such is the diversity of our membership that we had representatives in every group there—ex-Regular, ex-Territorial, ex-Service Battalions, serving Regular and serving Territorial, whilst the Standard bearer and one of the escort are long standing members of this branch. (We also had a member at the Information Desk!)

Back in the Drill Hall, nine new members enrolled and to these and all members who have recently joined us we give a very hearty welcome. To our "Die-Hards" Comrades in all other branches we send fraternal greetings wishing them increased membership and joy at their gatherings. We also assure them of a genuine welcome whenever they, as a party or as individuals, drop in and give us the pleasure of their company.

MAJOR DICK SMITH.

BANDSMEN & DRUMMERS' BRANCH

Our last meeting on Saturday, June 20, was made happier by an improvement in attendance. Jack Skinner managed to get along to join us and also Percy Edwards came in from Reading, where he was on holiday, Bert Chillery from Aldershot and Vic Peterson, one of our pupil bandsmen from Kneller Hall. The holidays accounted for some of those absent, one of whom was Ted Hill who, with his family, were involved in a car smash. Fortunately there were no serious injuries but the car was a write-off. Bill Mathews was in the Tyrol, and Loftly Lowe and George Chacksfield were at T.A. Camp. I am sorry to say that illness kept some away also, Boss Barter being one and Joe Hanks another. I called on Joe last Saturday and found him very ill indeed. This news was further saddened by a phone call from Peter Stretton to let me know that his father, "Pop" to most of us, had passed away. Although Pop had never actually joined our branch, most of us regarded him as a member. He joined as a boy in 1924 and served with the 1st Battalion until posted to the 2nd Battalion in India in 1926, and he remained with that Battalion (as far as I know) until finally discharged. Owing to the current postal difficulties I have not been able to get his full record but I understand that he was a Sergeant Major. An obituary will be found elsewhere in the Journal. Busty Merrett has now lost his leg and expects to join us at the Regimental Reunion sporting his new artificial one. He has also been accepted on the waiting list for a new regimental house.

Very shortly I shall be away at Torquay, where I hope to meet Percy Edwards again and possibly Phulley Phillips. I have a number of letters to answer and I apologise to those waiting for replies. Never let it be said that the heat has got me down; nevertheless I haven't felt energetic enough to write a lot just lately.

"Brewer"

9th BATTALION BRANCH

We held our Annual Dinner on Saturday, May 2 at The Cavendish Ballroom, Willesden High Road and 115 sat down to a novelty dinner of Steak and Kidney pudding—and jolly good too!! Numbers present were certainly up on previous years and Hon. Secretary H. T. Fisher and the standing Committee of the Branch had a happy evening at seeing so many present. One of the things that was so pleasing was the fact that quite a number present were those who had ignored us for several years and we are hoping that this may be a good augury for next year when, if all who could, did come we could sit down 200 or more.

I regret to advise that well known figure in the 9th—A. W. Church—has passed on. He will indeed be missed at our functions.

H.F.

17th BATTALION, O.C.A. 1914-18

This year commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the landing of the Battalion in Gibraltar in September 1914—the first T.F. Battalion to go overseas in the 1914-18 War.

The Annual Reunion Dinner was held at Beale's Restaurant, Holloway Road, on Friday, April 17, 1964.

Seventy members attended under the chairmanship of C.Q.M.S. Percival.

Guests of the evening were Colonel W. E. Pringle, the last Honorary Colonel of the 7th Battalion, and Colonel F. Walden, Secretary of the Regimental Association.

S. V. EDGE

"B" COY, 2/7th BATTALION, O.C.A. 1914-18

The Golden Jubilee Reunion Dinner was held at The Blackstock Hotel, 284 Seven Sisters Road, London, N.4, on Friday, May 8, 1964, under the chairmanship of Mr. V. S. M. Williams.

The Guest of Honour was Colonel W. E. Pringle, the last Honorary Colonel of the 7th Battalion.

Mr. George Rowe, the energetic Honorary Secretary, writes to say that the survivors of this company have met every year since 1919. This must surely be unique.

2/10th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment O.C.A. (1914-1918)

The 36th Re-union Dinner of this unit took place at the Bolton Hotel, 326 Earl's Court Road, S.W.5, on Saturday, May 16 (Albuhara Day) 1964. This was a special occasion commemorating the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Battalion in 1914.

Some 80 ex-2/10th men and their guests were present under the Chairmanship of A. D. Scudamore, O.B.E., who proposed a special toast to the memory of the Battalion and of all who served in it between September 12, 1914 (when the Battalion was raised) and August 20, 1918 (when with many other units of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force it was disbanded). Amongst the guests were Colonel F. Walden (Secretary of the Regimental Association) who responded to the toast of "The Regiment and the Regimental Association" and the Rev. G. A. Lewis Lloyd, M.B.E., B.A. (Hon. Padre), who replied on behalf of "The Guests".

This was a memorable occasion and one to which we had long looked forward. We shall have a further opportunity of commemorating this "Jubilee" at our Annual Remembrance Service to be held on the afternoon of Sunday, November 8, next at Chiswick Parish Church, The Mall, W.4. where the Battalion's Colour is deposited and a Memorial erected. All inquiries should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary at "Cleveland," Byes Lane, Sidford, Sidmouth, Devon.

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MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION Minutes of an Executive Committee Meeting held at Guildhall, Westminster, S.W.1, on Tuesday, July 21, 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 B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L.; Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, D.L.; Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.; Lt.-Col. G. W. Webber, T.D.; Major P. W. Galvin; Major B. St. G. A. Reed, M.C.; Major E. F. Thompson, M.C., T.D.; Major M. P. Weedon, M.C.; Capt. A. W. Ramsay, J.P.; R.S.M. H. Boeseley; Mr. W. Knight, M.B.E., and Col. F. Walden, D.L. (Secretary).

In attendance: Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E. (Chairman), Mill Hill Branch.

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.; 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. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D.; Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D.; Drum-Major J. Lewis and Mr. T. R. Bennett.

1. Before opening the Meeting the Chairman welcomed Capt. Ramsay and Mr. Knight, who were attending for the first time.

The Chairman also expressed, on behalf of the Committee, pleasure that Major Smith was attending to give a report on the activities of the Mill Hill Branch, of which he is Chairman.

2. Report on Activities of Mill Hill Branch

(a) Major Smith stated that he was glad to be able to report that his Branch was a flourishing one, and that this was mainly due to the enthusiasm of its members, who at present totalled 317.

Membership included survivors of the Boer War, the 1914-18 War, the 1939-45 War, and now with ex-National Servicemen joining a younger element was entering the Branch. The widows of deceased members were invited to become honorary members, and attend meetings. Meetings were held on the last Saturday of each month, except in December, when the Meeting was held on the first Saturday. They were very informal affairs, and wives and lady friends accompanied members. It was felt that, by inviting the ladies, many more attended and the meetings were very happy ones.

Major Smith stated that the 5th Battalion were very co-operative and helped in many ways to make the meetings successful.

(b) The Chairman congratulated Major Smith on the undoubted success of his Branch, which was such a good example for others to follow.

(c) Col. Ellis stated that he felt that all the other Branches could learn from the successful running of the Mill Hill Branch, and asked if arrangements could be made for them to visit the Mill Hill Branch when it met.

Major Smith said that other Branches had already been invited and had attended.

(d) The Chairman reminded members that the Secretary from time to time held meetings of Branch Secretaries and that the interchange of ideas at these

meetings should help to encourage other Branches to follow the lead of the Mill Hill Branch.

(e) Having made his report and taken part in the discussion which followed Major Smith withdrew from the Meeting.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on February 25, 1964, were passed and signed by the Chairman.

4. Secretary's Report

(a) The Chairman congratulated the Secretary on a very comprehensive report.

(b) The Vice-Chairman endorsed the Chairman's remarks. He said that he was happy to know that the state of the Association Funds made it possible for assistance to be given in so many deserving cases. He felt that those who thought that the demands on the Charitable Fund would diminish were wrong.

Applications were still being received from survivors of the 1914-18 War and would be for some years yet, and as the survivors of the 1939-45 War got older, their needs would be greater. It was, therefore, necessary always to ensure that the Charitable Fund was in a healthy state.

(c) Col. Ellis asked if it was difficult to place men in jobs. The Secretary replied that the opposite was the case—he could not find the men to fill the jobs offered to the Association.

(d) There being no further comments the Report was adopted.

5. Correspondence

A file containing the following letters was circulated for members of the Committee to read:

A. Letters of Appreciation for Individual Charitable Grants

- (i) Letters dated January 23 and 29, 1964, from S.S.A.F.A. Horsham, re ex-Cpl. J. Hedges (aged 90).
- (ii) Letter dated May 8, 1964, from Chief Welfare Officer, Middlesex County Council, re ex-Pte. H. J. Penn, late 2/7th Battalion.
- (iii) (a) Letter dated May 21, 1964, from Chief Welfare Officer, Middlesex County Council, re ex-Pte. (?) H. C. Lagdon, late 4th Battalion.
- (b) Letter dated June 14, 1964, from ex-Pte. Lagdon, late 4th Battalion.
- (iv) Letter dated June 17, 1964, from Chief Welfare Officer, Middlesex County Council, re Mrs. Elsie Warry, widow of ex-Pte. C. A. Warry, late 6th Battalion.
- (v) Letter dated June 29 from Welfare Officer, Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance, Exeter, re Mrs. M. B. Kendall, widow of ex-Pte. Kendall, who served in the Regiment from February 1915 to October 1917.
- (vi) Letter received on July 14 from Mr. T. J. Milroy, 8 Albuhera Close, Enfield, in appreciation of a grant of £23 8s. 8d. obtained from the Far East Prisoners of War Fund to pay bills which were incurred when he was laid off through an accident.

B. Letters of Appreciation from Recipients of Presentation Photographs of Albuhera Day Parade 1963

- (vii) Letter dated May 12, 1964, from Rev. Terence Quinlan.
- (viii) Letter dated May 15, 1964, from Rev. L. W. Mathews, Chaplain to the Household Brigade.
- (ix) Letter dated May 20, 1964, from Rev. W. E. B. Jones.
- (x) Letter dated May 25, 1964, from Mrs. Hedley.

C. Miscellaneous

- (xi) Letter dated June 16, 1964, from Miss Aileen Woods of Hong Kong, regarding her subscription to the Lord Lieutenant's Appeal for Widows' Flatlets at Enfield.

6. Finance Sub-Committee's Report

(a) *Cottage Homes, Mill Hill*—The Chairman stated that nos. 3 and 4 Cottages had now been modernised at considerable cost, which was met by realising the capital on all the investments in the Cottage Homes, and that in future maintenance charges would have to be met from the Charitable Fund.

(b) *Investments*—The Chairman drew attention to the sale of investments decided on by the Finance Sub-Committee and the re-investment in Ranks Hovis 6 per cent. Convertible Loan Stock 1985-88.

(c) Summary of Accounts:

- (i) The Chairman stated that the two Summaries—Charitable Funds and War Memorial Fund—at Annexure C1 of the Agenda had been prepared at the request of Brigadier Rackham.
- (ii) *Charitable Funds*—The Chairman explained that the Bank Loan had been necessary in order to help finance the costs of the Widows' Bungalows, pending the encashment of 5% Defence Bonds. He also explained that Sundry Donations included money received from the Middlesex County Council Sunday Entertainment Fund, £50 from the 1st Battalion and from Branches, and £200 from the Army Benevolent Fund. In reply to a question from Col. Clayton the Chairman said that he thought that the quarterly grant of £57 10s. 0d. from the County Council Sunday Entertainments Fund would not continue under the Greater London Scheme.
- (iii) *War Memorial Fund*—The Chairman explained that the loan from the Enfield Borough Council was being steadily reduced, and that the rents and housing grant were sufficient to meet normal costs. He stated that application had been made for permission to raise the nominal rent of 5s. to 7s. 6d. weekly on the Albuhera Close Estate to meet increased costs. If approval is given to this and the Executive Committee agree to raise the rents any case of hardship would receive sympathetic consideration.

- (iv) *Widows' Bungalows*—The Chairman stated that the Association had been able to obtain a loan of £2,000 from the Enfield Borough Council, and that the housing grant of £96 per annum for two years had been received. He also informed the Meeting that a promise had been received from the Army Benevolent Fund to the effect that, if their appeal in Middlesex is successful, a grant of £1,000 towards the Bungalows would be made.

(v) *Albuhera Close Estate*—The Chairman made the following general observations:—

- (a) The Charitable Funds have not so far been encroached upon for the upkeep of these houses. It must be borne in mind, however, that costs will mount in the future.
- (b) In Brigadier Rackham's report fireplaces and refrigerators in 20 houses would have to be replaced during the next few years at a cost of about £1,500. In addition the houses will need to be repainted next year. Hitherto the cost of this and of repairs has been met from income but, until the estimate for painting is produced, it will not be possible to judge whether the extra rent proposed will meet the increased costs or not.
- (c) It is the aim of the Finance Sub-Committee that the Charitable Funds should not be used to keep the properties in order, and that they should be self supporting, but the Executive Committee may have to take some action at some later date if funds are not sufficient to meet all costs. A possible solution would be to let one or two of the cottages to ex-members of the Regiment at economic rents.
- (vi) The Vice Chairman drew attention to the fact that considerable sums of money had been received through sweepstakes organised by Regimental Headquarters, and he expressed gratitude to Major Heywood and the Secretary for the work they have done in connection with them.
- (vii) After some discussion it was decided that an annual budget would be very helpful to the Committee, and the Chairman undertook to produce one for 1965 at the next Executive Committee meeting.
- (d) There being no further comments the Report was adopted and the accounts approved for submission to the Annual General Meeting.

7. Housing Sub-Committee's Report

Brigadier Rackham moved that his Report as presented be adopted.

He stated that the bungalows had been visited and the tenants were very pleased with them. The builders were proceeding with the necessary work in connection with drainage, etc.

A decision had not yet been made regarding the fencing, but it was hoped that when it was received it would be in the Association's favour.

In answer to a question Brigadier Rackham stated that a post and wire mesh fence had been erected.

As regards the waiting list a decision was about to be given in regards to priorities.

The annual inspection would be carried out by the Housing Manager, Major Jones, and a report would be made at the next Executive Committee Meeting. It was hoped that Mr. Knight would assist Major Jones with the inspection.

Brigadier Rackham drew attention to the amount of work done by Major Jones and his wife, and the time which it was necessary for them to spend each Saturday collecting rents. He stated that a great deal of work was involved in changes of tenancy which had taken place. He also stated that the work involved in collecting from tenants sums of money to cover electricity and gas accounts, and arranging to clear the accounts as they became due, was vast, and it was for consideration whether or not tenants would prefer to handle these matters themselves. After a short discussion Brigadier Rackham agreed to discuss this with Major Jones and obtain the views of tenants. At the same time he assured the Committee that Major Jones did not want help with his work.

The Chairman undertook to write to Major Jones, on behalf of the Executive Committee, and thank him for his work in connection with the War Memorial Cottages and Homes.

There being no further comment the Report was adopted.

8. General Policy Statement

The Chairman explained that, in drawing up the Statement at Appendix "E" to the Agenda, the Vice Chairman and he had tried to reflect the majority view, and he felt that, if a debate on the subject had to be held it would be a long one and would have to be left to a later meeting.

After a short discussion it was agreed that:—

(a) The words " (other than officers) " should be deleted from the second line of para 1(a).

(b) It should be recorded that the statement was for the use and guidance of the Executive Committee only.

Subject to the above amendment and addition the adoption of the statement was proposed by Brigadier Rackham, seconded by Major Thompson, and passed unanimously.

9. Co-opted Members

A proposal to appoint Kenneth Goodacre Esq., T.D., D.L., Deputy Clerk of the Greater London Council, a Co-opted Member of the Executive Committee was considered.

After a short discussion it was agreed that Mr. Goodacre would have very little spare time to attend meetings, but that he could best assist by acting as Liaison Officer between the new Council and the Association. He had for some years been most helpful and shown great interest in the Association's work.

It was agreed that the Chairman should approach him to serve on the Executive Committee and that he should also be invited to become an honorary member of the Association.

10. **Composition of Sub-Committees**

(a) *Finance*—With reference to Minute 8 of the Finance Sub-Committee Meeting held on July 13, 1964 and circulated as Appendix "B" to the Agenda, the Chairman proposed that, subject to his agreement, Capt. Ramsey should be appointed to serve on this Sub-Committee.

Capt. Ramsey agreed to serve, and his appointment was approved unanimously.

The appointment of another younger member of the Executive Committee to serve on this Sub-Committee was deferred for further consideration.

(b) *Housing*—With reference to Minute 2 of the Housing Sub-Committee Meeting held on June 8 and circulated as Appendix "D" to the Agenda, the proposed list of members was agreed to, except in the case of Major E. L. Heywood, who was debarred under Rule 27, as he was not a member of the Executive Committee.

11. **Branches of the Regimental Association—Invitation to O.C.A.s**

It was unanimously agreed that the following O.C.A.s should be invited to become official Branches of the Regimental Association:—

- 1/7th Battalion (1914-18)
- "D" Company 1/10th Battalion (1914-18)
- 2/10th Battalion (1914-18)
- 13th Battalion (1914-18)
- 17th and 23rd Battalions (1914-18)

12. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 27, 1964.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,
Secretary.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, July 21, 1964

Secretary's Report**1. Benevolent Cases**

(a) During the period from January 1, 1964 to April 30, 1964 the sum of £379 6s. 1d. was spent on assisting 45 cases. The breakdown showing the service of these cases is as follows:—

1914-18 War	..	..	23
Between Wars	..	..	2
1939-45 War	..	..	13
Post War	..	..	7

(b) *Clothing Grants*. Six grants were made, all except one to elderly ex-members of the Regiment or their widows.

The one exception was the handicapped son of a sergeant of the Regiment, who was killed in action in North Africa.

(c) *Convalescent Holidays*. Four grants were made.

One of these was to an ex-member of the Regiment, who served throughout the 1939-45 War and in 1955 had a coronary thrombosis, which has left him permanently disabled.

Another was to an elderly widow of a soldier of the 1st Battalion, who was killed in action on November 10, 1914. She suffers from osteo-arthritis, and was badly in need of a holiday which she had not had for many years.

(d) *Educational Grants*. The seventh grant was made of £30, to which 51st (Highland) Division Trust Fund adds £75, to meet the balance of one year's fees for the son of an ex-member of the Regiment at a Cathedral School.

(e) *Fuel Grants*. A total of eleven grants were made. Of these two deserve particular mention:—

- (i) A widow, aged 82, whose husband died as a result of war service in 1933, and who herself is a bad bronchial case.
- (ii) A comparatively young ex-soldier, who served in the 1939-45 War and was discharged in February 1954. After leaving the service he suffered from disseminated sclerosis, and the disease has made rapid progress, with the result that he cannot now move about and his wife has difficulty in keeping him warm.

(f) *Food Grants*. Four grants were made.

One of these was to an old soldier, aged 90, living with his wife, aged about 50, in a caravan in a small wood and in extremely poor circumstances.

Another was to an ex-Bandsman who served in the 1914-18 War. He is a very sick man following a severe stroke two years ago. As a result his right arm is completely paralysed and his speech is affected. He needs whole-time attention and cannot be left.

(g) *Housing*. Six grants were made to assist with various housing problems.

One of these was to assist a married soldier (with nine children) on his discharge to remove his furniture from Aldershot to Bournemouth.

Another was, in co-operation with the Cheshire Regimental Association, to a recently discharged soldier to assist him with the purchase of furniture for a self-contained flat.

(h) *Rent and Rates Arrears*. Four cases were assisted—three with rent arrears and one with rates arrears. In two cases the arrears of rent were due to illness.

(j) Miscellaneous Grants

- (i) Three grants were made to help with the payment of debts caused through death or illness.
- (ii) A grant was made to an ex-soldier to assist him in a small way with the funeral expenses of his one-year-old baby, who died suddenly of whooping cough.
- (iii) A grant was made towards the cost of the fares of the wife of an old soldier of the 1914-18 War, to enable her to get regular treatment at the Moorfields Eye Hospital.

2. Executive Committee

(a) *Chairman and Vice-Chairman*. With reference to Minute 12 of the Executive Committee Meeting held on February 25, 1964, in accordance with Rule 22 the President has approved of both appointments.

(b) *Nominated Members*. With reference to Minute 1 of the Executive Committee Meeting held on February

25, 1964 the President has, in accordance with Rule 21(b), approved of all the nominations mentioned in Minutes 1 and 2 of the Meeting of Ex-Officio Members held on February 7, 1964.

3. Members' Deaths

Notification has been received that the following members have died since my last report:—

- Lt.-Col. W. W. Jeffery
- Lt.-Col. W. H. Samuel
- Ex-R.S.M. E. R. Furniss (late 3rd Battalion)
- Ex-Sgt. F. J. Edwards, v.c. (late 12th (S) Battalion)
- Ex-Sgt. T. Rockall (late 7th Battalion)
- Ex-Cpl. J. Payne (late 4th Battalion)
- Ex-L/Cpl. A. W. Havard (late 1st Battalion)

4. Employment

The following ex-members of the Regiment have been found employment by the Regular Forces Employment Association since my last report:—

- Marraw, W. (6205081)—Security manager for Contractor.
- Terry, F. T. (23834754)—Driver.

5. New Branch

With considerable help from Major L. T. Honeybun progress has been made towards the formation of a branch at Portsmouth.

We are now in touch with 22 ex-members of the Regiment living in the area, who are interested, and we have 14 other names but without addresses.

Provisional arrangements have been made to hold a meeting in Portsmouth on Friday, September 25, at which it is hoped a decision will be taken to apply to the Executive Committee to form a branch.

6. War Memorial Cottages, Mill Hill

With reference to Minute 9(c) of the Executive Committee Meeting held on February 25, 1964, the following is the present situation:—

(a) Mrs. Bagnall has moved from No. 4 Cottage to one of the new Widows' Bungalows at Albuhera Close, Enfield.

(b) Mr. and Mrs. Hayes have vacated No. 2 Cottage and occupied No. 4 Cottage.

(c) Mrs. Comber has refused to leave No. 3 Cottage, and steps are being taken to have her evicted. The court case is due for hearing at Willesden County Court on July 29.

(d) Mr. and Mrs. Stevens have been given notice to quit No. 1 Cottage by December 31 next.

7. War Memorial Homes, Enfield

(a) *Waiting List*. With reference to Minute 9(b) of the Executive Committee Meeting held on February 25, 1964, the following organisations have offered to help:—

- (i) The British Legion, 49 Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.
- (ii) Joint Committee of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and the British Red Cross Society, 2 Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W.1.

In the case of the British Legion full details will be published in their monthly circular, which has a

country-wide circulation; and, in the case of the British Red Cross, details have already been circularised.

(b) *Rentals*. With reference to Minute 8(d) of the Executive Committee Meeting held on February 25, 1964, the Enfield Borough Council have been approached on this subject and, in a letter dated April 23, 1964, the Town Clerk informed me that it will be necessary for him to place the Association's request before the appropriate Committee of the Council, and that he will write to me again as soon as he is able to do so.

(c) *Housing Subsidy—Widows' Bungalows*. A remittance of £180 has now been received from the Ministry of Housing through Enfield Borough Council. From the total amount of £96 due for each of the years 1963/64 and 1964/65 the Ministry have withheld approximately 5% pending audit.

The Borough Treasurer has informed me that he will forward the balance of £12 on receipt from the Ministry, and that annual payments will be made from 1965/66 onwards in the normal way.

8. Annual Reunion 1964

Arrangements have been made to hold the Annual Reunion again this year at Seymour Hall, London, W.1. on Friday, October 23.

9. Investments

With reference to Minute 5 of the Finance Sub-Committee Meeting held on July 13, 1964, the Official Custodian for Charities gave the necessary instructions to Messrs Mullens & Co. on July 14, 1964.

10. Association Standard

Since my last report the Association Standard has been carried, or used, on the following occasions:—
(a) 1/7th Battalion (1939-45) Dinner on March 14, 1964.

(b) Albuhera Day Reunion, Mill Hill Branch.

(c) Dunkirk Veterans' Association Service of Remembrance on May 31, 1964.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,
Secretary.

**Lord Lieutenant's
Appeal for
Widows Flatlets
Albuhera Close
Enfield**

**Have you given your
contribution to this
worthy cause?**

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION OF THE
MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

BALANCE SHEET, DECEMBER 31, 1963

	Charitable Fund	War Memorial Fund	Cottage Homes
Accumulated Funds	£ 36,350	£ 38,824	£ 1,265
Creditors	232	928	633
Bank Overdraft	3,507		
Provision for Maintenance—Mill Hill and Enfield	109		
Mrs. Renny Legacy	3,038		
Site Improvement Account		137	
Loan Redemption Reserve		602	
Loan Account (Secured)		6,308	
Lord Lieutenant's Appeal		3,601	
Advance from Association		2,440	
	£43,236	£53,020	£1,898
Investments at Cost	36,077	2,713	
(Mid-Market value December 31, 1963)	(34,310)	(2,730)	
Mortgage	1,000		
Property		49,061	1,653
Furniture and Fittings at nominal value	1		
Premium Bonds	25		
Stocks at Cost	262		
Debtors	23	74	109
Cash at Bankers and in Hand	317	641	136
Cash in Hand of O.C.A. Clubs	53		
Mrs. Renny Legacy—Investment, etc. Lord Lieutenant's Appeal—Cash at Bank	3,038		
Advance to War Memorial Fund	2,440	531	
	£43,236	£53,020	£1,898

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 1963

	Charitable Fund	War Memorial Fund	Cottage Homes	Die- Hards Journal
INCOME:				
Grants and Donations	589			
Subscriptions, etc.	729			174
Interest on Investments	1,541		58	
Income Tax recovered on Covenants	103			
Profit on Ties and Badges	37			
Rents		327		
Maintenance Receipts		52		
Housing Grant		330		
Advertisements				189
Grant from Charitable Fund				100
Excess of Expenditure over Income			2	228
	£2,990	£709	£60	£691

EXPENDITURE:				
Grants and Allowances	1,468			
Administration Expenses	805	46	2	50
Wreaths	70			
O.C.A. Reunion	129			
Grant Diehards Journal	100			
Upkeep of War Memorial, Hong Kong	10			
Refreshments Remembrance Day	46			
H.D. Reunion	30			
Albuhara Day Parade (less grants)	92			
Old Comrades' Standard	77			
Hong Kong Reunion	29			
Rates and Insurance		57	29	
Repairs and Maintenance		196	29	
Interest on Loans		190		
Amortisation of Loan		62		
Printing and Distribution				641
Excess of Income over Ex- penditure	143	158		
	£2,990	£709	£60	£691

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(Telephone: Camberley 3829)

Our Advertisers

It would be greatly appreciated by the Editor if readers would mention "The Die-Hards" when corresponding with or purchasing from firms who advertise in this Regimental Journal.

ASSOCIATION ACCOUNT

In the interests of economy it has been decided to print only an abridged form of the Association Account which has been approved by the Auditors. Copies of the full Accounts are in the hands of each O.C.A. Club Secretary and may be inspected by any member.