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(Photo by courtesy of The Associated Press Ltd.)

Major-General John Willoughby, leader of the British Military Mission to Zambia, at the Kariba Dam during an on-the-spot investigation of the installation—a crucial factor in Zambia's economy.

The Die Hards

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



HALF YEARLY : APRIL AND OCTOBER
VOL. XVI No. 3 APRIL 1966 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," "Serangapatam," "Albuhera," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsula," "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1900-02."

World War I—46 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914, '18," "La Bassée, 1914," "Messines, 1914, '17, '18," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915, '17, '18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Fresenberg," "Bellewaarde," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916, '18," "Albert, 1916, '18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Flers-Courcelette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916, '18," "Bapaume, 1917, '18," "Arras, 1917, '18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917, '18," "Arleux," "Plochem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcapelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917, '18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazeubrouck," "Bailloul," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambré," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suvla," "Landing at Suvla," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordon," "Tell 'Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18," "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murmur, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

World War II—7 Battalions—North-West Europe, 1940: "The Dyle," "Defence of the Escaut," "Ypres—Comines Canal," "Dunkirk 1940," "South-East Asia, 1941: "Hong Kong," "North Africa, 1942-43: "El Alamein," "Advance on Tripoli," "Mareth," "Akarit," "Djebel Roumana," "Sicily, 1943": "Francofonte," "Sferro," "Sferro 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 Nederijn," "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," "Chuam-Ni," "Kapyong-chon," "Kapyong."

Colonel of the Regiment Major-General C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C.

Regimental Headquarters

Location: T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.
(Tel. EDGware 2625)

R.O.II: Col. F. Walden, D.L.

R.O.III: Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E.

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

Affiliated Cadet Units

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

Regular and Territorial Battalions

1st Battalion

O.C.: Lt.-Col. J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.

Location: British Guiana

5th Battalion (T.A.)

O.C.: Lt.-Col. P. J. Hall, 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: Bt. Col. I. D. Brotherton, T.D., D.L.
Cadet Executive Officer: Major A. T. Jones M.B.E., T.D.

Allied Units

CANADA

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

AUSTRALIA

University of New South Wales Regt.

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.: Howe Barracks, Canterbury.
Brigade Colonel: Col. I. H. Battye, M.B.E.
D.A.A.G.: Major M. P. St. F. Dracopoli, Queen's Own Bu. Ts.

Officers Location Statement

REGULAR OFFICERS

Major-General	J. E. F. Willoughby, C.B., C.B.E. . . .	G.O.C. MELF
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	
Col.	A. R. Waller, M.B.E., M.C. . . .	Colonel G.S. (Trg.) ALFCE
Col.	A. G. Hewitt, M.B.E., M.C. . . .	Colonel A/Q Singapore Base Area
Col.	I. R. Burrows, O.B.E., M.A. . . .	Colonel G.S., D.I. (M.I.) 3, Ministry of Defence
Col.	I. H. Batty, M.B.E., B.A. . . .	Brigade Colonel, Home Counties Brigade
Lt.-Col. (L/Col.)	D. C. L. Nolda, O.B.E., B.A. . . .	Commandant, Sennelager Training Centre, B.A.O.R.
Lt.-Col.	F. de R. Morgan, M.C. . . .	G.S.O.1., A.S.D.1, Ministry of Defence
Lt.-Col.	P. L. Pearce Gould, M.B.E., M.A. . . .	A.Q.M.G., H.Q. Eastern Command
Lt.-Col.	C. N. Clayden	G.S.O.1, British Guiana Garrison
Lt.-Col.	D. Sax	T.S.O.1, Ministry of Defence (A.E.P. 2a)
Lt.-Col.	J. N. Shipster, D.S.O. . . .	1st Battalion
Major	G. C. Dawson	14 Signal Regiment, Gloucester
Major	E. F. Thompson, M.C., T.D. . . .	D.A.A.G., A.G.2, Ministry of Defence
Major	P. W. Galvin	G.S.O.2 (Secretary Exercise Planning Staff) S.H.A.P.E.
Major	E. A. H. Jeffcoat	G.S.O.2, A.S.D.3, Ministry of Defence
Major	C. H. Mieville, M.C. . . .	G.S.O.2 (Trg.), H.Q. 53 (Welsh) Division (T.A.)/Wales District
Major	P. G. V. Bellers	D.A.A.G., A.P.S.4, Ministry of Defence
Major	K. J. Carter	21.C., 1st Battalion
Major	B. A. M. Pielow	British Military Delegation, Paris
Major	H. J. A. Moore	1st Battalion
Major	G. G. Norton	1st Battalion
Major	B. K. Clayden	B.M., 127 Infantry Brigade (T.A.)
Major	J. I. D. Pike, M.C. . . .	1st Battalion
Major	B. H. Marciandi	Joint Services Staff College
Major	C. L. Lawrence, M.C. . . .	Training Officer, 5th Battalion (T.A.)
Major	P. A. S. Wollocombe	D.A.Q.M.G. (Maint) H.Q. Northern Command
Major	J. S. B. Pollard	1st Battalion
Major	R. D. Fisher	1st Battalion
Major	M. V. Hayward	1st Battalion
Capt.	A. E. McManus	Technical Staff Course, Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham
Capt.	J. M. Hewson, M.C. . . .	G.S.O.3, (Ops.) H.Q. Cyrenaica District
Capt.	I. M. E. Lloyd	S.C. "Q" H.Q. 39 Inf. Bde. Gp.
Capt.	W. G. A. Crumley	1st Battalion
Capt.	H. M. du V. Lohan	Adjutant, Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers)
Capt.	M. C. D. L. Gilham	G.S.O.3, H.Q. FARELF
Capt.	P. Mallalieu	Adjutant, 5th Battalion (T.A.)
Capt.	M. D. Legg	1st Battalion
Capt.	P. V. Cheesman	1st Battalion
Capt.	M. F. Deakin	Army Air Corps attd. Royal Malaysian Air Force
Capt.	P. D. J. Clarke	1st Battalion
Capt.	G. Bulloch	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.)
Capt.	G. Goring	1st Battalion
Capt.	A. B. Cowing	1st Battalion
Capt.	R. C. Pitman	Trucial Oman Scouts
Capt.	J. G. Lofting	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.)
Capt.	F. K. Gladden	1st Battalion

Lt.	P. J. Gybbon-Monypenny	A.D.C. to G.O.C. 49 Div. (T.A.)/W.R. and N.M. District
Lt.	B. K. Finch	Malaysian Rangers
Lt.	P. J. Hubert	1st Battalion
Lt.	R. A. Bartlett	1st Battalion
Lt.	P. F. Packham	1st Battalion
Lt.	J. B. Hawkins	Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion, Oswestry
Lt.	D. J. Daniell	1st Battalion
Lt.	B. A. Carlston	1st Battalion
Lt.	M. B. Montgomery	1st Battalion
Lt.	D. M. Falcke	No. 42 Army Youth Team (Finchley)
Lt.	M. W. Deakin	1st Battalion
Lt.	A. G. D. Lowrie	1st Battalion
Lt.	R. H. Graham	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	S. M. Dowse	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	J. D. Janklaas	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	D. C. F. Gouda	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.)
Major (Q.M.)	A. E. F. Waldron, M.B.E. . . .	Home Counties Brigade Depot (P.S.)
Major (Q.M.)	P. Donovan	Q.M., Radfan Camp, Aden
Major (Q.M.)	F. L. Griffiths	4th Battalion, The Buffs (T.A.)
Capt. (Q.M.)	M. Wild	1st Battalion

SHORT SERVICE OFFICERS

Lt.	T. I. McMillan	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	P. G. Truman	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	S. J. Yates	Home Counties Brigade Depot (P.S.)
2/Lt.	R. Gancz	1st Battalion

5th BATTALION (T.A.)

Honorary Colonel

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

T.A. Officers

Lt.-Col.	P. J. Hall, T.D.	Battalion Commander
Major	J. D. Gunnell, T.D.	2IC
Major	M. J. Beaumont	O.C. "H.Q." Company
Major	H. E. Couch	O.C. "A" Company
Major	S. L. J. Henshaw	O.C. "B" Company
Capt.	G. J. Young	O.C. "C" Company
Capt.	J. S. Richards	2IC "B" Company
Capt.	M. J. S. Doran	O.C. "D" Company
Capt.	J. M. Robertson	2IC "C" Company
Capt.	D. O. M. Thomas	Platoon Commander
Capt.	J. C. Parkinson	I.O.
Capt.	R. G. Tett	2IC "H.Q." Company and Recce Platoon Commander
Capt.	T. D. Jones	2IC "A" Company
Capt.	D. L. Margand	2IC "D" Company
Lt.	J. J. Smith, M.C.	R.S.O.
Lt.	J. M. Brown	Platoon Commander
Lt.	D. S. Smith	Platoon Commander
Lt.	F. J. Hamilton	Platoon Commander
2/Lt.	M. L. Muirhead	Platoon Commander
2/Lt.	R. J. Claydon	Platoon Commander
Lt. (Q.M.)	R. G. Vaisey	2nd Quartermaster

Attached Officers

Major	R. L. MacQueen (R.A.M.C.)	Medical Officer
Rev.	R. Brown (R.A.Ch.D.)	Chaplain

Permanent Staff Officers

Major	C. L. Lawrence, M.C.	.. ..	Training Officer
Capt.	P. Mallalieu	.. ..	Adjutant
Lt.	D. W. Adkins	.. ..	Quartermaster

E.R.E.

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) Inf. Bde. (T.A.)

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

(corrected to March 1, 1966)

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

Bde. Rank or Pos. Appt.	Name	Unit	Bde. Rank or Pos. Appt.	Name	Unit
WARRANT OFFICERS CLASS I			SERGEANTS		
7	G.S.M. R. Dodkins	Bulford Garrison	4	Sgt. M. Butler	P.S. Staff
N.K.	R.S.M. K. Beale	1 Mx.	6	Sgt. R. Davies	Defence N.B.C. School
WARRANT OFFICERS CLASS II			ORDERLY ROOM SERGEANTS		
19	R.Q.M.S. A. DaCosta	School of Infantry	13	Sgt. K. Lloyd	1 Mx.
26	C.S.M. S. Michel	1 Mx.	20	Sgt. H. Horder	1 Mx.
28	C.S.M. M. Eastap	1 Mx.	47	Sgt. B. Tarry	1 Mx.
31	R.Q.M.S. G. Simmons	1 Mx.	54	Sgt. S. Speakman	1 Mx.
36	C.S.M. E. Steward	H.Q. 1(B.R.) Corps	57	Sgt. W. Argent	1 Mx.
43	C.S.M. D. Walters	1 Mx.	69	A/C/Sgt. J. Williamson	1 Mx.
56	C.S.M. R. Power	Bde. Depot (P.S.)	71	A/C/Sgt. B. Edey	1 Mx.
57	C.S.M. B. Warner	5 Mx. (T.A.)	88	A/C/Sgt. B. Pritchard	Malaysian Rangers
COLOUR SERGEANTS			91	A/C/Sgt. A. Briggs	1 Mx.
2	C/Sgt. J. Potter	1 Mx.	93	A/C/Sgt. J. Redmond	1 Mx.
4	C/Sgt. P. Diver	1 Mx.	94	Sgt. D. Miles	1 Mx.
20	C/Sgt. A. Nicholson	4 Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.	96	Sgt. J. Young	Inf. J.L.Bn.
21	C/Sgt. W. Smith	1 Mx.	98	Sgt. J. Kerr	4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.)
26	A/W.O.2 J. Martin, M.M.	1 Royal Sussex	100	Sgt. G. Overton	1 Mx.
31	C/Sgt. R. Clements	1 Mx.	112	Sgt. J. Leat	1 Mx.
35	A/W.O.2 C. Partridge	1 Mx.	116	Sgt. F. O'Rawe	1 Mx.
37	A/W.O.2 D. Lagden	1 Mx.	125	Sgt. J. Barr	5 Buffs (T.A.)
44	A/W.O.2 M. Elston	1 Mx.	130	Sgt. M. Quinn	Malaysian Rangers
46	A/W.O.2 R. Ford	1 Mx.	131	Sgt. R. Shave	1 Mx.
47	C/Sgt. C. Shinn	1 Mx.	135	Sgt. R. Dacosta	1 Mx.
52	C/Sgt. C. Blackwell	R.M.A. Sandhurst	136	Sgt. M. Weston	1 Mx.
			140	Sgt. J. Dickens	1 Mx.
			142	Sgt. D. Burke	5 Mx. (T.A.)
			144	Sgt. J. Meacock	Bde. Depot (P.S.)
			148	Sgt. J. Whittle	School of Infantry
			151	Sgt. W. Kerr	1 Mx.

Bde. Rank or Pos. Appt.	Name	Unit	Rank	Name	Company
155	Sgt. C. Barnes	5 Mx. (T.A.)	Sgt.	C. Holdford, B.E.M.	"H.Q." Company
164	Sgt. F. Potts	1 Queen's Own Buffs	Sgt.	E. R. Oakley	"H.Q." Company
165	Sgt. J. Reynolds	1 Mx.	Sgt.	A. Sills	"H.Q." Company
169	Sgt. P. McFadyn	Bde. Depot (P.S.)	Sgt.	D. F. Gainsbury	"B" Company
172	Sgt. L. Fisher	1 Mx.	Sgt.	C. B. Wagner	"B" Company
175	Sgt. A. Brumwell	1 Mx.	Sgt.	M. Ward	"D" Company
178	Sgt. F. Willis	1 Mx.	Sgt.	G. Young	"D" Company
179	Sgt. J. Redrup	1 Mx.	Sgt.	C. J. Purchase	"H.Q." Company
184	Sgt. A. Stevens	1 Mx.	Sgt.	G. M. Stunt	"H.Q." Company
185	Sgt. A. O'Gorman	1 Queen's Own Buffs	Sgt.	H. C. Large	"D" Company
N.K. Sgt.	B. Mullender	1 Mx.	Sgt.	N. K. Gasson	"D" Company
N.K. Sgt.	J. Rogers	42 A.Y.T.	Sgt.	A. C. Foster	"B" Company
N.K. Sgt.	T. Fisher	1 Mx.	Sgt.	R. Stone	"A" Company
N.K. Sgt.	R. Segar	Bde. Depot (P.S.)	Sgt.	J. W. H. Morgan	"D" Company
N.K. Sgt.	M. Flynn	1 Mx.	Sgt.	D. Harwood	"C" Company
N.K. Sgt.	T. Pryor	Bde. Depot (P.S.)	P/Sgt.	B. G. Smith	"A" Company
			P/Sgt.	C. Trindall	"D" Company
			P/Sgt.	D. S. Bartrick	"B" Company
			P/Sgt.	L. G. Eden	"H.Q." Company

BANDMASTER

4	B.M.	J. McShane	1 Mx.
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BAND SERGEANT

N.K. Sgt.	G. Beechey	1 Mx.
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SERGEANTS IN THE BAND

6	Sgt.	A. Torrie	1 Mx.
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DRUM MAJOR

2	W.O.2	J. Lewis	Bde. Depot (P.S.)
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ORDERLY ROOM SERGEANTS

1	W.O.2	P. Soper	A.A.J.L.Regt.
5	W.O.2	G. Cripps	1 Mx.
N.K. W.O.2	E. Nash	School of Infantry	
8	C/Sgt.	A. Gibbs	1 Queen's Surreys

5th BATTALION (T.A.)

Rank	Name	Company
Warrant Officers, Class II		
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	R. R. Birmingham	"H.Q." Company

Colour Sergeants

C/Sgt.	H. Rea	"D" Company
C/Sgt.	L. Hawkins, B.E.M.	"H.Q." Company (Signals)
C/Sgt.	A. E. Howe, M.B.E.	Battalion H.Q.
C/Sgt.	K. Mortimer	"H.Q." Company
C/Sgt.	A. Green	"H.Q." Company
C/Sgt.	F. W. Hawes	"B" Company
C/Sgt.	B. Lauwers	"H.Q." Company

DO YOU KNOW



R. F. E. A.

During 1965 the number of men and women from the Regular Armed Forces of the Crown placed in employment by the National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen was 11,906, which was 82% of those who registered at one or other of the Association's 48 Branches covering the whole of the United Kingdom. It is of interest that of this number 4,901 were from the Army and 27 were from our Regiment.

If when you get home you have mislaid the address of the Branch of this Association in your area you should apply at any big Post Office or to your own Regimental Association. They will give it to you.

Editor's Comments

New Year Honours List 1966

Although I have already done so in the Newsletter last January I would like, through these columns, to offer the heartiest congratulations of all our readers to Major-General J. E. F. Willoughby, C.B.E., on being made a Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (C.B.) and to Major (Q.M.) S. C. W. Weller, M.M., on being made a Member of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (M.B.E.) in the last New Years Honours list.

Honours and Awards

A brief reference was made in the January Newsletter to the award of the Military Cross to Lt. J. J. Smith of the 5th Battalion for gallantry in Aden whilst in command of a detachment of "Ever Readies" serving with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Sussex Regiment.

The actual citation has now been obtained and is published on page 192.

Not only is he the first "Ever Ready" to win the award but he is also the *only* T.A. member of the Regiment to be awarded a field decoration in the time of so-called peace.

New Pay and Pension Awards

Increases of Service pay and pensions as a result of the fourth biennial review under the Grigg system were announced earlier this year in Parliament.

Details of the basic increases affecting officers and soldiers are given in an article on page 190.

Personalia

H. Austin (ex-Sgt. 2661), a staunch Die-Hard, who served with the 11th (Service) Battalion during the 1914-18 War, and subsequently settled in Rhodesia, writes in colourful language about the position there *vis-a-vis* the British Government.

Amongst other things he bewails the fact that, as his bank account in London is blocked, he is unable to pay his subscriptions until the present crisis has been resolved.

Alfred Barrow (ex-Pte. 54417), who served in the 7th Battalion during the 1914-18 War and is now living near Pershore, in Worcestershire, had frequent spells in hospital last year with heart trouble.

Military Mission to Zambia

The picture reproduced as a frontispiece to this issue is historic. It appeared on the front page of *The Daily Telegraph* of January 22, 1966, and I am indebted to the Associated Press Ltd. for being allowed to publish it.

Those who read the article by *The Daily Telegraph* Staff Correspondent, John Bulloch, which was published on the same day as the picture, will know as much as your Editor does about the Mission's task in Zambia.

Move of 1st Battalion to British Guiana

By the time that this issue of *The Die-Hards* is in the hands of its readers the 1st Battalion will be in British Guiana for its six to nine months' unaccompanied emergency tour.

We are sure that the Battalion will acquit itself well in the role allotted to it during the difficult months ahead.

An interesting article on the Colony and how the Battalion is to be deployed to carry out its task is published on page 207.

Major E. L. Heywood

I cannot close my Comments without referring to the fact that, after nearly 49 years of active participation in Regimental affairs, Major Heywood has retired for health reasons from his post as R.O. III at Regimental Headquarters.

To say that this very well known and popular Regimental officer will be missed is an understatement.

An appreciation by a friend of over 40 years' acquaintance appears elsewhere in this issue of *The Die-Hards*.

We were glad to know that by the end of the summer he had recovered sufficiently to enjoy a much-needed rest at a British Legion Convalescent Home.

Congratulations to Bandmaster Dennis Bayton, a former Band Boy in the 2nd Battalion, on his promotion to commissioned rank and appointment as Director of Music to the Kenya Army.

A letter from him, giving his new address, appears under CORRESPONDENCE in this issue. He hopes that those who owe him a letter will take note!!

Major Peter Bellers has been selected for the appointment of D.A.Q.M.G. at Headquarters, 43rd (Wessex) Division/District with effect from May 19 next.

Sid Buckle (ex-Sgt., 6188693) who, as reported in last July's Newsletter (No. 6), had had a very serious accident, is now home again, where he is making slow, but satisfactory, progress.

All who know and served with this very smart soldier will wish him a speedy recovery.

Capt. Gavin Bulloch has now completed his tour of duty with the Jamaica Regiment and will rejoin the 1st Battalion after leave.

We were very pleased to read in the *Daily Telegraph* on November 21, 1965, of the appointment of Major John Bywaters as Secretary of the Professional Golfers' Association. Well done!

We shall now expect him to put in an appearance at the Regimental Meetings.

An old Die-Hard who originally enlisted over 53 years ago—in October 1912—visited Regimental Headquarters quite recently. He is Don Capel (14319 and 6192255), one of a well-known Regimental family. He served with the 2nd Battalion in the U.K. and Malta up to the outbreak of the 1914-18 War, but was too young to go on active service in 1914. He eventually joined the B.E.F. and at the end of the war was posted to the Demobilisation Staff at Purfleet.

In 1919 he volunteered for the North Russia Expeditionary Force and, whilst in Russia, he was awarded the D.C.M. during an action at Archangel when he showed great gallantry in fighting off a small enemy force. Although during the operation he was wounded in the leg he remained at duty.

Those who remember Peter Albert Chandler (G/29648), who was killed in action on May 3, 1917, whilst serving with the 12th (Service) Battalion, may be interested to know that his wife is now living at 24 Tylney Avenue, Rochford, Essex.

Lt.-Col. Norman Clayden, on giving up command of Home Counties Brigade Depot, was selected as G.S.O.1, British Guiana Garrison, and flew out to take up his new appointment in January.

He writes to say that life in British Guiana is extremely interesting, if a little hot at times—in more ways than one!

Congratulations and best wishes to Capt. Andrew Cowing on his marriage last month to Miss Sylvia Robin Stanley.

Capt. Michael Deakin, who has been doing an extended tour with the Army Air Corps whilst attached to the Royal Malaysian Air Force, is due to return to the U.K. next month and to be posted to the 1st Battalion after entitled leave.

We were pleased to hear recently from an old 2nd Battalion man, F. E. Edmonds. He was discharged on medical grounds in 1939 after 15 years' Colour service, and soon afterwards was employed under the Depot Quartermaster at Inglis Barracks for about five years.

He is now married and lives at Windsor.

We have recently had news from ex-Sgt. Paul Gillies, who is an Assistant Superintendent of Police in Zambia.

He expects to return to the U.K. at the end of next month, and is looking forward to seeing many old Middlesex faces again.

At the time of writing he was trying to get leave to Swaziland to see Don Carson, who is now Bandmaster of 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment.

Leslie Graham (ex-C.S.M., 6398348) who won the Military Medal during the last War, wrote recently to say that he is now working at the Ministry of Labour in Hereford.

After five years of negotiations he is happy to have got back to his own home at 11 Church Street, Ross-on-Wye.

Harold Green (ex-Pte., 2018), who served in the 23rd (Service) Battalion for most of the 1914-18 War, although under age, is now living at Bordesley Green East, Birmingham.

He is in poor health and has had recently to give up active work.

Congratulations to Capt. Fred Griffiths, the present Quartermaster of the 4th Battalion The Buffs (T.A.), on his promotion to Major with effect from February 14, 1966.

R. G. Groombridge, a regular member of the Regimental Association and Journal reader, wrote at Christmas-time from Adelaide, South Australia, where he has lived for years, and sent best wishes to all members of the Association for 1966.

During the 1914-18 War he served in the 20th (Service) Battalion and is very proud indeed of his old Regiment.

Capt. John Hewson is due to vacate his appointment at Headquarters, Cyrenaica Area, next July and to rejoin the 1st Battalion.

Capt. John Lofting has now vacated his appointment as A.D.C. to Major-General John Willoughby and will rejoin the 1st Battalion on completion of entitled leave.

Capt. Hugh Lohan, on termination of his appointment as Adjutant of the Hong Kong Regiment next August, is to be posted to the 1st Battalion.

His relief as Adjutant is to be Capt. Gordon Crumley.

By the time that this issue of *The Die-Hards* appears in print Col. Andrew Man will have retired from business and moved to Wales where, as he says, he hopes to end his days amid nice country and people.

As his visits to London and, therefore, to Regimental functions will be infrequent, he sincerely hopes that his friends, when on holiday in those parts, will come and visit him and his family.

His new address is Castle Croft, Ludchurch, Narberth, Pembrokeshire (Telephone Llanteg 640).

We offer our congratulations to Lt. David Margand of the 5th Battalion on his promotion to Captain with effect from January 25, 1966, and hope that he has enjoyed his business trip to West Africa.

A glance at the Officers Location Statement will reveal the fact that the name of Lt. P. J. Monypenny is now shown as Lt. P. J. Gybbon-Monypenny, which is his correct full name.

He will be leaving the Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion at Oswestry on May 1 to take up his new appointment as A.D.C. to the Colonel of the Regiment in his capacity as G.O.C. 49 Division/District.

Brigadier George Pennycook, one of the most successful Adjutants the 1st Battalion has had in its long history, wrote recently and said that he is still working at the Home Office on Civil Defence. He went there originally for five years and is now in his 16th year!

Between the wars he received accelerated promotion into The Cheshire Regiment, but he is still a Die-Hard at heart.

NEW PAY AND PENSION AWARDS

The fourth biennial review of Service pay and pensions under the Grigg system, announced earlier this year in Parliament, adjusts the rates payable to the men by comparison with the wages received by 8,000,000 British industrial workers and to the officers by comparison with the higher ranks of the Civil Service.

It improves the basic pay of soldiers by the following general increases weekly:

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Private	15	9	to	2	0	3	
Lance-Corporal ..	1	2	9	to	2	3	9
Corporal	1	9	9	to	2	10	9
Sergeant	1	16	9	to	3	4	9
Staff Sergeant ..	2	3	9	to	3	11	9
W.O.2	2	7	3	to	3	15	3
W.O.1	2	10	9	to	3	18	9

The basic pay of officers on normal rates is increased by the following annual amounts:

Major Tony Pielow, now attached to the British Military Delegation to France, whilst attending a course at L'Ecole Superieure de Guerre, in a letter recently received says that life in Paris continues to be great fun, even if the French Army tends to work harder at their schools of instruction than we do.

He is due to complete his present course in March next year.

Capt. Roger Pitman is due to complete his tour of duty with the Trucial Oman Scouts next July, and is expected to rejoin the 1st Battalion at the end of September or the beginning of October.

Major Bill Raindle retired from his employment with the Foreign Office last September and is now living at Whitton in Middlesex.

Walter Smith (ex-Pte., 3777), who served in "C" Company of the 2/8th Battalion (T.A.) during the 1914-18 War, is now living at East Molesey in Surrey, where he is a willing helper to the local Branch of the British Legion.

F. J. Wallace (ex-Bdsm., ?) now living at Farnborough, Hants, was seriously ill towards the end of last year, but is now much better.

He sends his best wishes to all his old comrades.

Major-General John Willoughby flew home to the Infantry Conference at Westminster early in March. As usual he was full of life and thoroughly enjoying his work in Aden, where he seems to have taken the measure of the dissidents.

	£	£
2nd Lieutenant ..	100	
Lieutenant	119	to 137
Captain	164	to 200
Major	292	to 356
Lieutenant-Colonel	374	to 420
Colonel	447	
Brigadier	493	
Major-General ..	475	

etc., etc.
Retired pay and pensions are to be increased as also are certain gratuities for officers and soldiers. The new rates are effective from April 1, but officers who retire on or after February 1 this year, and soldiers discharged after January 31, receive the new rates.

Typical of the retirement rates is a Sergeant with 37 years' service: weekly pension of £12 11s. 4d. and terminal grant of about £1,960.

MAJOR E. L. HEYWOOD

An Appreciation

As was announced briefly in the January Newsletter Major "Bill" Heywood has resigned his appointment as a Retired Officer for health reasons as from February 1 last.

His service on the active list extended from 1917 to 1947, during which, apart from the two World Wars, he served in Egypt, the Sudan, India, Malaya and New Zealand.

For the greater part of his 18 years' employment as a Retired Officer he was Administrative Officer at the



Depot. In fact he held that appointment from its inception in 1948 until the Depot closed at Inglis Barracks in February 1961. In that capacity, which included the duties of P.M.C., he became a real friend to almost every officer at present serving in the Regiment. Many a young officer on joining was at once made to feel at home when greeted by Bill Heywood.

His popularity was not confined solely to the Regiment as was witnessed on January 14 last when he was dined out by the Home Postal Depot, in whose Mess he had continued to live since the closure of our Depot. At dinner that night a number of telegrams of good wishes were read out from Sappers in Hong Kong, Malta, Cyprus, Malaya and Germany, in addition to those from individuals in the United Kingdom. Afterwards as a

token of their regard and affection for Bill the officers of the Home Postal Depot presented him with a silver salver. In making the presentation the P.M.C. said, "We, each one of us, first met Bill Heywood in this Mess. In the early days it was the Mess of The Middlesex Regiment and we were the guests. After the Regiment had left we took it over but, whenever it was that any one of us first entered it, a pleasant chap met us with outstretched hand and welcoming smile, saying, 'I'm Bill Heywood, what will you have to drink?' And that is how each of us first met Bill." What a compliment!

Bill is always kindness itself, and generous to a fault. Nothing is ever too much trouble for him. It would be difficult to find anyone more tolerant or charitable. He possesses these virtues to a marked degree and he is, above all, a God-fearing man and a thorough Christian.

All his friends in the Regiment, and many others outside it, will wish him good health and happiness in his retirement, at the family home in Cheshire and, although he lives some distance away, we shall still hope to see him at many Regimental functions, where he will always receive a big welcome.

183 Clarets

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London Gazette

January 25, 1966

The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the undermentioned award for gallantry in Aden:—

MILITARY CROSS

Lt. Joseph James Smith (468118) The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) Territorial Army (serving with the Royal Sussex Regiment).

On July 6, 1965, Lt. Smith, who was commanding the Piccadilly picquet, manned by No. 3 Platoon, "A" Company, 1 Royal Sussex led an ambush patrol towards the top of the steep rise known as Ludgate Hill.

The ambush was, in fact, sited to intercept dissidents moving along the track leading up from the Wadi Taim; however, at 2120 hours a small party of dissidents were observed coming along the top of the escarpment past the ambush positions. Lt. Smith quietly redeployed his ambush and opened fire on the party of dissidents at a range of about 75 yards. Two of the dissidents were seen to fall, whilst the remainder scattered and returned the fire of the patrol, wounding one of its members.

Lt. Smith then called for Artillery fire on the path of retreat of the dissidents. He himself rendered first aid to the wounded soldier and withdrew his patrol to Piccadilly. He then ordered periodic harassing fire to be brought down on the area of the attack to prevent the dissidents recovering the bodies.

At 0630 hours the next morning he took his patrol back to the scene of the ambush where he recovered two dead Arabs. It subsequently transpired that four dissidents were killed and two wounded.

It is considered that Lt. Smith, a Territorial Army Emergency Reserve Officer, who had only recently joined his battalion, displayed outstanding courage and skill in circumstances that would have tested a more experienced Officer.

Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, 1965

The Regiment and officials of the old County of Middlesex, now absorbed in the Greater London area, paid their respects to the fallen first in the Middlesex Guildhall and later in the Field of Remembrance on Saturday, November 13, 1965.

At the door of the Guildhall each official guest was ushered in by L/Cpl. M. D. Smith, 1st Battalion, who after announcing their names and office passed them to a uniformed officer of the 5th Battalion (T.A.), who from then onwards escorted them throughout the ceremony. This was most pleasing and impressive.

The service in the Guildhall was conducted by the Rev. Ralph Brown, Chaplain to the 5th Battalion. This

service was held, as in past years, at the memorial in the vestibule of the Guildhall. At the end of the service the Colonel of the Regiment laid a wreath at the foot of the memorial.

A procession then formed up in front of the Guildhall, each civic dignitary having his officer escort on his left. Once in order of precedence, the procession moved off to the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, headed by R.S.M. B. J. Lyon, 5th Battalion, and followed by the Association's standard, borne by Mr. W. Bratby, with escorts In-Pensioners C. King and F. Worton in their scarlet uniforms of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. This party, on arrival at the Regimental Plot, took up their position at the rear, immediately behind the original cross from the grave on the battlefield of 2/Lt. G. F. Romer, 13th (Service) Battalion. The remainder of the procession followed in a stately manner, causing a number of inquiring and complimentary comments from the public.

On arrival at the Plot, the Colonel of the Regiment, after a few words to the memory of the 14,102, whose names are on our Rolls of Honour, planted the first cross. He then invited Her Majesty's Assistant Lieutenant for Greater London (Lieutenant-General G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C., D.L.) to plant a cross. These were followed by the Chaplain, representatives of the Regular and Territorial Battalions, the High Sheriff and other civic dignitaries and finally by private individuals who had either served in, or had had relations in, the Regiment.

Remembrance Day, 1965

Sunday, November 14, 1965, was bright and dry, the kind of day to encourage people to leave their homes and join with others of the community in the annual Day of Remembrance of those who gave their lives in the service of our country. As far as our own Regimental Parade is concerned, this they did, as more attended the service in the gymnasium at Inglis Barracks than for many years. The place was full to overflowing.

The service was conducted by the Rev. Ralph Brown, Chaplain to the 5th Battalion, who had also conducted the previous day's service at the Middlesex Guildhall and Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey.

At the end of the service in the gymnasium the congregation moved to the Regimental War Memorial where the parade formed up on three sides of a square. This being the first parade since the County of Middlesex as such in name ceased to be, those in uniform were more numerous than in past years when detachments attended borough services. At the Memorial itself, the Exhortation was read, followed by The Last Post, then Two Minutes' Silence, and the Reveille. The wreaths were then laid, after which the service ended with the Blessing.

A march past followed the service, the salute being taken by Lt.-Col. P. L. Pearce Gould, deputising for the Colonel of the Regiment. As is usual on this parade, the Old Comrades led the march past followed by the uniformed detachments. The Association Standard was carried by Mr. W. Bratby, an ex-member of our Regular Battalions, whose erect figure drew compliments from the onlookers, with as Escorts, Mr. R. Ferguson, late 7th (Imperial Service) Battalion, and Mr. A. White, late 8th (Imperial Service) Battalion. The presence for the first time this year of the Band and Drums of the 5th Battalion, supplying the music for the hymns and for the march past, made a great difference to this impressive parade.

Afterwards a reunion was held in the Drill Hall, Edgware, to which centre private motor cars and a coach, supplied by the Regimental Association, conveyed all those who wished to join friends there and have a little solid refreshment from the buffet, so well prepared by W.O.2 Banks.

It was good weather, it was good comradeship and it was a good parade. Many who attended made the good resolution to attend again in 1966. That, as a final word, is also all for the good. May many more be present for our next occasion.

R.W.J.S.

51st Anniversary of the Battle of Mons

Inauguration of the "4th Middlesex Avenue"

The 51st anniversary of the Battle of Mons, August 23, 1914, was celebrated on Monday, August 23, 1965, with a service both simple and moving at the "Dreue du Prophete" in Mons. This was the inauguration of a thoroughfare dedicated to the Regiment, the "4th Middlesex Avenue."

Amongst those present were M. Bovyn (Deputy Mayor), Ms. Schoonbroodt, Euvard, Blot (Town councillors), M. Lemaure (Secretary to the Council), M. Joly (Commissary in chief), M. Carlier (Principal private secretary to the Burgomaster), Col. Desfosse (President of the League of Former Combatants), Madame Gregoire (President of the War Widows Association), Madame Battard (Committee member), M. Dubois (President of the "Crosses of Fire"), M. Dozin (Provincial president of the Red Cross), M. Licope (Curator of the War Museum), M. Edouard Dupont (Patron of the Old Contemptibles and of 4th Middlesex Regiment), M. Ottevaere (Patron of the Old Contemptibles), M. Van Slype (President of U.N.A.O.), M. Thys (Director of celebrations of the Former Combatants and normally chief of the Mons delegation in Great Britain), M. Menard (President of F.M.C.), and many other notable local dignitaries.

In the British delegation were Col. F. Walden, Col.

Barber (late R.A.), Major B. Wilmot-Allistone, Major R. W. J. Smith, Messrs. H. Bird (L/14343), the Hon. Secretary, London Area Council, Old Contemptibles, C. Ashby (L/14437), W. Bratby (L/12827), C. Carey (L/14097), A. Matthews (L/14557), F. Rogers (L/12630), G. Smith, M.M. (L/12630). The last seven named were serving in the ranks of the 4th Battalion during the action and F. Dyson (L/12903) was with the 1st Battalion. Many other Old Contemptibles were also present.

After the singing of the British and Belgian national anthems the plaque, which had been covered by the Union Jack, was unveiled by Major Wilmot-Allistone, the sole surviving officer, who was at Mons with the 4th Battalion. M. Bovyn then, in a speech, recalled that the Avenue in the quarter "Des Wartons," situated at the same spot where men of the 4th Battalion had fought, had been suggested by M. Hennebert, a town councillor of Mons, the proposition being approved by the Council. This Battalion, in the defence of Mons, suffered in casualties 15 out of 27 officers and 467 out of its 970 men. "D" Company, which had fought on the very site of the new street, lost 183 soldiers there, 75% of its total strength.

M. Bovyn and Major Wilmot-Allistone then together cut the symbolic ribbons which stretched across the street and the various personalities, British and Belgian, used officially for the first time the new "4th Middlesex Avenue."

In the Portrait Gallery of the Town Hall later that morning M. Couneson, Deputy Mayor, standing in for

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the Mayor who was away on holiday, gave an official welcome. In his address he said:

"We have never forgotten our debt to you. One could say that Belgium is the perpetual ally of England, since our territory, which has always been coveted by so many of our neighbours, has never been so by Great Britain. Each time we have been threatened we have always been able to depend on England, and her aid has been invaluable. And what is true for all Belgians is all the more so for the people of Mons, who have always found the English at hand at the most crucial moments in the last half-century—in 1914, 1918, 1940, 1944. So it is with emotion and gratitude that we bow before you."

Later in the day the Regimental delegation, escorted by a few of the Belgian officials mentioned earlier, paid a visit to Saint Symphorien Cemetery where wreaths were laid on the memorial erected by the Germans to the 4th Battalion dead. This ceremony was followed by one at Obourg railway station, where the delegation were officially welcomed by M. Renaud, Mayor of Obourg. After a short service and silence, a wreath was laid above the plaque on the wall commemorating the defence of the station by "D" Company, 4th Battalion.

During the day's ceremonies, Regimental wreaths as follows were laid at the various memorials in Mons and in Obourg:

The memorial to the Belgian fallen by Mr. G. J. Smith, M.M.; Mons Belfry memorial to the Battle of Mons, Major B. Wilmot-Allistone; German memorial to "The Royal Middlesex Regiment" in Saint Symphorien Cemetery, Col. F. Walden; Cross of Sacrifice, Saint Symphorien Cemetery, Major R. W. J. Smith; Obourg Railway Station, Mr. H. Bird.

A cause for pride when reading of the Avenue named in recognition by the people of Mons and of the memorial erected by the Germans in the military cemetery is that very few regiments, if any, can claim to have monuments, in the same locality, erected or built to their memory by both their allies and their enemies, both sides acknowledging them as worthy fighting men and soldiers.

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.

Commonwealth Memorial

United Nations Memorial Cemetery,
Pusan, Korea

The Dedication Ceremony for the Commonwealth Memorial in the United Nations Memorial Cemetery, Pusan, Korea, took place on May 24, 1965.

Lieutenant-General Sir William Pike, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., who unveiled the Memorial, has written the following article about the ceremony which is published by kind permission of the Ministry of Defence:—

A Commonwealth War Memorial in Korea

On May 24, 1965, I had the honour to unveil in the Commonwealth section of the United Nations Cemetery in Pusan, a Memorial to the 386 men of the Commonwealth killed in the Korean War, but with no known grave. Though small compared with the Korean and American battle casualties, these nevertheless lie buried in this far distant but hallowed spot nearly 1,600 soldiers, sailors and airmen of the British Commonwealth of Nations. The soldiers are from many famous Regiments and Corps and include the battle casualties of The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).

The unveiling ceremony was simple and moving. It was attended by the personal representative of the President of the Republic of Korea, the British and Australian Ambassadors, representatives of the Canadian, New Zealand and South African Governments, and of the United Kingdom Defence Council, the Mayor of Pusan, the Custodian of the United Nations Memorial Cemetery, the Chiefs of Staff of the three Korean armed services, the Commander of the 8th U.S. Army and many other distinguished guests.

The Memorial is in Gosford stone from New South Wales. It is rectangular in shape with an altar feature at the front, above which is a bronze panel bearing the inscription. Round the Memorial are other bronze panels bearing the names of the individual men by Regiment or Service. For the unveiling ceremony it was flanked by detachments from Australia, the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines, and the Royal Air Force; the Main Guard of Honour was found by the Durham Light Infantry.

After the detachments and the Guard of Honour had been mounted, the Chaplains entered in procession and took up their position on the steps leading to the front of the Memorial. The day was perfect with a light breeze from the sea and wisps of sea mist swirling round the distant hills. The whole scene was one of peace and beauty, with the Cemetery standing on high ground overlooking the sea and itself overlooked by the lovely Korean hills clothed in their spring flowers. At one side of the Memorial stood three Pipers of the Kings' Own Scottish Borderers whose Royal Stuart Tartans made a glorious splash of colour against the white Australian stone and which contrasted with the black and white chaplains' surplices, their folds stirring in the wind.

The service of dedication was performed by the

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Assistant Chaplain of the Far East Land Forces, aided by the chaplains of all other denominations. It was short with well chosen prayers and hymns, perfectly accompanied by the Band of the Durham Light Infantry and supported by a mixed choir from the local Presbyterian Church who sang beautifully. The actual unveiling was preceded by the Last Post and followed by Reveille sounded superbly by the Buglers of Durham Light Infantry, whilst the Pipers of the Kings' Own Scottish Borderers surpassed themselves in their playing of the Lament "Lochaber No More" as the actual unveiling took place, and "Flowers of the Forest" at the later wreath laying.

Present on parade in charge of the wreath laying party was Sgt. William Speakman, v.c., who won his Victoria Cross with the Kings' Own Scottish Borderers on a battle torn hill north of the River Imjin on which many of his comrades fell one November day in 1952. The presence of the tall, soldierly figure of the only serving V.C. in the Army made a notable contribution to a memorable scene. His thoughts, like mine and those of others present, must have gone back over the years. Each of us had his own memories, similar yet different. Mine were my Batteries which came from all parts of the Commonwealth to support many famous Regiments and Battalions; and of such friends as a Canadian Observation Officer who died of his wounds, of a New Zealand Forward Observation Party, most of whom never got back, of an Australian Air O.P. pilot shot down and killed over the enemy lines, of a young subaltern of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment just commissioned from Sandhurst and killed leading his platoon in his first attack, and of the "lost" platoon of the Kings' Own Scottish Borderers who like my F.O.P. party went down fighting to the last man to join the select band of the Unknown Dead. Let honour go without stint to such sons of a great Empire and Commonwealth—386 of them are not forgotten on this beautifully simple memorial.

Yet this war and these deeds seem to be largely forgotten here. No mention of the ceremony was made in any of our national newspapers and no word of it came from the B.B.C. Does this mean that these men died in vain, or is it just time and distance that make people forget? It is surely the latter, for these men surely made history. Their fathers and grandfathers, and their fathers and grandfathers before them, fought for King and Country and for the British Empire which for all its faults tried to bring peace and justice to the lands it ruled. But these men were the first to give their lives for something greater—the United Nations and the great principles of freedom, justice and peace on which it was founded, and for which it strives so hard under so great difficulties. The campaign changed little geographically, and a country civilised and united for thousands of years still lies wickedly divided. Yet these warriors did not die in vain. They went to fight and to die in the first United Nations' War to show tyrants and aggressors that our hatred of war does not mean that we fear it; and they taught them that the countries who rallied to the support of the United Nations have the courage to stand and to fight when provoked beyond reasonable endurance. If this lesson

has been learnt, the Korean War may well have been a turning point for good in the history of the world.

The guns are now silent in Korea and the storms and controversies of the world elsewhere pass over the graves of our battle comrades. They lie in peace in this hallowed corner of a beautiful country beside their comrades in battle of many other nations; or on a hillside once scarred by battle but now lovely with wild flowers; or they sleep their last long sleep on an ocean bed, their task finished, their tribulation over, their duty done.

*"Nothing is here for tears, nothing to wail,
Or knock the breast; no weakness, no contempt,
Dispraise or blame; nothing but well and fair,
And what may quiet us in a death so noble."*

It has been the intention of the Ministry of Defence to send to the next-of-kin of each who is buried or commemorated in the Cemetery a copy of the Order of Service, a photograph of the ceremony, and a photograph of the panel or plaque on which he is commemorated, together with the negative in the latter case.

On account of the lapse of time information on the present whereabouts of next-of-kin is not reliable. However, by a thorough search of records and a careful follow-up of other leads the Ministry have succeeded in effecting delivery in the majority of the cases; but efforts to trace the next-of-kin of the following casualties of the Regiment have up to date been unsuccessful:—

Casualty	Recorded next-of-kin
19039541 Sgt. B. Finch	Wife remarried, now Mrs. Guiry
22200473 Cpl. R. Pegg	Mother
22221595 L/Cpl. R. J. Stanford	Father
22168035 Pte. R. A. J. Bennett	Mother
22187748 Pte. R. Botten	Mother
22101316 Pte. W. P. Carroll	Mother
22108188 Pte. C. E. Collier	Mother
19090813 Pte. W. Philpott	Friend

It would be much appreciated if any reader, who may know the present whereabouts of the next-of-kin of any of the above, would write and give this information to the Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATES

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

ST. GEORGE'S CLOSES DOWN AFTER 70 YEARS

St. George's, the Church of England's Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Club in the old Stanhope Lines at Aldershot, has closed its doors for the last time. It might have gone on longer serving the soldier but its demolition became necessary to make way for new buildings in the multi-million-pound redevelopment of the military camp. Many thousands of soldiers in all parts of the world will remember the Club which was nearly 70 years old and which was always closely associated with St. George's Garrison Church.

Originally known as St. George's Church Rooms, the Club filled an urgent need for many years, especially in its early days, and provided canteen facilities, a library, reading rooms, a billiards room and, latterly, a television room. Light refreshments were always available and until 1946 tea was sold at only a penny a cup.

The first building was built with a legacy of £1,000 left by Miss Mary Prince in memory of her father, Capt. John Prince of the Coldstream Guards, augmented by donations received after an appeal in 1895 by the Rev. J. C. Edghill, Chaplain-General to the Forces. The Club was opened in 1897 by the Duke of Connaught and in 1912-13 was extended to its recent form. Maybe today there is not so great a need for a "St. George's," but the name will long be remembered by those who knew the Club, which always had a warm and friendly atmosphere and has been a "home from home" for so many wartime and peacetime soldiers.

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Our Representative will be pleased to see Officer Cadets and others by arrangement.



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Grimond in Sergeant's line of fire

DAILY TELEGRAPH REPORTER

What the Army would probably describe as an idle remark by Mr. Grimond has upset a former serviceman still concerned with good conduct and military discipline.

At the Scarborough Liberal conference, Mr. Grimond suggested there was "a strong streak of the sergeant-major in Transport House," and added, "It must be got rid of."

When he had recovered from this surprise attack, Mr. Harry G. Collins, 66, of Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex, dug in. His ranging shot, in the form of an explosive letter, is on its way to Mr. Grimond, at present on reconnaissance in North Shetland.

With the Liberal leader firmly in his sights, Mr. Collins asks: "Who are you to want to get rid of what you call the sergeant-major streak?"

The barrage continues by reminding Mr. Grimond that the "sergeant-major is the backbone of the British Army."

Won the M.M. at Vimy Ridge

Mr. Collins, who won the M.M. at Vimy Ridge in 1918 and who was attached to the American Red Cross in the 1939-45 war, confessed: "I was never a sergeant-major. But I was a sergeant with the Middlesex Regiment in the first world war.

"They were a wonderful breed of men. I think Mr. Grimond's remark was unjustified and a slur on the rank."

Yesterday Liberal party headquarters were quick to run up the white flag, and a tactical withdrawal began.

An official commented: "I am sure Mr. Grimond admires sergeant-majors in the Army, but in politics they are quite another thing. Of course, Mr. Grimond will be replying to Mr. Collins."

* * * * *

(This article was published on September 30, 1965 and is reproduced by courtesy of The Editor, The Daily Telegraph.

According to Regimental records Mr. Collins won his M.M. whilst serving as a Sergeant with the 4th Battalion. —EDITOR)

Whilst staying in Scotland last summer the Editor's attention was drawn to the fact that the first name on the village war memorial of Dunscore, where Col. Mervyn Crawford is the local laird, was: 2/Lt. J. S. E. G. Ferguson, The Middlesex Regt. (D.C.O.)

This officer, who was attached to the 3rd Battalion from the 5th (Special Reserve) Battalion, was killed at Frezenberg Ridge on April 27, 1915, during the first Battle of Ypres.

BERTRAND STEWART PRIZE ESSAY

1. A legacy by the late Capt. Bertrand Stewart provides a prize for the best essay submitted each year on a military subject selected by the Army Board of the Defence Council. The prize can be competed for by officers and other ranks who are serving, or have served, in any of the Armed Forces of the British Commonwealth.

2. The following subject has been selected for the 1966 Competition:—

"We have often, in the past, been accused of training to fight the last war. The tactics taught and practised for Limited War in the mid-sixties, 20 years after the last war, seem to show that we are in danger of following historical precedent.

"Are we right to plan for a stereotyped brigade group type of battle bearing in mind the type of enemy we may expect to fight?"

"How far have we failed to reflect modern weapons, techniques, equipment and influences in our tactics?"

"Discuss this and consider what changes might be necessary in tactical doctrine and methods to fight small-scale wars outside Europe."

3. The prizes offered by the Trustees are:—

(a). First prize £80.

(b). Second prize at least £15.

(Subject to the essays being of the required standard).

4. The closing date for the 1966 Competition will be June 22, 1966. Essays marked "Bertrand Stewart Prize Essay" on the envelope, should be addressed direct to:—

The Editor,

The Army Quarterly and Defence Journal,
43 Cardington Street,
London, N.W.1.

5. Conditions of entry:—

(a). The essays submitted must not be less than 5,000 or more than 10,000 words in length; they must be typewritten and submitted in quadruplicate.

(b). The use of classified information must be avoided. Any such use will lead to disqualification.

(c). The authorship of the essays must be strictly anonymous. Each competitor must adopt a motto and enclose with his essay a sealed envelope with his motto typewritten on the outside and his name and address inside.

(d). The title and page of any published or unpublished work to which reference is made in any essay, or from which extracts are taken, must be quoted.

(e). The essays will be judged by at least three referees to be appointed by the Army Board of the Defence Council. The decision of the referees (or a majority of them) will be final. If, in the opinion of the referees and Trustees (or

in the opinion of the majority of them) no essay submitted to them comes up to a sufficiently high standard of excellence, they are fully empowered to withhold the prizes; or they may, if they consider such a course desirable, divide the prizes equally among two or more of the competitors.

(f). The result of the competition will be made known in the Army Quarterly and Defence Journal in January 1967 and the prize essay may be published in the same issue.

(g). The copyright of any essay which appears in the Army Quarterly and Defence Journal belongs to the proprietors of that review.

(h). No responsibility can be held for the loss or return of any essay submitted for the competition.

ALEXANDRA HOUSE

Royal United Service Home for Children
Narrowcliff, Newquay

The object of Alexandra House is to provide a home for Service children whose normal family life has been disrupted, children of Service men and women of all the Armed Services, being eligible. Total orphans or children who have only one parent living have priority. The children of ex-Service personnel are admitted at the discretion of the managing committee when space permits, admission in all cases being on either a permanent basis or temporarily as circumstances allow.

Recommendations should be approved by Service Welfare Officers or Associations, or other professional personnel concerned with the individual applicant.

Age for Admission

Children are normally admitted at five and leave at 16 unless they qualify for further training to equip them for a start in life. Younger children are welcome should it mean keeping a family together.

Education

The children attend day schools under the local Education Authority, including Newquay Grammar School which has a very high reputation.

Religious instruction is given in the Home and the children normally attend Church of England Services. Children of other denominations are welcomed to the Home; instruction in their own Faith can be arranged for them and they will attend their own services.

Fees

Except in special circumstances parents or guardians are expected to contribute in accordance with their ability to do so, each case being considered by the managing committee on its merits. Charges are subject to adjustment if necessary, parents being expected to notify the Secretary of any change in their financial circumstances.

The children may spend their holidays when possible with parents or approved relatives who are expected to meet the travelling expenses.

Correspondence should be addressed to: The Secretary, Alexandra House, Narrowcliff, Newquay. Telephone 2941.

THE GORDON BOYS' SCHOOL

The Gordon Boys' School, which has a long association with the Services, is a voluntary aided school which provides a boarding school education for boys between the ages of 12½ and 17½ years. It is recognised as "efficient" by the Department of Education and Science.

The course of education given at the school lasts four years and leads to the G.C.E. "O" level examination.

The school accepts any boy, irrespective of his father's rank, provided that he satisfies the governing body as to character, intelligence and physical fitness. Final selection is made as a result of a simple entrance examination and a headmaster's report.

Candidates must be at least 12½ and under 14 years of age at the time when they enter the school and it is advisable for a boy to be placed on the list of registered candidates by the age of 11 years.

Entrance examinations are held in June and October each year. Normally these examinations take place in candidates' own schools, wherever they may be.

The fees for the sons of serving members of the Armed Forces are from £258 to £276 per year and they cover maintenance, education and most of the uniform and clothing. Where it is convenient to parents, the school will accept a banker's order payable termly or monthly in settlement of fees. Service

Education Allowance is admissible at boarding school rates.

The school has excellent facilities for games and sports and it has a fine record of health.

A boy may be registered at any time, at no cost, as a candidate for entry to the school. This step commits his parents to nothing, but it does ensure that the boy will have the opportunity to take the entrance examination at the right time.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Commandant of the School. Address: West End, Woking, Surrey.

THE MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION

1. Formation

The Middlesex Association was formed in 1965, following a number of meetings of persons representative of Middlesex organisations, past and present, sponsored by John Barter, the last Chairman of the Middlesex County Council, in conjunction with Col. Sir Joseph Haygarth, C.B.E., a former Sheriff and former Chairman of the County Council.

2. Objects

To maintain the traditional and historical institutions of the County of Middlesex.

To arrange social events, including an Annual Dinner, to foster the interest of members.

To promote functions for charitable purposes, the proceeds of which shall be donated to Middlesex charities and other causes.

3. Eligibility for Membership

Individual Members: Ladies and gentlemen who support the objects of the Association are welcome to become members.

Affiliated Organisations: Voluntary, social, charitable, sports or similar organisations functioning over the geographical county of Middlesex or a substantial part and with objects compatible with those of the Association are invited to affiliate.

4. Annual Subscriptions

Individual Member	£1 1s. od.
Affiliated Organisation	£5 5s. od.

These subscriptions have been fixed as a nominal sum to cover initial expenses and the General Council has in mind that subscriptions paid in 1965 shall be extended to cover the period ending December 31, 1966.

There is no entrance fee.

5. Constitution

A General Council, Executive Committee and Honorary Officers have been appointed to undertake the preparatory organisation of the Association and will hold office until the first Annual Meeting which will be held early in 1966.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The following items have been added to the exhibits in the Regimental Museum:

Medals and Decorations of Capt. Sir Vyvyan Holt, K.B.E., C.M.G., M.V.O.

Uniforms of Lt.-Col. J. S. Drew, O.B.E., T.D.

Medals of Col. A. G. Bartholomew, O.B.E., T.D.

Medals of Sgt. T. A. Tiller.

Seal of the King's Colour, 3rd Battalion.

Medals and Decorations of Capt. Sir Vyvyan Holt, K.B.E., C.M.G., M.V.O.

This most interesting group of ten medals consists of the breast star and neck badge of a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire; Cross of a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George; Cross of a Member of the Royal Victorian Order; British War Medal; Territorial Force War Medal; Indian General Service Medal with bar "Afghanistan N.W.F. 1919"; General Service Medal with bars "Iraq" and "Northern Kurdistan"; Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal; Iraq Order of the Two Rivers and the Iraq General Service Medal.

Capt. Holt was commissioned as 2/Lieutenant in the 9th Battalion (T.F.) in April 22, 1914, and he remained a member of this Battalion as an active serving member or on the Reserve List of the Battalion whilst a Territorial Army Reserve Officer until he relinquished his commission at the end of his diplomatic career.

He was promoted Lieutenant on October 29, 1914, sailing for overseas service with his Battalion on the same date. After qualifying on a Signals course, he was Battalion Signals Officer until 1917 when he was seconded to 36 Divisional Signal Company at Kohat. His promotion to Captain was dated December 3, 1923.

The following extract from an article written by Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox in 1960 gives a few of the details of the career of this distinguished son of the Regiment:

"As soon as he arrived in India he set about learning the languages and in an incredibly short time had passed both the Urdu and Pushtu higher examinations. Later he became an outstanding linguist, talking Arabic, Persian, Kurdish, Turkish and other languages as need arose throughout his service.

In 1917 he was seconded for service with India Signals and was posted to the command of a Brigade Signal Section on the Frontier. This did not last long for he was transferred to the Indian Political Service on the Frontier and spent some time in disguise as a Pathan, such was his command of Pushtu. In 1919 he was transferred to Kurdistan where he found two Companies of his old Battalion and the Signal Section he previously commanded on operations with a punitive force in the Kirkuk-Sulamania area.

After the Kurdish rising and the Iraq rebellion in

1920 he was appointed A.D.C. to the High Commissioner in Baghdad, later taking over from Gertrude Bell the appointment of Oriental Secretary in Iraq, serving in this capacity for 20 years. During this period he attended upon King Feisal when he made his state visit to this country, for which he was appointed a member of the Victorian Order and King Feisal conferred upon him the Order of the Two Rivers.

He was concerned in no small degree with negotiating the Iraq Treaty and was on one occasion called upon to reply to the Foreign Secretary (then Sir Austen Chamberlain) who addressed the Iraq delegates before the Cabinet for three-quarters of an hour. On rising to reply (and not to be outdone by Sir Austen) he placed his own monocle in his eye and replied for three-quarters of an hour in Arabic.

In 1946 he moved to Teheran as Oriental Counsellor to the British Embassy there and three years later was appointed British Minister to Korea. When war broke out in Korea he remained at his post in Seoul with his staff, who were all interned at Phonpyang when the North Koreans entered the city. His captivity lasted almost three years under very trying conditions; he very nearly died of pneumonia and his eyesight was seriously affected. On returning to this country after a period of recuperation he was appointed British Minister in El Salvador. Had his eyesight not been impaired his last appointment would undoubtedly have been one of much greater importance.

During the whole of his political and diplomatic career he remained on the Reserve List of the 9th Battalion, and always contrived to take his home leave when the Battalion was on training so that he could attend. In 1937 he was attached to a Regular Battalion at Colchester when Col. Maurice Browne was commanding. He was serving with the 9th Battalion during the four weeks' *couverture* prior to the outbreak of World War II, but was recalled to Baghdad shortly after the outbreak of hostilities.

He was a man of high intellect, extremely well read and in addition to his exceptional linguistic qualifications remained a master of the English language, as those who heard him lecture will never forget. He gave a lecture to the 2nd Battalion at Colchester, which will always be remembered by those privileged to attend it.

He was a very popular and efficient officer and intensely loyal to the Regiment, which meant so much to him."

The amusing anecdote above of the reply, in Arabic, to Sir Austen Chamberlain, recalls another story of an incident during the visit of King Feisal to Scotland. His Majesty said he would like to visit Scotland during the time he was in the British Isles. He told Capt. Holt that he wanted to make this visit as he felt that the Scottish Clans were like his Kurdish Tribesmen. At

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Edinburgh on June 26, 1933, he was the guest of the Lord Provost who made a speech of welcome. The King was told that he was expected to reply but, turning to Capt. Holt, said that he would not reply as he had already used all the speeches Capt. Holt had taught him. Capt. Holt then quietly asked His Majesty to recite the Koran to the assembly, which the King did. As His Majesty finished Capt. Holt stood up and, as if translating from the Arabic, gave the reply to the Lord Provost. Truly a diplomat.

Medals presented by H. D. G. Holt, Esq., brother of Capt. Sir Vyeyan Holt.

Uniforms of Lt.-Col. J. S. Drew, O.B.E., T.D.

The uniforms of Lt.-Col. John Summers Drew are: (a) Scarlet uniforms and helmet, 1st Volunteer Battalion, (b) Service Dress uniform and cap, (c) Khaki drill uniform. The two latter are the same as worn until recently, but the scarlet uniform and helmet are much more unique.

The scarlet jacket with yellow facings is the same as that used throughout the Regiment from 1902, when our original yellow facings were restored. The black cloth covering of the helmet is also that common throughout infantry units, the difference being in the lace on the jacket and metal fittings on helmet and uniform.

The lace of the Volunteer Battalions was silver, as opposed to gold worn by the Regular Battalions. The stars denoting the rank of the officer, worn on the epaulettes, are of silver wire whereas the Regular wore stars of gilt wire. Buttons are of white metal and bear the device of the Prince of Wales' Plume within a wreath of laurel. There is no honour scroll below the plume on the button. The scroll bearing the Battle Honour "Albuhera" was not worn by the Volunteer Battalions. The collar badges are of white metal but nearly round in shape and do not have any scroll under the cypher of the Duke of Cambridge. At this time all officers' collar badges were of white metal, but the Regular Battalions had a large scroll bearing the honour "Albuhera" as at present. Later, when the Territorial Force succeeded the Volunteer Force, the collar badges of the T.F. had the scroll, but without the honour embossed upon it. (White metal collar badges of Other Ranks, inscribed with the honour "South Africa 1900-02" are to be found, but not those of officers.)

The helmet plate, rosettes, chain, spike and helmet top are all of white metal. The Regular Battalions had fittings of gilt or brass. The Regimental device is set on the universal star surmounted by the "Queen's" crown. (This is really St. Edward's crown as shown on coat-of-arms before the accession of Queen Victoria to the throne. The calling of the previous type of crown the "Queens" or "the old Queen's crown" came into use when King Edward VII was enthroned. The crown on badges and devices was then changed to the Imperial Crown. The "Tommy" and "Jack-Tar" of those days immediately seized on the change, calling the original pattern crown the "Queen's crown," but did not call the new pattern the "King's" crown, they called it "Teddy's 'at"; the head-dress of H.M. King

Edward VII! The helmet plate centre is all white metal with a black velvet backing. Again, there is no scroll below the cypher. Beneath the centre badge are two scrolls, one with the title "The Middlesex Regiment" and below that, a smaller scroll bearing the words "1st Vol Battalion."

John Summers Drew was first commissioned on April 20, 1898 in the 1st Volunteer Battalion of the Regiment. He successfully carried out the duties of Paymaster in the first years of this century, having been promoted Lieutenant on January 24, 1900. Two years later on January 28, 1902, he was promoted Captain, commanding the Hornsey Company.

A smart and keen Volunteer officer, he possessed a flair and good knowledge of ceremonial. In May 1907 when the Prince of Wales (later King George V) visited the Alexandra Palace, he commanded the Guard of Honour. When Field Marshall Sir George White, v.c., unveiled the memorial in Hornsey Parish Church he again commanded the Guard of Honour.

At Bisley in July 1908 he commanded the large Guard of Honour, with the King's Colour, when the Prince of Wales presented the prizes to the National Rifle Association, the smartness of the guard earning a personal compliment from the Prince.

At the coronation of King George V and Queen Mary on June 23, 1911, the 7th Battalion was given the honour of supplying a Guard of Honour consisting of three officers and 100 other ranks. This honour was given to the 7th Battalion because they were the only "Imperial Service" Battalion in the whole of the infantry of the Territorial Forces, 90% of the unit having accepted liability for foreign service. Capt. Drew was chosen to command the Guard, the King's Colour being carried by Lt. G. A. H. Bower (now Major G. A. H. Bower, M.C., T.D.). Both these officers were subsequently awarded the Coronation medal. The uniform worn by Capt. Drew on that ceremony is the one now presented to the Regimental Museum. He was promoted Major on September 7, 1911, transferring to the Territorial Force Reserve in 1913.

On the outbreak of war in 1914, he immediately rejoined the 7th Battalion and, on formation of 2/7th Battalion, he became its first Commanding Officer, being promoted Lieutenant-Colonel on September 5, 1914. He commanded the Battalion whilst forming part of the garrison of Gibraltar and in Egypt where he saw action against the Senussi. In June of the following year the 2/7th were disbanded in Rouen, the officers and men being posted to other Battalions.

On the reorganisation of the Forces on September 1, 1916, Lt.-Col. Drew was given command of the newly formed 7th (Reserve) Battalion Middlesex Regiment. At the time of this appointment he was serving in the Line with the 21st Battalion (Islington) of the Regiment. This new unit consisted of 130 officers and 2,800 other ranks, trained and fit for active service in 14 weeks. The official history remarks on the system of training which he evolved and on which he was complimented by the Secretary of War in 1917.

Uniforms presented by Mrs. Eric Cattley, J.P., daughter of Lt.-Col. J. S. Drew.

Medals of Col. A. G. Bartholomew, O.B.E., T.D.

The medal group of Col. Bartholomew consists of the badge of an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire; British War Medal; Victory Medal; Territorial Force War Medal and the Territorial Decoration.

On the outbreak of war in 1914, Col. Bartholomew was, as a serving officer, a military member of the Middlesex Territorial Force Association. He was then a Captain with nearly six years seniority on the strength of the 9th Battalion (T.F.).

When the Battalion left for service overseas he was a Company Commander, sailing on October 29, 1914, for India, where Territorial units were relieving the Regulars of garrison duties to allow the latter to join the B.E.F. in France.

In March 1915 he was in command of the Garrison at Dundrum and in July the year following he was commanding "D" Company who were garrisoning Fort Attock, which guards the bridge over the Indus—the link between the N.W. Frontier and the Punjab. Early in 1917 he was posted to Allahabad as Staff Captain and in the London Gazette of May 2, 1917, his majority was published with effect from June 1, 1916. He was one of the nine officers of the Battalion who were sent out independently at different times to Mesopotamia before the Battalion moved as a unit of 53rd Infantry Brigade, 18th Indian Division, in November 1917.

Whilst the Battalion was in India Capt. Bartholomew initiated the "Magazine of the Ninth Battalion The Middlesex Regiment." This magazine, published from July 1916 until November 1917, did much to cheer the soldiers during their garrison duties in an Indian clime. It is full of interesting and historical news of the various stations in which the Battalion served, as well as cheery gossip so dear to the soldier serving overseas.

Medals presented by Dr. A. P. Prior.

Medals of Sgt. T. A. Tiller

The medals of Sgt. T. A. Tiller (6190826) are the British War Medal; Victory Medal, both bearing the Regimental number 23428 and unit, East Kent Regiment; Defence Medal 1939/45; Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, Regular Army; The Meritorious Service Medal, the two latter engraved with the Army number 6190826 and unit shown as Middlesex Regiment; also the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal engraved "Thomas A. Tiller, Sergt."

Details of Sgt. Tiller's career are given in the obituary column on page 252 of this publication.

Presented by his widow, Mrs. Grace Tiller.

Seal of the King's Colour, 3rd Battalion

This unusual relic is the wax seal of the Royal Army Clothing Department on a piece of navy blue melton

3½ inches by 2 inches. On one half of the red wax is the Royal coat-of-arms of Queen Victoria with the words "Adjutant General Department" encircling the device whilst on the other is the St. Edward's crown above the W ↑ D encircled with the words "Pattern Seal."

This seal was on the King's Colour of the 3rd Battalion when the Stand of Colours reached the Battalion in St. Helena in September 1902. It then came into the possession of the late Major W. H. Abell who was a Captain commanding a Company of the newly formed Battalion. The Colours were to remain in the Officers' Mess until they were officially presented by H.E. Viscount Milner, High Commissioner for South Africa, at Middelburg on February 3, 1904. By that date the Colours were really anachronistic as the crowns, both those embroidered on the silk and the gilt on the finials, are St. Edward, and also the colour of the silk on the Regimental Colour is white. There is a simple explanation to this as there is to the 4th Battalion Colours, which are similar. The Colours were originally designed whilst Queen Victoria was reigning, the St. Edward's crown being then current. It was not until King Edward VII was enthroned that the Imperial crown was adopted on the Royal coat-of-arms and all government crests and badges. Also at that time all English Regiments of the Line which were not Royal Regiments, had white facings; it was 1902 before the yellow facings were restored to our Regiment, since the sweeping away of many cherished Regimental items of dress in 1881.

Major William Henry Abell takes his place in our Regimental history as the first officer of the Regiment killed in action during the 1914-18 War. On Sunday, August 23, 1914, he was commanding "A" Company, 4th Battalion, at Obourg, when shots were exchanged at the beginning of the Battle of Mons, and he was killed as he was moving his Company into position.

Commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on December 9, 1896, he was posted to the 1st Battalion at Grahamstown in South Africa.

He served with the 1st Battalion in Dublin until December 15, 1900, when on promotion to Captain he was posted to the newly-formed 3rd Battalion stationed at Woolwich before proceeding overseas. He sailed with the Battalion to St. Helena in November 1902 and was present when the Colours were officially presented at Middelburg, South Africa, in February 1904, by the High Commissioner.

From September 1907 to March 1910 he was Adjutant to the 17th North Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Corps (later the 19th (County of London) Battalion The London Regiment) at Camden Town.

In April 1910 he joined the 2nd Battalion as a Company Commander and was promoted Major in September 1912.

At the end of July 1913 he was posted to the 4th Battalion at Devonport and took command of "A" Company.

Presented by his son, J. M. Abell, Esq.

The National Army Museum Building Appeal

THE OBJECT OF THE APPEAL is to raise funds to provide and equip a new National Army Museum.

The Army's achievements are a national heritage. The treasures and records, which derive from the Army's long service to the Crown and the people, deserve to be displayed for the nation in surroundings worthy of their historical, educational and cultural importance.

It is hoped to establish the new Museum in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, the Commissioners of which are prepared to grant a lease, for 999 years, of a uniquely appropriate site. Plans for a building are being submitted to the Royal Fine Art Commission and planning permission is being sought.

The Government has agreed to meet the cost of maintaining and staffing the new Museum, but for the acquisition of the site and the cost of the building and equipment the sponsors of the Appeal must rely on private generosity. They have already received promises exceeding £352,000. Their target is to raise a further £750,000.

The Appeal Committee is making a special appeal to serving and retired members of the Army, as well as to the public. All money will be used to establish a National Army Museum worthy of the nation.

Readers can support this appeal in one of the following three ways:

By a *donation*, however small.

By a *subscription* by a *deed of covenant* for seven or more years, by means of a Banker's Order.

By a *bequest* to the National Army Museum Fund, free of duty.

All enquiries, donations, subscriptions or bequests should be sent to Regimental Headquarters, where the necessary forms for any of the above can be obtained.

Horses and Saddlery

A book entitled "Horses and Saddlery" by Major G. Tylden, was published last November by J. A. Allen & Co., in association with the Ogilby Trust, and a copy has been presented to the Regimental Museum.

The book was commissioned by the late Col. R. J. L. Ogilby, the Founder of the Ogilby Trust, in order to record for posterity, before it is too late, an authoritative account, not only of the horse and its saddlery in the British and Commonwealth Armies since the 17th Century, but also to place on record details of all the animals which have served the Army since that time.

The book is lavishly illustrated and is on sale to the public at a price of six guineas. Any reader who may wish to obtain a copy can apply to the Curator of the Regimental Museum for more information.

A Victoria Cross Located

After years of inquiries, the location of the Victoria Cross and medals of the late Patsy Edwards, v.c., have been discovered.

The group was sold some years ago by Patsy, during a period of penury, to a collector for £180! The medals he wore subsequently were a dummy group, made up for those occasions when it was necessary for him to wear them on parade.

Since the original sale the medals have changed hands at least three times and are now offered by a Canadian dealer for the sum of \$3,200 or £1,050 sterling. Unfortunately, Regimental funds cannot supply this amount and it is a matter of great regret that the decorations of this very courageous Die-Hard cannot be added to the Regimental collection.

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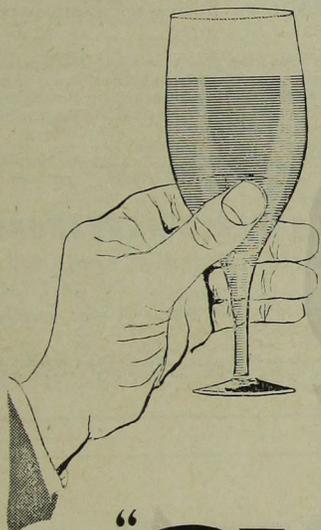
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1st BATTALION NOTES

EDITORIAL

The "invigorating" climate of Holywood has certainly lived up to the Commanding Officer's promises and everyone is now acclimatised and in good spirits. Most members of the Battalion and their families are newcomers to Northern Ireland and we have all been most impressed by the friendliness and helpfulness of the Ulster people. They have really made us welcome as a Regiment and as individuals. There have been many enquiries after the 2/8th Battalion and its members who served here during the last war. They are obviously remembered with great respect and affection.

cookhouse and dining hall, an excellent Junior Ranks Club (NAAFI), good offices and stores, comfortable messes, plenty of married quarters, its own sports grounds, good instructional rooms and so on.

The only drawbacks are that travel to England is expensive—and so is beer. Rumours of special travel allowances float about now and then but apparently have been doing so for many years.

It is wonderful for the Battalion to be together again after being split for two and a half years between Gibraltar and Tobruk. Inter-Company military and sporting rivalries are building up again and our prepara-



A well-remembered view.
Looking out to La Linea
showing the three flags.

The move from Gibraltar went well in spite of numerous delays and last minute changes imposed by higher authority. What a quaint place Heysham Harbour Station is! Gibraltar seems far away in distance and time and one now remembers the sunshine above all else.

Palace Barracks, Holywood (there actually was a holy wood), is built on the site and grounds of a long-since demolished Episcopal Palace. It is generally agreed to be the best barracks, taking everything into account, that the Battalion has occupied for many years. It has everything that we have so often lacked in the past; centrally heated barrack rooms, a really first class

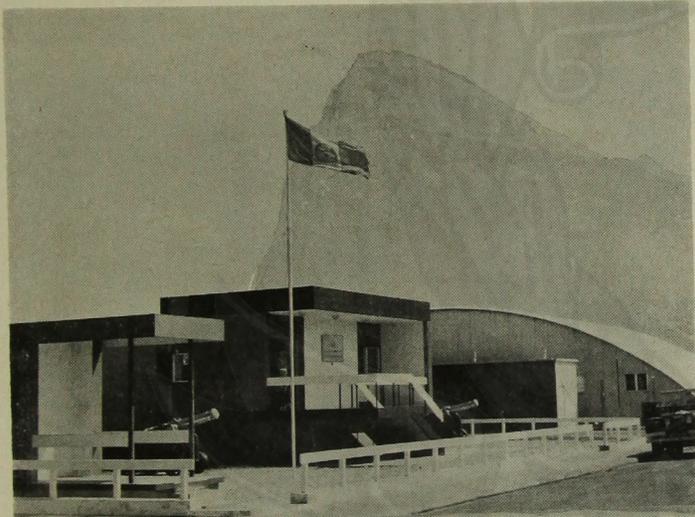
tions for our forthcoming operational tour in British Guiana are going well. The large number of recruits and other reinforcements which have arrived from the Home Counties Brigade Depot at Canterbury since November have started to ease the manpower problems. We have been able to form a third rifle company, "C" Company, and our Training Company has now been re-titled as "D" Company again.

However, it will be a long time before we have enough soldiers to fill our establishment fully and in British Guiana we will need as many men as we can get as the Battalion will be widely spread and will have

heavy administrative commitments and overheads. A short description of British Guiana, its political, racial and economic problems and the Battalion's proposed deployment is given after this editorial. We were originally warned in November for a move in July, but later the date was brought forward to early April. The Advance Party now leaves by air from Aldergrove Airport on March 22, and will be followed by the main body between April 1 and 10, also by air.

Our families will be able to remain in quarters at Holywood and will be looked after by a small rear party. Our tour will be for between seven and nine months.

Our training has, perforce, been limited because of time. We have concentrated on specialist, individual, section and platoon training and the formation of "C" Company by the transfer of two complete trained platoons—one from each of "A" and "B" Companies. We have been unable to do any Battalion training in



(Photo: Sgt. K. H. Lloyd)

Last days at the Frontier.
Sentry at Four Corners
Guardroom.

the field owing to lack of time and have had to defer this until after our return from British Guiana.

We thoroughly enjoyed the visit from the Colonel of the Regiment in early January. General Man was accompanied by Colonel Walden from Regimental Headquarters. It was a great pleasure to be able to welcome and entertain them in Northern Ireland. The programme was mainly an informal one, but the General addressed the Battalion and the Officers and Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Messes and toured barracks and quarters. During the visit the Band and Drums presented a special musical and marching display. The Colonel of the Regiment afterwards

complimented the Band and Drums on an excellent performance given under unpleasant semi arctic conditions. We hope that the Colonel of the Regiment will be able to visit us in British Guiana.

The Brigade Colonel, Colonel Ian Battye, visited us later in January and we hope that he also will be able to visit us again in British Guiana.

In December Major Donald Peckham, our Paymaster, left us after five years. We could not have had a better member of the Battalion and we were all sorry to say farewell to him after such a long time in the Officers' Mess. Two other attached members of the Battalion who have also left after serving the Battalion outstandingly well for long periods are S/Sgt. Girling, our armourer (ten years) and S/Sgt. Harrison, our Pay Staff Sergeant (four years).

Major Pat Donovan is also due to leave us in April for a new appointment as a Quartermaster in Aden. He has served (this time!) with the Battalion for an

unbroken tour of nine years—surely a record for one of our own officers? We wish them all, and their families, every happiness in the future and hope and expect to see them again whenever an opportunity occurs.

One or two events in the sporting line deserve a mention. Firstly the outstanding performance of our Whaler Crew in Gibraltar in winning the Challenge Oar Competition outright in 1965. Details appear elsewhere. Next the magnificent game played by our football XI against the very strong R.A.C. Bovington side in the Army Cup Competition. We have not seen the Battalion side play a better game in a better spirit

for years and years and it was a great pity that we lost the match after extra time 2-3. Our cross country team put up a fine performance in winning the Northern Ireland Command Cross Country Championships and now goes forward to the U.K. competition. Lastly "H.Q." Company and "B" Company are now the finalists in the Northern Ireland Command Minor Units Football Competition. They have played the final one—the game resulting in a draw and a decision has yet to be obtained.

(Stop Press—Our Rugby XV have just beaten Q.D.G. in the finals of the 39 Infantry Brigade Competition.)

The period has just ended with our Annual Administrative Inspection, conducted by the Brigade Commander 39 Infantry Brigade, Brigadier C. Blair, O.B.E., M.C. The Battalion paraded in combat dress and equipment with vehicles and support weapons. The Band and Drums wearing blue and scarlet respectively provided the music and the weather was kinder to us



(Photo: Belfast Telegraph)

The Commanding Officer signing the Lord Mayor's Book in the City Hall, Belfast, accompanied by the Lord Mayor.

than expected. The inspection was a useful preparation to put us in order before our move to British Guiana. The Brigadier tested a number of individuals and sub-units in a lively and interesting way, and the Inspection went well. "H.Q." Company marching around the square in respirators behind the Band and Drums in their scarlet and blue was an unusual sight! At the conclusion of the two day inspection period the Brigade Commander said that he was most encouraged by all that he saw and much impressed by the spirit of the Battalion.

Owing to our operational commitments in Northern Ireland it is not possible for the Battalion to take embarkation leave together and so March will be spent with half the Battalion on leave and the remainder preparing for the move to British Guiana. The Advance Party will be an operational one and the Commanding

Officer and Company Commanders will go instead of Seconds-in-Command.

This has been a period of transition and preparation with, as readers will appreciate, not a great deal of activity to report. We hope that on our return from South America we will be able to fill the next edition of *The Die-Hards* with pictures and reports of some livelier events.

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(Photo: Sgt. K. H. Lloyd)

(Top): "Up the Hill" for "C" Company. Major Pollard receives his orders from the Brigadier.
(Centre): The Brigadier inspecting No. 4 Platoon, "A" Company.

(Bottom): The Brigadier inspects a Mobat of 8 Platoon, "B" Company. From left to right: Pte. Hayes, L/Cpl. Wells, Brigadier Blair, Pte. Coultlen, Major Donovan, Lt. Montgomery, Major Carter.

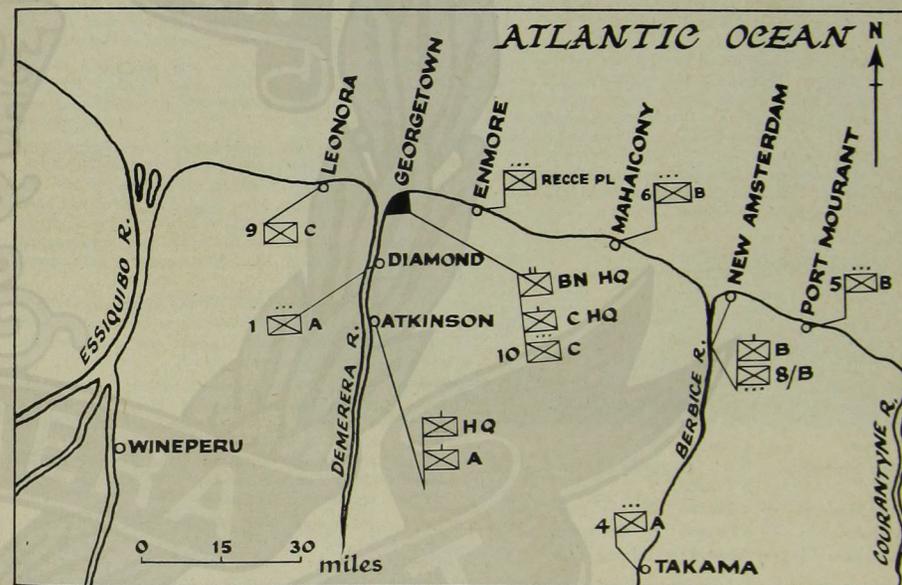
BRITISH GUIANA

British Guiana is known as "The Land of the six Nations" owing to its multi-racial society and "The Land of Rivers" criss-crossed as it is with vast complexes of creeks, rivers and canals. A land of sunshine and sugar cane, blue skies and gold, diamonds and palm trees, cricket and calypso music.

It is bounded by three countries; to the West is Venezuela, Brazil is to the South and to the East is

The climate is characterised by a high though variable rainfall and little seasonal range of temperature. Two wet seasons occur between April and August and between November and January. Along the coast rainfall averages from 80 to 100 inches. Southwards this decreases to about 60 inches in the interior savannahs and is confined to a single wet season. The mean shade temperature is 80°F. Humidity is high but its effect

1 MX PROPOSED INITIAL DEPLOYMENT, BRITISH GUIANA, APRIL 1966



Netherlands Guiana or Surinam as it is now known. The country is a little smaller than England.

The coastline of some 270 miles faces the Atlantic Ocean and the land is crossed by many rivers which flow from the interior highlands joining the sea through wide estuaries. Three of these rivers, the Essequibo, the Demerara and the Berbice, give their names to the three "counties" which make up British Guiana. The estuaries, though tidal, are navigable by ocean-going vessels for up to about 65 miles from the sea.

near the coast is reduced by the steady sea-breezes.

Half the population of approximately 621,000 are of East Indian origin; about 35% are African. The remainder are made up of Amerindians, Portuguese, Chinese and people of mixed race. The coastal belt, though only 4% of the total area, is the most important part of the country containing 90% of the population.

The capital city is Georgetown and has, with its suburbs, a population of some 162,000. Mackenzie has a population of 20,000 and New Amsterdam, in Berbice, 15,000.

Since the fifteenth century British Guiana has changed hands several times. Initially it was Spanish then Dutch and, since the nineteenth century, British.

The two major political parties—The Peoples Progressive Party and the Peoples National Congress—are Socialist in outlook. They are led by Dr. Jagan and Mr. Burnham respectively. The former is supported mainly by East Indians, the latter by Africans. Mr. D'Aguiar's party, the United Force, is more conservative in character and is understood to be opposed to Communism.

In August 1961 the British Government granted full internal self-government to British Guiana. Unfortunately the political parties could not agree on three issues which had to be settled before the country became independent. After a breakdown of law and order in 1962 a British Battalion was sent from the United Kingdom to keep the peace. Eventually after further discussions in 1963 a system of proportional representation was introduced. Elections were held in 1964 under this system and a coalition Government emerged from the P.N.C. and the U.F.

Nineteen sixty-four proved a difficult year for the country with much internal strife. A state of emergency was declared and a second British Regiment was flown out from England. Since that time, however, the situation has become increasingly less tense and law and order have been restored.

The 1st Battalion will be deployed mainly along the coastal area as shown on the map attached. The Company positions initially will be as follows:

Georgetown	— Battalion H.Q., "C" Company H.Q., one Platoon "C" Company.
Atkinson Field	— "H.Q." Company. "A" Company H.Q. and one Platoon, "A" Company.
Diamond	— One Platoon "A" Company.
Leonold	— 9 Platoon "C" Company.
Enmore	— Recce Platoon (attached "C" Company).
Takama	— 4 Platoon "A" Company.
New Amsterdam	— "B" Company H.Q. and 8 Platoon.
Port Mourant	— 5 Platoon "B" Company.
Mahaicony	— 6 Platoon "B" Company.
Wineperu	— Adventure Training H.Q.

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THE CAMBRIDGE WIVES' CLUB

Before our departure from Gibraltar the Cambridge Wives' Club held a sale "to end all sales." With the help of many, especially the Cubs, who collected all the goods for us, it was a great success. We were able to send money, toys and clothes to the Cheshire Childrens' Home in Tangier, the Gibraltar Childrens' Welfare Fund and also to make a donation to the local Gibraltar Cub Pack. Letters of thanks for these donations were received.

On arrival in Ireland we found that the amenities for starting up the Club again were marvellous. Our Club Room is as nice as anything we could wish for. It is large, warm and well furnished and has a table-tennis table, dart board, and two large sewing machines; we could not be better equipped. We are also very fortunate in having a large room available in which we have been able to start a Kindergarten School. This is now a thriving concern under the able guidance of Mrs. Edey and Mrs. Elston. It certainly fulfills a need for the under-5's, as there is no nursery school in Holywood.

The Children's Party this year was held for all children under 14, in the Junior Ranks Club and judging by the noise and confusion a good time was had by all.

The following ladies have formed our Committee in Holywood—Mrs. Shipster, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. McMillan, Mrs. McShane, Mrs. Simmonds, Mrs. Torrie, Mrs. La Touche, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Brett and Mrs. Shinn. Mrs. Carter has had to give up being an active member of the Committee as she had to go into hospital for her second baby; Mrs. Norton very kindly agreed to take over.

We started our activities in the New Year with a games evening. W.O.2 Hynson and his catering staff provided us with a buffet-supper and a magnificent cake, which was much appreciated.

Since January we have managed to start a table-tennis club, a keep-fit class and shooting. Mrs. Tarry has got her Cubs together again and there are facilities for sewing classes. It is also the intention to hold coffee-mornings when our husbands have left for British Guiana. Mrs. Fisher is running a Thrift Shop which we hope will be a great success.

On our departure from Gibraltar we held a Forum on Ireland, here we had a Forum on British Guiana. On the evening of February 15, Lt.-Col. Shipster showed us some films on British Guiana after his recent visit there. They gave us some idea of where our husbands will be stationed. Lt.-Col. Shipster, Capt. Cheesman, Lt. McMillan, Lt. Bryant, O.R.Q.M.S. Cripps and Major Cunningham (R.A.M.C.), from Command Headquarters, formed a Panel and questions from the wives were invited. These were not slow in coming and a lively discussion followed. Our questions were ably answered by the Panel and the evening was most helpful to us.

We hope that all the wives who are staying in Palace Barracks during their husbands' absence will make full use of their own Cambridge Club.

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Now firmly installed in the plush surroundings of our new Battalion Headquarters in Holywood we look back to the frantic last days of our Gibraltar tour; the countless nominal rolls and reams of paper that passed through our typewriters and duplicator to ensure that everyone was put aboard the correct aircraft, U.K.-bound for some well earned leave, before moving to Northern Ireland. Great credit must go to those clerks who worked so hard and such long hours to achieve the end product—a successful move.

A change of stations brought a change of Adjutants. Capt. Crumley vacated his chair and moved to "A" Company to make way for Capt. Cheesman, who is quickly learning the mysteries of that exalted appointment with all its trials and tribulations. We observe that Capt. Crumley still totes that heavy looking brief-case

(Photo: Sgt. K. H. Lloyd)

The Cambridge Club Kindergarten

From left to right (Back row): Annette Plumb, Julie Taylor, John Tuvey, Allen Michel, Cheryl Eastap.

(Front row): Anne Pollard, Raymond la Touche, Laura Edey, Sharon Wills, Trevor Da Costa, Dawn Brett, Belinda Cooper, Dean Miles.

(In charge): Mrs. Elston and Mrs. Miles.



everywhere and we speculate whether it contains our missing coffee account which disappeared so mysteriously with the details of our sundry debtors; hence no Christmas Drinks Party!

We welcome Ptes. Ted Constant, Frank Neale and Rory Milligan as new additions under training. (Ted has a brother and cousin already serving in the Battalion). We hope their stay with us will be happy and enjoyable.

No sooner had Pte. "Peddles" Pedley returned from his extended Tobruk stint than he was banished to the Clerks Wing at Warminster to improve his technical knowledge, together with Cpl. "Mitch" Fordham seeking that elusive B.I. Peddles returned all smiles and with his B II qualifications, but for Mitch Fordham it was "better luck next time." Pte. Brian Perrott not to be outdone, quickly took up the challenge to master 250 words in ten minutes and left for Warminster in early January. We hope to see him back in time for British Guiana and qualified for a higher rate of pay.

Already we are in the midst of preparations for the

move to British Guiana and the hordes of boxes and packing will be a familiar sight once again. It would be quite true to say that, without exception, we all look forward to the forthcoming tour in British Guiana. More especially as the Battalion will be present when Independence is gained in May of this year and it is more than likely that we will be the last British Battalion to serve in that country. Many serving members will remember the moving occasion in Austria when the departure of the Battalion from that country marked the end of occupation by the British Army. Let us hope that our short stay in, and departure from, British Guiana will be just as memorable.

Finally our congratulations go to the Second-in-Command, Major Carter, on the birth of his second son; to Capt. Cheesman on the birth of his first child, a daughter, to "Paddy" Doran on his promotion to

Lance-Corporal, and Sgt. Flynn on successfully qualifying on a Boxing Judges Course and to Pte. David Bailes on his engagement (Editor: At last!).

BATTALION PAY TEAM

The Battalion Pay Team has moved into 1966 (Editor—congratulations) and Palace Barracks, Holywood, Northern Ireland with a number of changes in its Royal Army Pay Corps members.

We have said goodbye to our Paymaster, Major D. G. Peckham, R.A.P.C., on posting to Regimental Pay Office, Guildford, and our Chief Clerk, S/Sgt. G. O. Harrison, R.A.P.C., on posting to Regimental Pay Office, Winchester, and also to Cpl. W. D. Lodge, R.A.P.C. on posting to 52 Field Squadron (Airfields) Royal Engineers, Cambridgeshire. We wish them good luck in their new appointments and trust that they will find things a little less hectic after their sterling service

with the Battalion Pay Team in Germany, England, Greece, Gibraltar and latterly Northern Ireland.

On a happier note we welcome to the team our new Paymaster, Lt. N. J. Bryant, R.A.P.C. from the Regimental Pay Office, Nottingham, our new Chief Clerk, S/Sgt. C. A. Sabner, R.A.P.C. from H.Q. 24 Infantry Brigade Group, Aden, and Cpl. D. N. Ogle, R.A.P.C., who is a native of Belfast, from the Regimental Pay Office, Edinburgh.

Both the Paymaster and Chief Clerk have the distinction of being ex-members of the Middlesex Regiment. Lt. N. J. Bryant served in West Africa on secondment, firstly to the Ghana Armed Forces and then to the Royal Sierra Leone Military Forces before transferring to the Royal Army Pay Corps. S/Sgt. C. A. Sabner was serving with the 2/9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (T.A.) when they were embodied into the Regular Army at the outbreak of hostilities in 1939.

Of the remaining members of the team we have Cpl. A. B. Hutchinson, R.A.P.C., also an ex-member of the Regiment, who, it is understood, is again contemplating marriage and Cpl. C. W. Foley, R.A.P.C., Cpl. Foley is a keen cross-country runner, when he gets the opportunity, having successfully represented the Battalion in Gibraltar and Libya. We also have Cpl. A. P. Goddard, R.A.P.C., who plays rugby but as yet has not had the opportunity of showing his prowess on the field, and Sgt. J. R. Hoare, R.A.P.C., who is due to leave the Battalion on return from British Guiana.

An excessive amount of work due to the move of the Battalion from Gibraltar to Northern Ireland, conversion from the manual system to Automatic Data Processing at Worthy Down, and now, after our Administrative Inspection by the Command Paymaster, H.Q. Northern Ireland Command, preparations for the forthcoming move to British Guiana has caused considerable overtime by all members of the team. It is hoped that once we get to British Guiana members of the team will be able to enjoy the sun and get out and about away from the office from time to time.

P.R.I.

The final events leading up to our departure from the "Rock" included a W.V.S. sponsored barbecue held at the Nuffield Pool on Sunday August 29, which went

off well. This was followed by "Rock a Bye Bye," the Battalion's farewell dance held in South Barracks Hall on Saturday, September 4. Dancing was to the noisy accompaniment of "The Wanderers" and after a somewhat slow start the evening evolved into a mass of swaying, jiving, bodies. An enjoyable, if somewhat deafening and hot evening being had by all.

The P.R.I., Capt. Mallalieu, then disappeared into Portugal, having got himself married on September 8.

With the arrival of the main body of the Battalion in Northern Ireland at the end of November, time was at a premium for preparations to be made for Christmas festivities. The P.R.I., as usual, was heavily involved in balloons and outsize boots to fit outsize Father Christmas' feet.

The Civilian Staff Party went off one Friday morning with a great swing (*Editor*—and sing!) and, with the cookhouse supplying some excellent snacks and plenty of drinks, it proved most successful.

The All Ranks Christmas Dance was held in the Junior Ranks Club on Sunday, December 19 to an equally enthusiastic group as that in Gibraltar. On Tuesday, December 21, the crisis point in every P.R.I.'s life took place—the Childrens' Party. What with cartoon programmes, magic and dancing and about 200 children, the Junior Ranks Club was bulging at the seams. However, all things have to end and three hours later an exhausted host of helpers sat and surveyed the field of battle. Many thanks must go to the cooks for providing a first class tea. (*Editor*—what about Father Christmas?).

Christmas went off as well as ever, the Christmas meal being served by the Officers and Sergeants on Christmas Eve after everyone had had a drink together in the cookhouse. Major Pollard gave us a cheerful song about his cousin, then we left.

The post-Christmas period gave us a chance to have a look at Holywood. We are extremely lucky to have one of the finest unit Junior Ranks Clubs anywhere, and, with Tombola on Fridays and a Sunday night dance, the P.R.I. is in good business.

As for personalities—Capt. Mallalieu is just off to the 5th Battalion, Sgt. Horder will be leaving later on and Pte. Lim hopes to join a Rifle Company after sterling service with the Shop. We wish their successors all the best.

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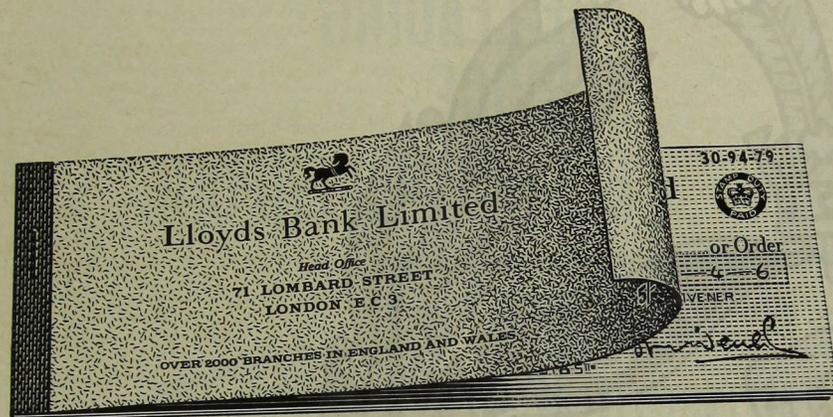
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As we enjoy the invigorating rain of Northern Ireland the sun of Gibraltar seems a distant memory. However, it would not be quite fair to dismiss Gibraltar completely from these notes without drawing attention to the Band's crowning success there with their trip to Busaco in Portugal. In spite of appalling weather they gave a magnificent performance which occasioned at least two very appreciative letters which arrived to cheer the Advance Party here.

The move seemed successful and though a lot of the main body enjoyed an extra week's leave due to the delayed move of our predecessors here everyone still seemed to arrive in the right order—save perhaps for one soldier who when caught without uniform on arrival disappeared and has not been seen since! Initially there was a lot of "General Post" between blocks and rooms trying to fit in expanding Platoons but now, since the Signal Platoon have exported themselves, all seems to fit. The Signal Cadre has probably been the most important ever, establishing as it has the Platoon's vital role, though giving the C.S.M. some headaches when duty Company!

Though cuts have been made, our strength is little less than in Gibraltar, but we have at least split in two for sport. "H.Q." I have probably just got the edge in this having just won the "Lightning" basketball and the soccer "Knockout"; in Brigade competition we remain as one and look like doing well in the soccer if our first round win over "H.Q." Squadron Q.D.G. by 11—1 is an indication.

Battalion runs continue and are normally individual efforts round the local roads or by groups with maps across the local scenery. In both, the Company has done well and in the more serious art of competitive cross-country, "H.Q." I have a second and a win to their credit. Cpl. Foley (R.A.P.C.) and Cfn. Houghton (R.E.M.E.) are still our mainstays! Sgt. Miles (M.T.), L/Cpl. Tydeman (M.T.), Drm. Davidson, Drm. Cross and Pte. Read all played for the Battalion Soccer XI in our third round Army Cup match with the R.A.C. Depot—a game we were unlucky to lose by the odd goal.

Cadres have abounded with the Signals setting the pace by running three consecutive ones at one stage. The Intelligence Section have been studying "B.G." and now there are eight stalwarts on the N.C.O.'s Cadre. The Band and Drums have given two excellent displays—one for the Colonel of the Regiment and one for the Brigade Colonel though bad weather curtailed the latter. They have also played their usual helpful part in the Christmas festivities.

As always with a move there have been a vast number of moves and promotions. We welcome Capt. Hayward and look forward to his promotion party before very long. He will be joined any day now by C.S.M. Eastap who already has great experience of the Company.

Major Pollard has gone to "C" Company and C.S.M. Power is off to Canterbury any day now. The P.R.I.'s are in mid-handover—Capt. Crumley has volunteered for a short spell in office rather than go immediately to Hong Kong so that Capt. Mallaleu can get to 5 Mx. Before our next notes Major Donovan will have handed

over to Lt. Morris and Capt. Goring to Lt. Hubert; in fact we lose the Recce Platoon to "C" Company in British Guiana.

At the risk of leaving someone out congratulations to the following on their fairly recent promotions: Sgt. Dowsett (Intelligence), Sgt. Stewart (Signals), Sgt. Fleet (Medical), Sgt. Fisher (Signals), Sgt. Dawson (Drums), Cpl. Jacklin (Gymnasium), Cpl. Robertson (Rations), Cpl. Rawlinson (Officers Mess), Cpl. Murphy 39 (Medical), Cpl. Ives (Signals), Cpl. Harding (M.T.), Cpl. MacConachie (Intelligence), Cpl. Hannaford (Signals), and Cpl. Toohey (M.T.). Cpls. Ryan and Hamill have been promoted for their Hythe Signals Course. Cpl. Ormerod has joined the Recce Platoon and L/Cpls. Whitman and Richards, the Police; L/Cpl. Parker has returned to the Drums.

At the moment the rigours of A.C.E. 1 Course, the "Admin.", Sport, Duty Company, Cadres and preparation for the move keep everyone fully extended but after the "Admin." we shall be able to relax and enjoy leave, A.C.E. 1 Courses, Sport, Duty Company, Cadres and the actual move. Back to the sun!

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON

Reading through our notes of the October Journal is like looking back on a previous existence in another world. During our leave the sun quit and everything got a sight colder. By the time we shook out in Hollywood the sea at our doorstep was feeling the cold too; that beautiful transparent blue became a sluggish, oily grey. Most of all the local population changed. A curious thing about these parts is the surplus of colleens. The lads of the Recce Platoon spend most of their free time applying the principles of what they learnt in training to practical life in Belfast's concrete jungle. The Plaza Ballroom was a fruitful hunting ground until the authorities made it a game reserve.

Our training has progressed by leaps and bounds. We were presented with six Landrovers and after a struggle with the Signal Platoon we made off with six wireless sets. The first exercise was an exciting race around the countryside with maps. At the end of the day the mileage recorded on the vehicles told who could map-read and who could not.

Shortly after this we did an advance to contact across the Western side of the Black Mountain, reporting on "hostile" sheep. On the recce for this exercise there were sheep all over the place but on the day itself either they all took the day off or were being converted into sheep-skin coats.

We spent a week guarding ammunition at Ballykinlar. We have never enjoyed a week more. The guard duties were irksome but had a real purpose with a smack of "Cloak and Dagger" thrown in. On the third morning the "alarm" rocket went up. We were on the range and were at instant panic stations; the situation seemed desperate after the twelfth rocket had seared the morning sky. By that time we had surrounded the compound to discover the whole batch of 40 rockets were being used up and everyone but us had been told to ignore them. Only our standby driver, Pte. Graham knew, but he did

not tell us, bless his cotton socks!! He was rightly in the dog box after one abortive, hasty sweep through the gorse and barbed-wire to the rescue. Having survived the coldest day for 20 years, with the east wind coming straight off the sea, we enjoyed some excellent shooting on the ranges there. We competed in "Falling Plates," we did close range quick firing and we ran a hundred yards in full battle-order, steel helmets, respirators and with fixed bayonets to fire standing at more steel plates. We rounded off our week's training with a short night shoot. It was rather a spectacular night-attack using tracer and para-illuminating bombs.

Spot has been a side-line for us. We sent C/Sgt. Edey away for a fortnight's course on basketball. He has passed on his knowledge to us in practice games.

Read and Hall are in the Battalion football side, while Graham and Stevens are required to train for the cross-country team. L/Cpls. Goodman and Tofts are frequently called upon to turn out for the rugby team. Well done to them all!

We have had remarkably few changes in the Platoon. Cpl. Burrows snatched a golden opportunity and was selected out of over a hundred applicants for a job as an Air Traffic Controller in Australia. Cpls. Phillips and Clifford also took "Golden Bowlers." Cpls. Cousins, Grevatt and Gray were posted to other Companies. Good luck to them all!

Since arriving in Northern Ireland we have been given Cpls. Ormerod and Williams by a gracious God. Williams was in the Southern Irish Army for 18 months. Cpl. Ormerod has done ten years in the Royal Marines. He has served nearly all this time in the Far East. The Marines must miss him; we are very pleased to have him since he has proved invaluable.

Capt. Goring—the Father of the Recce Platoon—will reluctantly hand over the Platoon to Lt. Hubert when we arrive in British Guiana, and with it his wishes of happiness and good fortune.

SIGNAL PLATOON

Since Gibraltar there has been another surge of bodies in and out of the Platoon. We welcomed back W.O.2 Michel though unfortunately not for long as he left us after two months for the Q.M.'s Department. Sgt. Fisher, now at Hythe, is joining us as Signal Sergeant. Cpl. Ives, Ptes. Day, Mansfield, Booth, Costello and Plimsaul came to us from the Companies and Pte. Sharman is on loan until he rejoins "A" Company as the O.C.'s batman. Ptes. Halfman, Emerson and Panting were posted in direct from Army Schools, whilst Featherstone, Ward, Lagden, Williams 34, Constant, Swan, Taylor and Harris joined either from the Brigade Depot or from the Queen's Surreys in B.A.O.R., where they had been awaiting our return from Gibraltar. They are now all undergoing a Regimental Signallers Cadre.

We have said goodbye to 12 people. Cpl. Dowsett left to become Intelligence Sergeant after many years with the Platoon. Ptes. Page, Calloway and Roynance were posted to Rifle Companies. Pte. Watson followed Sgt. Dowsett to the Intelligence Section while "Steptoe

and Son," those two well-known characters (Ptes. Slater and Edge) have finished their six years and are at present in civvy street. We hope they will return to the Platoon. Ptes. Taylor and Booth unfortunately were medically discharged, reducing the Cadre by two. Soon we will lose another well known old soldier, L/Cpl. "Larry" Lambourne, whose first six is almost up.

To all those who have joined we wish them a happy time with us and hope all those who have gone will remember their days in the Platoon and have good fortune outside. Perhaps we shall see some of them back.

On reaching the "Emerald Isle" we have once again started Cadres. This time the problem was how to do three things at once—a pre-Hythe Cadre, a classification Cadre and continuation training.

Our pre-Hythe Cadre was run by Sgt. Stewart (newly promoted) and ably assisted by Cpl. Morley. From time to time the R.S.O. got a spoke in as well. The students were Lt. Hubert, training to take over the Recce Platoon in April 1966, Sgt. Fisher, recently promoted and posted to the Signal Platoon, L/Cpls. "Toothy" Hamill and Paddy "Eyes" Ryan. They trained well and worked hard and all have managed to pass into Hythe, although Lt. Hubert is still doing early morning Morse. Rumour hath it that Sgt. Fisher passed in with 94%, a dangerous thing as all ex-Hythe members will tell you.

To those four and C/Sgt. Williamson who is also on the course, and whom we look forward to seeing as Platoon Sergeant in British Guiana, a small poem has been dedicated. Take note any future R.S.I. graduates.

*An old man stood at the pearly gates
His face was scarred and old
He stood before the men of fate
For welcome to the fold,
"What have you done," St. Peter said,
"For to gain your entrance here?"
"I've been a signaller Sir," he said.
"R.S.I. 53 this year."
The Pearly Gates swung open wide
St. Peter rang the bell,
"Come inside," St. Peter said,
"You've served your time in hell."*

Our classification is still in progress and with eight weeks gone it is interesting to reflect that, of the original 20 starters, three have fallen by the wayside. Nevertheless the R.S.O. hopes to have some classified by March.

The Cadre instructors at the beginning were the R.S.O., C.S.M. Michel (posted into the Platoon in November and unfortunately posted out again in January) and Cpl. Barratt. With the pre-Hythe Cadre finished Sgt. Stewart has joined us and we press on regardless. It is noticeable that Sgt. Weston has managed to evade this Cadre, "Too busy with the telephone account, Sir."

At the time of writing these notes the Cadre is preparing for Exercise Bluster, the first exercise to include night training and field cooking and living. Normally Friday sees them about the countryside for the day. With four weeks to go we wish them good luck (and good communications).

Normally with the Administrative Inspection round

the corner all efforts would be on this annual event. This year because our feelings are turned towards British Guiana, where we shall be in late March, we are all looking forward to this and the opportunities and experience it affords. Listening to an amusing briefing by the R.S.O. on the tasks and the country itself one could understand the challenge it presents, and at the same time what great fun it could be.

As we shall be split into detachments in British Guiana and will work on our own, PRONTO and his "minors" have dedicated an old ditty as an inspiration for that country.

"PARDON ME YOUR COMMS ARE SHOWING"

*Screaming through the nightly mush,
My language causes all to blush,
Slidex bigrams make me vomit,
I'm getting double vision from it,
Those coughing fits, that ghastly fug,
That rancid brew in borrowed mug.*

*Hullo Two you're right off net,
Hullo Three you're being wet,
Fill your lungs and raise the pitch,
Stop sittin' on the pressel switch,
All stations working? Heavenly bliss,
What's that? Oh God! Our battery's dis.*

*Plaintive cries of "Signals Over,"
And "Hullo nine" (the C.O.'s Rover).
Jams my thought and reasoned word,
Rots my guts—my speech is blurred,
Distorts my sight—I'm seeing red,
I'll murder PRONTO in his bed.*

*The lust to kill him quite appalled me,
But charging engine fumes forestalled me.*

(Editor—try heliograph, it's quieter.)

In Ireland the Platoon has concentrated on football and cross-country running. Our soccer players provide regular members in the Company and Battalion matches. Cpls. Morley, Hannaford and Lambourne, Ptes. Webb, Gillham and Theobald are our stars.

In the cross-country we have four under training for the Command Championships and in England we hope Lt. Hubert has the two other Corporals training each night. Two of them will fly back for the competition. Both in the soccer and the cross-country "H.Q." I have been clear winners.

On the hockey field Pte. Taylor and Capt. Cowing have been seen and the R.S.O. was noticed wearing a neck supporter after a jaunt of rugby. Was it the cold weather or Dress 91?

Many others compete in various sports, not forgetting our Battalion fortnightly runs.

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

Like the rest of the Battalion our big news is "Goodbye Gibraltar—Hello Ulster." All members

of the staff arrived at Palace Barracks on schedule; even the motorists made it.

Life tends to be rather hectic for us—handover in Gibraltar—takeover in Palace Barracks—"Admin." coming up and the forthcoming move to British Guiana. All this falls heavily on the shoulders of the Q.M.'s Gladiators.

Now for our News.

We congratulate S/Sgt. Girling on the birth of his daughter and Pte. Amor on his course report—he was graded O.J., we think. We also congratulate Amor on the birth of his son.

Congratulations also to the Quartermaster on obtaining his "Majority," W.O.2 Lagden on his recent promotion and, we nearly forgot, "Bilko" has made Sergeant.

We are sorry to hear that we are losing Major Donovan to Aden, and all members of the staff wish him and Mrs. Donovan all success for the future and a happy stay in their new station.

Also leaving is W.O.2 Lagden. He is going to our newly formed "C" Company and the writer of these notes, in particular, will miss him; he usually wrote up our notes for *The Die-Hards*. We also say goodbye to L/Cpl. Meller, one of our unit armourers who got a sudden posting to the Guards Depot at Pirbright, Surrey.

Taking W.O.2 Lagden's place is W.O.2 Michel, who takes over at a time when we start a new system of accounting, and it shows in him.

Cpls. Shearing and O'Brien are due to join us as "Block Holders" in this new accounting system and no doubt will develop furrowed brows as a result. However we extend to them a warm welcome.

We welcome Lt. Morris as our new Quartermaster and say that he arrives at a most interesting time.

That is about all for now. If all we have heard about British Guiana is true our next note will appear in the *News of the World*.

MOTOR TRANSPORT PLATOON

Wild's West Transport—Yearly Report

It is farewell Gibraltar and hiya Ulster, as the Searchers sing, "You've gotta keep moving." After just over two years pleasantly spent in Gibraltar and the sun, we are now in the "Land of the Little People." Where the saying is "When you can see the Mourne Mountains rain is due, but when you can't, it's raining."

The last few months in Gibraltar were spent on training new drivers for the Rifle Companies and refresher courses for the Platoon drivers to prepare them for a more active command. These courses included driving skills, camouflage techniques, winter and column driving and maintaining the vehicles in the field. These courses have since proved to be a great asset in helping us settle down in our new station.

At the end of these Cadres it was possible for ten members of the Platoon to take part in a trip to the battlefields of the Peninsular War. An article on this trip by Cpl. J. F. Stewart can be found elsewhere in the Journal.

The handover of stores and vehicles to the relieving

unit in both Tobruk and Gibraltar was very good and up to the Regiment's normal standard, although much midnight oil was burnt in both places to achieve it.

On leaving Gibraltar all members of the Platoon managed to get between four and six weeks' leave. It was during the leave period that the Regimental reunion was held at the T.A. Centre at Edgware Road, and a number of the Platoon were in attendance, particularly Cpls. George Whitt, Ray Cleasby and Ken Toohey and Ptes. "Blossom" Flowerdew and John McGlade, and of course not forgetting the M.T.O., Capt. M. Wild. It was a surprise to find Harry "the Horse" Eckford there, also Sgt. Danny Burke, both of whom had left



L/Cpl. Tydeman on the Beat—Spain 1965!

the Battalion, Harry on demob and Danny on posting to the 5th Battalion. Of the reunion the M.T.O. can still be heard muttering dire threats over an overcoat that was taken. God help the fella if the M.T.O. catches him. The evening was spoilt by the fact that many of the Regiment, ex- and serving, had to leave to catch the last bus or train. Let's hope that more of these "get-togethers" are held, even if the lamps are swinging and that some people come away shell shocked.

By about the end of November all the Platoon had reported for duty at Palace Barracks and began settling down. In this station transport has been handed over to Companies, the Recce and Signal Platoons. This allows

the M.T. to man the remaining vehicles with each driver having his own vehicle. Already a great improvement can be seen in the standard of driving, maintenance and cleanliness.

On December 20 we held our Christmas Party in the M.T. garage, and an excellent buffet was arranged by Cpl. Anderson and Cpl. Revera of the A.C.C. Cpl. George Whitt acted as Mine Host and issued out the wallop with a frothy head and sparingly, according to some of the hollow leg brigade. The guests were the C.O., Lt.-Col. Shipster, Majors Carter and Pollard, W.O.2's Hynson, A.C.C., and Power, C/Sgts. Potter and Smith and Cpl. "Froggie" French of the Q.M.'s. How Froggie fiddled an invitation is still being wondered at by himself, least of all by us. The evening was a swinging success even if the jokes are unprintable.

With the New Year came the news that the Battalion's move to British Guiana had been brought forward from July to April. This meant intensifying training into two working months instead of five. Shortly after this the dreaded news was released from the Kremlin "Admin., February 21 and 22." With this news plus the move to British Guiana the local aerodrome kindly provided a runway just for the office staff to land on when flapping commenced. As can be expected training began in earnest with convoy drives, rough driving with trailers and route finding. It is surprising how some people can not only lose the vehicle in front during a convoy but also the vehicle behind. Two members of the Platoon are now being put on tow for future drives. By the time these notes are published every member of the Platoon will have completed a week on M.T. skills and training plus an exercise to practise what they have learnt.

In every edition of *The Die-Hards* there are mentions of comings and goings. Well, this one is no different. We would like to welcome C/Sgt. Cliff Shinn to the "Hot Seat." He is at present on a M.T. Course at the Army M.T. School at Bordon. He is taking over from W.O.2 Martin, M.M. Also joined are Ptes. Edwards and McLannan. We hope all three enjoy their stay with the Platoon.

It is with deep regret that we say farewell to Sgt. George Peacock of the R.E.M.E. who, after serving with the Battalion for five years in Germany, Lydd, Greece, Gibraltar and now Northern Ireland, is being posted back to Germany. Whilst with us he has been a tower of strength, improving the standard of the transport and increasing the mechanical knowledge of many of the drivers. Through his efforts he has been responsible for getting 21 members of the Platoon qualified as Standard I Class I drivers. We wish him, his wife and family the very best for the future.

Also with regret we say farewell to W.O.2 John Martin, M.M., who is leaving us on posting to the Royal Sussex. No doubt his service with this Regiment is recorded elsewhere in the Journal, but we in the Platoon are very sorry to see him go. He has worked extremely hard and has been a good friend to us all and through his energy has raised the Platoon standard to a very high level. We wish him, his wife and family all the very best for the future and hope to see them once again back with the Battalion. By the way, John, we are praying that the next is a boy for you.

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No, we have not finished yet. Through setting up Company and Platoon M.T. sections some of our members have been posted out. Cpl. Tom Puckey, L/Cpl. Geoff Kowatch, Ptes. Acker Beall (no relation to the R.S.M.) and Terry Hedger have departed to "C" Company; L/Cpl. Monty McNab to "B" Company; L/Cpl. Bob Wright to "A" Company; L/Cpl. Frank Saunders to Recce Platoon and last but not least L/Cpl. Harry Creaser to "D" Company. Thanks to you all for what you have done for us, pop in and see us at our next party.

It might be of some interest but the M.T. motto (no not the M.T.O.) is as follows:

"Anything From Anywhere At Anytime As Long As The Indent Is In 48 Hours Before."

BAND

After a well spent leave in England we start our publications this year by welcoming Bdsms. C. J. Bird, I. R. McDonald and R. Smith back from the Royal Military School of Music. Bdsms. Bird plays the French horn, Ian McDonald the Bb clarinet and guitar, and R. Smith the tenor trombone and guitar. From the Home Counties Brigade Depot, Canterbury, we welcome Bdsms. Alan Slater and Larry Offer; euphonium and Bb cornet respectively. We trust and hope they will enjoy serving with the Band and touring abroad.

Our arrival in Northern Ireland (late November) took the usual procedure of arranging our accommodation and getting settled in generally. However, it took us a few weeks before we could really get under way as a good number of our instruments were damaged in transit and had to be sent away to England for repair. By mid-December all instruments had arrived back and we were then able to play a full role as a Military Band. Over the Christmas period the Regimental Band were kept well occupied with the usual run of various Mess functions. We provided a quartet for the Officers' Mess Christmas Dance, the players—Bandmaster J. H. McShane, A.R.C.M. (piano), L/Cpl. D. Binns (bass), Bdsms. A. Nash (drums), and Bdsms. Ian McDonald (guitar).

Bdsms. McDonald rejoined the Band in late November after his course at Kneller Hall. He plays first clarinet in the Military Band and lead-guitar in the Dance Band, and comes from Park Road, Teddington, Middlesex. The Band provided a varied selection of light seasonal music throughout the Battalion "All Ranks Smoking Concert." The Bandmaster accompanied the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess sketch on the piano.

The local Old Peoples' Home in Holywood "got with it" when the Band called to entertain them just before the Christmas holiday. After the programme of music the Band members were then entertained to tea and a friendly chat with the old folks. We are sure both Band and the old people enjoyed the party.

On Christmas Eve Band members who had decided to spend their Christmas in Northern Ireland formed a small Carol Band and were joined by the Padre and his two daughters. That evening they toured all the married quarters and then visited the various Messes.

The Officers' Mess of the Field Park Engineers invited the Band in for a pint of Watneys, the Sandes Soldiers Home for a cup of tea, the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess for hot soup and beer, at the Colonels home—Lagers and Guinness, and our own Officers' Mess—a varied selection!! During the course of the rounds the Padre's daughters collected £10 os. 3d., which was distributed to children's homes.

On New Year's Eve the junior members of the Band played a selection of music during the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' New Year's Dinner Party. They played under the capable baton of Cpl. D. K. Rose. After the dinner the Band produced a quartet for a dance; the musicians were Bdsms. I. R. McDonald (guitar), R. Smith (trombone), L/Cpl. D. Binns (bass) and A. Nash (percussion).

After the Christmas and New Year celebrations the Regimental Band and the Corps of Drums spent an hour each day rehearsing for a marching display that was to be performed on the square for the Colonel of the Regiment's visit on Monday, January 10; Tuesday evening, January 11, the Mess Band played during a dinner given in the Officers' Mess for the Colonel of the Regiment.

In the not-so-distant past (mid-January) the Battalion held a cross-country run. The Band nominated the following to take part—Bdsms. Alfred Tubb, Robert Schofield, Ronald Richardson, Victor Peterson and Louis Bradford—and we congratulate them on their fine efforts.

Recently (January 31) a few Band members played in the Belfast Studio Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Dr. Havelock Nelson, chief accompanist of the B.B.C., Northern Ireland. The Orchestra played works by V. Williams, Berlioz and B. Britten. They also accompanied the Ulster Singers in the "Childhood of Christ" (Berlioz) and Vaughan Williams' "Serenade to Music." Band members who played in the Orchestra were Bdsms. Ronald Richardson (clarinet), Alfred Tubb (French horn), Victor Peterson and Alec Wilson (trombone). The concert was given in The Wellington Hall, Belfast.

During the first week of February the Band once again played in the Officers' Mess during and after dinner. The dinner party was given for Major P. Donovan, who is leaving the Battalion to take up a post in Aden. He was presented with the score of "Donovan's Rally." Also during that week the Band played for a Dinner and Dance for the Officers' Mess, Northern Ireland Command, Ladies' Guest Night.

In mid-February a good number of members of the Band took their Music Trade Test AI and AII's; we hope results will prove to be favourable. We congratulate Bdsms. Anthony Nash and his wife Jean who produced a son (Spencer Sean). Anthony Nash met his wife while he was on tour with the Band in Brighton, Sussex. Bdsms. Nash first studied music at the Junior Bandsmen's Wing, Canterbury, from 1958 to 1961. He joined the Battalion Band early in 1962 in Hameln, Germany, playing drums in the "Trad-Band," which was known at the time by the members of the Battalion and the local people as the "Smoke City Stompers."

When the Regiment was stationed at Lydd he left the Band to attend a year's course at The Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall. He rejoined the Band in Gibraltar after completing his course and is now the Band's percussionist and Dance Band drummer. He is also a very keen sportsman playing cricket and football for the Band and the Battalion. BdsM. Nash comes from Hendon in Middlesex and attended Barnsfield Boys School. At present he and his wife live in a well-equipped and nicely-situated army quarter in Holywood.

The large Dance Band played at the Wembley Town Hall on March 10, for the Middlesex Ball organised by the recently formed Middlesex Association, in aid of the Regimental Association Charities Fund.

After much hustle and bustle we have managed to pack away the instruments ready for our move to British Guiana. We anticipate staying in British Guiana for about six months.

In concluding these notes we are pleased to say that all members are looking forward to visiting South America, and once again—the sun and High Spirits!!!!

"Stirrup pumps are shoes used for horse riding" was the answer given by a student in a recent general knowledge paper.

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CORPS OF DRUMS

The last Ceremony of the Keys was performed by the Band and Drums and was well received by the new Governor of Gibraltar. The Gibraltar Regiment provided the Outpost Platoon and the Guard of Honour. The last Convent Guard went down well with the Corps of Drums playing the Drums "Fantasia." The Drums went with a Guard of Honour to the Airport for the arrival of the N.A.T.O. Generals who were visiting the "Rock." The visitors were greatly impressed by the performance given by the Corps of Drums, which ended our public activities in Gibraltar. We were all very glad when September 29 came and we all departed for England and a well-earned leave.

Our arrival in Northern Ireland was preceded by a very rough journey across the Irish Sea. Although we were happy when we arrived we were soon disheartened to hear that the Drum-Major was now living in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess; as soon as we de-bussed he checked us all for haircuts. After a few weeks of settling in, Christmas was upon us and most of us went away again to England for the Christmas festivities. The Corps of Drums (helped by the Band) put on a Display for the Colonel of the Regiment. On the day of the display the weather could not have been worse with gale force winds and rain. However, in spite of the wind and the rain the performance went off very well and the Colonel was greatly impressed.

We welcome back to the Corps of Drums L/Cpl. "Polly" Parker after his three-year tour with the Junior Soldiers Drums at the Home Counties Brigade Depot, Canterbury. Drm. Cole rejoined us after three years with Command. Drms. Warr and Cockerane have just joined us and we hope they will enjoy their stay with the Drums. Drm. Warr attained the Rank of Junior Drum-Major and Drm. Cockerane the dizzy rank of Junior Lance-Corporal. L/Cpl. Jock Macconachie left the Corps of Drums to join the newly-formed Intelligence Section of the Battalion. He was recently promoted to Corporal. "Cheyene" Broadbent also left us to join the Sergeants' Mess. L/Cpl. Mason has been posted to the Junior Soldiers Wing at Canterbury as an instructor. Drm. Dave Campy went to the Home Counties Brigade Depot as a Duty Drummer. Cpl. "Chunky" Holman left the Drums and the Battalion for discharge but there is a rumour that he has rejoined the Queens Own Buffs.

We congratulate "Noddy" Davidson's wife on producing a baby boy; also to Drm. Brian Coombes and his wife on the birth of a daughter. Drm. H. Brodie was married on dis-embarkation leave.

We are now all looking forward to our move to British Guiana and the warmer weather of South America.

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"A" COMPANY

The last issue of *The Die-Hards* took us up to June last year, when we left our readers on our way back to the desert near Tobruk. We take up the story from there.

Tobruk

We were very pleased indeed to see the Commanding Officer at the end of June; we introduced him to Area D and other delights of the Tobruk scene and think he enjoyed his stay, including strafing 4 Platoon in a Pembroke. Shortly after the C.O. had gone we nearly lost our C.S.M. when he drove into the ammunition compound at El Adem and found he could not get out. Inter-Service good relations won the day and he reappeared none the worse.

We all went off to Derna for a fortnight to classify and during our very pleasant stay there managed to achieve visits to the interesting ruins at Cyrene and Appollonia. Unfortunately we only managed to spend one day in going round them; one could profitably spend a week, subject to still being able to afford a cold Carlsberg at the Cyrene Hotel. During the earlier part of the Derna period the Mortars went off to Tripoli and achieved a very good place in the Area support weapons concentration, coming second only to a Platoon of 1st Battalion The Green Howards who were firing on their home ground. This excellent result was fully recognised by G.O.C. Malta and Libya who was most complimentary on the standard they had achieved. This was equalled by the standard of classification at Derna. Shortly after their return—at the end of July in fact—the temperature in Tobruk dropped to 86; and there was serious thought of signalling Gibraltar to send us greatcoats. It was about this time that we were pleased to see Sgt. Hoare who dropped in on us from the pay staff in Gibraltar and spent a long weekend in Tobruk.

It was during August that the Company all qualified as B I tent pitchers. On behalf of a 3 Div. exercise we built what amounted to a tented town at both Bomba and El Adem. The Second-in-Command came over and stayed a while watching operations at Bomba; the blow that we had also to pitch up El Adem had not fallen at that time. This was a very hard working period indeed and the folk who really benefited were the Stim salesmen. Major Fisher and W.O.2 Garraty went off for a few days to see how the other half lived by staying with a squadron of 14/20th King's Hussars at Derna to act as supervising officers for a Regimental rifle shoot.

Meanwhile our own training had certainly not gone by the board and reached a climax in our three-day I.S. exercise. The Area Commander came and gave us an excuse to lay on a proper V.I.P. escort; he was most impressed by the concern for his welfare shown by his escort in the ensuing ambush. The rest of September was spent in welcoming the Worcesters' advance party and 3 Div. Support organisation (and a new crop of schoolteachers!), finishing off our tent pitching commitment and packing up after the longest single tour of any of our Companies in Tobruk. We also managed to fit in a three-day interest visit when Major Fisher took those of the Company who had never been to Giarabub, the Sand Sea and the lagoons, while 4 Platoon went on

a long-range patrol following part of General O'Connor's route. The Officers' Mess farewell party was enhanced by a first-class "Last Post" sounded by Pte. Kendall as Cpl. McLean lowered the Regimental Flag on Tobruk for the last time and there was a mutual inter-change of suitably engraved silver cigarette boxes between our Officers' Mess and that of R.A.F. El Adem. The other presentation was to C.S.M. Partridge—the Compo Medal with the bars of Pilastrino, El Adem, Derna, Tmimi and Benghazi for being out of sight of the German War Memorial five times during the tour. However, try as we may, we failed to qualify Pte. Pedley for the same award.

We emplaned for Gibraltar late at night on September 29 and had a quite unscheduled stop at Benina for refuelling, much to the surprise of the Libyan Airways authorities. This was of some value as command of the Company was formally handed over and signed for at 0200 hrs. on the 29th in the lounge at Benina. Anyone who knows the lounge at Benina will sympathise. We arrived mid-morning in Gibraltar and by the next day were all on leave, mostly in U.K.

We like to think we brought an era to a close. Already, with rapid changes among the senior ranks and a great influx of recruits, there are few left in the Company who completed a Tobruk tour. Those who are left have tales of unequalled training areas, camel spiders and scorpions, cold Tennants in barracks and luke warm ditto on 19 and an experience of close enforced co-operation between the Army and the R.A.F. which will doubtless stand us in good stead in years to come.

Northern Ireland

We all reassembled at Holywood on November 25 and 26. Before long it was confirmed that we should be off to British Guiana in April, so we have been very busy training for I.S. duties, absorbing the onrush of recruits into the Company and improving our shooting. We spent a week at Magilligan Point just before Christmas and this rapidly assisted our acclimatisation to U.K. from Tobruk. It was found that there is very little between Magilligan and the North Pole and the wind comes straight down. However, we managed to get in some very valuable shooting, principally at fleeting and moving targets and by night. The illuminations for the night shoots were very ably engineered by the Company 2IC and his flowerpot men; he never could remember which was which. The Saturday Battalion cross-country runs at least brought our runners to the fore so we have a strong element in the Battalion team for the Command meeting, and of course Company and Battalion sport has taken a great upswing since our arrival.

Christmas was celebrated in due and customary form. There was a Battalion smoker on the 16th; it was perhaps just as well that parts of the dialogue in our "turn" were drowned by the noise of the audience. The Officers' and Sergeants' Messes served the men's dinner on Christmas Eve and the traditional sports took place on Boxing Day.

We spent a week at Ballykinlar in January under the total misapprehension that it might be a little warmer

and drier there than at Magilligan, but again much useful shooting was achieved. The latest important event is the formation of "C" Company. We supplied 2 Platoon complete to aid in this; whilst sorry to see them go, it is indeed pleasant to see another initial on the duty roster. Our priorities are now fulfilling our role here, getting ready for the move to British Guiana and preparing for the Annual Inspection in two weeks' time. "Much matter decocted into a few words."

Personalia

Firstly, congratulations to Major Fisher on his promotion in Tobruk, for bearing up under a shower of scrambled eggs and for assuming command of the Company from Major Moore. We wish the latter every success in his new appointment in Chester. All comings and goings are too numerous to mention individually as we have had a total of 54 new recruits during our period in Holywood so far and we have lost the whole of 2 Platoon, but we welcome Sgts. Stevens and Willis, bid farewell to the former on moving to "C" Company, wish Sgt. Quinn all good luck in Malaya, congratulate Cpl. Fisher on his promotion to Sergeant and wish him well on his Signals Course and ensuing appointment with "H.Q." Company. Capt. Crumley came and stayed for a while before being dragged away to be P.R.I.; we welcome Capt. Clarke in his place. We were sorry to say farewell to 2/Lt. Yates and wish him success at the Depot. We welcomed C/Sgt. Ford on our arrival here but now we must congratulate him on his promotion and welcome him as C.S.M. while wishing C.S.M. Partridge all the best in his new appointment as Pooh Bah Designate of Atkinson Field. Congratulations and welcome to C/Sgt. Miles on his promotion and transfer from "H.Q." Company. We also welcome Sgt. Shave from the Depot, Cpl. Histed from the Royal Sussex and Cpl. Hart back with us from civilian life. Of the older hands, L/Cpl. Norman has at last come out of the stores and gone straight to the dogs; Ptes. Nutt, Grevatt, Wiles, Leader and Clifford have all gone into civilian life for various reasons. They are to be followed shortly by Sgt. Redrup on termination of service; he and his family take every good wish with them from us.

Finally, our congratulations go to Lt. Graham, Pte. Fenton and Pte. Tomlinson, all of whom have become fathers since the last issue of *The Die-Hards* and to Lt. Daniell, 2/Lt. Truman, Sgt. Scott and Pte. Harris who have married.

So now we are off to the "Land of Waters" where they say it rains even harder than it does in Ireland. Doubtless the next lot of notes will be written whilst swatting tarantulas and shooting caymans; or whatever one does there. All 108 of us are looking forward to finding out.

May 16, Albuhera Day



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"B" COMPANY

The last six months have been very disjointed ones. We finished the tour in Gibraltar without getting into too much trouble and were rewarded with a few weeks' leave.

We gathered in Palace Barracks to compare notes about various successes while on this leave, and then went on leave again over Christmas—to try again. Now in mid-February we are at last beginning to look like a Company.

"B" Company in Morocco

As reported by the Editor in the last edition we did finally get to Tangier on the Royal Navy's M.F.V. The M.F.V. was only a very small boat and unstable. It was all right on the outward journey because the Straits were almost becalmed. But on the return journey it bounced around far too much for land-bound pongos. Nobody



(Photo: Sgt. K. H. Lloyd)

Battalion Quarter Guard for the Colonel of the Regiment, found by "B" Company.

From left to right: *Drum. Chapman, Sgt. Dickens, Ptes. Herbert (74), Silk and Cannon.*

actually disgraced themselves but there were a number of bodies prostrate on the deck, all trying desperately to look nonchalantly relaxed. While they were in Tangier everybody enjoyed themselves and bought the usual tourist bric-a-brac. One soldier was more ambitious than his mates. Rugs and engraved knives were not good enough for him. He bought hashish. But his days as an international dope smuggler were few. He was caught by the Company Orderly Sergeant. It then transpired that no one in the hard-bitten gang of crooks known as "B" Company knew what to do with the stuff.

2/Lt. Deakin took another party from the Company for ten days touring in Morocco. In that time they were able to see quite a lot of the country. Nothing untoward happened until the night before they were due to return to Gibraltar. Then most of their valuables and some of

their clothes were stolen from the Land-Rover during the night. This was an unfortunate end to what had otherwise been a splendid ten days.

Trials of a Colour Sergeant

C/Sgt. Clements and his staff managed to get us out of Gibraltar with all our kit and the very minimum of expense. He has now been installed in an office of his own which is virtually impregnable. When the pace gets too hot he withdraws into the office and contemplates his P 1954s until things cool down. Recently the pressure has been on in the "Q" world. Each day brought a new demand from the Quartermaster's Empire for instant action—action which usually involved the whole Company being paraded at a moment's notice. However, with a very little give (from the Q.M.'s side) and a lot of take (by "B" Company) we have got what we wanted and managed to keep the Q.M. sweet at the same time (*Editor—Oh!*). When the demands of the Q.M. clash with the training programme great tact is required. But when the demands conflict with the Company Sergeant Major's detail for Duty Company it requires a diplomat of the highest order to sort out the mess. So far we have managed to avoid an international incident, but there are still seven weeks before we go to British Guiana.

We rarely see one of the Colour Sergeant's stalwarts, Pte. Coles, these days. He lurks in his Armoury down in the compound and only comes out once a week to collect his pay.

Personalia

Apart from the Colour Sergeant's Department the Company is hardly recognisable from Gibraltar. Major Marciandi has left us for the Joint Services Staff College. In his place we welcome Major Norton fresh (?) from 5 Mx. W.O.2 Benson left in November to go as R.Q.M.S. at the Depot. We congratulate him on this appointment and know that he will enjoy working with another old "Die-Hard," Major (Q.M.) A. E. F. Waldron, M.B.E. Now occupying the hot seat in the office is W.O.2 Walters. Like the Company Commander he has returned from the T.A. He tells us that it was very hard work there. We hope that he is finding "B" Company a nice rest (?). Anyway a Merry Christmas Sergeant-Major! (1966).

Pte. Pocock has left the Company Office and transferred to "C" Company. We are sorry to see him go, but even more sorry that we did not receive a transfer fee for him.

Lt. Freeborn has become a civilian and is now enjoying life as a gentleman farmer, or something like that, in Scotland. Sgt. Tarry has been posted to "A" Company. Cpl. Mullender is now Sgt. Mullender and Platoon Sergeant of the Anti-Tank Platoon. Sgt. Len Fisher (that's the older one) has joined us but will not be staying as he is due to go recruiting soon. Still, he has been a great asset during his short stay.

A week ago Sgt. Dickens defected to "C" Company with the whole of 7 Platoon. This treachery has left us rather thin on the ground.

Right at the end of the Gibraltar tour Lt. Mont-

gomery took the Band and Drums to Lisbon for the anniversary of Busaco. No doubt there is a report of this elsewhere in this edition.

During the period of these notes we have received a number of people from the Depot. Lt. Bartlett has come to command 6 Platoon, after commanding recruits at Canterbury. Other arrivals from the Depot have included Cpl. Turner and a number of recruits.

When we arrived in Holywood we were asked to provide volunteers for E.R.E. postings. And so Morgan (now Lance-Corporal), and Ptes. Findell and Gaffey have gone to swell the ranks at H.Q. 39 Infantry Brigade.

After pestering the life out of everyone for months Pte. Ziekenopasser has at last been allowed to buy himself out. We all breathe a sigh of relief, but at the same time sincerely wish him the best of fortune in the great outside.

Lt. Hubert has left us in body, although not in spirit. He is at Hythe struggling through the R.S.O.'s course. He is still held on our strength and we expect an "A" from him—usual "B" Company standard in fact.

In his place we have gained Lt. Carlston who has come to us from the Zambian Army. He and the Company Commander are able to yarn for hours on service in darkest Africa.

Four of our Lance-Corporals are to be congratulated on their promotion to Corporal. They are Cpls. Butler, Dobell, Howard and Quilter.

Marriage

The move from Gibraltar followed by a long leave at home precipitated a rush to the altar by the Company. Cpl. Felton and Ptes. Silk, O'Shea, and Dunsby have got married since our last notes. Another half dozen are on the verge. The rumour of separation allowance must have something to do with it.

Battalion Smoker

As a curtain raiser for Christmas the Company organised a Battalion Smoker in the NAAFI. The act of the evening was produced by the W.O.'s and Sgt's. in which they showed us what C.O.'s Orders are like. The smoker was compered by Sgt. Overton, who had to struggle hard against a rowdy audience with indifferent amplifying equipment. Everyone present agreed that the evening was a great success.

Training

We have not been allowed to forget that we are supposed to be trained. Even in Gibraltar we had an exercise. In such a confined space it needs a lot of imagination to have a good one. If you are not careful you either fall over the cliff or have a running battle down Main Street. Despite these difficulties "B" Company enjoyed a running battle up and down the "Rock" for 24 hours. After that we called it a day and returned to South Barracks to concentrate on the more serious problems of how to get our contraband through the Customs.

In December we had our first taste of training in Ireland when we went to Magilligan Point for a week

and again in January we had a week out of camp at Ballykinlar. After that the Kremlin decreed that Admin. must not suffer because of training so we are confined to barracks waiting for our K.D. to arrive.

Even so, our time is not wholly spent in counting socks. Most days you can see us progressing round the square practising our I.S. Drills. We admit that sometimes we look more like the unruly mob than the upholders of law and order; but we think we are getting better at it. Often we forget which is "Advance" and which is "Retire," but when we see the Sergeant Major's face go puce with rage and hear his gentle words of advice we soon remember what to do. Our motto is "It'll be all right on the Admin."—it certainly won't be all right before then!

No. 8 Platoon has just completed a Cadre so that it is now a fully-trained and highly-competent Anti-Tank Platoon—well that is what Lt. Montgomery tells us. Last week they fired their guns at Ballykinlar, terrorizing the guard dogs in the Command Ammunition Depot near the range. Now they have to learn to be ordinary P.B.I. like the rest of us because they won't have much chance to use their skills in British Guiana. However, there is a field firing range there and they hope to get the opportunity to blaze away out there.

McNab's Private Army

When we arrived in Ireland the Rifle Companies were given a three-tonner and some Land-Rovers and told to get on with them. The M.T. give us all the help we need but they are still the Company's responsibility. From the M.T. came L/Cpl. McNab to be our M.T. N.C.O. He has brought with him the characteristic M.T. excuses for being excused everything. The rest of us can only stand and marvel at the ingenuity of some of these! Rumour has it that he has just got himself off the Admin.—what's the secret of your success, Cpl. McNab? In British Guiana we shall need many more

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drivers than we have at present. So L/Cpl. McNab has been teaching some of the Company to drive. Yesterday, Ptes. Monaghan, Cargill and Smith 54 passed the test. Well done! As usual, prior to an Admin., we are now painting everything madly and doing all the jobs that should have been done weeks ago.

Sports

In the field of sports we have had two successes in Ireland. On January 8 the Company won an Inter-Company Cross-Country Competition. The course was approximately 5½ miles and included two very steep hills. The team, with their positions in brackets, were as follows:

Pte. Phipps (5), Pte. Bott (6), Pte. Wall (8), Sgt. DaCosta (9), Cpl. Quilter (10), Pte. Silk (15), L/Cpl. Clarke (18), Pte. Crawford 09 (22), Pte. Hayward (26), Pte. Monaghan (29), Pte. O'Regan (35), and Pte. Travers-Hill (37).

At football we are also well on the way to winning a cup or shield. Today we play the North Irish Brigade Depot in the semi-final of the Northern Ireland Command knock-out competition. In the quarter-final we beat 173 Pro Company R.M.P. (4-2), goalscorers were Cpl. Quilter (2), L/Cpl. Crook (1), and Pte. Hamilton (1).

Final Thoughts

By the time the next edition of *The Die-Hards* is published we shall already be enjoying the heat of British Guiana. It will be a welcome change from the Irish

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sleet that is beating against the window as these notes are written. In the next edition we should have plenty to tell. If at least one member of the Company does not get eaten by a cayman, bitten by a deadly snake, or just get lost in the jungle, it will be a marvel. If there are no "B" Company notes in the next edition you will know that the men have fed the Company hack to the piranhas.

"C" COMPANY

"C" Company reformed as a Rifle Company of two Platoons on February 7, 1966, after a period in the role of Training Company since the Battalion left Hameln in May 1962. From "H.Q." Company Major Pollard has joined the Company as Company Commander, W.O.2 Lagden as Company Sergeant Major, Cpl. Puckey as a Section Commander, L/Cpl. Kowatch as M.T. N.C.O., and Ptes. Hedger and Beall as drivers. "A" Company has transferred Lt. Graham and 2 Platoon (now 9 Platoon) and "B" Company, sacrificed Sgt. Dickens and 7 Platoon (now 10 Platoon), plus C/Sgt. Redmond as C.Q.M.S. In addition we welcome to the Company L/Cpl. Gore as A.P.T.I., L/Cpl. Crook (9 Platoon), Ptes. Sutherland, Cauty and Tingey (storeman), Pte. Pocock (clerk), and Pte. Maguire (batman/driver). Our newest arrivals are 2/Lt. Gancz from Mons Officer Cadet School to command 10 Platoon and Ptes. Jaycocks, McDermott and Powell from Canterbury. On reaching British Guiana we shall be joined by the Recce Platoon in the Georgetown Area. Capt. Goring will then become Company Second-in-Command and Lt. Hubert Recce Platoon Commander.

Our time between now and British Guiana will be largely taken up with preparation for the Annual Administrative Inspection, Duty Company, Leave and Packing. However, a week at Magilligan Training Area should get the Company working together and re-established as "Shiney 'C'." Already we are well represented in Battalion Sports Teams and with ten runners in the first 50 in the last Battalion run and two in the final team, seem to be doing our fair share.



(Photo: Sgt. K. H. Lloyd)

"D" Company Potential N.C.O.s Cadre No. 10.

Back row (left to right) Ptes. D. Peters ("C"), H. Carty ("B"), J. Wilson ("A"), F. Connors ("A"), T. Theobald ("H.Q."), L/Cpl. D. Goodman ("H.Q."), Third row (left to right) L/Cpl. M. Markham ("H.Q."), Ptes. A. Fish ("C"), J. O'Regan ("B"), D. Hynes ("A"), J. Love ("A"), C. Honour ("B"), G. Barlow ("A"). Second row (left to right) Ptes. J. Magaffigan ("A"),

C. Tomlinson ("A"), L/Cpl. F. Richards ("H.Q."), Ptes. J. O'Sullivan ("C"), D. Clare ("H.Q."), P. Capman ("H.Q."), L/Cpl. N. Crookson ("H.Q."), Front row (left to right) Pte. J. Glover ("D"), Cpl. W. Turner, Sgt. R. Scott, C.S.M. M. Elston, Major J. I. D. Pike, M.C., Lt. A. C. Lowrie, Sgt. G. Overton, Cpl. W. McLean, Pte. L. Daly ("A").

"D" COMPANY

The wind of change still blows strongly in our direction. We now call ourselves "D" Company (instead of "C" Company) due to the Battalion's recent changeover to three rifle Companies.

The only previous members of the old "C" Company from Gibraltar days are the O.C. (Major J. I. D. Pike, M.C.), the Arms storeman (Pte. "Flap-Ears" Glover), the Ammunition storeman (Pte. "Harpic" Harper), the G 1098 storeman (Pte. "McSludge" McAndrews), and the Company clerk (Pte. "Darkie" Williams). New arrivals include Lt. A. C. Lowrie (Cadre Officer), W.O.2 Elston (Company Sergeant Major)—just promoted—and Sgt. Lloyd ("A" Company Quartermaster Sergeant). Cpl. Hilton is also sometimes seen in the Company lines, impatiently waiting to start an Assault Pioneer Section, and L/Cpl. Creaser (who is never seen in the Company lines!) has recently taken over the task of Battalion sports storeman from "Old

Man" Cpl. Shearing. But the backbone of "D" Company appears to be Pte. "Odd-Job" Perks who is invariably seen these days carrying out a multitude of tasks with a minimum amount of activity. (Editor—A War (Dog) scarred veteran!)

Since our last notes, the Company safely shifted the Battalion baggage—some 1,500 crates—from Gibraltar to Ireland, and as we go to press again, rumour has it that the Company will have the same task for the move to British Guiana. Major Pike—the permanent Battalion's Baggage Officer to use his own expression!—is already muttering about "dead-weight" and "cubic foot capacity," so the rumour must be true! (Editor—Read the "small print" this time.)

Since arrival in Northern Ireland, "D" Company has taken over a most impressive amount of stores—adventure training, sports, canoe, ammunition—in addition to our own Company stores. As one wag put it, "D" Company is the smallest with the mostest."

However, the Quartermaster has recently taken some of the burden from our somewhat-sagging shoulders, so we must not grumble too much.

At the moment our top priority is training as we have just started a Battalion Potential N.C.O.'s Cadre. To assist in the training, "A" Company has kindly loaned Sgt. Scott and Cpl. McLean and "B" Company Sgt. Overton and Cpl. Turner. We all hope that they enjoy their short stay with the Company.

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SGT. JACK ROGERS LEAVES THE BATTALION

Sgt. John James Rogers—better known to his friends as "Jack"—is shortly to be posted to the 42nd Army Youth Team in North London. He will leave behind him a fine reputation as a boxer and sportsman. Brief highlights of Sgt. Rogers' boxing career are as follows:

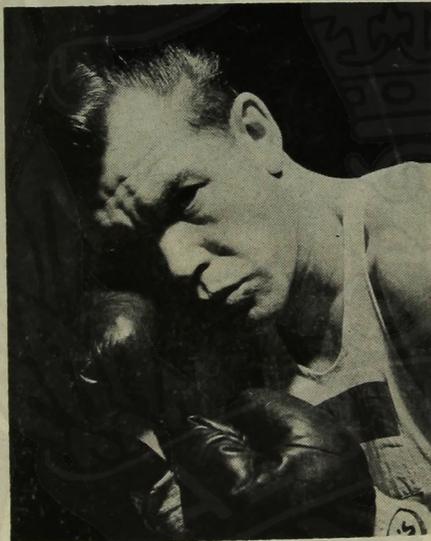
1949-1951: Enfield Schoolboy Champion.
1952 National Sea Cadet Champion of Great Britain, A.B.A. Welterweight Champion of Great Britain.

Represented Great Britain v. France: A.B.A. Match.
1953-1955: Welterweight Champion, British Troops Austria.

1958-1960: Welterweight Champion, London District.

1961 : Light Middleweight Champion, London District.

1965 : Light Middleweight Champion, Combined Services, Gibraltar.



In addition to his fine personal record, however, "Jack" Rogers will also be remembered for his outstanding work in coaching the Battalion's boxing team to the semi-finals of the B.A.O.R. Championship in 1962 and the quarter-finals of the Army Championship in 1963.

Although he has now "hung up his gloves" his enthusiasm for boxing is as strong as ever. His knowledge of the sport will enable him to foster a close relationship between the Army and the Youth Clubs, Schools and Scout Troops in the North London area.

All ranks wish "Jack" and Sheila Rogers the very best of luck with the 42nd Army Youth Team, and will be most happy to welcome them back in a year or so.

OFFICERS' MESS

Initial inspection of the Mess on our arrival in Northern Ireland proved somewhat depressing as the building was in bad repair and of similar pattern to that at Mill Hill, but with a few attempts at "modernisation," from which some of the headaches stemmed. A tour with a local M.P.B.W. representative ascertained that there was as ever a shortage of money and that most of the work we wanted done had already been refused in the past. However, since that day everyone has proved most helpful and we have achieved redecoration of the Ante Room—less the ceiling—a new wall to screen the kitchen area and improvements to the bar and kitchen. Only carpets and curtains remain a problem but this is in hand.

Much of the work was completed by December 3 when we held a cocktail party for officers and their families. With one or two new faces, especially the "newly weds," plus those returning to the fold, this was a necessary rehearsal for our opening cocktail party if only to ascertain who the hosts were. The larger party held on December 17 appeared to be a great success, there being some 150 guests mainly from our local Headquarters and Councils as well as Major and Mrs. "Paddy" Orr. The pictures in the Ante Room—"Colonel Egerton," "Captain Bland," "Ensign Waugh," "The Fog of War" and the recent copy of "Steady The Drums and Fifes" were much admired. The Band played throughout the party and six drummers in scarlet beat "bounds" during the evening. The customary Christmas Ladies' Night was held on December 22 and was a great success, due largely to the efforts of David Pike as Father Christmas and the quartet from the Band led by the Bandmaster. The Warrant Officers and Sergeants visited the Mess on Christmas Eve and a busy December finished with a very informal New Year's Eve Fancy Dress party. This was held in the new Bar which is a converted field officers quarter. L/Cpl. Reide of the Band has made an excellent job of the actual bar and seating, and when finally finished we should have something rather smarter than the Hameln and Gibraltar "Keller."

The Dinner Club has met twice. In December Dr. Ernest Newman had supper in the Mess, then spoke on "World Affairs" in the Ante Room. He was followed in January by Mr. Colin Jackson, a Socialist M.P., who spoke on "the Government's Defence Policy." In addition Lt.-Col. Straughton came to talk after tea one evening on Public Relations in Northern Ireland and the Colonel of the Regiment and Brigade Colonel have spoken to us on Regimental and Brigade topics. Capt. John Cann of 1 Devon and Dorset gave us a very interesting talk with slides on British Guiana before he left.

The Colonel of the Regiment accompanied by Col. Walden from Regimental Headquarters visited the Battalion in January. As well as attending a Dinner Night, General Man gave a cocktail party for all the officers and their wives. Col. Walden stayed in the Mess and was also able to meet some old friends from 2/8th Battalion days at Portrush. Lt.-Col. Buckeridge, the new Commanding Officer of the Depot at Canterbury, also stayed during this period.

The G.O.C. Lieutenant-General Sir Desmond Fitzpatrick, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E., M.C., has so far only visited the Mess for the initial cocktail party. Our Brigade Commander, however, Brigadier C. Blair, O.B.E., M.C., has both lunched and dined with us as have some of his staff, including Ian Lloyd, who is now Staff Captain "Q." The Reverend and Mrs. Hamby who were with us in Gibraltar have also been to the Mess. Our most recent visitor has been the Brigade Colonel, and both he and Mark Tarver, the Brigade Adjutant, dined in the Mess. Col. Battye was also present for our first curry lunch here, which seemed to go as well as ever. Mr. Bland, great-great-nephew of Capt. Bland, whose portrait is in the Ante Room, was also a guest.

The Mess Squash team has defeated the local golf club, of which we are members, at home and is now training for the return match.

Congratulations to Paul and Helen Mallalieu, Peter and Kyrin Packham, David and Marie

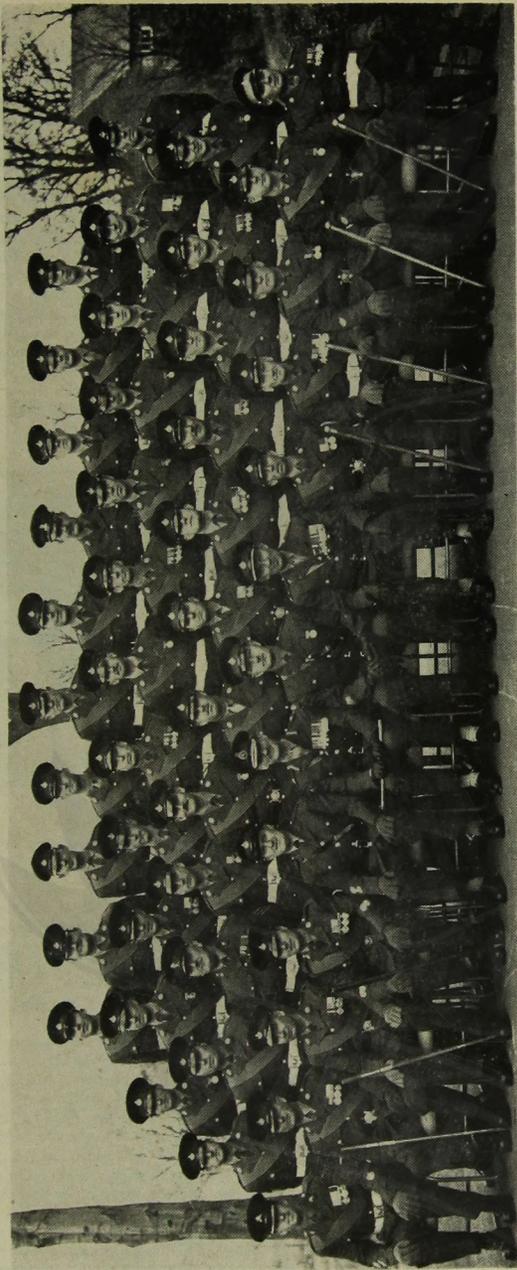


(Photo: Sgt. K. H. Lloyd)
Captain and Mrs. Paul Mallalieu after their marriage in the King's Chapel, Gibraltar, on September 8, 1965

Vic Daniell, Paul and Christine Truman and Basil and Joan Carlston on their fairly recent marriages—in Gibraltar, England, Gibraltar, Gibraltar and Zambia respectively—and to Frank and Ruth Gladden who marry in England in March. Congratulations too to Nick and Sue Carter on the birth of a second son, Michael.

We welcome back to the Battalion Geoff and Barbara Norton, Mike and Margaret Hayward, Peter and Ingrid Cheesman and Bob Bartlett. Also we welcome to the Mess Tom and Jean McMillan and Roger Gancz. Brian Marciandi has left for the J.S.S.C. and R.M.A.S., and Donald Peckham to a Super-Pay Office at Guildford. Though Jean did not come over to Northern Ireland with us she was flown in for Donald's farewell party as a surprise. Before these notes are published Paul and Helen Mallalieu will be with the 5th Battalion and Pat and Kitty Donovan will be in Aden. Pat has probably done one of the longest tours of duty with the Battalion since the war and both he and Kitty will be sadly missed.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants with the Colonel of the Regiment



(Photo: Sgt. K. H. Lloyd)

(Rear row, left to right): Sgt. K. H. Lloyd, Sgt. A. Brunwell, Sgt. R. Scott, Sgt. D. Miles, Sgt. M. Flynn, Sgt. H. G. Dowsett, Sgt. J. R. Hoare (R.A.P.C.), Sgt. B. J. Mullender, Sgt. T. S. Fisher, Sgt. P. J. Stewart.
 (Third row, left to right): Sgt. J. P. Redmond, Sgt. J. W. Redrup, Sgt. L. A. Fisher, Sgt. G. J. Fleet, Sgt. E. L. Stubbings, Sgt. J. Dickens, Sgt. M. H. Weston, Sgt. J. J. Rogers, Sgt. F. A. G. Willis, Sgt. D. E. Dawson, Sgt. A. Stevens, Sgt. R. A. Da Costa.
 (Second row, left to right): C/Sgt. R. G. Ford, C/Sgt. A. J. Briggs, S/Sgt. E. A.

Girling, C/Sgt. G. F. Beechey, C.S.M. M. A. Elston, Drum Major P. B. Howells, C.S.M. C. W. Partridge, C/Sgt. W. N. Smith, C/Sgt. R. E. Clements, Sgt. B. P. Tarry, Sgt. H. G. Horder, Sgt. I. Routledge, D. N. Walters, C.S.M. R. M. Power, R.Q.M.S. G. A. Simmons, Bandmaster J. H. McShane, A.R.C.M., Major-General C. M. M. Mann, O.B.E., M.C., R.S.M. K. E. Beale, Lt.-Col. J. N. Shipster, D.S.O., O.R.Q.M.S. G. D. Cripps, C.S.M. S. F. Michel, C.S.M. J. C. Martin, M.M., C.S.M. D. W. T. Lagden, S.Q.M.S. W. S. Hyson (A.C.C.).

Packing for British Guiana is already under way and with two Messes to run there everyone is going to be very busy. C/Sgt. Briggs who has relieved C.S.M. Elston is running the Georgetown Mess and Cpl. Murphy will be at Atkinson Field. Most of us are looking forward to some sunshine!

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

This quarter started with a Regimental Dinner Night on July 30, 1965. The night was very lively and proved interesting partly due to the Guests of Honour, Major P. Donovan and Capt. M. Wild. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess was not new to either guests as both had held the appointment of Regimental Sergeant Major at some time during the 1950's and knew us all. They did say that many mysteries had been cleared up since their commissioning. A truly fishy tale was told by C/Sgt. Smith. It seemed that one bright sunny afternoon whilst fishing off Europa Point he suddenly found himself surrounded by half a dozen or more nuns from the Loretto Convent. He thought that they were interested in his fishing, but lo and behold he found them all in bikinis. All he could do was to utter the immortal words of General Custer "Holy Mackerel"!!!

A horse race meeting was held which by chance coincided with the visit to Gibraltar of H.M.S. *Centaur*, and the Mess was invaded by their Chiefs and P.O.'s. Despite their syndicate betting "George Horder" showed his horse sense and considerably increased his finances by crafty betting and buying.

The Corporals' Mess invaded us for a Games Evening. This was a great success with the visitors just paddling to victory by winning the Boat Race.

In the world of sport we held a return cricket match with the R.A.F. at North Front. The match was well supported by the R.A.F. who intended to avenge their previous defeat. We batted first with our normal modesty of supreme confidence. Due to a fine partnership by the Regimental Sergeant Major and the Drum Major (70 in 10 overs) and some devastating bowling we were able to send them back to the Pavilion still 60 short and got down to the more serious side of the game.

H.E. The Governor of Gibraltar paid a farewell visit to the Mess on August 4. He had a laugh and a joke with most members and rumour has it that he was heard to mutter "I suppose Bruce is guarding my residence as usual."

Our last function in the Mess was a cocktail party which went on well into the early hours of the morning. During the party everyone said how well C/Sgt. Bill Smith had mixed the cocktails. It was not until the next morning that everybody cursed him. However, judging by the hang-overs and the lunchtime "liveners," all who attended had a tremendous time and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

All organised Mess functions had finished by the end of August, although a few disorganised celebrations took place. Everybody was busy packing and the Colour Sergeants were doing a roaring trade in boxes and "buck-shees." Late one afternoon we all said goodbye to the Regimental Sergeant Major. We all had visions

of him motoring across Spain. Sgt. Bruce Tarry, who was Battalion Orderly Sergeant as a change from Guard Commander, was on the square in the early evening when he saw the Regimental Sergeant Major walking across. As he did not look too cheerful Sgt. Tarry cheered him up by saying "Welcome to Northern Ireland Sir!!" The Regimental Sergeant Major explained later that owing to the car's papers not being in order the Spanish Authorities would not let him over the border. However, the next day, after buying the car for £1, his papers were in order and he was allowed to pass.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess was finally handed over to the Worcestershire Regiment and we all left Gibraltar except for S/Sgt. Ted Girling who stayed behind and waited for his addition to the family to arrive. We would like to congratulate him on the birth of his new daughter, thus proving that there is life in the old dog yet.

At long last, after leave, the Battalion arrived in Northern Ireland, Palace Barracks. For once the name fitted the Mess accommodation, if not the rest of the Barracks, and the living-in members have never had it so good, each having his own bedroom plus another room—used by some as a store room, some a studio and some a sitting room. On arrival it was decided that the bar should be moved into the billiards room. The plans were passed and it was promised to be completed by Christmas. It was then discovered that the Irish "tomorrow" is as bad as the Spanish "manana" but it is hoped that it will be completed by our return from British Guiana?

Since our arrival we have had a full programme. The living-in "members" Dining In Nights have been a regular weekly feature with guests ranging from Warrant Officers 1st Class from Brigade to local Brownie Mistresses. The Christmas Draw was a terrific success due, no doubt, to the untiring efforts of R.Q.M.S. George Simmons, in bullying the Pioneers into making boards, and O.R.Q.M.S. George Cripps who broke a few arms to get the tickets sold, plus their hard worked committee.

The Mess also produced a short sketch for the O.R.'s Smoker. An original script of the "Disorderly Room" was obtained but once it got into the hands of Band Master John McShane and the rest of the cast it was "slightly" altered. However, it went down so well that it had its second performance in the Mess on Draw Night. The cast was Regimental Sergeant Major as Pte. May (the accused), Drum Major as the Adjutant, O.R.Q.M.S. George Cripps as the escort, Sgt. George Horder as the C.O., Sgt. Bruce Tarry as Pte. Jones (the evidence), Sgt. Jim Redmond as the Company Sergeant Major and C/Sgt. Brian Edey a French Bugler.

A long awaited Dinner Night for all members and their wives took place on New Year's Eve and 92 sat down. This had difficulties owing to the numbers and the room needed but these were overcome and it proved successful despite the fact that the Dining Room was only cleared just in time to see the New Year in! This was the first dinner in the Mess the ladies had attended since our farewell Dinner in Cyprus and they all seemed to enjoy it.

If anybody has an unusual stamp do not send it to the

Mess as our philatelists are so strong now we may lose one in the rush for it. They have established contact with the local society and every Friday night they can be seen looking at "Swaps."

A few of the Mess were entertained by our local brewery to a visit to their factory and bottling plant. As well as being dined and wined it looks like they were "got at" with the amount of "Bushmills" Whiskey they had to drink. We are now looking forward to another visit and maybe find the salesman!!

We have had a visit from the Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C., and on February 4 the Brigade Colonel, Col. I. H. Battye, M.B.E., visited the Mess.

As always we have had our departures, arrivals and promotions. First we say goodbye to C.S.M.s Arthur Cakebread and Peter Garraty who have departed as P.S.I.s to the T.A. C.S.M. Bob Power is soon off to the Depot where he will join Roy Benson, who is Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant there. C.S.M. John Martin, M.M., will also be off shortly to join 1 Royal Sussex at Lydd where, no doubt, he will carry on with his fishing. Sgts. Jim Reynolds and Jock McFadyen have left for Canterbury, Rick Pritchard and Paddy Quinn to the Malaysian Rangers. To all of them we wish the very best of luck and hope to see them again sometime in the future. We have also had to say farewell to S/Sgt. Gordon Harrison, R.A.P.C., and Sgt. Paddy Mills, A.C.C. We hope they will remember their stay with us; we will always be pleased to see them, if, at any time, they are nearby.

Arrivals include C.S.M.s "Curly" Walters and Sid Michel from the T.A., Michael Eastap from Malaysia, C/Sgts. Reg Ford and Cliff Shinn and Sgt. Stevens.

We congratulate the following on their well-earned promotions—C.S.M.s Don Lagden, Mike Elston, C/Sgts. Brian Edey, Tony Briggs, Jim Redmond, Sgts. Ernie Stubbings, Terry Fisher, Bob Mullender, Pete Stewart, "Blanco" Fleet, Ken Baxter and Henry Dowsett.

CORPORALS' MESS

The last period has been a busy one, everyone cheerfully packing and preparing for the hand over, and the return from Gibraltar and Tobruk for a spot of well earned leave in U.K.

In spite of all our moans and groans everyone enjoyed their tour in Gibraltar, the sunshine, cheap drink, cigarettes, beaches, sports and the social life. In Tobruk, most made the best of things when they were not out training, and were able to see places of interest, and enjoy the vast, wonderful beaches and the sunshine.

But alas we have now returned to a cold and dismal

climate. The green fields and hills we had longed to see again are either covered in rain or snow.

One can understand why we are looking forward to our tour in British Guiana, the sun again, places of interest, making new friends and of course cheap drink and cigarettes. The only disadvantage is of course that the Battalion will be so spread out again that we shall not see one another for a few months.

However, since we have been in Northern Ireland, it has been wonderful to have the whole Battalion together for the first time in two years. It is also great to welcome so many new recruits.

This always brings us to promotions. Our congratulations go to Cpls. Stewart, Stubbings, Fisher, Dowsett, Fleet, Baxter, all regular supporters of the Mess. They will be missed. We wish them the best of luck in the Sergeants' Mess.

We also congratulate the large number of new members to the Mess, and hope they will enjoy their new privileges.

To those who have left us, good luck and all the very best, and don't forget that you are always welcome to visit us at any time.

Owing to the move we did not have our normal Christmas Draw this year, but a dance was held and also a number of raffles. But in spite of a certain gentleman doing his best to keep out of court, we did finish up with only one band. Also we were not completely invaded by the local talent, which is often the case, and a good time was had by all, including the gentleman who found out what it's like to wear high-heeled shoes.

This was later followed in the New Year by a return games match with the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. A rugby match was held in the afternoon and what a match it was, even though it seemed that the only person on the field who knew the game was the ref, and even he wasn't sure at times!! Outstanding of all was the great team spirit on both sides, the score: Corporals 24, Sergeants 9.

The games evening was held in the NAAFI Club, playing the normal games, but most of the spirit seemed to flow down the throat; the score: Corporals 100, Sergeants 80.

Last but not least, a Tramps Ball was held on January 29. This went very well, and a great effort, dress wise, was put in by all who turned up. The W.R.A.C. from Lisburn said they had a great time and were looking forward to coming again.

As these notes are going to press we are preparing for our Fancy Dress Valentine Dance on February 12. Our new friends from Lisburn have again been invited and all necessary preparation and planning are well under way. We hope to have a photo of this event in the next issue of *The Die-Hards*.



SPORTS



ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

On arrival in Northern Ireland we were confronted by two very big stumbling blocks to our plans for launching a Battalion team into an extensive competitive programme in the local soccer cauldron.

We arrived here after all the various football leagues had commenced their programme for the 1965-66 season. This fact, coupled with the departure of the Battalion to British Guiana in mid-season meant that our soccer for 1965-66 would consist of excursions by the Battalion into the Army Cup, augmented by an extended programme of friendly games against local opposition. On the Company level we were fortunate to squeeze three teams into the Northern Ireland Minor Units Knock-Out Cup competition. These last two competitions, held within the Battalion, were decided by a total of 12 games which understandably produced a crop of surprises—plus a wealth of rivalry.

3rd Round Army Challenge Cup

1 Mx. 2—R.A.C. Bovington 3 (after extra time).

We left Gibraltar and appeared to arrive in Palace Barracks at approximately the same time that our opponents turned up here to contest this 3rd round cup match. The R.A.C. had quite a reputation, having had a big say in the eventual destination of the Army's top soccer trophy during the last two years. In 1955 they had lost by the single goal to S.E.M.E. in the semi-final, and the victors went on to win 6-3 in the final. The R.A.C. Bovington team had gone even closer in 1964 having reached the final, and found themselves all square after extra time. In the eventual replay they were beaten by a single goal to deprive them of the Army Cup after three-and-a-half hours' football. Thus we were confronted by a team parading players well baptised in the upper sphere of Army football.

The many spectators who turned out to support us were rewarded with a first-class match, although the ground was water-logged, and there were ample signs of more rain to come. The first 30 minutes of play were very even, and there was little doubt that the "Die-Hards" were more at home with the heavy going in the strength-sapping mud. This was obviously a match in which fitness was to have a big say. The home supporters were delighted to see our good work rewarded with a much sought-after goal, due to slack marking by the visitors. Our joy was short lived, when our opponents' experienced right-half was immediately allowed all the time in the world to squeeze a tentative probing effort just inside the upright from 30 yards, past an unsuspected Davidson.

The second half brought us more woe. We had panicked the visiting defence, and saw our final shot hit the bar of the upright only to roll slowly out of play away from the onrushing Butler. A fine opportunist goal by the Armoured Corps side at this stage put them in the lead, and everything seemed over for the infantry-

men. After numerous near misses we were awarded an indirect free kick inside the penalty area, due to the visiting goalkeeper carrying the ball too far when harassed. The ball was rolled to L/Cpl. Clements, who crashed it into the roof of the net through the smallest of spaces left by the ten defenders crammed into the goalmouth in an effort to survive the minutes of play remaining. This goal brought a big roar from the crowd, making the score 2-2 and necessitated extra time being played to decide the tie.

The ground was becoming almost unplayable at this stage, whilst the parity of the two sides gave little promise of a result either way. With the light quickly disappearing, and an efficient referee seriously considering abandoning the game, the final effort was produced.

It came from the R.A.C. Bovington team just when the second half of extra time was running out. Their fast outside-left received the ball in an unmarked position, and streaking away, scored from an acute angled 30-yard drive. The ball had rebounded back into the field of play before most of the spectators had realised what had happened—such was the light.

All our players had given of their best, and the score-line was a bitter reward for all their efforts. In L/Cpl. Clements we had provided the best player on the field, and it was to the "Die-Hards'" credit that the visiting goalkeeper had played an outstanding game to be accorded a close runner-up to man of the match.

Sgt. Miles had played well in defence as did L/Cpl. Tydeman with his typical non stop effort! All in all, the whole team can take heart from this effort against one of the established big teams of the Army Cup football that had come so close to being silenced.

Team: Dmr. Davidson (Goalkeeper); L/Cpl. Wittig and Pte. Herbert (Backs); L/Cpl. Tydeman, Sgts. Miles and Redmond (Half-Backs); Pte. Read, Cpl. Quilter, Cpl. Butler, L/Cpl. Clements and Dmr. Cross (Forwards).

Our departure from the Army Cup was followed by four free scoring victories over neighbouring civilian and military sides plus a reversal at the hands of an exceptionally strong Royal Ulster Constabulary team:

1 Mx. — 6	Belfast Co-operative	— 3
1 Mx. — 12	39 Brigade	— 4
1 Mx. — 8	Hollywood and Kinnegar	— 4
1 Mx. — 6	Belfast Co-operative	— 2
1 Mx. — 2	R.U.C.	— 7

The long awaited fixture against the R.U.C. team provided another opportunity against top class opponents. Our visitors paid us the compliment of including three of the full Northern Ireland side that had drawn 0-0 in the international with Wales four days earlier. Their remaining eight positions were filled with players who turned out regularly every Saturday for the top professional clubs this side of the border.

Our showing for the first 45 minutes was first-class, despite being a goal down in the early exchanges. The two sides were soon level however, when outside left Hamilton caught the Northern Ireland right back in possession and slipped past him to steer the ball wide of the stranded goalkeeper. The two teams turned round at half time one goal each, although our experienced opponents often went dangerously close, and appeared more at home on the frozen pitch. That we were level at this stage spoke well for the Battalion side, for whom Sgt. Miles, Pte. Hamilton, and Pte. Herbert were outstanding. An injury after 15 minutes of the first half to the normally unstoppable L/Cpl. Tydeman, saw Drm. Smith take his baptism with the Battalion side as a substitute. As expected he gave a good account of himself.

If we were delighted with the first half, our hopes were soon shattered in a non-stop onslaught on the resumption of play. The opposing wing halves and inside forwards took command mid-field, and we found the green shorts coming through and creating good scoring opportunities.

Aided by loose marking plus several misunderstandings between defenders the final whistle found the "Die-Hards" trailing 7-2.

Although the margin of our defeat flattered the visitors we had reason to be delighted with the defensive showing of centre half Herbert and the ever-present danger created by winger Hamilton. The latter had given the Northern Ireland right back a busy afternoon.

Team: Sgt. Miles (Goalkeeper); Drm. Davidson and L/Cpl. Wittig (Backs); L/Cpl. Tydeman, Pte. Herbert 74 and Sgt. Redmond (Half Backs); Pte. Read, Cpl. Quilter, Cpl. Morley, L/Cpl. Clements and Pte. Hamilton (Forwards).

At this stage of the season it was decided to hold our second Inter-Company competition to prepare the Company teams for the Northern Ireland Minor Unit Knock-Out Cup competition. The results of these games were:

"H.Q." 1	— 6	"B" Company	— 3
"H.Q." 2	— 3	"A" Company	— 1
"A" Company	— 1	"H.Q." 1	— 6
"B" Company	— 1	"H.Q." 2	— 3
"A" Company	— 1	"B" Company	— 4
"H.Q." 1	— 3	"H.Q." 2	— 1

The final positions in the Company League Championship for 1965-66 were:

Company	P	W	D	L	For	Against	Points
"H.Q." 1	3	3	0	0	15	5	6
"H.Q." 2	3	2	0	1	8	5	4
"B" Company	3	1	0	2	8	10	2
"A" Company	3	0	0	3	3	10	0

Unfortunately "C" Company had not been re-formed in time to take part in the competition otherwise we may have found it possible to convert Major Pollard to leaving his scrum cap behind, and playing a game in which the ball has not been trodden out of shape.

At the time of going to press we have the names of the four semi-finalists in the Northern Ireland Cup, and the Battalion provides two of these. "H.Q." Company were drawn against "H.Q." Squadron Queen Dragoon

Guards and came out comfortable winners 11-1. In the next round "H.Q." Company went along to Lisburn and defeated the confident Royal Corps of Transport side (5-2). Stars of the "H.Q." side have been a versatile Drm. Davidson, speedy and thrustful L/Cpl. Read and a battling on-form Cpl. Morley.

Unfortunately "A" Company were eliminated in the second round at Omagh by "A" Squadron Queen's Dragoon Guards 6-1. Earlier they had disposed of the local Signals side 3-0.

Having received a bye in the 1st round "B" Company were drawn against the holders, R.M.P., in the next round. Running out 4-2 victors they enter the semi-finals alongside "H.Q." Company.

The draw for the semi-finals has been made but, alas, our notes have to be returned two weeks before the games are played:

"H.Q." Company 1 Mx. v. "A" Squadron Queen's Dragoon Guards.

North Ireland Brigade Depot v. "B" Company 1 Mx.

Our soccer notes would be incomplete if we were to go to press without thanking O.R.Q.M.S. Cripps, Sgt. Holder, and groundsman Albert Burns for officiating so efficiently during the four months that these notes cover. The need for soccer referees within the Battalion is great and we have managed to survive solely due to the industry of these three officials—Oh for more like them!

Pen Pictures

Drm. "Noddy" Davidson

Don't let the nickname fool you, he's a live-wire on the football field. The regular Battalion goalkeeper for many seasons, until injury forced him to play out in the field where he has turned in many excellent efforts at full back, wing half, and eventually left wing. An asset to any side, he takes full marks for non-stop sportsmanship and maximum effort every time he turns out. The ideal sportsman who never fails to produce the goods.

L/Cpl. Wittig

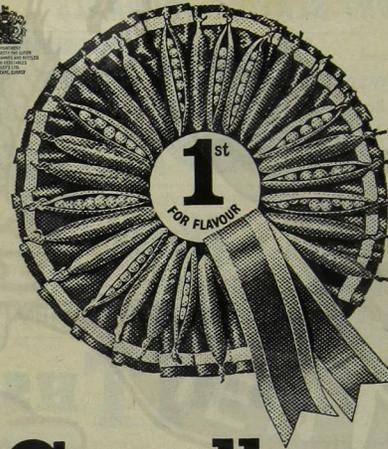
Started as wing half where he first caught the eye with his ball play, and domination of the middle of the field. Added weight made him more at home in the right back position, where he has shown a lot of strength at times when others have found it impossible to move the ball. Works the ball well, possessing a strong kick.

Pte. Herbert

A reliable Battalion stalwart over many seasons, turning in outstanding efforts from time to time. Shone for a period in Gibraltar but was relegated to the sidelines through injury. Equally at home in the full back or centre half position, he has returned to his confident best since the Battalion arrived in Northern Ireland.

L/Cpl. Tydeman

The ideal wing half who has lots of energy to spare for this non-stop running. A good boxer, but an even better footballer who promises much in the future where Battalion football is concerned. Never knows when he is beaten, and seldom is.



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The following announcement will interest Non-Commissioned Officers of the Royal Navy, Army and R.A.F. leaving the Services in the near future

A LARGE HOLIDAY AND CATERING ORGANISATION has vacancies for a limited number of STAFF SUPERVISORS. The appointments do not call for catering experience but applicants must be *NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS* who are sound organisers with a good knowledge of man management.

The SALARY proposed would be £18 20 per week, LIVE IN, ALL FOUND.

The organisation also has a few vacancies in their large SECURITY department (plain clothes and uniformed) and applications from Other Ranks as well as non-commissioned officers are invited for appointments in this interesting field of work. Previous experience not required but applicants should be of smart appearance.

Starting SALARY would be £12/14 per week, LIVE IN, ALL FOUND.

Applications for either post giving details of age, rank and any experience should be forwarded to

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Sgt. Miles

After many successful seasons both in goal and in the forward line, he has found his best position at centre half. Played a good game against a representative F.A. XI in Gibraltar, and was the best player on the field when he played for Gibraltar against Morocco at Fetuan. Strong kicker of a dead ball, fast, and useful with his head.

C/Sgt. Redmond

Skipper of the side, we are still trying to find out where he gets his surplus energy. What he lacks in inches he makes up for in agility and anticipation. Detests being beaten, he lives for the game as a hard tackling wing half plus being an experienced player. An ardent supporter of Coventry and "The United."

Pte. Read

The most improved player in the side since we changed from the hard grounds of Gibraltar to the present heavy grounds in Northern Ireland. A fast winger who possesses a hard accurate shot, which he should use more often. Slots in well with his inside forward, and this has produced a balanced right wing that has been constant in Battalion games recently.

Cpl. Quilter

The undercover man of the Battalion matches. You seldom notice him spearheading attacks, but he works constantly in the background, and gets through a tremendous amount of work in every game. Typical of the many fine young players within the Battalion, he accepts all decisions showing unimpeachable sportsmanship. One of this season's "finds" and an asset for years to come.

Cpl. Morley

Has recently occupied the No. 1 centre forward spot after fluctuations of fortune and form. His big asset is that he forages constantly and has been ever present on the score sheet in recent games with many fine opportunist efforts. Confident and dangerous.

L/Cpl. Clements

Undoubtedly the finest ball player that the Battalion has had for many seasons. Possesses an equally good shot in both feet, and often thinks two moves ahead of his team mates. With a little more aggression in his play he could make the full Army side. Confident player at all sports.

Pte. Hamilton

The latest find of Battalion football who is currently holding down the outside left spot. In the few games that he has played so far, he has shown immense promise although lacking in inches. Deceptive change of speed with a useful left foot shot are his main attributes.

Pte. Webb

One of the best swimmers in the Battalion. Bob has always relished his game of football, and plays in just

about every position. A hard tackler who makes up with reliability whatever he lacks in finesse. Spends the most part of every game urging himself to greater efforts, and has few rivals when it comes to whole-heartedly enjoying a game of football. He is yet another player who appears to have had a new lease of life since moving to the softer playing surface that Northern Ireland provides.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

After our initial practice match on arrival in Northern Ireland it seemed that our team this season would be very much the same as in Lydd days but that much older! However, after our first match greater interest has been shown and the average age of the team has dropped some ten years! Saturday fixtures have been difficult to arrange as the local clubs are all involved in leagues, but some enjoyable mid-week games have been played.

Our first match against H.M.S. *Yarmouth*, visiting from Londonderry, had to be cancelled due to frost but soon after we were able to help out the North of Ireland R.F.C. by playing their 3rd XV on a Saturday. The team—an old one—played well and, though losing 25-3, it was a good start to rugger here. Pte. Hubbard (Reece Platoon) playing for the opposition scored a try and our forwards all had a hand in a pushover try. We had always intended opening the season against the North mid-week XV and this match we played next, losing rather heavily 32-Nil. Though our team was stronger, North fielded a mixture of their 1st to 3rd XV's and included one international. A return is planned after our newest RMA Officers join in February.

Our first victory was against the Royal Ulster Constabulary 2nd XV, whom we defeated 16-3. This was largely due to the guest appearance of C/Sgt. Miles from the soccer XI who scored three tries; he is now a permanent convert. The R.U.C. were also only 13 strong! Other tries were scored by Sgt. Tarry and Pte. Watson.

In an inter-unit friendly with the Queen's Dragoon Guards our "A" side lost a poor game 3-Nil. Saturday fixtures are in fact a burden as our referees, Capt. Acheson (R.A.E.C.), Capt. Cheesman and 2/Lt. Lowrie are normally involved in the leagues.

Against Hollywood's mid-week team we were lucky to gain a 5-Nil win—a most enjoyable game in which we played rather better as a team, though suffering from a lack of a really adequate hooker. Malone turned the tables on us to beat us 5-Nil the following week. This match was played in a downpour and the pitch has been waterlogged for the past ten days. Frost and rain have cancelled fixtures with Bangor and the Civil Service but we have now arranged alternative dates. On arrival in British Guiana we expect to get involved in quite a lot of rugby football probably at Company level. Last year's "National" side included five from Army Units so some of us may make the tour to Jamaica.

The social side of the game has continued to improve though it has not yet reached Hamelin standards. We are probably the greatest users of "The Jolly

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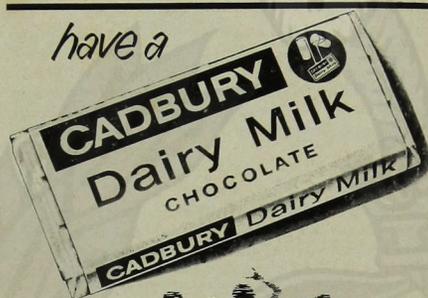
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Die-Hards" and our visitors seem to enjoy themselves.

The following have played for the Battalion (or against us) so far: Major Pollard, Capts. Cheesman, Cowing, Goring, Lts. Packham, Bartlett, Carlston, Daniell, Graham, 2/Lts Lowrie, Truman, Gancz, R.S.M. Beale, C/Sgts. Briggs, Smith, Edey, Sgts. Miles, Tarry, Stevens, Cpls. Stopp, Turner, Blackburn, Murphy 39, L/Cpls. Gore, Goodman, Brett, Ptes. O'Sullivan 62, Wills, Tofts, Halfman, Hubbard and Smart.

ROWING

Having successfully won both the July Oar and the August Oar of the Gibraltar Whaler Rowing competition, the Battalion team were strong favourites to complete the hat-trick in the last event which took place in September. Due to the imminent departure of the Battalion from Gibraltar, the Rowing Committee very sportingly brought the September event forward to enable our team to compete.

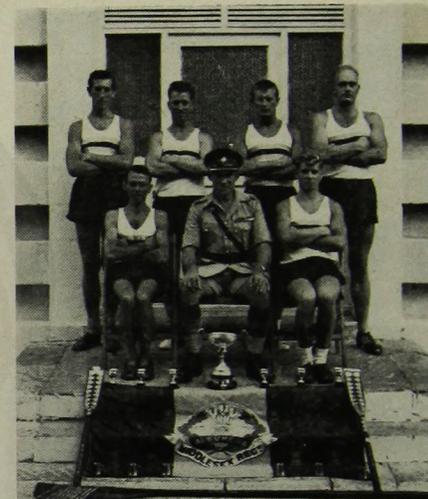
Despite taking both trophies for the July and August events in fine style, training for the September race began a few days after the August success and consisted of long spells of sustained rowing, very often at first light. Pte. Perks, who had rowed with the crew in July and August, left for a course in England and his place was taken by L/Cpl. Gore, our first reserve.

There was no doubt that the Royal Navy were determined to do their utmost to prevent us taking the September Oar, thereby winning all three trophies and the aggregate trophy—a feat never before achieved by an Infantry Battalion in the history of the competition. The crew, for their part, were equally determined to create this very record before the Battalion left Gibraltar.

Four crews entered the September Whaler event—Royal Navy "A," Royal Navy "C," 1 Fortress Squadron R.E., and 1 Mx. The Battalion crew consisted of R.S.M. Beale, O.R.Q.M.S. Cripps, C.S.M.I. Meadows, Cpl. Jacklin, L/Cpl. Gore and Pte. Harper. There was no question at all that both Navy teams would provide very strong opposition for us. The draw for boats was unfavourable to us, but we were lucky enough to draw a good position on the starting line.

At the sound of the gun, all four crews pulled away to a smooth start and the battle to take the lead was on. For the first 200 yards a desperate struggle was fought by ourselves and the Navy crews who flanked us, then changing to the long slow stroke, which best suited the conditions, the Battalion crew nosed ahead of their opponents. Encouraged by the verbal support of spectators from the Battalion and the sound of the Regimental Call by a Bugler from the Corps of Drums, the crew pulled the long oars with immense power and perfect rhythm to gain a three-length victory over Royal Navy "A." The Battalion had thus won all three trophies for July, August and September as well as the aggregate trophy; the end of a very successful and rewarding season of rowing which was aptly celebrated with our opponents in champagne, very kindly supplied by the Commanding Officer.

All credit must go to the rowers who trained almost



(Back row): Pte. Morgan, C.S.M.I. Meadows, Cpl. Jacklin, R.S.M. Beale.
Left to right (front row): O.R.Q.M.S. Cripps (Coxswain), Lt.-Col. J. N. Shipster, D.S.O., L/Cpl. Gore.

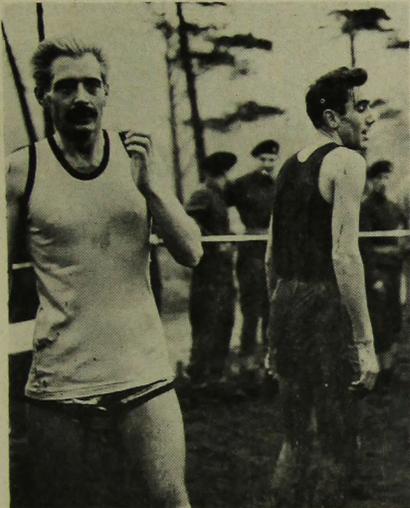
every day from May to September. Seldom has teamwork been more clearly displayed over a long period of sustained training. It is a great pity that Northern Ireland does not offer facilities for rowing.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

The New Year started off cross-country running with a bang. On January 8 the first Inter-Company Cross-Country Run took place. The course was approximately five-and-a-half miles in length, with two very steep hills, over roads, tracks, and fields. Four teams competed—"A" Company, "B" Company, "H.Q." 1 and "H.Q." 2—and there was a great deal of enthusiasm and energy shown by all the competitors. The race was won by Lt. Hubert. He had a battle all the way round the course with Cpl. Foley, who came in second. Cfmm. Houghton came in a comfortable third.

Results: 1st Lt. Hubert 3rd Cfmm. Houghton
2nd Cpl. Foley 4th L/Cpl. Hamill

Winning Team: Sgt. Da Costa, Cpl. Quilter, L/Cpl. Clarke, Ptes. Phipps, Bott, Wall, Silk, Crawford, Hayward, Monaghan, O'Regan, Travers-Hill. After this race, the Companies had their eyes on the next run which would be held at the beginning of February. During this time some individual training was taking place and Cpl. Foley and Cfmm. Houghton deserve special mention for their arduous training. The other runners after a good deal of persuasion started to train in earnest as well.



(Photo: Sgt. K. H. Lloyd)
Cpl. Foley (left) and Lt. Hubert recovering after the Inter-Company Cross-Country Run on January 8, 1966.

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The next Inter-Company run held on February 2 was over a slightly longer course of six-and-a-half miles, again going over roads, tracks and fields. The competition for this run was just as stiff, and Cpl. Foley and Cfmn. Houghton fought a close battle all the way, and this time Houghton managed to beat Foley. Pte. Phipps came in third, looking fresh and not at all tired. There is no doubt that Phipps with a pistol in his back could improve his performance.

Results: 1st Cfmn. Houghton 3rd Pte. Phipps
2nd Cpl. Foley 4th Pte. Smart

Winning Team: Cpl. Hannaford, Cfmn. Houghton, Ptes. Constant, Graham, Featherstone, Gillham, Hill, Moore, Plimsalk, Phillips, Halfman, and Panting. The runners are all now working flat out for the Northern Ireland Command Championships on February 12. The team is putting its back into training and they deserve to obtain some good results. (Editor—Stop Press—we won convincingly).

BASKETBALL

Battalion basketball is just beginning to emerge from a hibernation period that has been interrupted only infrequently since we left Gibraltar. The Battalion team has won all the three games played, but as yet the opposition has not been severe enough to extend the players to their full abilities. The greatest activity has been seen in the Inter-Company matches. In order to select a team to go forward into the Northern Ireland Command Minor Units Knock-Out Cup the two Rifle Companies entered a team each and "H.Q." Company two teams, to play in a Battalion league. In the ensuing games, the standard of play varied tremendously but all had one thing in common, every point was bitterly contested, particularly between the two "H.Q." Company teams, and the play was fast and hard. Most credit must go to the largely inexperienced referees who, by judicious use of their whistles, managed to prevent bloodshed.

Both the Rifle Companies were beaten by their more experienced opponents, and the last game of the series decided the league championship. "H.Q." 1 played "H.Q." 2 in an extremely fast and exciting game, but once again the experience of Sgt. Torrie, Cpl. French, L/Cpl. O'Brien and L/Cpl. Brown gave them opportunities to score baskets which their opponents, in similar situations, missed. The final score was 66-44 in favour of "H.Q." 1, which means that they will now move to the Northern Ireland Command finals, having drawn a bye in the semi-finals.

The Battalion team have just played a return match against the Royal Ulster Constabulary (Belfast). In the first game at home our team won only after extra time, but at the R.U.C. gymnasium they dominated the whole match, establishing a comfortable lead by half-time and increasing it to 69-41 at full time. On this form it is a pity that the British Guiana move will prevent the team entering the British Army Championships this year.

NOTES FOR VISITING GENERALS

(Note: For the benefit of foreign readers, and others unfamiliar with the British Army, it should be explained that the alleged preparations made by units for visiting senior officers are a time-honoured joke, and treated as such by all concerned—including the Generals—Editor).

You must realise from the outset that, to the Regimental Officer, there are only three types of General. If you point out faults as you see them, you will become known as a "Surly Blighter." If you refrain from doing this, but write tactfully to the C.O. later, suggesting that he rectifies certain points, you will be typed as a "Smiling So-and-So." If you fail to notice anything wrong at all you will be regarded as a "Silly Old Fool." Assuming, therefore, that you feel capable of avoiding the last title, and have no wish to be credited with the second, you are stuck with being a Surly Blighter. This means that you must find something wrong to comment on. As it is considered unsporting to arrive without at least a week's warning, this may be difficult.

The first essential is to upset the carefully arranged programme. It is not done to arrive early, but if you come ten minutes late and from an unexpected direction you will have achieved the same result. You should provide yourself with a charming but apparently brainless A.D.C. whose map-reading can be blamed for the error. This will help the A.D.C. to ingratiate himself with the Adjutant who may well let slip which particular "horror" the unit is hoping to conceal. This information will enable you later to depart effectively from the programme without risk of making a fool of yourself.

You are expected to inspect the Quarter Guard. Ignore any reference to "Guard found by 'B' Company." These will be the same men who greeted you on your last visit, and will greet you on your next. Indeed, with an all-regular unit you may well wonder whether they ever change the guard at all. Make your A.D.C. keep a record of the questions you ask so that the same men don't get asked the same questions next time.

You will next be invited to inspect the barracks. Assuming that your A.D.C. has so far failed to come up with any useful information, your only hope is to come upon some last-minute muddle. To this end you must neutralise the R.S.M. who will want to move about a hundred yards ahead of you to prevent these occurring. Perhaps the best answer is to think up some complicated arrangements you wish your driver to carry out, and the C.O. will probably be led into detailing the R.S.M. to supervise them.

During this inspection you will doubtless try out some awkward questions on the C.O. If he is baffled he will turn to the Adjutant and the Q.M. for help. You should at once press home your questions if this happens, but only until the Q.M. joins in the discussion. No General has ever won an argument with a Q.M., and there is no reason why you should be the first. The Adjutant, however, is fair game.

During the morning you will be shown some drill and P.T. There will be no point in looking at either of these very carefully, as the Warrant Officers in charge will be

thoroughly competent, and the whole display will have been rehearsed three times daily for at least a week. It might be worth while having a quick check on the number of officers present, but if you decide to comment on their absence, beware of the riposte that they are engaged on garrison duties ordered by your staff.

You will be taken to the dining-hall to see the men's meal. The food will be splendid, and no complaint could be reasonable. You should pick out the most disgruntled-looking soldier you can see, and tell him how lucky he is to be given such fine food. He should, particularly if the R.S.M. is still away, reply heatedly, "It's all right when the likes of you come around, but you should have seen this morning's breakfast." This will give you ample opportunity for lofty interrogation—you can be certain that neither the C.O. nor the Adjutant will know what there was for breakfast, let alone how it was cooked. (You may well doubt whether the disgruntled soldier was present that early either, but this doesn't matter).

The next stop will be the Sergeants' Mess. Try to make the C.O. introduce as many Sergeants to you as possible; there is always a good chance that he will get into a momentary muddle over their names. Be careful, however, since at least one of them may have served with you as a Lance-Corporal in the dim past!

On the way to the Officers' Mess for lunch is a good time to suggest a fire practice, since all the officers and N.C.O.s are away from the unit lines. If you do this, remember to stand next to the Q.M. The fire party's main aim will be to catch you in the hose jet, with the R.S.M. as second-best target. They wouldn't shrink from drenching the C.O. or Adjutant in the process, but will draw the line at risking the Q.M.'s wrath.

There will be no doubt at lunch that the repast spread for you is far above the standard of normal Mess food, but any comment on this would be very Non-U. Just enjoy it and let them believe if they like that you think they always eat like this. Remember that their principal aim is to get you befuddled with alcohol and bonhomie before the afternoon, in the hope that the ancient custom of doing no harm to your hosts after eating their salt will apply. You wouldn't have got to your present rank without being able to cope with this situation, so you will doubtless just drink up, accept more and go on being a Surly Blighter. Incidentally, if you study the Company Commanders' faces, you will probably be able to spot where that "horror" you're looking for is concealed.

After lunch you will be taken to see some training. This again will be so well rehearsed that it will be almost impossible to spot errors. There are some possible lines of enquiry, however, which always pay a dividend. For example everyone knows it is quite impossible to get across to soldiers what any exercise is supposed to be about. If you ask half-a-dozen in turn what they are doing you will be sure to get at least three different versions, thereby giving you ample opportunity for comments about the need for men to be "put in the picture."

Most exercises these days are either "nuclear" or "conventional." Wait until it is half-way through, and then ask them to change over from one to the other.

This is sure to flabbergast them and open the way to biting remarks on "lack of flexibility," "pre-conceived ideas," "one-track minds," etc.

If vehicles are used, demand to see their complete loads. Unloading them will certainly throw the programme out of gear, and you will be sure to find them short of the proper equipment. If all else fails, check what the men are carrying. If a soldier carried everything he is meant to in the way of ammunition, grenades, picks, shovels, spare socks, mess tins, etc., he wouldn't be able to move at all, so you're certain to find something missing somewhere.

When you've had enough, and the time comes to leave the barracks, walk slowly towards your car and wait for the C.O. and Adjutant to relax. Then turn round quickly, demand to see the mobilisation scheme and ask: "What do you do if mobilisation is ordered now? Are you ready for war?"

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Military Miscellany

The Russian Officer drew his pistol and threatened the Gurkha. The Gurkha drew his kukri out and acted—a short swing from the waist up and around. The Russian put his hand to his head and snarled "Drawing a weapon on an officer you might have struck me." The rifleman replied grimly, "Take your hand from your head." The Russian did so and his head rolled in the dust.

John Masters,
"Bugler and a Tiger."

Intelligence is the second oldest of the professions, but it has fewer morals and employs more amateurs than the oldest.

A young soldier was returning to his overseas unit when he met a distressed blonde at the airport who had missed her plane. The following telegram was received by his C.O., "Regret arriving late; have given birth to a girl." He was sent the reply, "Looking forward to your arrival; your next confinement will be in barracks."

"The General gives an order to the cavalryman. The cavalryman smiles politely and goes off to water and feed his horses."

"The General gives an order to the artilleryman. The artilleryman understands it perfectly, but being much cleverer than the General goes and does something quite different."

"The General gives an order to the infantryman. The infantryman being rather stupid, does not well understand what the General wants, but goes out and engages the enemy."

Story told by F. M. Wavell,
First World War.

The following inscription was put on a tombstone in a military cemetery: "Erected to the memory of Cpl. John Smith who was accidentally killed as a mark of affection by his comrades."

The following reply is said to have been given by a very senior R.A.F. officer to someone producing excuses why something or other could not be done:

"According to recognised aero-dynamic principles the bumble bee cannot fly because of the shape and weight of its body in relation to its total wing area. The bumble-bee, however, does not know and gets on with his job regardless."

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A Busman's Holiday in the Iberian Peninsula

BY CPL. JOHN F. STEWART, M.T. PLATOON

The idea that the M.T. Platoon should visit the Battlefields of the Peninsular War originated from Capt. (Q.M.) M. Wild, the M.T.O. The trip, to be of any practical use militarily speaking, had to run as a form of exercise. Therefore every person taking part had to have a specific job to do, whether it was as driver, navigator or cook. As there were two vehicles each vehicle had to be self sufficient. Besides giving military objectives, the trip had to be such that everybody could relax and reasonably enjoy himself. Capt. Wild held a lecture in South Barracks where he outlined the Peninsular War in general and what the Regiment did in particular during this war. This gave us some idea of the events leading up to the Battle of Albuhera.

As nearly everything that happened in Gibraltar started with crossing into Spain, this travelogue will do the same.

Leaving La Linea de la Concepcion behind us we travelled towards Seville on Saturday, August 21, 1965. Our Battlefield Tour had begun in earnest after a long period of indecision and waiting plus a few minor set backs. The group consisted of the following members of the Platoon; Capt. Wild as Group Commander; Cpl. Stewart, rations; Ptes. Jeff Tydeman and Geoff Kowatch as navigators; Ptes. John McGlade and Terry Hedger as cooks; Ptes. Yorke Ridsdale and Nobby Dowdell as drivers; Ptes. Pete Murray and Frank Saunders, P.O.L. To add variety we included C/Sgt. Don Lagden as the 2IC and Pte. Giner Hill ("H.Q.") Company stores as the M.T.O.'s batman. Having raided the Q.M. stores, acquired the two Safari Land Rovers, the Company tent and other smaller items, we had nearly everything that we required. Having packed the vehicles, they were despatched over the border on the Friday.



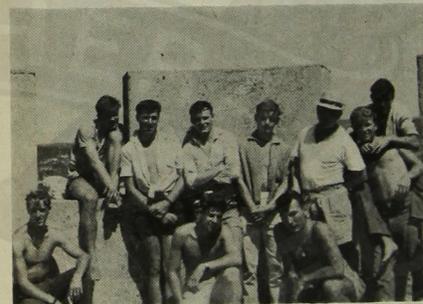
(Photo: Capt. M. Wild)

Bathing Beauties

(from left to right) Terry Hedger, Pete Murray, Jeff Tydeman, Frank Saunders, Don Lagden, John McGlade (Kneeling) Yorke Ridsdale, Geoff Kowatch

The journey to Seville was uneventful and we arrived at a camp site that was situated in an orange grove. Unluckily the oranges were not quite ripe. After a late meal the majority of us decided that bed was the place. Quite early the following morning we were on our way towards Portugal. Having crossed the border at Rosal de la Frontera we bypassed Beja and pushed on steadily towards Lisboa (Lisbon). It was decided that we would stay well outside the suburbs of Lisboa and very near the sea. So accordingly on arrival at Setubal, which is some 15 miles short of Lisboa, we made camp and settled down after a trying journey. Monday dawned and decisions were made. Capt. Wild and C/Sgt. Don Lagden accompanied by John McGlade decided on Lisboa whilst the rest of us gave Setubal the once over. Setubal is the provincial capital, situated on the coast amid a series of rolling hills. The scenery in this area is picturesque but in places marred by the unsightly quarries that abound in the area. The city is a quaint suburb of Lisboa but with an individuality of its own. The winding side streets are a complete opposite to the main thoroughfares which run North to South and East to West. The corner shops vie with the large stores, each with something to offer the traveller. The pottery that can be found in Setubal is unlimited and worth taking a look at.

The 15 miles to Lisboa is quickly covered by either road or rail. By road some two miles from the ferry on the River Tejo was a hill which overlooks Lisboa. There below us was spread like the fan tail of a peacock, Lisboa in all its splendour. Lisboa is stretched along the north bank of the River Tejo and at present there are only two ways by which entrance from the South can be



(Photo: Capt. (Q.M.) M. Wild)

The Group

From left to right (kneeling) Yorke Ridsdale, Nobby Dowdell and Terry Hedger. (Remainder) John Stewart, Frank Saunders, John McGlade, Pete Murray, Don Lagden, Geoff Kowatch, Jeff Tydeman.

managed. They are by the ferries which ply over the River Tejo and by road but this entails a journey of some 34 miles before a bridge is reached. By late 1966 a suspension bridge from the high ground at Alameda on the south side of the River Tejo across to Lisboa will be completed, making entry very much easier. On the high ground at Alameda there is also a monument to Christ the King. At dusk this monument is encircled by the rays of the dying sun and at this time it is magnificent to behold. Lisboa can be likened to London in many ways especially where statues and monuments are concerned. They seem to grow overnight. Like London, Lisboa could have a book written about it. What I saw I liked and the time I spent there I enjoyed. There is one statue in Lisboa that bears special mention. After our sojourn in Setubal the tour recommenced by moving to Torres Vedras. We crossed the ferry and drove onto a ring road that would eventually lead us to Torres Vedras. On this road and after numerous enquiries we approached and passed on a cross roads a monument that was crested with an eagle in flight and surrounded with various statues. On the fifth occasion of passing this monument Terry Hedger summed up all our thoughts quite adequately when he passed the following comment, "I'll be able to name and age the b...y eagle if we pass the b...d monument once again." We never did find out its age but the right road to Torres Vedras was finally found.

We arrived at Torres Vedras and made a short inspection of the Defence Lines that are still standing. These fortifications are a monument to the British and Portuguese engineers who built them. They are still an impressive sight and it is easy to see how the French found them impregnable. In the fort at Torres Vedras Capt. Wild gave a short lecture on the Defence of Lisboa and the sequence of events that lead up to the French advancing this far into Portugal. The facts and figures were more realistic on the ground than they ever could have been at South Barracks.

The next place of interest was Elvas, which is on the Portuguese-Spanish Border, and after Torres Vedras it was to here that we travelled, after stopping at Caldas da Rainha for the night. The citadel of Elvas was originally the southern gateway into Portugal from Spain. As such the area of Elvas was strongly fortified. These fortifications are still in good condition except for some of the minor areas that have been allowed to fall into decay. It was very hard to see how the citadel fell to the Army of the Duke of Wellington after only 21 days' siege. Our stay in Portugal was at an end and we crossed into Spain at Badajoz on August 28. After Elvas the fortifications of Badajoz were very poorly maintained and looked as if a 3.5 rocket could have made mince meat of them. Our stay there was very short and we pushed on to Albuhera.

Albuhera, a dusty little township settled in the countryside around it, some 20 miles from Badajoz, but still Albuhera. To the usual run of travellers a petrol

stop but to us the climax of our journey. After visiting the Mayor and seeing the various pictures that have been presented by the Regiments who took part in the Battle we moved to a ridge nearly a kilometre away. On this ridge the M.T.O. gave a short lecture on the Battle. The finer details were more apparent on the ground than in the lecture room. It is surprising how very little the ground has changed in the last 150 years. After the lecture we moved to the ridge where the Regiment earned the nickname of "The Die-Hards."

Albuhera was behind us in the distance as we travelled towards Cordoba across the vilest roads that have ever been created. Cordoba is a relatively new city but has many of the splendours that are usually found in the older cities. The camp site where we stayed had a swimming pool, so swims were in order to try and remove some of the aches and pains acquired during the day. After a night in Cordoba we pushed on to Granada.

The journey was through the open-cast mining area and the slag heaps could have been in any of England's mine fields. The Sierra Nevada and Granada were ahead of us and in the late afternoon we reached our destination. After a swim we were once again on the road going to a Gypsy Dance that had been arranged by the Local Tourist Office. The general comment was, "What a waste of money!" As our tour was drawing to its end it was decided that the coast was the place to be for the last couple of days. So accordingly we left Granada and made for the Costa del Sol. We paid our last visit to the La Serena and stayed at Fuengirola for two days. As Ronda was between us and Gibraltar a visit was made. Travelling through the mountains to reach Ronda is a spectacular journey that is crowned by the view of Ronda perched on a gorge. Without a doubt the most impressive sight at Ronda is from the bridge over the gorge looking down on the countryside below. Inside this bridge there is a restaurant and as the funds could stand the knock lunch was arranged for 2 p.m. As there was time in hand Ronda was given the look over. It was during this period that Capt. Wild and C/Sgt. Don Lagden found the old cathedral. After lunch we all went to the cathedral—an appalling building on the outside but inside it was magnificent. At the west end of the nave was a golden altar and at the east end a silver altar. The obvious comments were made but I think that the sight of this cathedral will remain with all of us for many a year.

Having left Ronda we travelled as slowly as possible and made for Gibraltar where we arrived at 6.30 p.m. on September 2. Our trip was over but will never be forgotten.

The trip provided for all of us experiences that would never have been acquired within the confines of Gibraltar. The training we all managed to receive in the fields of our endeavour has provided a fund of knowledge which we will be able to draw upon in the future, so hopes the Illustrious Moto.

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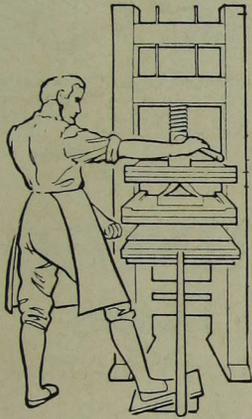


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5th BATTALION (T.A.) NOTES

EDITORIAL

It would be impossible to preface the editorial for this edition other than beginning by congratulating Lt. Jock Smith on the award of his Military Cross for his Aden ambush. His story is well known amongst us all by now and he himself admits to being thoroughly tired of all the publicity. In spite of this, it would be wrong to omit here the fact that the whole Battalion is extremely proud of his award; the first T.A. Officer to have received such outside the two world wars.

In similar vein, the Battalion was delighted to see Major Weller receive the award of the M.B.E. in the New Year Honours List. "Sam" handed over his duties to our new Quartermaster, Lt. Derek Adkins, on December 14 after 34 years' service in the Regiment. We have been very lucky indeed as a Battalion that he was able to spend his last four years' service with us, benefiting by his hard work and experience in avoiding all the "Q" pitfalls.

A brief summary of the annual events which have taken place in this period show that we have, as usual, more than held our own as a Battalion. Whilst gracefully allowing the various Green Jacket Battalions to take most of the high honours at the Divisional Rifle Meeting, on the same weekend we won the Brigade 3 in. Mortar Competition outright. "A" Company Support Platoon Commander, Capt. Thomas, together with Sgt. Stone, are to be congratulated on this win which was the direct result of the very hard work and enthusiasm that had been put in by the whole section.

"B" Company won the Middlesex T.A. Tough Training Competition for 1965 outright with a splendid performance and very ably led by Lt. Margand. "D" Company did not fare quite so well, handicapped as they were early on by a "Battle" Casualty.

Armistice Day, which for the first time was an All-Regimental occasion at Mill Hill, produced a good turn out by most companies. However, it was noted that a lot of the former Boroughs missed the Company Parades that have been a feature in past years. The difficulties of getting everybody to Mill Hill in time were only just overcome.

The Battalion W.T. Competition was yet again won almost outright by "D" Company and full details are to be found in their notes. Pte. Hollett, of "H.Q." Company (Assault Pioneers) however, is the one exception, winning the Recruits Small-bore shooting competition.

Autumn Camp was run successfully again and helped to get all the left-overs and new recruits off to camp for a most useful training period. After much hopeful planning of spending our final Annual Camp in Northern Ireland the move of the 1st Battalion to British Guiana

and other reasons prevented this. Instead we go to Stanford P.T.A., a good, if rather familiar, part of the world.

It would be wrong to comment at the moment of writing about the new Home Defence Battalions, which together with the Army Volunteer Reserve are to be the successors to the Territorial Army next April. How this affects the Middlesex Regiment will not be known for a few weeks. Needless to say, we could barely be more interested.

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

The period of these notes is mainly marked by the considerable "turnover" in personalities which occurs every two years or so.

By October 1, Major Lawrence was securely in the Training Major's chair and Battalion Headquarters had seen the last of Major Norton, who returned to the 1st Battalion to command "B" Company. All ranks were very sorry to see him go. His copious useful advice always available to the Battalion on every conceivable aspect of training (and other matters) will be missed. However, our erstwhile lady typists can relax now that his penchant for "going into print" is no longer there.

Major Lawrence is, however, a particularly welcome figure to replace him. The Battalion did not really know what to expect before he arrived, preceded as he was by odd anecdotes. His arrival proved a great relief to many and we all hope that he and his family will enjoy their tour with us.

This particular period has not, unlike camp, been a time when we are able to report a great deal of news from the T.A. element of Battalion Headquarters. The Medical section continues its most active life at Hornsey inoculating everybody in sight and getting them to "cough twice" at the same time. The Paymaster, Capt. Hennah, at last found being 50 weeks of the year without his Imprest Account too frustrating and regrettably turned to T.A.R.O.

Our long-suffering Orderly Room suffered a further set back by the recent decision of Mrs. Garner to change her area of employment and leave us. Nevertheless with his usual panache the Chief Clerk keeps "business as usual" despite the impossibility of finding a replacement at this stage of the rundown of the T.A.

These notes represent one of the final tasks of the retiring Adjutant, Capt. Clarke, who returns to the 1st Battalion just in time to catch the move from Belfast to British Guiana. He hopes to find some relief in moving from one (paper) jungle to the next.

Capt. Mallalieu, his relief will have the task of closing down the Battalion and sorting out whatever is to follow. The best of luck!

"H.Q." COMPANY

Despite the inevitable uncertainty of the future the Company activities have been as varied and full during the past months as always.

The weekends at Poole and Snowdon in September were popular and successful. At Poole under command of "B" Company everything went particularly well, despite the lead by our only ex-member of the Royal Navy during the Assault-Boat voyage, who showed the best way to position oneself when being seasick, and Capt. Robertson's bold cavalry charge up the beach with the Recce Platoon, pushing his quarter-ton vehicles through the shingle! Snowdonia, unfortunately, was not very kind with its weather and it was considered safer to limit activities nearer its base. The colour films and amusing tape commentaries made by C.S.M. Warner made interesting records and viewing in October.

Weekends were very full in October with a Company Dance, the largest contingent at Autumn Camp, field firing at Stoney Castle and the Regimental reunion in the T.A. Centre.

November saw Remembrance Sunday Parade at Mill Hill and preparations for the weapon training competition and the annual game called Administrative Inspection. Pte. Hollett is to be congratulated on his winning the best recruit cup at the weapon training competitions. The consolidation for training purposes of the Recce and Signal Platoon and the M.T. and Assault Pioneers has now settled down and is working well under their new Platoon Commanders. Lt. Ron Vaisey has achieved miracles with the M.T., and Lt. Jock Smith, despite getting "shot" on his first weekend with the Company since being awarded his M.C., is busily making sure that the rest of the Signal Platoon speak with a Glasgow accent for security reasons. We add our congratulations to Jock to all the others he has received, and welcome him from "A" Company.

We were very sorry to see that staunch "Die-hard," D/Major Holdford, B.E.M., retire in October. He has been a tower of strength in the Drums since he left the 1st Battalion in 1952. The Company and DRUMS contributed towards the magnificent shot gun which "A" Company and the Hornsey "Die-hards" presented to him, and the Band presented him with a small piece of silver on Remembrance Sunday. We wish him well in his new job in Berkshire.

Capt. Robertson has left to go to "C" Company, and Capt. Tett is now the Company 2IC.

The following are to be congratulated on their promotions:— C/Sgt. Lauwers (although we were

sorry to lose him to "A" Company), and L/Cpls. Adams, Hollett and Power.

Recce and Signals Platoons

Recce and Signals Platoons have now joined together for training purposes, although they still function as separate platoons on weekend training. The total strength of both platoons is 22. Lt. Smith, recently of "A" Company, is now undergoing training with both platoons and with the guidance of C/Sgt. Hawkins and Sgt. Purchase will eventually learn something about signalling and recce. In February both platoons trained along with M.T. at Hankley Common. This consisted of a night patrol to find the harbour area then returning to base, linking up with the M.T. and then taking part as guides on the M.T.'s "Wall of Death" night drive across Hankley Common.

M.T. Platoon

The Platoon has now been consolidated with the Assault Pioneers for training purposes and the M.T.O. has a good and strong platoon to work with.

The Platoon, which is 22 strong, got under way in January with an intensive training programme, on drill nights a course of lectures on mechanical principles, and at weekends driver training for the newer recruits.

A very pleasant weekend was held in January on the M.T. driving course at Aldershot, and on the Saturday evening a map reading exercise was held. After a cold day we spent the weekend at 60 W.T.C.

Early in February the Platoon went on a combined weekend with the Signal Platoon to Hankley Common where we carried out a night driving route across country using only convoy lights; this was the first time that some of the drivers had any experience of night driving. On the Sunday some useful cross-country driving was done with no casualties to the vehicles and the M.T.O. and S/Sgt. Green were very impressed with the performance put up by the drivers.

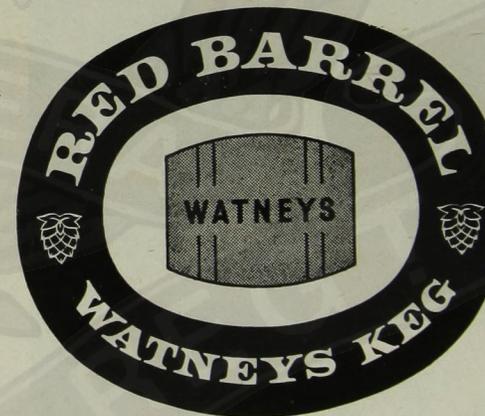
We are now getting ready for the R.E.M.E. inspection of vehicles in March, and the Platoon is to be congratulated on the hard work they are putting into the cleaning and maintenance of the vehicles so as to enable the Battalion to get a good report.

We welcome Cfsm. Dean, T. into the R.E.M.E. section. His mechanical aptitude has already proved a great assistance to the section.

The following have qualified as Battalion drivers since January: L/Cpl. Power, Ptes. Brennan, Kiff, Norris, Roberts, M. ("H.Q." Company) and Pte Mattock ("D" Company).

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1. P.S.I. to C.O.: "At least, Sir, she has two good points," (Left to right) Lt.-Col. P. J. Hall, W.O.2 P. Garraty, W.O.2 B. Warner, Pte. Egleton to L/Cpl. Hooker: "Remember Corporal, your father is here." (Left to right) Ptes. Egleton, Booth, Handscorn and L/Cpl. Hooker.

3. COR!! (Left to right) Ptes. Ockwell, Wood, Thomas, Oakley, Stone, Bickerstaff, Cpl. Barton, Y. S. Gibson, Pte. P. Hartley. 4. C.Q.M.S. to Capt. Jones: "I would like to have fitted her out with her uniform." (Left to right) Capt. T. D. Jones, W.O.2 S. Michel, C/Sgt. B. Lauwers.

"A" COMPANY

Since the last edition of *The Die-Hards* "A" Company has seen much activity and many comings and goings. Lt. Martin Brown has found it necessary to go on extended leave due to a change of location of employment. His skills on the range and in sporting events will be missed by the whole company.

Another old friend, C.S.M. Sid Michel, has now returned to the 1st Battalion and we miss him, as in or out of the T.A. Centre we could rely on his assistance in excess of his stipulated duties. We wish both of them all the very best in their new environments.

The Company has lost another mainstay in Lt. "Jock" Smith who shortly after his return from Aden left No. 2 Platoon to go to "H.Q." Company where he now commands the Signal Platoon. We only hope "Mac Pronto" will be able to get beyond the letter "W" when reciting the phonetic alphabet. May we, at this moment, congratulate him in print a little belatedly on his M.C.

Another loss to the Company is D/Major Holdford, who, though of course was officially attached to "H.Q." Company, was as much a part of "A" Company as any member, in his capacity as resident caretaker and steward. At his farewell party he was presented with a magnificent shotgun, a gift from the Battalion as a whole. We will miss him, but at the same time extend a warm welcome to his successors as caretaker and steward, Mr. and Mrs. Goose.

Training over the last six months has progressed at the normal intensive "A" Company pace and weekends have been devoted to field firing, minor tactics, map reading, compass work and weapon training, etc. The hard training put in by our Support Platoon paid off by their winning the 56 (London) Brigade 3 in. Mortar Competition in September.

In this respect, our congratulations go to Capt. D. O. M. Thomas and the two Mortar teams, which consisted of:—Mobile Fire Control, Sgt. Stone; Control Post Op, Cpl. Davis; No. 1 Mor. Det. Comd., Cpl. Hinton; No. 2 Pte. McIntyre; No. 3 Pte. Stone; No. 2 Mor. Det. Comd., L/Cpl. Johnstone; No. 2 Pte. Thomas; No. 3 Pte. Roper; Mor. Sec. Driver, Cpl. Bird.

We do wish, however, that Cpl. Bird would remember that champagne should be sipped and not guzzled at one draught from a quart silver cup.

One of the most important social events during recent months was on the return of our "Ever-Readies" from Aden, who still cannot get out of the habit of shaking sand from their hair and shoes at every opportunity just to emphasise the point. We described in the last edition their farewell party and particularly the young lady who seemed to be an enthusiastic naturalist. Once again "A" Company and particularly Capt. Jones (who always seems to have a "pocket-show" up his sleeve) rose to the occasion, and at the welcome home party there were this time two similarly minded young ladies. We eagerly await a further "Ever-Ready" call-up.

Another recent event was our Haggis Party and we should like to take this opportunity of thanking Lt.

Smith for supplying the Haggis which was enjoyed by the Company and their ladies.

After a spate of competitions between Companies we have had reasonable success. At the time of writing, in the inter-company basketball and .22 shooting we have played "D" Company to whom we lost the basketball, but won the shooting, and "H.Q." Company whom we beat in both events.

Amongst our newcomers we should like to welcome our new P.S.I., W.O.2 P. Garraty. He arrived on the scene with a bang and in a short time has introduced a far more military appearance to our muster parades. We hope he will be happy at Hornsey; it is felt that his presence will do us all a power of good.

Lastly we should like to extend a welcome to the following newcomers, Ptes. Mather, Bickerstaff, Gibson, Trimmer, Catchpol, Smith, Mead, McCann, also Mills and Hartley, P., who have joined us from "H.Q." Company.

Congratulations are extended to the following on their recent promotions: Major Couch, Capts. Jones and Thomas, C/Sgt. Lauwers, Cpl. Hinton, L/Cpls. Bonner, Mortelmans, Johnston, also to Cpl. Fraser, A.C.C., who is attached to us.

"B" COMPANY

The most noteworthy event since the last issue of *The Die-Hards* was the welcome return of our 11 Ever-Readies from their service with the Royal Sussex Regiment in Aden.

They all came back sporting healthy suntans and with haircuts far more appropriate to military service than those they had on their departure. (Unfortunately some have now reverted to their old civilian habits.) They all seem to have enjoyed their training with the Regular Army, and have joined the band of "old soldiers" who exchange stories of their war service in the bar after a drill night.

In early December we had a dance in the Drill Hall, firstly to welcome back officially the Ever-Readies, and secondly to make a presentation to our Ex-P.S.I., C.S.M. Adkins. In recognition of his loyal and devoted service to "B" Company, C.S.M. Adkins was presented with two whisky decanters mounted on a silver tray, which had been subscribed to by all members of the Company. The evening was a great success despite the fact that the group played with such deafening noise that it was quite impossible to hold any conversation at all. The writer has been assured (but remains unconvinced) that it is necessary for modern musicians to play at this volume so that their frequent mistakes will remain undetected.

On the training side, the highlight of our year was the long weekend we had at Poole. For this weekend we sought the assistance of "H.Q." Company to strengthen our numbers, which had been depleted by the Aden contingent, and we are very grateful for the enthusiastic support that we received. Altogether about 70 men were involved in the exercise, which consisted of an Assault Boat landing by the Royal Marines, followed by night

patrolling activities with a dawn attack as its climax. Fortunately the weather was in our favour and everyone who took part had a most interesting and enjoyable weekend's training.

Shortly after the Poole exercise, "B" Company decided, rather belatedly, to enter a team in the County of Middlesex Tough Training competition. "B" Company had previously done extremely well in this competition, although we had not competed for the past three years. It was consequently with a great deal of enthusiasm and determination that Capt. Margand planned his training programme to endeavour to bring the trophy back to Ealing. The careful planning certainly paid dividends as "B" Company romped home easy winners with a very clear lead over all other competitors. This was indeed a magnificent victory and congratulations are due to the team:

Capt. Margand	L/Cpl. Foster
Sgt. Foster	Pte. Golding
Cpl. Sullivan	Pte. Woodall
Cpl. Duff	Pte. Beaven

Now that the Company is concentrated together again after a year of upheavals resulting from simultaneous training being carried on in Aden, B.A.O.R., and Devizes, we are looking forward to a more stable 1966 when we can once again go to camp as a Company.

In conclusion congratulations are due to Sgt. Bartrick and L/Cpl. Woodall on their recent promotions.

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"C" COMPANY

The last six months have brought snatches of news which are out of the run of normal.

Perhaps the most significant was the return of our three "Ever-Readies" from Aden. Cpl. Smith who was a radio-operator over there was most enthusiastic about his service, and could not wait to sign on again. We had a small dinner to welcome their return, attended by some 25 men.

Whilst on the subject of travellers, Lt. Muirhead, who went to Germany for a four weeks' business trip, wandered over the Czech border. Luckily he was picked up by the German Police, and treated as a "Mad Englishman."

Gains and losses include the sad departure to T.A.R.O. of our Company Commander, Major Naish, due to heavy business commitments. We combined a Ladies Night with a farewell party for the O.C. who was presented with a water-colour of "A Man of Albuhera." Capt. Young has assumed command, and Capt. Robertson comes over from the hierarchy at Edgware as 2IC.

Recent promotions include Cpl. Swarbrick to Sergeant, L/Cpl. Smith to Corporal, and Ptes. Andrews, Edwards, and Sturgeon to Lance-Corporals.

Our annual hopes for recruiting at the "Enfield Show" were blown away by high winds along with the tents, budgerigars, Boy Scouts, prize blooms, and ladies keep-fit club. A great waste?

For the second year running "C" Company represented the Battalion at the "Escape and Evasion" weekend. Out of three teams one got captured, one got lost, and one got there.

Our other distinguished weekend was playing Enemy to Major McQueen's Medics, and I understand we gave them a taste of what it is like in the Infantry. We are now looking forward to our first fully "Infanter" Camp for two years.

"D" COMPANY

Farewell to Capt. Ken Murray who resigned as O.C. "D" Company and handed over command to Capt. Mike Doran on January 31. Other recent departures from within the Company are Cpl. Ted Humes, who we will no doubt miss when it comes to selecting members for our shooting team, Ptes. Whordley, Hancock, Jones, A., Walker and L/Cpl. Taylor. Cheers to Pte. T. J. Locke who left us to join the Regular Army and Pte. David Mell who joined the Royal Navy.

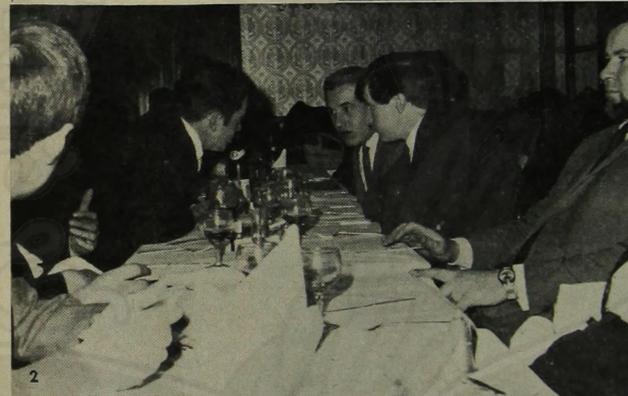
Welcome back (officially) to the Company strength after their T.A.E.R. service in Aden with 1 Royal Sussex, L/Cpl. Malcolm Hart and Ptes. Roger Hart, Ray Jones, Steve Hurley, Dannie Horton and "Plonker" Barrett. (Did one overhear Pte. Roger Hart say it would be less expensive in Aden?)

Congratulations to Cpls. Mick Enright, John Raby and Mick Joyce on their making substantive Corporal. It is our loss but Christine Fitzpatrick's gain that Cpl. Mick Joyce leaves us to live in Manchester, and will marry. Good luck Mick!

Congratulations are also due to our late Company Commander, Capt. Ken Murray and his wife Alison, on the arrival of a son. Also to Capt. and Mrs. Mike

"D" Company NEWS IN PICTURES

1. After the "D" Company Dinner at the "Red Lion" in Hounslow all retired to the bar at the T.A. Centre where Sgt. Mike Ward and Sgt. Tom Trindall busied themselves as temporary unpaid barmen.



2. L/Cpl. Pete Long and Ptes. Alan Drinkwater and Alan Lindsey busily engaged in conversation at the Company Dinner.

3. "I've got a horse." C/Sgt. Henry Rea persuading members of the Company to part with their hard earned money and go into the "Sport of Kings."
4. Winners of the Battalion Weapon Training Competition. Front row (left to right): Cpl. Paul Hart, Pte. "Clacker" Johnson, Cpl. John Raby, Pte. Roy Crane, Sgt. Gordon Large. Back row (left to right): Pte. Peter Gillow, Pte. David Osborne, L/Cpl. "Hoss" Davies, Cpl. "Ginger" Lee, Lt. Fred Hamilton (Team Captain).

Doran on the arrival of their daughter, who, Mike tells us, is soggy at both ends! And to Sgt. and Mrs. Gordon Young on the occasion of their marriage last October.

So Sgts. Mike Ward and Gordon Young have finally "fiddled" their T.A. medals. Rumour has it that the two above mentioned Sergeants are buying the Company a beer each when they arrive! C/Sgt. Henry Rea says that *when* his medal arrives, we all get a scotch!

C/Sgt. Henry Rea ran a very successful weekend in Belgium. Not a training weekend I hasten to add, but a visit to the Beer Festival. From hearsay everyone enjoyed themselves, drank a lot and slept little. Shades of "Wagon Train" when Mike Ward took over the stage coach in one of the bars.

We are glad to report that we managed to win the Battalion Weapon Training competition again. After the practice session on the Saturday the team did not think too highly of their team Captain's ability with the weapons, but were agreeably surprised when the team's points were published on the Sunday. Sgt. Gordon Large won the cup for the best shot and the runner-up was Lt. Fred Hamilton.

On January 15 we had our Annual Company Dinner at the "Red Lion," Hounslow. We were pleased to welcome as guests Col. Ian Brotherton, Lt.-Col. Peter Hall, Capt. Dan Hogg (all past Company Commanders), W.O.1 "Joe" Lyons and C/Sgt. Ken Mortimer. The evening went off well; great fun, and hoarse voices were acquired by all.

Stop Press:

The Officers and All Ranks "D" Company wish to congratulate Lt. Jock Smith, the first Ever-Ready Officer to be awarded the M.C. for action in Aden. Well done Jock! What's it like to be a "sharp end" soldier?

OFFICERS' MESS

On October 1 we held a Ladies Dinner Night in the Mess at Edgware and took the opportunity to say farewell to Major Geoff Norton and to welcome Major Chris Lawrence, who has taken his place as Training Major. This was our first Ladies Night and was such a success that it will certainly be repeated.

We held our customary Curry Lunch just before Christmas which was well attended.

Congratulations to Lt. Derek Adkins on his appointment to a commission. Congratulations also to Capt. and Mrs. Murray on the birth of a son, Capt. and Mrs. Doran on the birth of a son and Capt. and Mrs. Jones on the birth of a daughter.

On February 25 we held a Guest Night in the Mess when we said farewell to Major Sam Weller, who has now retired from the Army, and Capt. Peter Clarke, who has returned to the 1st Battalion.

SERGEANTS' MESS

The most noteworthy Mess function during the past few months was our Mess Dinner which took place on November 6. The Commanding Officer very kindly allowed us the facilities of the Officers' Mess and this set the scene for what turned out to be a most excellent evening. W.O.2 Banks and Sgt. Francis surpassed themselves and prepared a wonderful meal. The dinner will be remembered by us all as a most enjoyable and successful occasion. It has been suggested that there are those among us who do not remember it as clearly as they ought; this may be so as several gallons of sherry were consumed before we even sat down. C/Sgt. Mortimer very ably directed operations within the dining room; he and his staff are to be congratulated as are the remainder of the committee who helped with the arrangements. It was most fitting that we were able to have as a guest Lt. Adkins who had just been appointed to a Q.M.'s commission and to whom we offer our congratulations. Mr. Les Shrubbs, M.M., one of our honorary members, also attended, and as usual was in good form.

Much revelry has been heard of late coming from the rough direction of Hornsey, where at one time there seemed to be a never-ending succession of parties, which included farewells to Drum Major Holdford, B.E.M., on his retirement, and to W.O.2 Michel on his rejoining the 1st Battalion, and a welcome to W.O.2 Garraty on joining as P.S.I. with "A" Company. A cabaret also was arranged. This event will probably be covered by "A" Company's notes. On second thoughts, perhaps covered is the wrong word, "A" Company will probably not even mention it.

On entering "D" Company area one is blinded by the amount of green and yellow on display. Our congratulations are offered to C/Sgt. Rea, Sgt. Ward and Sgt. Young on their recent awards of the T.A. Efficiency Medal. Sgt. Young also deserves our best wishes on his recent marriage.

Other members due for congratulations are C/Sgt. Lauwers on his promotion to that exalted rank and also to Sgts. Eden, Swarbrick and Bartrick on their promotions to Sergeant.

We must not forget to include a word or two about Sgt. Stone and his mortar section who very convincingly walked away with the Brigade Mortar concentration cup last September. Well done!

Sgt. Aldridge has arrived back in the fold after his six months T.A.E.R. service with 1 Royal Sussex in Aden. He looks fit, brown and healthy and obviously ready to go again.

The administrative wheels have started turning again in preparation for this year's annual camp at Stanford. While gloomy press reports say that this will be our last camp we intend to enjoy ourselves and to wait and see.

HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE DEPOT NOTES

Since our last Notes there has been a surge of activity at the Depot, concerning both recruiting and changes in the Permanent Staff. As far as recruiting is concerned, although we may never be allowed to rest on our laurels, it is fair to say that great progress has been made. During 1965 a total of 701 recruits were enlisted into the Brigade and the figure this year is expected to be even higher.

These highly-promising figures are the direct result of a concerted effort on the part of all the special recruiters, both serving with Army Youth Teams and in Army Information Offices, and they also reflect on the Permanent Staff of all Battalions who are engaged in the sometimes hard, but always rewarding, task of training.

week and, although training was slightly disrupted, everyone made the most of the conditions by ski-ing, tobogganing, organising snowball fights and, for the less fortunate, shovelling snow. Nevertheless training programmes could be followed without much chaos arising, apart from one particular period, "Personal camouflage and concealment." The question arose as to how recruits should be taught to camouflage themselves in arctic conditions. One particular member of the staff insisted that the lessons should be taught as planned, but his reasons were transparent; he was to be one of the fully-camouflaged demonstrators, necessitating burnt cork and cream on his face, and he happened to have a date that night!



(Photo: The Kentish Gazette)

Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden being towed out of Howe Barracks on relinquishing command of the Home Counties Brigade Depot.

At present there are 11 "Die-Hards" employed in Training Company, six in the Junior Soldiers Company, including Sgt. Reynolds, who is "on loan" from Training Company, and not forgetting W.O.2 Benson and Sgt. Meacock in the Quartermaster's department, and Sgt. Shave, the Provost Sergeant. Add to these figures two subalterns who have recently left the 1st Battalion, Lt. M. W. Deakin and 2/Lt. S. J. Yates, shake well, and one is left with a grand total of 22 regimental representatives serving at Canterbury.

Training has continued its normal course of events and just as we were thinking how fortunate we were not to have been affected by winter's elements the Depot arose one morning in mid-January to find itself under several feet of snow. However, this lasted less than a

Around the Depot

Perhaps the event of greatest significance during the last six months has been the change of Commanding Officer. Last November we bade farewell to Lt.-Col. Norman Clayden, welcoming Lt.-Col. John Buckeridge, The Royal Sussex Regiment, in his place.

Col. Clayden, who has commanded the Depot for the last three years, was primarily concerned in the move from the Old Infantry Barracks into Howe Barracks, the new home of the Brigade Depot. Since that time the Depot has flourished and it is to Col. Clayden that we must extend our thanks for making the Brigade Depot what it is today—a first-class barracks and among the leaders in the "recruiting race."

The departure of Col. Clayden, his wife Jean and

their three-year-old son was in accordance with military tradition. He and his family took their places in an open Land-Rover and were then towed out of barracks by officers and senior N.C.O.s of the Permanent Staff, led by Major Derek Woolstencroft and R.S.M. Peter Floyd, respectively. The entourage was led by the Band of the Junior Soldiers Company and its path led between lines of recruits and Permanent Staff, who gave him three rousing cheers. At the guardroom the Band played "Auld Lang Syne" and "Will ye no' come back again" as Col. Clayden turned to his men for a final wave before leaving.

At the same time as we welcome Col. John Buckeridge as new C.O. of the Depot we also wish Col. Clayden "all the best" in his new staff appointment, in British Guiana, where he will, once again, serve with the "Die-Hards."

As far as personalities are concerned the Depot is losing "Die-Hards" as fast as they arrive. Sgt. Shave left at the end of February after a year's reign as Provost Sergeant to rejoin the Battalion prior to his departure for British Guiana on March 22.

Lt. Bartlett and Sgt. Argent have also just left after two years in Training Company and we wish them all the best of luck in the future. We welcome W.O.2 Benson as R.Q.M.S. and hope that his job proves less of a headache than organising the guard roster in Gibraltar! Two other new arrivals are Sgt. Reynolds and Sgt. McFadyen, who has recently settled down to a new recruit platoon. Pte. Campy is also a relatively recent arrival and performs his duties as Depot Bugler and Sports Storeman apparently quite efficiently(?) as well as being a useful member of the highly-successful Depot soccer team. In the near future we shall also be welcoming W.O.1 Wildgoose to the Depot as Regimental Sergeant-Major, whom many will remember during his service with the Battalion in Germany. Finally, we welcome Cpl. Marquiss, who has recently arrived and is an instructor in the Junior Soldiers Wing.

We would like to extend our congratulations to Pte. Keemer on his marriage in January. Pte. Keemer has just finished a year's tour with the Brigade Recruiting Team and will shortly be returning to the Battalion. Congratulations, also, to L/Cpl. and Mrs. Hedges on the birth of their daughter Lorraine on September 4, 1965. The author of these notes has just received the following announcement for publication from Sgt. Seager, who has recently started his third recruit platoon in Training Company. It reads as follows: "Miss World 1983 was born at Canterbury Hospital on July 10, 1965. Specifications: gross tonnage 8 lb. 13 oz., christened Venetia Mary." Already she has a definite advantage with her blonde hair and blue eyes. This birth was omitted in the last edition of *The Die-Hards* and we sincerely hope that it is not too late to offer Sgt. and Mrs. Seager our heartiest congratulations. In the meantime if there are any interested bachelors around the age of nine months who would like further information regarding photographs and telephone number please write to the Editor!

Finally, we would like to wish a speedy and complete recovery to Major Frank Waldron, the Depot Quartermaster, who has recently been ill in Millbank Hospital

and is now convalescent at home. His absence has proved how easily one takes for granted the "permanent" personalities in Depot life, and all members of the Depot, not only "Die-Hards," are eagerly looking forward to his return; not least the R.Q.M.S.!

Our notes on personalities at Canterbury close with congratulations to two other Quartermasters on their promotions. Firstly, to Major F. Griffiths, Q.M. of 4 Buffs, and secondly to Lt. R. Morris, who is joining the 1st Battalion as Quartermaster. We wish them both the best of good fortune in the future.

Junior Soldiers Company

The Junior Soldiers Company continues in high spirits, even though we are now no longer a regimental platoon, but working in departmental platoons—Band, Drums and the Rifle Platoon.

There have been a number of changes since the last notes. J/Drum-Major Warr and J/L/Cpl. Cochrane have now joined the Battalion on completion of their training. Warr did extremely well during the period he was here; on the sports field he captained the Company and the Junior Rugger teams and also played football for the Drums. He certainly made a name for himself on parade and, in fact, carried the mace as Drum-Major on two passing-out parades as well as proving himself to be an accomplished flautist and bugler. Cochrane also represented the Drums at basketball, hockey and, sometimes, football. He was showing promise on the F flute and bugle.

One further departure was L/Cpl. Parker, who has returned to the 1st Battalion after three years at the J.S.C. and we wish him and his wife every success.

All "Die-Hards" in the Company are keeping the name of the Regiment up to its usual high standard and recent promotions are to L/Cpl. Cross, in the Band, and Odiam, in the Rifle Platoon.

Last October the Rifle and Training Platoons went off to North Wales for a fortnight's Adventure Training, rock climbing and canoeing and, judging by their remarks on their return, it was a fortnight they thoroughly enjoyed. The Band and Drums were at Canterbury during this period rehearsing for the Depot "At Home," the grand finale of which was the Beating of Retreat. All "Die-Hards" grew a few inches when the Band and Drums marched off as the buglers sounded the Regimental Call and the Band played the Regimental March for the benefit of Col. Clayden, who was taking the salute.

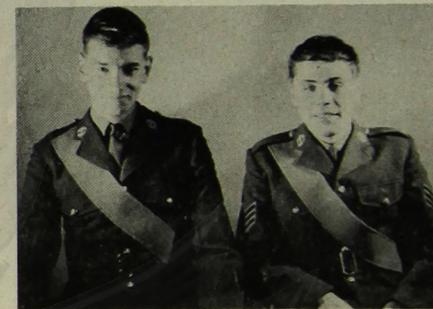
We are now half-way through our Spring Term and eagerly looking forward to our two weeks' Battle Camp in Okehampton, Devon, and we trust we may be permitted space for a report on this in the next edition.

Soccer

The Depot soccer team has had a highly successful season, due, mainly, to the five "Die-Hards" in the team, these being Sgts. Shave and McFadyen, Cpls. Ward and Mason and Pte. Campy. The 1st XI battled through many a hard-fought game, which culminated in the Minor Units Finals. This was played on February 2 at Shorncliffe against the Regi-

The Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion

One aspect of the news from Oswestry is a little alarming. The number of Junior Leaders here belonging to the Regiment is steadily dwindling. Eighteen months ago there were 12 which compares favourably with most other Regiments. During that time four have moved on to the Depot, having completed their training here, and as many have been discharged, three because they received tempting offers of highly paid jobs in London. One of them it is true had only been in this Battalion for two weeks when he left. This term another of our number with a mechanical bent transferred to the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Aborfield, making the overall wastage rate of Juniors discharged at Oswestry about 40 per cent. recently. In the last 18 months only one recruit has arrived here for the Regiment. At the time of the last edition of the Journal there were nine in residence. Last term there were seven. Now there are



J/CSM R. Bartle (left) and J/Sgt. H. Walker

five. Next term, if no more arrive, there will be three. Recruiters take note, the maroon and old gold bottles are falling off the wall. Figures for the Brigade are healthy, there being about 50 Junior Home Counties men in the Battalion but next term the "Die-Hards" on the Permanent Staff will outnumber the Junior Leaders in the Regiment. It is a pity because the Junior "Die-Hards," as one might expect, have been doing well in the Battalion. During the past two years three have reached the rank of J/C.S.M., one has become a J/Sgt., one a J/Cpl., and four made J/L/Cpl.

At the end of this term J/C.S.M. Robert Bartle and J/Sgt. Hector Walker leave this Battalion and will join the Depot at Canterbury. Robert Bartle should be a name well known by Journal readers. His father, R.S.M. "Slim" Bartle, needs no mention. The nickname of the father would aptly apply to the son for at 6 ft. 4 in. he is the tallest Junior Leader in the Battalion by far and yet the slimmest. As a boy he travelled with his parents in the 1st Battalion to Austria, Cyprus and B.A.O.R. The old Depot at Mill Hill was his home when his father was

mental Pay Office from Brighton. The final score to the Depot of 7-3 gives a false impression of the game, since it was, indeed, a very close and fine match. Congratulations to the team on a fine effort and we hope that next season it will, once again, be "The Depot for the Cup."

"At Home" 1966

In the light of the success of last year's Depot "At Home" we are planning an even bigger and more spectacular exhibition this coming summer. Details will be circulated in due course but the important part to remember is the date, Sunday, July 3, 1966, and it is hoped that many friends of the Middlesex Regiment, both past and present, will be able to come to what promises to be a most worth-while and entertaining afternoon.

Meanwhile life at the Depot continues as usual. Although the "Die-Hards" of the Permanent Staff are somewhat detached from the 1st Battalion we, nevertheless, take a keen interest in the activities of the Battalion and we are always delighted to receive news or meet those passing through. So let these notes close with an open invitation to all members of the 1st or 5th Battalions to call in and see us at any time, when they can be assured of a warm welcome and a drink into the bargain.

Lastly, and by no means least, good luck to the 1st Battalion in British Guiana.

Brigade Cricket Week

The following fixtures have been arranged for the Brigade Cricket Week, which will be held at Canterbury:

Date	Fixture	Match Manager
Saturday, June 18	Band of Brothers	To be found by Queens Own Buffs.
Sunday, " 19	Kent Constabulary	To be found by Royal Sussex Regiment.
Friday, " 24	Sussex Martlets	" " "
Saturday, " 25	Free Foresters	To be found by Queens Surreys.
Sunday, " 26	Depot Royal Marines	Lt.-Col. P. L. Pearce Gould, M.B.E.

Anyone wishing to take part in any of the above matches should notify Regimental Headquarters. In this connection any officer or soldier, who is serving, or has served, in the Regiment is eligible to play in any of these matches.

Free Journals

The Editor wishes to thank the following readers for their generosity in paying extra subscriptions so that free copies of *The Die Hards* can be sent to deserving Old Comrades—Lt.-Col. S. F. W. M. del Court, Lt.-Col. H. P. Lambert, Major K. R. Mc K. Biggs, Major C. F. Carvell, Mr. A. W. J. Brown and Mr. G. J. Smith.

the R.S.M. there. He joined the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion in September 1963 at the age of 15 having never contemplated doing anything else. Over two-and-a-half years he has firmly established himself as one of the characters of the Battalion and has worked his way up to become the J/C.S.M. of "D" Company. He has been the pillar of the Company basketball team for two seasons and a regular member of the soccer team. He achieved the distinction of becoming the Junior Drum Major when the Corps of Drums was equipped with the Drums of 2nd Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).

Hector Walker has had no previous connection with the Regiment but he and Robert Bartle have been friends since they were at school together in Chelmsford and together they decided to join the Regiment. Hector's uncle was in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in Korea. He joined the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion in January 1964, and at the end of his first year he won the intermediate Education prize for the best A.C.E. 2nd Class results of his term.

He has earned promotion to J/Sgt. and is now the Junior Platoon Sergeant of 15 Platoon of "D" Company. He played himself into the Battalion rugby team as prop forward and represents the Company at rugby, athletics and swimming. He pursues sailing as a hobby and holds a "C" Class Helmsman's Certificate. He has successfully completed an Army Outward Bound Course. The two of them went on a walking tour down

the River Rhine in the Summer. Their careers have followed similarly successful patterns in the Junior Army. Now they are joining the Regiment as adult soldiers hoping that they will be in time to join the 1st Battalion while it is still in British Guiana.

Of the other "Die-Hards" at Oswestry, J/L/Cpl. Robert Broad is at present on a winter warfare course in Norway, J/Pte. Peter Elliott is on an Army Outward Bound course and J/Pte. Clive Hepden is in the final term of his Education year and studying for his A.C.E. 2nd Class. Among the staff Sgt. John "Gig" Young has now completed two years of his three-year tour here. He is a Platoon Sergeant in "B" Company and an instructor on the Drill Wing. I am not certain that the rake of his forage cap is entirely to regimental specifications, but it looks very smart. Cpl. David Stevenson is a P.T. Instructor and looking very fit for it. He is a local youth club leader in his spare time. Pte. Reg. Lampshire, a driver on the External Leadership Wing is hardly ever in camp. During the last three weeks he has been ski-ing in Glenshee in Scotland. Lt. Jim Hawkins is now permanently attached to the External Leadership Wing and is the senior climbing instructor on the Wing, regularly leading Junior Leaders up "very severe" graded climbs. Angus, his Scotty dog, has not managed anything more than a "moderate" yet which is disappointing. Lt. Peter Monypenny who is Assistant Adjutant and commands 14 Platoon of "D" Company leaves at the end of this term.



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OBITUARY

Col. F. W. MacKenzie, L.R.I.B.A.

Frederick Wheatley MacKenzie, who died on September 23, 1965, first joined the 7th Battalion (T.A.) in 1915. He was posted to one of the Reserve Battalions and early in 1918 joined the 1/7th Battalion in which he rendered distinguished service.

After the 1914-18 War he continued to serve with the 1/7th Battalion until 1921 when he returned to civilian life to follow his professional career as an architect.

On the re-formation of the Territorial Army he was, initially with the late Col. S. A. W. Cranfield, architect to the Middlesex Territorial and Air Force Association, being responsible for much of the modernisation and upkeep of T.A. buildings, etc.

He designed and built the new T.A. Centre at Hornsey and many others in Middlesex as well. He also designed and piloted the massive programme of new premises to cope with the expansion of the Territorial Army, much of which was perforce jettisoned on the outbreak of the 1939-45 War.

He served with the Middlesex Home Guard throughout the 1939-45 War, and eventually commanded a Home Guard unit.

After the war he designed the 1939-45 memorial plaque in Hornsey Parish Church, which forms part of the 7th Battalion memorial chapel.

He was devoted to the 7th Battalion and lost no opportunity to serve it.

(With acknowledgements to Brigadier H. A. D. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.—Editor.)

Lt. B. J. Luckie

Bertram James Luckie, who served for many years with the 2nd Battalion, died at his daughter's home in Guernsey on January 10, 1966, aged 81.

As Cpl. Bert Luckie (L/7786) he was a well-known and popular man with his comrades. He was the first battle casualty of the 2nd Battalion in the 1914-18 War, being wounded at Neuve Eglise on November 14, 1914. Reporting back to his Battalion on recovering from his wound, he remained with it until May 1917 when he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant from his rank of Company Sergeant Major and posted to the 1st Battalion.

After the Armistice in 1918 he retired and settled in Guernsey where he had served with the 2nd Battalion from 1907 to 1910. Here he had a provision business which he ran until he finally retired.

It is probably not widely known that Major-General J. F. C. Fuller, an outstanding military thinker and a leading exponent of mechanisation, who died last February, was Adjutant from April 1908 to April 1912 of our 10th Battalion (TF), which most unfortunately was disbanded after the 1914-18 War.

Capt. H. A. Palmer, T.D.

Henry Alleyn Palmer, the Queen's Coroner and Attorney, Master of the Crown Office, and Registrar of the Court of Criminal Appeal for 1962 until the end of 1964, died on August 14, 1965, aged 71.

He was born on November 13, 1893, and was educated at Charterhouse and University College, Oxford. He was still at Oxford at the outbreak of the 1914-18 War and was commissioned on September 14, 1914, as a



2nd Lieutenant in the 8th Battalion (T.A.), with which unit he served in France throughout the war, being promoted Captain on November 3, 1918.

After being demobilised in 1919 he pursued his legal studies and was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1921. He was also a member of the New Zealand Bar.

When the Territorial Army was re-constituted after the 1914-18 War he joined the 8th Battalion and served as a Company Commander until 1927 when he went on the Territorial Army Reserve of Officers. At the outbreak of the 1939-45 War he was recalled from the Reserve and served in a staff capacity at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea.

On his return to the Bar at the conclusion of hostilities he entered the field of law reporting.

In 1948 he was offered and accepted the position of Assistant Registrar of the Court of Criminal Appeal. When the Court Martial Appeal Court for the Army and Royal Air Force was set up as a result of the recommendations in 1949 of the committee presided over by Mr. Justice Lewis, he was appointed Registrar of the Court and made an Assistant Master.

In 1962 he succeeded Sir Anthony Highmore King as

Queen's Coroner and Attorney, Master of the Crown Office and Registrar of the Court of Criminal Appeal.

He was engaged as the managing editor when the New Zealand Statutes were reprinted in 1931.

In 1925 he married Maud, daughter of Lt.-Col. O. J. Obbard, and she and a son and daughter survive him.

He had been a member of the Regimental Officers' Club for many years.

Ex-C.S.M. E. W. Killick (G/15088)

Ernest Walter Killick was born at Islington on March 5, 1890, and made the first of his three enlistments at the age of 20 when he joined the 6th (Special Reserve) Battalion of the Regiment on May 27, 1910. After completing his training and attending the annual camp he decided to take advantage of the current regulations and obtained his discharge by purchase on May 26, 1911.

On its formation on May 20, 1915, he enlisted into the 21st (Service) Battalion (Islington) which had been raised by the Mayor of Islington. As a result of his previous experience he soon became a Lance-Corporal. He was promoted to Corporal in August 1915 and to Sergeant in January 1916—some six months before he sailed with the battalion to join the B.E.F. in France.

A month after landing in France he was in his first action with the battalion at Maroc, and took part in every succeeding action until he was wounded at Gouzeumont Wood in April 1917. He was evacuated to this country and, after recovery and convalescence, returned to France for the closing stages of the war.

On November 26, 1918, he was posted to 246 P.O.W. Company of the Labour Corps, and in February 1919 he was appointed Acting Company Sergeant-Major. Three months later he returned to England and was transferred to Class 2 of the Army Reserve with the medical category of B2. He was finally discharged from his second period of military service on November 24, 1920.

At the outbreak of the 1939-45 War he enlisted in the National Defence Companies of the Regiment and was posted to the 2/7th Battalion. Shortly afterwards he was transferred to the 10th (Home Defence) Battalion, and later to the 70th (Young Soldiers) Battalion. In April 1941 he rejoined the 10th Battalion, with which unit he remained until he was finally discharged on March 9, 1944, on medical grounds.

He spent the last years of his life in one of the Regimental Memorial Homes at Albuhera Close, Enfield, where he died as the result of a stroke on July 26, 1965.

Major E. L. Heywood represented the Regiment at his funeral, which took place at Lavender Hill Cemetery, Enfield, and was attended by many of his comrades.

ex-C.S.M. G. A. Soper (4905430)

George Albert Soper was born on May 6, 1905, and enlisted as a Boy into the South Staffordshire Regiment on June 7, 1920.

On December 29, 1920, he sailed for Singapore and it was in Tanglin Barracks that he first met the Middle-

sex Regiment when our 2nd Battalion relieved his own unit in February 1922.

After a few months' service in India he reverted to the Home Establishment and was stationed in the U.K. until 1928 when he sailed with his Battalion to Malta. Less than a year later he moved with his Battalion to Palestine and in October 1930 to Egypt.

It was whilst serving with the South Staffordshire Regiment in Egypt that he transferred to the Middlesex Regiment, joining the 1st Battalion on March 5, 1932. On completion of six years' service overseas he was posted to the Home Establishment and joined the 2nd Battalion in December 1934.

Home service did not prove so attractive to him as service overseas so in March 1936 he rejoined the 1st Battalion, then stationed in Singapore, later going with the Battalion to Hong Kong.

A few months before the outbreak of the 1939-45 War he was once more posted to the Home Establishment.

After their return with the remnants of the B.E.F. from France in 1940 he was posted as a Sergeant to the 1st Battalion Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, with which unit he saw active service in Sicily and Italy until the German surrender on May 2, 1945.

He was promoted to War Substantive C.S.M. on April 23, 1945, and in August that year he returned to the U.K.

On November 8, 1945, he was transferred to the Army Reserve on completion of nearly 25½ years' Colour service.

He was one of the first of the younger generation of old soldiers to join the Mill Hill Branch of the Regimental Association, of which he was a staunch and loyal member up to the time of his death.

He died in Colindale Hospital on January 9, 1966, after years of suffering borne with great fortitude and patience.

There was no funeral as he had donated his remains to medical research.

ex-Sgt. T. A. Tiller (6190826)

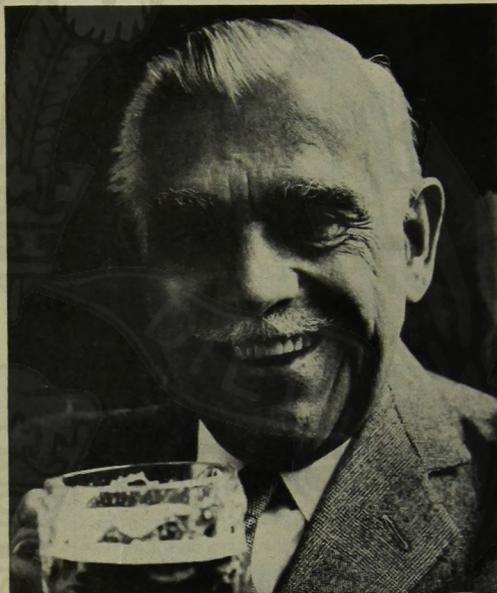
Thomas Albert Tiller was born on January 11, 1899. He originally enlisted into the East Kent Regiment (The Buffs) three months after his eighteenth birthday and served with them during the last year of the Great War, being wounded twice.

On January 28, 1919, he re-enlisted into the Middlesex Regiment and was posted to the 2nd Battalion, then temporarily stationed at Colchester, prior to continuing its foreign tour which had been interrupted by the war.

A long spell of overseas service for him began on August 21, 1919, when he sailed with the Battalion for Egypt and was stationed in Abbassia Barracks, Cairo. Whilst in Egypt he qualified at Zeitoun as an instructor on the Lewis gun and revolver. He was then a Corporal.

He moved with the Battalion to Singapore in January 1922 and to India in October 1923, where the Battalion was to spend the next five years at Ahmednagar.

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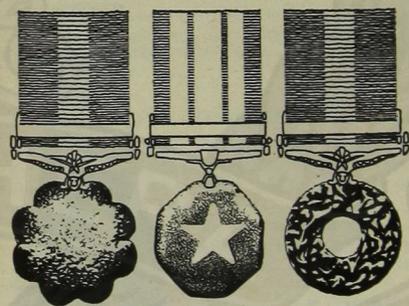
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DOUBLE DIAMOND

Bottled and on Draught



He was promoted to Sergeant on July 1, 1926, and the following year he qualified as a Weapon Training instructor at the Small Arms School, Pachmar.

In November 1927 he was posted for a two-year tour of duty as an instructor at the Depot, rejoining the 2nd Battalion in Madras in February 1930, and moving with it to Khartoum the following year.

When the 2nd Battalion completed its foreign tour in December 1931 Sgt. Tiller was one of the "Turnover Draft" for the 1st Battalion, then starting its foreign tour. He served with the Battalion in Palestine and the Suez Canal Zone before moving with it to Singapore in March 1936. Whilst in Malaya he was for five weeks attached to the Kelantan Volunteer Force where his tact, initiative and energy brought a very complimentary letter from the Commanding Officer of that Force.

On August 20, 1937, at the height of the Sino-Japanese War he sailed with the 1st Battalion when it was placed at 72 hours' notice to move to Hong Kong. This was to be his last foreign service station for, after over 20 years' service, he sailed for England in January 1938, for his final spell of military service—a second tour at the Regimental Depot.

Having completed over 22 years' Colour service, during which he had been awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, he went to pension as a Sergeant on June 1, 1939.

After leaving the Army he immediately joined the Air Ministry Constabulary. He remained with that force for 22 years and was awarded the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in recognition of his exemplary police service.

He died on December 20, 1965, and was cremated at Aldershot Crematorium, his comrades in the Air Ministry Constabulary being the bearers at his funeral.

ex-Cpl. J. Edwards (G/1046)

John Edwards joined the 13th (Service) Battalion soon after its formation in September 1914, and went to France with it on September 1, 1915, in time to take part in the Battle of Loos.

On August 18, 1916, he was wounded during an attack on Guillemont, one of the 17 officers and 340 other ranks casualties which the Battalion suffered during this costly action. After recovering from his wounds he rejoined the Battalion and continued to serve with it during the Battles of the Scarpe and Arras.

In September 1917 he was posted from the B.E.F. to the 6th Battalion at Chatham, and became a P.T. instructor.

He was posted to the 3rd Battalion on its return from Constantinople and remained with the Battalion until he was discharged in November 1919.

He died on September 11, 1965, and at his funeral on September 16 the Regiment was represented by Major R. W. J. Smith. Other mourners present from the Regiment were Messrs. T. Boswell and F. Bugden, who knew him well and met him frequently during his retirement.

Ex-Cpl. E. W. H. West (G/14679)

Edward William Howard West was born on February 8, 1888, the first years of his life being spent in Australia.

After an apprenticeship at sea he began a seafaring life and served in a number of Merchant ships in Signals.

On his return to England soon after the outbreak of the 1914-18 War "Gunner" West, as he was to become known by so many of his friends in later years, found the country in the throes of patriotic fervour, with hundreds of young men volunteering for service with the New Army then being raised by Lord Kitchener. One of the new battalions to be raised as part of this Army was that sponsored by the Mayor of Shoreditch (Sir Henry Bird), which was officially designated the 20th (Service) Battalion (Shoreditch) The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment). It was in this Battalion, on the first day of its existence, July 4, 1915, in which "Gunner" West enrolled. As a result of his previous experience in the Merchant Navy he became a Signals Corporal.

On completion of preliminary training in England he went to France with the Battalion in June 1916 and served with it until May 1917, when he was medically downgraded and transferred to the Labour Corps. Two months later he was discharged from the Army as ceasing to fulfil physical requirements.

After the war he returned to his first love, the sea, was employed by the P. & O. S. N. Co., and was eventually granted his certificate as a Master Mariner.

As Capt. West his name appeared over many interesting and well-illustrated articles in the nautical magazine "Sea Breezes." His illustrations were superb as any reader who has seen his work will agree.

Each year whilst he was in England and after he had finally retired from the Merchant Navy, he attended the Remembrance Day Service at St. Leonard's Church, Shoreditch, where the Colours and Drums of his old Battalion are laid up.

He was a deeply religious man with a high sense of duty. For the last few years of his life he was a Server at St. Michael's Church, Golders Green, and after his death in hospital on July 4, 1965, it was here that his fellow Servers, with members of the Chapter of Our Lady of Victory, bade him farewell at a Requiem Mass on July 8, 1965.

At the funeral at Hendon Park Cemetery on July 9, 1965, the Regiment was represented by Col. F. Walden. Also present were Majors E. L. Heywood and R. W. J. Smith, Messrs. W. Bratby, R. Ferguson, F. Barclay and F. Rogers, the two last-named having served with the deceased in the 20th (Service) Battalion.

ex-Pte. L. G. Barrow (P.S./3124)

Lawrence Barrow ("Laurie" as he was universally known), was born on December 28, 1893.

On November 15, 1915, he joined the 24th (Service) Battalion, whose main task was to supply drafts for the 16th (Service) Battalion (Public Schools).

In May 1916 he joined the parent Battalion in France

and shortly afterwards was taking part in the Battle of Beaumont Hamel, in which the Battalion suffered appalling losses.

In October 1917 he fought with his Battalion in the actions at and around Cambrai where, on November 20, tanks were used by us for the first time.

He was demobilised in June 1919, but he never lost touch with the Regiment in which he had served throughout the war. He was a member of the Mill Hill Branch and, whenever time and health allowed, he attended reunions and parades. The last parade which he attended was that held on Remembrance Day last year at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill.

He died on January 26, 1966, and the funeral took place at Croydon Crematorium on January 31. The principal mourner was his brother, Arthur Barrow (TF/265698), late of our 9th Battalion. The Regiment was represented by Major R. W. J. Smith, and Mill Hill Branch by Mr. Les Milton (PS/823), whilst Mr. John Gates (PS/2211) was also present to pay his respects to an old comrade-in-arms, both he and Les Milton having served in the Public Schools Battalion with Laurie.

Ex-Pte. R. A. C. Cooper (TF/2204)

Reginald Alfred Cooley Cooper, who was born on March 27, 1896, was a typical example of the cheerful volunteer soldier of the Territorial Force of 1914.

He enlisted into the 7th (Imperial Service) Battalion on May 22, 1914, and had done less than three months' service in the T.F. when war was declared.

On September 4, 1914, he sailed with his Battalion in the *Gloucester Castle* for Gibraltar, where the Battalion, having relieved a regular unit for service in France, were to do garrison duties.

Early in 1915 his Battalion was placed under orders to join the B.E.F. in France. On February 13, 1915, he disembarked with the Battalion at Avonmouth and, after a month spent in re-kitting, arrived in France on the morning of March 13.

The Battalion soon settled down to the routine of trench warfare. On the night of May 6/7, 1915, he was in No. 3 Platoon of "A" Company, which was then garrison of a small detached post of importance. This post, consisting of one officer and 15 soldiers, was rushed during the hours of darkness by two parties of the 16th Bavarian Regiment armed with rifles, knives, knuckle-dusters, etc. In the terrific hand-to-hand fighting, in which the enemy were beaten off, Cooper was tackled by a Bavarian who shot him in the leg at point-blank range. This caused his evacuation to England and the subsequent amputation of his right leg below the knee.

He was later discharged on account of his disability and eventually worked for the G.P.O. for some years.

After his final retirement he devoted himself to his chief hobby, gardening. He was always a popular figure wherever he went, and especially at the "Alexandra," his local hostelry, and it was with a great sense of loss that his friends heard of his death.

He died on August 19, 1965, and was buried at St. Pancras and Islington Cemetery on August 25. At the funeral Major R. W. J. Smith represented the Regiment. Also present were many of his friends and former comrades, including Mr. Bob Ferguson, an employee at Regimental Headquarters, who was with him when he was wounded.

ex-Pte. M. Doherty (L/9306 & 6188400)

Michael Doherty, who was born in 1881—the year in which the 57th and 77th became the Middlesex Regiment—died on September 9, 1965, in his 84th year.

Enlisting in 1899 his first spell of service was with the East Surrey Regiment, with which unit he served in the Boer War. He transferred to the Middlesex Regiment on October 22, 1903, and was posted to the 4th Battalion, then stationed in Dublin. He was later posted for a tour of duty to the 7th/57th Depot at Hounslow and was a member of the Advance Party to Mill Hill in 1905 when the Barracks were first occupied as our Regimental Depot.

On August 5, 1911, he was one of the funeral party at the burial of Drummer Dudley Stagpoole, v.c., D.C.M.

By August 1914, he had rejoined the 4th Battalion and, with it, joined the B.E.F. in France.

After the war he served with the 1st Battalion and in 1923 he appeared in Army Orders for the award of his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, taking his discharge the following year.

For many years after he had retired on pension he was employed by Hendon Borough Council, and many thousands of soldiers who have served in the Regiment must have seen his small figure busy sweeping Bittacy Hill and pushing his small council dust trolley. Even after quitting council employment, when in his seventies, he continued to work and was employed until he had passed his eightieth birthday.

When the Regiment held its last parade at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, on January 31, 1961, old "Die-Hard" Doherty was invited to stand by the flagstaff as the Regimental flag was lowered for the last time at our Regimental Depot. He had seen it hoisted for the first time in 1905 when, as a member of the Depot's Advance Party, the Barracks were first occupied; he had now seen it lowered for the last time.

He was buried in St. Paul's churchyard on the Ridge-way, Mill Hill, in the grave of his first wife who had pre-deceased him by many years.

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

Ex-Pte. B. N. Harris (L/9845)

Benjamin Nelson Harris was one of the short service, or three year, men who enlisted during the first decade of this century. He enlisted into the Regiment on July 7, 1904, and was transferred to the Army Reserve on July 6, 1907.

At the outbreak of the 1914-18 War he was mobilised

and rejoined the 4th Battalion at Raglan Barracks, Devonport. He went to France with the Battalion, landing at Boulogne on August 14, 1914.

On Sunday, August 23, 1914, the Battalion had taken up a position in the Mons-Obourg salient, and at 6 a.m. that day the first shots were fired in the first British battle of the war. For Pte. Harris it was the first and last battle, as he was one of the men who fought on until overcome by the vastly superior numbers of the Germans. During the fight he was wounded twice, having the index finger of his right hand shot away, and a bullet through his thigh. These wounds were severe enough, but his later suffering in the prison camp nearly caused his death through tetanus.

He was repatriated on November 22, 1918, and transferred to the Army Reserve in March 1919.

He died on September 21, 1965, at the age of 76. Unfortunately the news of his death did not reach Regimental Headquarters in time either to send a representative or a floral tribute.

Ex-Pte. R. A. Howell (G/1617)

Robert Alfred Howell was born on November 10, 1895, and was approaching his 20th birthday when he enlisted on August 27, 1914.

After completing his training at Chatham he was drafted to France to join the 2nd Battalion on January 27, 1915, and took part in the normal trench life and warfare of that bitterly cold winter.

Early in March he was with the Battalion at the attack on Neuve Chapelle, which was captured at the cost of 474 casualties. In this attack three Companies were so decimated that, for practical purposes, they ceased to exist. On parade later to hear the Commander-

in-Chief say "I am proud of you 2nd Middlesex" was Pte. Howell, he being one of the few who survived the battle unscathed.

On July 1, 1916, he was wounded during the first attack in the Battle of the Somme, and was in hospital for some months. On recovering from his wounds he was posted in December 1916 to the 6th Battalion at Chatham.

He rejoined the 2nd Battalion in 1917 and took part in the Battle of Langemark. Later in August he was in action in the Zonnebeke Redoubt sector, where the Battalion suffered seven Officer and 184 Other Rank casualties.

In March 1918 he was back on the Somme again, where the 2nd Battalion was moved to resist the German advance and, on March 25, he was at Eterpigny where Capt. A. M. Toye, M.C., won his Victoria Cross.

On May 8, 1918, he was gassed and taken prisoner. After repatriation he was posted to the 5th Battalion in February 1919, and from that unit he was demobilised on April 21, 1919.

He had been a member of the Mill Hill Branch of the Regimental Association for many years and, although distance and health prevented him from attending Branch meetings, he kept in touch by letter.

He died on September 21, 1965, but unfortunately news of his death was not received until long afterwards, so the Regiment was unable to pay its respects to this gallant member of Kitchener's Army.

Mrs. Stewart of Coll

On November 14, 1965, the death occurred peacefully of Dorothy, wife of the late Lt.-Col. H. W. M. Stewart, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., at Wellbank, Strathmiglo, Fife.

CORRESPONDENCE

From: Col. Godfrey Wycisk, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.

16 Compton Avenue,
Mannamead,
Plymouth, Devon.
January 31, 1966.

The Editor,
"The Die-Hards,"
Edgware, Middlesex.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

In looking through an old newspaper file recently I came across a report about the 4th Middlesex at Devonport in 1913 from which I have made a precis. I am sending this to you as it may be of interest for your journal.

I imagine that it is quite possible the present Chief of the Defence Staff looked in at this party with his father.

Yours sincerely,
GODFREY WYCISK.

"The Western Daily Mercury" December 26, 1913

On Christmas Day a large number of members of the 4th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment remained in North Raglan Barracks. After church parade military duties were tabooed and the troops were free for the day.

The men had dinner in their own dining-halls under the general direction of Lt. & Q.M. M. W. Farrow, assisted by Dining-Hall Sgt. W. Cooper. The dining rooms were decorated with great skill with streamers and illuminated mottoes. About 350 enjoyed a meal provided by the canteen fund. It consisted of a "weal of hot poultry of all descriptions, plum-pudding, sweets and dessert." A prominent place on each table was given to the customary Albuhera cake. These cakes were supplied ad-lib. They were decorated with the words "Albuhera" and "The Die-Hards" in gilt letters. The tables were supervised by Cpl. Finch "A" Company, Cpl. Clarke "B" Company, L/Cpl. Egar "C" Company and Cpl. James "D" Company. The arrangements in the Sergeants' Mess were in the hands of Sgt. Whiting.

Banners were hung in each room expressing the "Compliments of the Season" to Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Hull and to the company officers and their wives.

Lt.-Col. and Mrs. C. P. A. Hull visited the diners in company with Major H. W. E. Finch, Lt. A. F. E. Robinson (acting Adjutant), Lt. & Q.M. Farrow and S.M. Leatham. They drank the health of the men who vociferously responded.

Games and dances were held during the evening and friends of the men were permitted to take part.

From: Mr. Ernest Reoch

4 Brunstane Crescent,
Edinburgh 15.
November 7, 1965.

SIR,

I enclose a copy of a book which I wrote and published in connection with the Highland Division jubilee commemorations in October. A copy should have come to you earlier for favour of review in your Regimental Journal and I apologise for the delay.

It is of course a Divisional study and history rather than a Regimental one; but you may find it has some Regimental interest.

If anyone wishes to buy a copy it is available from my address here, or from the printers, Highland Printers Ltd., Inverness, at 10s. 6d. post free. Alternatively, I could send down say five or ten copies for selling at 9s. each and returning those not sold, possibly after New Year.

I hope this may be of interest to those of your Regiment who were there in 1940.

Yours, etc.,
Ernest Reoch.

The Editor,
THE DIE-HARDS.

(Anyone wishing to buy a copy of this book "The St. Valery Story," should get in touch with me—Editor.)

From: Bandmaster D. Bayton

Welsh Brigade Depot,
Crickhowell,
Breconshire.
November 13, 1965.

Dear Colonel Walden,

I have just heard that owing to the Independence Celebrations in Kenya in December, I am to be rushed out (without my expected leave) on November 21.

I would very much like to continue with receiving the journal and my address will be:

Lt. D. A. Bayton,
Director of Music,
Kenya Army,
B.F.P.O. 10.

Perhaps you would care to put my address in your next edition, as it would assist in reminding those that owe me letters that I still exist.

It really was an honour and pleasure meeting you once more, and I must say it was nice to discuss the old Egypt/Palestine days.

I shall most certainly come and visit my old Regimental pals when I return in 1968, and until that time I must sign off. I would like to wish you yourself and all Old Comrades, a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely,
DENNIS BAYTON.

From: Mr. W. D. Fitzgerald

Long View,
Peau Court Road,
Whitstable, Kent.
December 8, 1965.

DEAR COL. WALDEN,

As you may remember, I wrote to you about one of our old Regimental Sergeant-Majors, who is 91 years of age. I thought he would be the oldest member of the Regiment alive but apparently he is not. However, I would like the following particulars included in the next issue of the Journal:—

R.S.M. L. Drinkwater, born October 24, 1874.

Enlisted 5th Middlesex Regiment 1895, later to become 9th Middlesex Territorial Force, October 1907.

Served throughout the First World War, India and Mesopotamia.

Unfortunately there is no photo existing of him in Military Uniform.

His address is; Little Dolah, 169 Beach Street, Deal, Kent.

Many of the original 9th Battalion will be very interested to know he is still alive—a very well respected soldier.

Kind regards to you for Xmas.

Yours sincerely,
W. D. FITZGERALD.

(This correspondence arose as a result of the comments in the *Personalia* column of the last (October) issue of *The Die-Hards*, about our oldest living "Die-Hard," Lt.-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O.—EDITOR.)



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Queen and Country
in civilian life
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The Legion co-operates with your regimental association and speaks for all ex-service men and women

BRITISH LEGION, 49 PALL MALL, S.W.1

OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES

Golf

Regimental Autumn Meeting

The Autumn Meeting last year was again held, by kind permission of the North Hants Golf Club, at Fleet, on Wednesday, October 6.

Owing to the difficulty of certain officers getting away during the week the entry was small, only seven (including one guest) being able to take part. Nevertheless those who took part enjoyed a pleasant day's golf in quite good conditions.

The results of the various competitions were:—

Singles Medal Competition (18 holes)
Scratch and Handicap

	Gross	H'cap	Net
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton (winner, scratch)	83	11	72
Major D. R. Pattison (winner, handicap and Horton cup) .. .	tie	92	15
Mr. C. E. H. Wise (guest) .. .	90	13	77
Brigadier A. E. Green	104	24	80
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden	99	18	81
Capt. R. D. Latham	99	13	86
Major C. W. Summers (divot) .. .	123	24	99

Hidden Holes Competition

	Gross	H'cap	Net
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton (winner) .. .	25	4	21
Major D. R. Pattison	28	5	23
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden	30	6	24
Brigadier A. E. Green	35	8	27
Mr. C. E. H. Wise (guest)	32	4	28
Capt. R. D. Latham	34	4	30
Major C. W. Summers	48	8	40

Stableford Competition

	Points
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton and Mr. C. E. H. Wise (winners, Jay Cup) .. .	39
Brigadier A. E. Green and Major D. R. Pattison	28
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden and Major C. W. Summers	21

At the conclusion of the Meeting Mrs. Worton very kindly presented the prizes.

CLUB COCKTAIL PARTY

The Club Cocktail Party last year was held at the Army and Navy Club on Thursday, October 21, and was a great success.

The attendance of 168 (including guests) was the highest on record.

On their return from Gibraltar all officers of the 1st Battalion and their wives were invited as guests of the Club.

The following also attended as official guests:

Miss M. Forbes, Vice-Chairman of the Greater London Council; Col. Sir Joseph Haygarth, Deputy Chairman of the Greater London Council, and Lady Haygarth; Major Kenneth Goodacre, Deputy Clerk to the Greater London Council, and Mrs. Goodacre; Major-General J. B. M. Sloane, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and Mrs. Sloane; Major-General B. P. Hughes, Honorary Colonel, 5th Battalion, and Mrs. Hughes; Mr. C. E. C. R. Platten, Town Clerk of the London Borough of Enfield, and Mrs. Platten; Mrs. M. Fuller, Mrs. C. W. Haydon, Mrs. A. M. Toye, widows of former members of Officers' Club.

SEASON TICKETS FOR LORD'S 1966

Two season tickets for use at Lord's this season have been purchased and are available for the use of members of the Officers' Club.

Applications for these tickets should be made to the Secretary at least 48 hours before they are required, and must be returned to him in the stamped addressed envelope, which will accompany the tickets, at the close of play on the day on which they are used.

In the event of applications exceeding the number of tickets available for any particular day a ballot will be held to decide to whom the tickets are to be allocated.

Admission cannot be guaranteed for the Test Match unless entrance tickets are obtained beforehand. For all other matches Special Complimentary Passes to the ground and pavilion will be sent with the season tickets, and must be returned with them.

OFFICERS' CLUB LIST, 1966

The following additions and amendments should be made to the Club List for 1966 forwarded to members in March:

1. *Additions*—Officers who have joined since the List was compiled:

Bryant, Capt. N. J.	R.A.P.C., attached 1 Mx.
Carlston, Lt. B. A.	1 Mx.
Dowse, 2/Lt. S. M.	1 Mx.
Gancz, 2/Lt. R.	1 Mx.
Hughes, Capt. W. E.	"Branksome," Newgate Street Road, Goffs Oak, Hants.
T.D.	

2. *Amendments*—On page 27 "du Parc Braham" and detail should be deleted and substituted by:

du Parc Braham, Lt-Col., T.D.	35 Acacia Road, London, J. C. W.8.
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7th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER

The 38th Annual Dinner of the 7th Middlesex Officers' Club was held at the United Service Club, Pall Mall, S.W.1, on Thursday, November 11, 1965.

Col. J. K. Maitland presided. Others present were:—Brigadier H. A. D. Murray, Brigadier B. B. Rackham, Col. A. M. Man, Col. W. E. Pringle, Col. F. Walden, Lt.-Col. A. K. Johnson, Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, Lt.-Col. G. C. D. Scott-Lowe, Lt.-Col. V. H. Sykes, Major G. A. H. Bower, Major Sir Harold Gillett Bart., Lt.-Cdr. R. D. P. Gillett, R.N.R. (private guest), Major J. D. Gunnell, Major A. J. Hughes, Major R. J. Leighton, Major M. F. Pearson, Major R. Sykes, Capt. H. S. Abbott, Capt. M. G. Brock, Capt. F. Stafford Hodge, Capt. J. H. Oldham, Lt. J. R. Spooner.

BRERETON SCHOLARSHIP AT CRANLEIGH SCHOOL

One Brereton scholarship for the son of a regular officer on the active or retired list of the Royal Navy, Army or Royal Air Force, or the son of a deceased regular officer, is available for award on the results of the Cranleigh School entrance scholarship examination which will be held on February 7, 8 and 9, 1966 (or May 30 and 31 and June 1, 1966, if the scholarship is not awarded in February). The annual value of the scholarship is up to £150.

Candidates must be under 14 years of age on April 30, 1966 (or September 30 for the May examination). They will be examined in Latin, French, Mathematics, English, History and Geography. They may also be examined in one or more optional subjects from a prescribed list.

Applications should be made to the Headmaster, Cranleigh School, Cranleigh, Surrey, from whom further details may also be obtained.

SALE OF SILVER

It is proposed to offer for sale in the near future some of the silver of the former 7th, 8th and 9th Battalions The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) T.A., which is surplus to the requirements of the present 5th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) T.A.

A catalogue is being prepared and may be obtained from the P.M.C. Officers' Mess, 5th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) T.A.

First preference in any sale will be given to former Officers of the former Battalions.

ISLAND OF COLL

Two-thirds of the Island of Coll in the Inner Hebrides, most of which has been owned for many years by the family of the late Lt.-Col. H. W. M. Stewart, has been sold to Mr. Jan de Vries, a Doctor of Physics, of Amsterdam, who intends developing it as a sporting estate.

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Headquarters: Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

President: Major-General C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C.

Chairman: Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D.

Vice-Chairman: Col. I. R. Burrows, O.B.E.

Secretary: Col. F. Walden, D.L.

BRANCHES

Branch	Hon. Secretary	Meetings	Place
Ealing	Mr. A. Smith (<i>temp.</i>), T.A. Centre, Churchfield Road, Ealing, W.13.	Monthly, on 2nd Friday.	T.A. Centre, Churchfield Road, Ealing, W.13.
Hong Kong	Capt. H. M. du V. Lohan, H.Q. Royal Hong Kong De- fence Force, B.F.P.O. 1.	Annually, during the 3rd week in January.	R.H.K.D.F. Volunteer Centre, Queen's Road, Central, Hong Kong.
Hornsey and Enfield	Mr. A. Fisher, 4 Windebrook Green, Bracknell, Berks.	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.
Portsmouth and Gosport	Capt. C. H. Kennett, 63 The Dale, Widley, Portsmouth, Hants.	Monthly, on 2nd Friday.	R.A.F.A. Club, Stoke Road, Gosport, Hants. (near White Hart Hotel)
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.	Monthly, on 1st Saturday.	47th Signal Regt. T.A., (Middlesex Yeomanry), Duke of York's 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 T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, on Saturday, September 24, 1966, at 8 p.m.

New Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Association

After ten years in office, during which he did sterling work for the Association, especially in raising money for the Widows' Flatlets Scheme at Enfield, Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox has now resigned as Chairman, and has been succeeded by Col. W. D. Ellis.

A tribute to the work of Lt.-Col. Fox as Chairman was paid by the Colonel of the Regiment at the Executive Committee Meeting held on March 14, 1966, the minutes of which will be published in the October issue of *The Die-Hards*.

Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts has also resigned as Vice-Chairman in order to make way for a younger member. Col. I. R. Burrows has been elected in his place.

Donations

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations from the undermentioned to the Association Charitable Fund:

Mr. A. P. Alexander, Mr. R. Chapman, Mr. G. F. Engwell, Mr. J. T. Jenkins, Capt. O. G. Johnson, The Very Rev. Dr. George F. McLeod, Major H. T. Pemell, Mr. E. W. Prosser, Mr. A. J. Pryor and friends at "The Alexandra" (in memory of the late Reg Cooper,

formerly 1/7th Battalion), Mr. J. E. D. K. Smith and Mr. W. B. Ure.

The Secretary also gratefully acknowledges a donation from Lt. J. M. A. Talbot to the Officers' Club Charitable Fund.

Lord Lieutenant's Appeal for Widows' Flatlets, Albuhera Close, Enfield

The following subscriptions to the above Appeal were received between August 1, 1965, and December 31, 1965:

	£	s.	d.
In memory of 2/Lt. Charles Clayton	302	2	8
Middlesex County Council Fund	63	0	0
The Lilley Benevolent Trust	50	0	0
Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton (covenanted)	10	0	0
Col. M. Crawford (covenanted)	10	0	0
Lt.-Col. J. T. Dear (covenanted)	10	0	0
Major B. St. G. A. Reed (covenanted)	10	0	0
Mr. R. E. Booker	5	0	0
Bt. Col. I. D. Brotherton (covenanted)	5	0	0
Lt.-Col. H. P. Lambert (covenanted)	5	0	0
Brigadier H. A. D. Murray (covenanted)	3	3	0
Capt. A. W. Ramsay (covenanted)	3	0	0
Lt.-Col. W. D. Coles (covenanted)	2	2	0
Major P. A. Mann (covenanted)	2	2	0
Lt.-Col. F. de R. Morgan (covenanted)	2	0	0
Capt. A. B. Cowing (covenanted)	1	10	0
Mr. E. Fuller	1	1	0
Capt. E. J. Blake Budden (covenanted)	1	0	0
Mr. A. W. J. Brown	1	0	0
Mr. G. Hurlock	1	0	0
Major G. O. Porter (covenanted)	1	0	0
	£489	5	8
Total received up to July 31, 1965	£6549	8	7
Total as at January 1, 1966	£7038	14	3

Amalgamation of Branches

The Enfield and Hornsey Branches amalgamated with effect from January 1, 1966.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex, on Saturday, October 23, 1965.

Present: Major-General C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C., President; Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L., Chairman; Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L.; Col. I. H. Batty, M.B.E.; Col. I. R. Burrows, O.B.E.; Lt.-Col. P. J. Hall, T.D.; Lt.-Col. J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.; Major E. A. H. Jeffcoat; Major G. Parr Head; Capt. S. R. Bonnamy; Capt. P. D. J. Clarke; Capt. H. A. B. Claypole, T.D., F.C.A.; R.S.M. K. Beale; Mr. J. A. Allen; Mr. T. R. Bennett; Mr. L. Bull; Mr. L. R. T. Cheesman; Mr. E. C. Colebeck; Mr. C. Evans; Mr. R. H. Ferguson; Mr. F. Midlane; Mr. H. Sills; Mr. J. Trunley; Mr. A. White; Mr. F. Worley; Col. F. Walden, D.L., Secretary.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Minutes of an Executive Committee Meeting held at Guildhall, Westminster, S.W.1, on Tuesday, October 19, 1965

Present: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L., Chairman; Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., Vice-Chairman; Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P.; Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L.; Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, D.L.; Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.; Col. S. F. Hedgecoe; Lt.-Col. J. T. Dear, T.D.; Lt.-Col. P. J. Hall, T.D.; Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D.; Major E. A. H. Jeffcoat; Major E. F. Thompson, M.C., T.D.; R.S.M. B. Lyons; Mr. T. R. Bennett; Mr. W. Knight, M.B.E.; Col. F. Walden, D.L., Secretary.

In Attendance: Mr. A. Fisher, Hon. Secretary, Hornsey Branch.

Apologies for absence were received from: Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E.; Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D.; Lt.-Col. J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.; Major Kenneth Goodacre, T.D., D.L.; Major B. St. G. A. Reed, M.C.; Major M. P. Weedon, M.C.; Capt. A. W. Ramsay, J.P.; R.S.M. K. Beale.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on June 15, 1965, were passed and signed by the Chairman.

2. Secretary's Report

(a) The Chairman drew attention to para. 7 of the Report which was self-explanatory.

(b) With reference to para. 8 of the Report the Secretary stated that, at that date, the number of tickets sold for the Annual Reunion had increased to 82 single and 157 double.

(c) There being no further comments the Report was adopted.

3. Correspondence

A file containing seven letters of appreciation for individual Charitable grants was circulated for members of the Committee to read.

4. Finance Sub-Committee's Report

(a) The Chairman referred to the Minutes of the Finance Sub-Committee Meeting held on October 7, which had been circulated with the Agenda and formed the basis of his Report.

(b) Arising from Minute 2 Major Hardcastle stated that it was not possible yet to give any indication of the total sum involved as the matter was still in the hands of the Charity Commission.

Mr. Knight asked if the Sergeants' Mess and P.R.I. funds of the 1/7th Battalion were included in the sum to be handed over, but it was emphasised that such funds had already been handed over to the 5th Battalion on its formation in 1961.

The Chairman was thanked by the Committee for his efforts in bringing this matter to such a successful conclusion for the Association.

1. Election of Branch Representatives to the Executive Committee

The Chairman informed the Meeting that nominations for Branch representatives had been received from:

Ealing Branch	Mr. A. White
Enfield Branch	Mr. F. Worley
Mill Hill Branch	Mr. E. C. Colebeck
9th Battalion Branch	Mr. T. R. Bennett

The Chairman explained that, as there was no quorum present in accordance with Rule 34 (c) there could be no election and that, as laid down in Rule 34 (d), he nominated the following to serve on the Executive Committee for 1966 and 1967:

Mr. A. White
Mr. F. Worley

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

(a) The Minutes of the Meeting held on October 23, 1964 were passed and signed by the Chairman.

(b) Arising from the Minutes the Secretary reported that:

(i) *Fete*.—This matter had been carefully considered at the Executive Committee Meeting held on February 16, 1965, and it was agreed that this type of function was more suited for Branches to organise.

(ii) *Cricket Week*.—The old Regimental ground at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, had been dug up in connection with reconstruction work at the Barracks, and it was not yet known when it would be fit for play again.

(iii) *Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Dunkirk*.—This matter was taken up with the Dunkirk Veterans' Association and information was received from which it was apparent that the only way the Regiment could commemorate the Anniversary was by going to the Annual Service at St. Lawrence Jewry, Guildhall, London.

3. Accounts

The Chairman explained that, owing to the fact that the October issue of the Regimental Journal had not yet been issued, it was unlikely that the accounts for 1964 would have been seen by many members before the Meeting, although copies had been sent to each Branch Secretary in accordance with Rule 22 (b) for production to the members of the Branch of which he is Secretary.

After a short discussion it was proposed by Major G. Parr Head and seconded by Mr. J. Trunley that the accounts be received and adopted.—Carried.

4. The Colonel of the Regiment

The Chairman said how pleased and honoured everyone present felt at having the Colonel of the Regiment at the Meeting.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,
Secretary.

! don't forget
! september 24

! annual reunion

! T.A. Centre
! Edgware
! Middlesex

5. Budget 1965

(a) The Secretary produced a statement of Income and Expenditure in respect of the Charitable fund up to August 31, 1965.

(b) Brigadier Rackham expressed pleasure at the increase in the 1st Battalion and Branch subscriptions.

The Chairman stated that Major-General Willoughby, when Colonel of the Regiment, had pressed hard for the soldiers to revert to the pre-war method of paying one day's pay a year to the Regimental Association, and the Battalion had responded almost 100%, which was the main reason for the increase. When the officers' increased subscriptions have been received the final figure for the year will be quite high.

(c) The Chairman stated that, although the amount expended to date on charitable disbursements was considerably below the amount budgeted for, the next three months were particularly heavy ones for benevolent grants for fuel and winter clothing.

6. Housing Sub-Committee's Report

(a) Brigadier Rackham referred to the Minutes of the Housing Sub-Committee held on October 4, which had been circulated with the Agenda, and formed the basis of his Report.

(b) Arising from Minute 2 Brigadier Rackham informed the Committee that Mrs. Killick had not yet decided whether she would continue to live on the Estate or move away and live with relations.

The Vice-Chairman asked if, in the event of Mrs. Killick vacating her house, the Committee would agree to its being offered to our only living V.C., Mr. Ryder, who had been disappointed at not being offered one of the two cottages which had recently become vacant.

After a long discussion regarding the procedure to be adopted if and when such a vacancy occurred the following resolution was proposed by Col. Ellis seconded by Major Hardcastle and passed:

"That this Committee has noted the present policy of the Housing Sub-Committee and agree to it."

(c) Referring to Minute 5, Brigadier Rackham stated that the external painting was going well and that it was hoped that it would be completed very shortly.

(d) After a lengthy discussion on Minute 7 it was proposed by Major Hardcastle seconded by Col. Clayton and agreed that this Committee should accept the recommendations of the Housing Sub-Committee.

(e) Brigadier Rackham mentioned the recent illness of Major Jones, referred to in Minute 3, and said how much the Sub-Committee owed to him and his wife for the excellent work they did in connection with Albuhera Close.

(f) There being no further comments the Report was adopted.

7. Journal Sub-Committee's Report

The Report of the Chairman of the Sub-Committee was received and adopted.

8. Eligibility of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

(a) The Vice-Chairman stated his reasons for putting forward the proposed resolution set out in para. 7 of the Agenda.

After a long discussion it was moved by the Vice-Chairman and seconded by Col. Ellis that this Committee should recommend that the Rules of the Association should be amended so as to provide that either the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman of the Regimental Association shall always be a serving or retired Regular Officer who has been gazetted to, and served with, the Middlesex Regiment.—Carried.

(b) Arising from the above resolution it was proposed by Col. Ellis and seconded by Brigadier Rackham that, in view of the present uncertainty regarding the future organisation of the Army, Col. I. R. Burrows should be approached and asked if he would act as "watch dog" on behalf of the Regimental Association and report to the Secretary any suggested proposals regarding changes in the Regiment or any matter which might affect the Association and its interests.—Carried.

9. Dates of Executive Committee Meetings

After a short discussion it was decided that future Executive Committee Meetings should normally be held on the second Monday in March, June and November each year.

10. Amalgamation of Enfield and Hornsey Branches

The Chairman read a letter received from Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, Chairman of the Hornsey Branch, regarding a suggested amalgamation of the Enfield and Hornsey Branches, which had been recommended by the two Branches concerned.

The Committee agreed that the two Branches should amalgamate if they so wished.

11. Illness of Mrs. Man

The Chairman informed the Committee that the Colonel of the Regiment's wife, who had been very seriously ill, was now making slow, but satisfactory progress to recovery, and asked if it was the wish of the Committee that he should write a suitable letter to Major-General C. M. M. Man on their behalf.

The Committee approved unanimously.

12. The late Colonel of the Regiment

The Chairman referred to the difficult and arduous task now facing the late Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General J. E. F. Willoughby, in his new appointment as G.O.C., Middle East Land Forces, in Aden, and asked if it was the Committee's wish that he should write a suitable letter to him on their behalf.

The Committee approved unanimously.

13. The Chairmanship of the Association

Before closing the Meeting the Chairman stated that he had informed the Colonel of the Regiment that he did not wish his name to be put forward next year for re-election as Chairman. He said that he had made this decision for two reasons, namely, that he had occupied the Chair for ten years and he felt a change was now overdue, and secondly, that as next year he reached his 70th birthday he felt that he must reduce his voluntary work in many directions. He thanked the members of

the Committee for their great help in the past and for the many considerations they had shown him.

He asked that nominations for a new Chairman should be sent to the Secretary by December 31 next.

On behalf of the Committee the Vice-Chairman expressed the gratitude of all for the excellent work and untiring labours of Lt. Col. Fox during the past ten years. He particularly stressed the wonderful efforts of the Chairman in raising the money for the Widows' Flatlets at Enfield and was sure that, without his drive, this would not have been possible.

The Committee received these remarks with much applause.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,
Secretary.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I. Benevolent Cases

(a) During the period from May 1 to August 31, 1965, the sum of £339 6s. 1d. was spent on assisting 44 cases. The breakdown showing the service of these cases is as follows:—

Boer War	..	..	..	..	1
1914-18 War	..	..	..	..	24
Between 1919 and 1939	..	..	..	..	2
1939-45 War	..	..	..	..	13
Since 1945	..	..	..	..	1
Korean War	..	..	..	..	2
Serving	..	..	..	..	1

(b) *Clothing Grants.*—Twelve grants were made, two of which were in co-operation with other Regimental Associations.

(c) *Convalescent Holidays.*—Nine grants were made to those ex-members or their widows who, after serious illness, had been recommended a period of convalescence.

One of the cases helped was an ex-P.O.W. in Japanese hands, who had had partial amputation of both feet and T.B., and another was an ex-1st Battalion man who has cancer of the lungs and only about six months to live.

(d) *Food Grants.*—One was made, to an elderly ex-soldier living by himself in East Anglia.

(e) *Fuel Grants.*—Five grants were made, mostly for coal, to elderly ex-soldiers or their widows.

(f) *Housing.*—Five grants were made to assist with various housing problems. Of these, three were for the replenishment of bedding, one to help with the installation of a gas stove for an elderly ex-soldier who served in the 1914-18 War, and one to help a disabled ex-soldier to defray the cost of the works of access for his Invacar.

(g) *Rent Arrears.*—Four cases were assisted, all on the strong recommendation of S.S.A.F.A.

(h) *Miscellaneous Grants.*

(i) A grant of £10 was made to an ex-soldier of the 1st Battalion to assist in the repayment of debts incurred as a result of two serious family tragedies.

(ii) Two grants, totalling £15, were made to elderly widows towards the funeral expenses of their husbands.

(iii) A grant of 15 guineas was made to defray the cost of obtaining medical opinions in connection with the appeal of the widow of an ex-soldier of the 8th Battalion for a war widow's pension.

(iv) A small grant towards the cost of a second-hand perambulator was made to the wife of a young serving soldier of the 1st Battalion who was awaiting trial by Court Martial for desertion.

2. Members—Deaths

Notification has been received that the following members have died since my last Report:

Lt.-Col. R. H. Epps, M.B.E., M.M.

ex-C.S.M. A. J. Burton, D.C.M., late 3rd Battalion

ex-Sgt. C. J. Clark, late 1st Battalion

ex-Cpl. F. J. G. Barter, late 2nd Battalion

ex-Cpl. E. W. H. West, late 20th (Service) Battalion

ex-L/Cpl. S. Gargrave, late 21st (Service) Battalion

ex-Pte. R. A. C. Cooper, late 1/7th Battalion

ex-Pte. B. W. Harris, late 4th Battalion

ex-Pte. R. Pimble, late 8th Battalion

3. Executive Committee

(a) *Ex-Officio Members.*—With reference to para. 3 (b) of my last Report dated June 11, 1965, Major E. A. H. Jeffcoat has been nominated by the President of the Regimental Association to replace Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden.

(b) *Nominated Members.*—Owing to the distance of his place of residence from London, Brigadier A. E. Green has, with much regret, resigned as a member of the Executive Committee.

4. Employment

The following ex-members of the Regiment have been found employment by the Regular Forces Employment Association since my last Report:

Cohen, H. (6211569)—Postman.

Fletcher, D. M. (23733226)—Coiner's Assistant, Royal Mint.

Letchford, G. H. (6189828)—Handyman.

Terry, F. J. (23834754)—Messenger.

Warren, K. A. (14426465)—Bus Conductor.

Young, F. J. (6464278)—Postman.

5. Royal Hospital, Chelsea

(a) In-Pensioner H. G. Purdue, late 1st Battalion, died on June 25, 1965 at the age of 80.

(b) Ex-Pte. F. W. Worton, late 1st Battalion, was admitted as an In-Pensioner on September 6, 1965.

6. Star and Garter Home, Richmond

On June 14, 1965, ex-Pte. R. Irving, who is aged 71, was admitted to the Star and Garter Home, Richmond, from St. Bernard's Hospital, Southall, Middlesex.

He served in the Regiment for seven years up to November 8, 1918.

7. Accounts for the Year Ended December 31st, 1964.

With reference to Minute 6 (d) of the Executive Committee Meeting held on June 15, 1965, it has always been the practice of the Auditors to show grants in aid from other charitable organisations, such as 51st (Highland) Division Trust Fund and Far East P.O.W. Fund, under "Subscriptions and Donations" in the Income and Expenditure Account. The decrease under this heading in the Accounts for the year ended December 31, 1964, was due to the fact that only a small sum in respect of grants in aid was received as can be seen from the following analysis:

From	1963	1964
	£	£
Normal Subscriptions	451	385
Grants in aid	278	15
Refund of Loan (plus interest) ..	—	115
Totals as shown in the Accounts	£729	£515

8. Annual Reunion 1965

With reference to Minute 10 of the Executive Committee Meeting held on June 15, 1965, as members of the Committee now know arrangements have been made to hold the above function this year on Saturday, October 23. The Reunion has been advertised widely, not only by means of posters on selected underground stations and generally throughout the Greater London area, but also in the National Press and local newspapers.

The application for tickets has been more brisk than usual, the following having been sold to date:

Single tickets ..	78
Double tickets ..	146

9. Association Standard

With reference to para. 7 of my last Report dated June 11, 1965, the Association Standard was also carried by the 2/10th Battalion O.C.A. on the parade on Horse Guards on April 25, 1965, in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the landing in Gallipoli.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,
Secretary.

ARGYLL AND SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS' BALACLAVA DINNER

Lieutenant-General G. C. Bucknall, deputising for the Colonel of the Regiment, attended the above function on October 23, 1965, as the representative of the 57/77th and guest of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

It may not be known by many of our younger readers that close ties were forged between the two Regiments when the 2nd Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and our own 1st Battalion fought alongside each other in the same Brigade throughout the 1914-18 War.

ANNUAL REUNION 1965

The Annual Reunion was held for the first time at the Drill Hall, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, where there was a record attendance of 805. Although originally planned for September 25 the date was later changed to October 23 in order that members of the 1st Battalion on their return from Gibraltar and before going to Northern Ireland could attend.

At the four bars there were members of practically every Battalion of the Regiment and men of all ages and generations from the last years of the nineteenth century to young soldiers who have yet to complete their first year of service. At one table were a number of members of the 8th Battalion of 1914, some of whom were attending their first reunion since the end of the second World War. Regular soldier, Special Reservist, Territorial soldier and men of Kitchener's Army were vying with each other in their pride of a particular Battalion and the Regiment. Men of the Desert War would compare incidents with those of the Trench War and those of flushing out terrorists in Cyprus. The joys of garrison soldiering in peacetime allowed the ladies of the Regiment to have their say too. General and Private talking animatedly of experiences shared and drinking elbow to elbow at the bar. It was remarked to the writer that whereas at a number of reunions there are special bars, our Regiment share the bars together. This is not the first time that this remark has been passed. The answer is, of course, that as we fought shoulder to shoulder, so today we celebrate shoulder to shoulder.

As always, a number of friendships were renewed after a gap of many years, and maybe new ones started by the younger generation who met on the dance floor. Comrades who only meet once a year, those who make the arrangement as they leave the annual reunion one year to meet the next, meet with outstretched hand and joyful acclaim as to how fit and well the other looks. They are soon joined by others who were their contemporaries.

For those who had trains to catch from the main line stations a coach was arranged, this leaving early enough for all to reach their respective stations in comfortable time. Most people preferred to remain longer once they were in the company of old friends, a sure sign that they were enjoying themselves. That people were enjoying themselves was obvious by the happy faces and great whoops of joy heard throughout the building. It was also shown by the letters of appreciation received the week following.

Successful as the reunion was in 1965, it is the intention of all to make that of 1966 better still.

ANNUAL REUNION
September 24th

(See notice on page 260)

"IN HARBOUR"

A story of the Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, Richmond, Surrey

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

After that almighty crash—that period of unconsciousness—to awake in a white bed in some unknown hospital or sick bay, only to find with utter dismay that one had no feeling below the waist line. Later, possibly much later, to be told as kindly as words would convey, that the shell splinter had caused irretrievable damage to the spinal cord. Probably the shock of this would mean any further explanation which followed, indicating further permanent disablement, would not have been heard. Then what? After a time in Service care, the months of anxiety would end in discharge on medical grounds—yes, but to where? and that was the problem

marble hall of a place of many surprises. It was like going into the entrance of a large hotel with its lovely stained glass windows and views from the windows of lovely gardens overlooking old Father Thames. It was the beginning of a new life for me—ward life—under constant medical and nursing care and attention, but the main comfort was that all the others shared two things with me—they had all been in H.M. Services—and all disabled. They seemed to speak the same language, and shared that wonderful spirit of determination to battle on—in harbour or not." This could be anyone of us—but somehow we say—"I am sure it

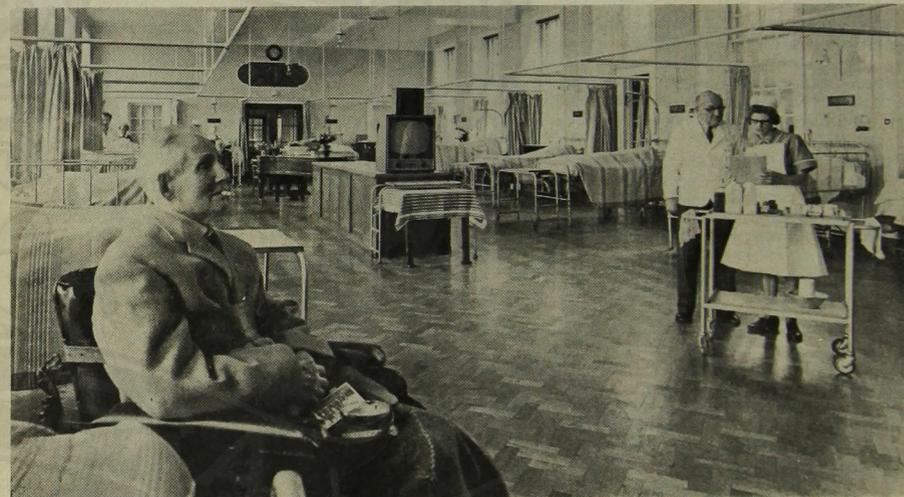


Photo: Nursing Mirror

which faced the British Red Cross Society in 1916 when countless numbers of sailors and soldiers were being discharged from hospital with nowhere to go where they could be properly cared for in the future. This was the germ which created the birth of the Star and Garter Home, and possibly others in a small way at that time.

What would you think and feel like as a young man to be arriving at the front door of a stately mansion in an ambulance knowing that you were coming to what would be your Home for the rest of your life? One such patient once said, "I saw my future fellow companions sunning themselves in wheelchairs in the forecourt as a kindly orderly came and wheeled me into the front

could not be me." Let's hope not, but at least you would know that you would not be forgotten.

Let us just see a little bit of how it all started—it's a long story, and it can only be told in a limited way.

The House stands on the site of the old Star and Garter Hotel, which was famous throughout the land from King Henry VIII times. Early in the first World War the old building was used for the care of men from the Army and the Royal Navy, who were so severely wounded as to cause disablement. It was no wonder that, as soon as circumstances permitted, a larger Home with better facilities had to be built as a permanent feature. The list of benefactors that runs right through

the history of the Home is remarkable, and too long to mention, but one that must be mentioned is that the money for the construction of the present building was largely subscribed by the Women of the Empire whose special War Memorial it is.

This building was opened by Their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary in July 1924. It is a vast E-shaped Neo-Georgian style edifice in pleasant red brick. It has nine floors housing 200 patients and some staff. There are several open wards for those completely disabled, but the majority who get around in wheelchairs are in single rooms.

There is a large dining room, a spacious common room with facilities for concerts and a fine chapel. Many other facilities exist, as might be expected—television, radio, music club, cinema, library, table tennis, archery, billiards and plenty of outings of all kinds.

There is no restriction except within medical limits.

The Home is an almost complete medical unit—with full facilities for vital modern physiotherapy—and excellent workshops to invite occupational therapy.

The only way to learn about a place like this is to visit it—and if you are in or near Richmond, do call in and see some of those chaps from your Regiment. At present we have the following three patients here who remember with pride their Service with the Middlesex Regiment: Pte. Albert Horace Hamlyn, Pte. Richard Irving, and Pte. Frank George Oakley.

Remember 1916-1966 makes 1966 the Golden Jubilee Year of the Home, and we aim to make it a very special occasion. Why not join in and remember, as the Home is not part of the National Health Service, we are an independent charity, who must look for voluntary donations from the Services, and a generous public, to try and close the ever-widening gap between known, reliable income and daily expenditure. What about it?

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

EALING BRANCH

At last I am glad to report that we have achieved what the members originally wanted so badly, and that was to have a reunion dinner for the grand old veterans of World War I. This was held at the T.A. Centre, Churchfield Road, Ealing, on December 4, of last year, and for a comparatively young soldier I can say that it was an impressive sight to see 20 old "Die-Hards" have a little ceremony, before placing a poppy wreath on the memorial to Major A. C. Ruston and officers and men of "E" and "F" Companies. Having completed this act of remembrance to fallen comrades, dinner was served and, I may add, enjoyed by all. Once again, after dinner, the walls of this rather old drill hall (1875) echoed to the sounds of many old-time songs, such as "Pack up your Troubles," "Tipperary," etc., and if

THE ROYAL CAMBRIDGE HOME FOR SOLDIERS' WIDOWS

This Home is primarily intended for elderly widows of W.O.s, N.C.O.s and men of the Regular Army, married whilst their husbands were serving, but it will accept also a number of other widows in the following order of priority.

- The widow of a Regular N.C.O. or man who married after he left the Army.
- The widow of an N.C.O. or man (non-Regular) who served in the Army during either of the two Great Wars.
- The widow of an officer who spent the greater part of his service in the ranks of the Regular Army or in the ranks during either of the two Great Wars.

To be eligible to enter the Home, the widow must be at least 60 years of age, and be passed by the Home's Medical Officer as capable of looking after her room, and managing stairs.

The Home consists of two adjoining houses in their own gardens at East Molesey. They are centrally heated and each has its own dining room and sitting room with television.

Each widow has a furnished bed-sitting room with radiator, electric fire and boiling ring. Most of the rooms have fitted basins with hot and cold water.

There are Sick Wards with trained nurses in charge, so widows need not leave the Home when ill or infirm.

Widows contribute towards their maintenance according to their Pension, retaining sufficient money for their personal needs.

For further information, application should be made to:—

The Secretary, Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows, 82-84 Hurst Road, East Molesey, Surrey. Telephone: Molesey 3788.

ever the eleventh commandment was broken, it was certainly broken many times that night; I feel certain that our Regimental Historian would have picked up one or two stories of value, but unfortunately, owing to a previous engagement, he was unable to attend (much to our sorrow). So much for the leading event of the year (for this Branch), but I must add one comment: "Where have all the young 'Die-Hards' gone?"

It is with much pride that I can comment on the fact that the Branch was represented at all the leading functions held by the Regimental Association last year, which is something like blowing the trumpet loud and clear. Well, I for one, like to see the old "Die-Hards" getting about a bit, and no doubt meeting their friends in other branches. As far as Ealing is concerned they enjoyed every one of them, from the solemn

occasion of Remembrance Sunday to tripping the light fantastic at the Reunion.

The following was noted in the *Middlesex Chronicle* of January 21, 1966:

"An old member of the 8th Battalion, Mr. Henry Thomas Beauchamp, of 15 Crane Avenue, Isleworth, was cremated at Hanworth, on January 13, 1966. He served with 1st/8th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) and was with them for two years in France until wounded. He later fought in East Africa with The King's African Rifles."

GUNNER

MILL HILL BRANCH

The last notes of this Branch were written on the anniversary of the declaration of war in 1914. Since then, a number of our members have made the pilgrimage to the battlefields of 1914-18.

The club continues to flourish, new members adding to our numbers each month although, unfortunately, we have lost some of our older veterans as the Grim Reaper takes his toll. Their names will appear elsewhere in the obituary columns.

Some of the greatest pleasures we get during the last quarter of the year are the ceremonies, etc. that are held annually, such as the two parades on Remembrance weekend and the Regimental reunion. Here we have a chance to chat with comrades who now live far afield and can only make the long trip for these special occasions. This year more of the "middle" generation turned up in addition to men who had just left the service, who came to meet friends still serving with the 1st Battalion, recently arrived from Gibraltar.

Our members themselves are our best "recruiters." They often either bring along another man who served in the Regiment or encourage the chap to contact us. As I write, a letter has arrived from S. J. Wallace (6196203) enclosing the subscriptions of L. "Rusty" Osborne, who served with him in India. Not only club subscriptions but journal subscriptions as well. As soon as they met the job was done. Even whilst writing the foregoing, an old 4th Battalion Mons chap, C. G. Bugden (L/13762) has walked in and given me the particulars, plus the subscription for J. Crowther who served with the 2nd Battalion 1914-18. How can the club help but flourish when we have such keen members?

A cheerful, noisy party of men who served in Hong Kong with the 1st Battalion always congregate when two such characters as Dan Cavill and Tookie Poole attend our meetings. In another part of the bar—it's a rule of the Branch, no bar, no gathering—another generation of soldiers will be earnestly pulling back the coking handle with Capt. Bill Green and Charlie Stewart in charge. This group is normally in friendly opposition to Major Les Honeybun who stages his command post at the right-end of the bar, the position at the left being occupied by Ernie Colebeck and a younger generation. The pre-'14 4th Battalion with Nobby Coxhill as

toastmaster give tongue adjacent to a table and strong-point held by Tim "Slasher" Harrison and his 3rd Battalion cohorts. At the opposite end of the room, the "Albuhara Close" detachment will take on all comers. In full strength, Messrs. Bull, Docree, Hurlock and Milroy, backed by the brothers Turnbull, make a formidable party. The distaff side of this party always make for a little frivolity too. At times, listening and watching the different groups engaging themselves in their own happy ways makes me wish I could record it all on a film. Often I am reminded of the old-time music hall—we have enough comedians to make a full programme, too!

The various Regimental functions over the last six months have been well attended by members of the Branch. Accounts of them will be found in other pages of the Journal. Our own Christmas Draw and dance was also a success I gather from remarks passed by the members. Mrs. Walden was kept very busy pulling the numbers from the drum; in all 95 prizes, 28 of them being bottles of festive spirit in the material form. Mrs. Kerswill walked off with what I consider the cream prize, a bottle of Dimple Haig, so generously presented by "Taff" Jones (14244050). The music and announcing by the M.C. were excellent, the varied styles of dancing were catered for so that Mums and Dads could have their share of the floor whilst doing the light fantastic and the sons/daughters also grandsons and grand-daughters could do the latest wobble-head, wriggle-bottom effort at their ease. To finish off the night there was a raffle for two special prizes. One of the prizes was a large doll nicely clothed, presented by Mrs. Honeybun. This was won by a guest, invited by a member. He was overjoyed as his wife was expecting their first baby in the near future. The other prize was a bottle of whisky, presented by that great-hearted member Tom Lowe. Every year he brings this most welcome gift. I'm positive that the bottle is not more full of good spirits than he is, though. This prize looks like having the same winner each year, too, as Len Johnson won it both at this draw and last year also.

The January meeting, which is normally meagrely attended, was the occasion of our farewell to Major Bill Heywood with whom so many of us in our different generations have served. For this farewell, many friends made the special effort to come along, notwithstanding the uncertainty of public transport due to the overtime ban. I feel sure Major Heywood's service to the Regiment will appear elsewhere so I will not duplicate it here. He has been on our membership roll for a long time and it is doubtful if any member of the Regiment does not know him personally or know of him. He goes to Cheshire with all our good wishes.

To members of our sister branches, or any "Die-Hard" who may read these notes, we of the Mill Hill Branch extend a hearty invitation to join us in the Drill Hall at Edgware on the last Saturday of the month, January to November inclusive. You are fairly certain to find a friend with whom you served when your limbs were slim and your pocket as short as your back and sides!

MAJOR DICK SMITH

2/7th BATTALION BRANCH

The Annual Dinner of the 2/7th Battalion Branch took place at the Victory Ex-Services Club, 73 Seymour Street, London, W.2, on Friday, October 1, 1965.

There were 60 members present, and Lt.-Col. S. Mirams presided.

During the dinner, in accordance with the usual custom, a collection was made, as a result of which the sum of £29 2. 6d. was handed over to the Association Secretary for the War Memorial Fund.

This year the Dinner will be held at the same place on Friday, October 7, and any ex-member of the 2/7th Battalion, who wishes to attend, should get in touch with Major R. E. Robotham, M.C., T.D., 39 Cyprus Avenue, Finchley, N.3. (Tel. FINchley 1649).

9th BATTALION BRANCH

The Branch was well represented at the Regimental Re-union at Edgware and enjoyed a pleasant evening together especially when our most distinguished Branch member, General Sir Brian Horrocks, arrived and spent a considerable time chatting with us.

Remembrance Sunday Parade was also well attended and we had members present from as far afield as Somerset, Essex, Derbyshire and Sussex—an example which many others residing in or near London could well follow.

At the January Branch Committee Meeting it was decided following a proposal by the Chairman, Col. H. W. W. Gray, that a letter of congratulations should be sent to Lt. J. J. Smith, of the 5th Battalion, on his award of the Military Cross for gallantry in Aden whilst serving with the "Ever Readies." I am sure that the decision will meet with the approval of all members. Our Secretary, Henry Fisher, who is a well-known calligrapher, promised to do a special letter in his own excellent style.

The deaths of the following members have been reported:— C. Newman, Alfred (Ginger) Hull, F. A. Dean and A. L. Yule.

"Jacko" Newman will be especially remembered for the great games he played for the Battalion football team whilst serving in India.

T. R. B.

BANDSMEN AND DRUMMERS' BRANCH

The meeting held at Chelsea on January 1 was a great success in that the attendance was better than usual and there were almost as many guests, which all contributed to an extremely happy evening.

It was also a success in that the majority of those present were old friends, whom we have never had, or rarely have had, at a Chelsea meeting, and they have asked to attend again.

In fact a MONTHLY meeting has now been agreed upon for a trial period on the FIRST SATURDAY of each month as from February 5, unless our club room is required by the T.A.

The purpose of this change is to enable members

whose occupation has interfered with quarterly attendance to attend some meetings during the course of the year.

It is noticeable at our Branch meetings that the majority of regular attenders are the younger members of the Regimental Association and Saturday's meeting was no exception to this.

With only about two exceptions, all were men who had served from between the two wars up to the present day, and the largest group was, I believe, Boys together in Colchester and served until after the last "dust up" in which so many of our number were lost.

It will interest 2nd Battalion members of my own day, and quite a few others, to know that Harry Poulter was one of those present and he was delighted to find Freddy Bugden, Jim Pullen and F. W. Worton, three of his Drummers of Ahmednagar days, although he also had some disappointment in not meeting Arthur Lewin, Chesty Cross and others he had hoped to see.

Lionel Smith, home on leave from Canada, came in with Dick Copeland, Alf Smith, Bob Masters, Mrs. Lionel Smith, Bob Masters' son and Dick Copeland's son.

Later Alf, who had a minibus, took this party, Col. Walden and Major (Dick) Smith home. Cecil Hull (Busty's son), home on leave from the 1st Battalion in Ireland, brought two brothers (future "Die-Hards") and Jim Pullen had been in touch with Harold Phipps, who sent his good wishes to all, earlier on.

Jack Hardy came in, alone on this occasion, and Ted Hill, who had been to visit Oscar Price in the University College Hospital (Ward 21), Gower Street, joined us and was followed by Ethel. Timber Woods also found himself in good company but was disappointed in not meeting Flip Ryder, who had written to both of us to say he would be coming.

I had spent part of Boxing Day with John Rolfe and his family and he then told me that he would be on duty on the 1st. Blanco had visited Oscar earlier in the day and I had some apologies for absence from others, including Ted Gilbert, who had been at Clacton, and Charlie Simmons.

Among others who have written or sent cards to me recently are Don Carson, now in Swaziland with the 1st Gloucestershires as Bandmaster, who gave me news of Capt. George Plummer, also in Africa as a Director of Music, and Capt. Dennis Bayton, who has asked me to pass on his address, which is: Director of Music, Kenya Army H.Q., B.F.P.O. 10, Tony Douglas, Charlie Holdford, Flutey Lawrence, Ted Souch, Arthur Lewin, Connie Stretton, Ena Goulding, "Jeff" Jeffree, Vic Peterson and Dickie Bird (1st Battalion), Spike Marling, Alf Hodgson, Esmee and Bill Grogan, Jack Ellis, Froggy Jennings, C.Q.M.S. King, Charly Simmons, Percy Gower, Les Price, John Rolfe, Flip Ryder and families.

I hope I haven't missed any of you out. I got really flummoxed in sending my own cards out.

A Happy New Year to you all.

"BREWER."