



[Photo: S. Sarkis, Cairo.]

1st BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.).
Winners, Egyptian Command Team Boxing Championship, 1935-36.

Back Row—Bdsn. Cousins, Pte. Drake, L./Sergt. Clark (trainer), Pte. Head, Pte. Dowell, L./Cpl. Foster (Second), Pte. Watson, L./Cpl. Price, Pte. Wass, Pte. Hutton, Pte. Hatchett, Pte. Dean, L./Cpl. Almond.
Middle Row—L./Cpl. Sadler (Second), Pte. Watson, L./Cpl. Price, Pte. Wass, Pte. Hutton, Pte. Hatchett, Pte. Dean, L./Cpl. Almond.
Seated—L./Cpl. Ellis, Cpl. McGrady, L./Sergt. Roseblade (Captain), Lieut. Colonel O. H. Tibbary, M.C., Lieut. A. W. F. Peal, Cpl. Markham, L./Cpl. Almond.
Sitting on Ground—Pte. Murray, Pte. Stone.

THE DIE-HARDS

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)

VOL. V. No. 8.

MAY, 1936.

PRICE 9D.

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN).

[57]

Home Counties Area.

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

"Mysore," "Seringapatam," "Albuhara," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyrenes," "Nive," "Peninsula," "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1900-02," "Mons," "Manne, 1914," "Ypres, 1915," "Suvla," "Jerusalem," "Mesopotamia, 1917-18."

"Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Aisne, 1914," "La Bassée, 1914," "Messines, 1914," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Bellewaarde," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Piers-Croix," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "Bapaume, 1917," "Arras, 1917," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "Arleux," "Pilckem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "St. Quentin," "Rosieres," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrouck," "Baileul," "Kemmel," "Schepenberg," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Landing at Suvla," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18," "Muran, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

Agents—Lloyds Bank Limited, Cox's & King's Branch.

Regular and Militia Battalions.

Uniform—Scarlet. Facings—Lemon Yellow.

1st Bn. (57th Foot) ... Malaya.
2nd Bn. (77th Foot) ... Portsmouth.
5th Bn. (R. Elthorne Mil.) ... Mill Hill.
6th Bn. (R. East Middlesex Mil.) ... Mill Hill.
Depot—Mill Hill. Record and Pay Office—Hounslow.

Territorial Army Battalions.

7th Bn. ... "The Elms," Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8.
8th Bn. ... Drill Hall, Hanworth Road, Hounslow.
9th Bn. ... Drill Hall, Pound Lane, Willesden, N.W.10.

Affiliated Territorial Army Battalions.

7th City of London Regiment 24, Sun Street, Finsbury
(Post Office Rifles) Square, E.C.2.
19th London Regiment (St. Pancras) 76, High Street, Camden
Town, N.W.1.

Allied Regiments of Canadian Militia.

The Peterborough Rangers ... Peterborough, Ontario.
The Wentworth Regiment ... Dundas, Ontario.
The Middlesex Light Infantry ... Strathroy, Ontario.

Allied Battalion of Australian Infantry.

57th Battalion ... Preston, Victoria.

Allied Regiment of Dominion of New Zealand.

The Taranaki Regiment ... New Plymouth.

Colonel-in-Chief:

THE KING.

Colonel:

Brig.-General R. M. Heath, C.M.G., D.S.O.

Officer Commanding Depot:

Major N. H. B. Lyon, M.C.

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NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS, &c.

"The Die-Hards" is published early in February, May, August, and November, and copies may be obtained by application to the Editor at the Depot, enclosing 9d. for each copy.

All Contributions intended for publication should reach the Editor not later than the 1st of the month previous to that of issue. Contributions should be typed, if possible, and be on one side of paper only and signed, stating whether it is desired to publish contributor's name or not. Rejected manuscripts, etc., will only be returned if accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope. The Editor will thankfully receive Contributions from past or present Members of the Regiment or others interested, but necessarily reserves to himself the right of publication. All communications concerning the paper, including Advertisements, should be addressed to the Editor, "The Die-Hards" Journal, Mill Hill Barracks, N.W. Telephone, "Finchley," 1553.

Subscriptions should be forwarded to the Editor, to whom all Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable, and crossed "— & Co."

A limited stock of back numbers are available which can be obtained on application to the Editor, price 9d. post free.

A few covers for holding Volumes I and II are available as follows: whole cloth, leather back and corners, Vol. II only, 4s. 6d. each; whole cloth, yellow cloth sides, Vols. I and II, 2s. 6d. each. These will be sent post free.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 3/- (Post Free).

EDITORIAL



WE are glad to be able to report some progress in the compilation of a record of our Militia Battalions. More information is required—old photographs and correspondence, including private letters, will be gratefully received, necessary extracts taken, and the originals carefully returned to the owner.

* * *

Information concerning the service of the detachment furnished by the Regiment in the operations in Somaliland, circa. 1903, is also solicited.

* * *

More news is asked of the branch Old Comrades Associations of the Territorial

and Service Battalions. In this connection attention is invited to "Correspondence."

* * *

It is with deep regret that we learn of the death of Mrs. Blanche Adelaide Longe, wife of the late Brig.-General R. D. Longe, who commanded the 1st Battalion, on 16th March, at 31, Cathedral Close, Norwich, and of Mrs. Edith Stella Oliver, wife of the late Col. L. G. Oliver, whose obituary notice appears elsewhere, on 4th April, in London.



REGIMENTAL HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM.

CAPTAIN OAKES-JONES visited the Museum on 18th January, 1936. We were fortunate in having such an authority to make many invaluable suggestions, as the work for thirteen years in connection with the Aldershot Tattoo has made him an expert in all historical matters. He hopes to pay us another visit in the summer, when he intends to photograph the old Colours in the Officers' Mess and the coats in the Museum.

PRESENTATIONS TO REGIMENTAL MUSEUM.

Iron ration issued in 1914, grenade carrier, gas goggles, and P.H. helmet (gas), presented by Lieut. (Q.M.) W. Pilley.

Carved wooden book folder and collection of swords and knives, presented by Col. L. G. Oliver, C.M.G.

Portion of Turkish machine-gun belt and ammunition, found in vacated forts in Palestine, presented by Pte. Baker, ex-1st Battalion.

Miniature replica of 77th Foot Regimental Colours, presented by Col. G. C. V. Fenton, D.S.O.

Dress sword of Capt. R. E. Lambert, purchased.

Three maps (Ostend, Hazebrouck and Trench), presented by Capt. Robinson.

German bayonet, presented by Capt. Robinson.

Picture of Old Comrades' Dinner, 1935, presented by Regimental Association.

Photograph of presentation of Colours to 4th Battalion by H.R.H. The Duke of

Cambridge, presented by Major-General Simpson.

Battalion Orders by Lieut.-Col. John Ward, C.M.G., Omsk, Siberia, presented by Clr./Sergt. Jones, ex-2nd Battalion.

A canister of cocoa and a group of photos, presented by C.S.M. Birnie, M.M.

Sergt./Dmr. Deacon's presentation stick, presented by Mr. Morris.

.22 Revolver and case and 1lb. Pom-pom shell, presented by Sergt. Painter.

German helmet and cover, 5th Regiment, presented by Capt. Robinson.

Russian Rifle, presented by Capt. S. J. Clark.

Four commissions of George Fenton, 77th Foot, presented by Col. G. C. V. Fenton, D.S.O.

Pipe and knife, the property of Capt. G. H. Norman, 57th Foot, killed in assault of the Redan (Crimea), presented by Lieut.-Col. H. Bonham-Carter.

Souvenir of the banquet and entertainment given to the 2nd Battalion on their return from South Africa, presented by the officers, 2nd Battalion.

LINKS WITH THE PAST.

On 21st January last was severed another link with the Past in the person of Admiral of the Fleet Sir Arthur Dalrymple Fanshawe, G.C.B., G.C.V.O.

It will be recalled that Sir Arthur was the great grandson of General Sir Hew Dalrymple, who was Colonel of the 57th Regiment from 1819 to 1830, and through whom he inherited the Colours of both the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Regiment.

In 1933 Sir Arthur very generously handed these precious relics over to the Regiment. They are now safely housed at the Depot, and all the correspondence connected therewith can be seen in the Regimental Museum.



OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES.

REGIMENTAL FIXTURES.

June 20th, Saturday.—Depot Sports and Old Comrades' Summer Gathering.

June 21st, Sunday.—Cricket: v. Hampstead Heathens.

June 22nd, Monday.—Cricket: v. Cryptics.

June 23rd, Tuesday.—Cricket: v. Metropolitan Police College.

June 24th, Wednesday.—Cricket: v. Free Foresters.

June 25th, Thursday.—Cricket: v. I Zingari.

June 26th, Friday.—Officers' Club "At Home."

June 27th, Saturday.—Cricket: v. Hampstead.

July 4th, Saturday.—Officers' Club Tennis Tournament.

November 6th, Friday.—Officers' Club Dinner.

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT OFFICERS' CLUB.

In order that the list of members' addresses may be kept up to date, it is requested that any member changing his address will notify the Hon. Secretary, The Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7, without delay.

AUTUMN MEETING.

The Autumn Meeting will take place about the first week in October at a course to be arranged as near as possible to Portsmouth.

Details will be published in the August Journal.

A challenge trophy is very kindly being presented by Capt. A. H. Cooper for competition at the Autumn Meeting.

This will be competed for by Battalion pairs from any unit existing or non-existent, and particulars will also be given of this in the August Journal.

GOLF.

"Seniores priores." By now any intelligent reader of golfing news must have been struck with the apparent thoroughness with which the Middlesex Regiment stick to this miserable tag, as year after year a small notice appears in *The Times* something like this: "The Past Officers beat the Present Officers by 72 holes to 2."

This year is no exception, although it must be granted that the already weak ranks of the Present Officers were further depleted by the absence of Lieut.-Col.

Bucknall, who was prevented from playing owing to the Senior Service's passion for work, and because apparently it would be quite impossible for Lieut. Stephenson to keep a "mens sana" in sufficient "corpore sano" if he missed a day of body-building.

Despite this, the annual match at Hendon Golf Club on 2nd April produced some good matches and a very enjoyable day. The recent rains had made the going heavy, and putting worried everyone, but we were lucky to get through the day without rain, and except as a protection against cold the magnificent rain-proof tout-ensemble of the member from Eltham was unnecessary.

This year everyone arrived with commendable punctuality, and it was not much after ten o'clock when the first match started off. In this match Whinney and Cooper got home by a narrow margin of two holes against Lieut.-Col. Jefferd and Hogg, and a similar margin separated Heape and Anderson from del Court and Procter. The latter started with a flourish by winning the first three holes, but by half-time this lead had disappeared, and frequent prolonged visits to bunkers on the way home dissipated any chance they had of hanging on to two eminent and steady mess representatives of the "Past."

Else and Green met with a heavier reverse (four holes) against Major South and Lieut.-Col. Samuel, chiefly, we understood, because the flourishing putter of Col. Samuel was behaving like a fairy's wand, and wafted the ball into the hole from incredible places. Kempster and Col. Maitland could do no better than halve with Symes and Weston, as the latter, who were making their first appearance, were apparently too junior and feeling the confidence of youth to be put on by their seniors.

As usual in the afternoon, a complete change round of partners and opponents was made.

Whinney, now partnered by Kempster, found that Symes was still no respecter of persons, and Green, inspired by this aggressive spirit, excelled himself with a result that it was all the experienced opposition could do to stave off defeat.

Heape and Cooper took four holes off Else and del Court. Chiefly owing to an

atrocious on the fifteenth hole the Present were only one down, and were nicely on the sixteenth green in two, gloating at the venerable opposition, who were bunkered, and only just got out with their second, whilst their third was well away on the edge of the green. Alas! Cooper, inspired by some infernal imp, seized a pole and holed out. Still more alas! Jim-jams seized Else, and between him and his partner they ended in taking three putts. After that we draw a veil.

Col. Jefferd and Procter, infuriated by a demonstration by the demoniacal Samuel putting at the first, decided to be as ruthless as their ability and their opponents' mistakes would allow. They succeeded in securing a margin of nine holes off Anderson and Col. Samuel, and were somewhat indignant that their opponents would not allow them to make it ten.

Sad to relate, this victory, which was intended to restore the lost fortunes of the "Present," was meanly discounted as South and Maitland most unnecessarily treated Hogg and Weston to some rough stuff, and came in 7 up.

A little mathematics gives us the result as 19 holes to the venerable and revered "Past," and 9 holes to the skittish "Present."

The 3rd April was the trial day of the *Daily Mail* Competition, and whilst young Padgham was doing his big stuff to vast crowds at Bramshot, equally big things were going on at Hendon, but in the "macabre surroundings," as Henry Longhurst called the setting of Hendon Golf Club, there were only the tombstones and gasworks to applaud.

It was not an easy day for golf, as it was still wet and heavy under foot. There was a stiff wind, which added to the discomfort of the already raw atmosphere. Altogether it was no day to expect good scores, and yet several records went west.

The most startling was produced by E. J. Unwin, who went round in 92, which, with a handicap of 24, gave him the very indecent score of 68 nett. Needless to say, his handicap next year will be 18. He was in a class by himself, so we will present him with his cup, spoon and sweep and pass on. In the more discreet class, we were very pleased to find

R. T. Guscott coming home with a 76 nett to claim second place. A study of his card is most disappointing, as the first half is a remarkably steady collection of 4's and 6's, relieved only by one sparkling 9, whilst the second half, though conveying a higher number per hole, has no outstanding feature. Kempster was third with 77, marred by two 7's.

In spite of the difficult conditions, only one card was not returned. Shame on you, Wright! Is this the spirit which makes the 9th Battalion produce T.A. champions at the Albert Hall? Some years ago the *Morning Post* described the round of a distinguished officer in the Army Meeting. It needed a lot of paper, as he took well over 100, but they ended up their account when he finally returned his card with "this is the spirit which wins championships."

On this occasion Ormiston, with the aid of a bag and two clubs, finished triumphantly in 131. Out in 77, including an 11 and a 17, he then got going, and came home very steadily in 54. With the addition of a niblick to his collection we can see possibilities of much better things to come in the future. Col. Maitland had an exciting competition with himself. Out in 51, he was faced with every possibility of reaching 100, but by dint of great courage and perseverance succeeded in ending with a 98.

The Scratch scores were more than usual, and 83 by Whinney was good enough to enable him to regain the cup from Procter, who could do no better than 85, whilst Hogg and Symes took 86. Symes was unlucky to lose a ball at the fourth, but he also took far too many putts to be successful.

The result in the Foursome was surprisingly good. Whinney and Anderson were 3 up on bogey; a very fine effort. Actually this won five holes and only lost two, but the *pièce de resistance* of this performance was supplied by Whinney, who had the audacity and luck—good or bad, as you care to look at it—to hole out the fifteenth hole, the "Tiddler" in one.

Symes and Unwin were second with 1 up. I think that they should have done better, as they seemed to be getting vast distances, and one can only conclude that their putters were not working well.

Col. Jefferd and Else were all square.

Green and Weston, who have hitherto been runners-up on several occasions, struck a bad patch, and could do no better than 7 down, whilst South and Procter, who were defending their title, lost two holes on the way out and another on the way home, and even with a little luck did not deserve much success.

Two adventures took place on the nineteenth hole. Firstly, two ladies tried to hole out there, and, like so many of one putts, tipped the hole, when up popped bogey in the form of the steward, and out they went.

Secondly, the Secretary of the Association also arrived to add tone to the Meeting, and on arrival asked for a certain golfer. He was told that most people were playing the nineteenth hole. This conveyed nothing to him, but not wishing to display his ignorance he thanked the porter and passed on, and, strange to say, holed out in one. Very creditable for a non-golfer.

Once more the Past and Present Teams were invited to supper at the Depot on Thursday evening, but we regret to say that the members availing themselves of this invitation was not as large as last year.

The arrangements for our convenience were, as usual, excellent, and our thanks are due to the Hendon Golf Club for their continued courtesy.

To close, we would call attention to a notice at the head of these notes, and we would stress the point that it does help if people would make a note of dates, and inform us whether they can play, have or have not partners, because we are not thought readers.

SINGLES—MORNING.

	Nett
Lieut. Unwin (1st, Handicap)	68
Lieut. Guscott (2nd, Handicap)	76
Capt. Kempster (3rd, Handicap)	77
Capt. Whinney (1st, Scratch)	78
Capt. Hogg	78
Lieut. Symes	78
Lieut. Else	79
Major Anderson	79
Maj. Procter (2nd, Scratch)	80
Lieut.-Col. Jefferd	80
Lieut. Stephenson	80
Capt. Cooper	81
Major South	81
Major Heape	83
Major Wollocombe	85
Lieut. Weston	86
Lieut. Green	87
Lieut. Beath	88
Colonel Maitland	92
Lieut.-Col. Samuel	96
Capt. Clark	98
Capt. del Court	101
Lieut. Ormiston	Tore up
Capt. Wright	

FOURSOMES—AFTERNOON.

Capt. C. T. Whitney and Major G. B. Anderson (1st)	3 up.
Lieut. E. J. Unwin and Lieut. T. G. Symes (2nd)	1 up.
Lt.-Col. W. W. Jefford and Lieut. F. H. Else	All Square.
Capt. F. G. Hogg and Capt. L. C. Wright	2 down.
Major T. South and Major N. P. Procter	3 down.
Capt. G. W. Kempster and Lieut. J. W. A. Stephenson	3 down.
Lt.-Col. W. H. Samuel and Major E. A. Heape	6 down.
Lieut. C. M. Beath and Lieut. J. W. G. Orrison	6 down.
Lieut. A. E. Green and Lieut. G. P. L. Weston	7 down.
Col. J. K. Maitland and Capt. A. Cooper	8 down.
Major T. S. Wollocombe and Capt. S. J. Clark	10 down.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENT PART V. PRESENT GOLF MEETING AT HENDON GOLF CLUB, 2ND APRIL, 1936.

MORNING.

PAST.		PRESENT.	
Capt. C. T. Whitney and	2	Lt.-Col. W. W. Jefford and	0
Capt. A. Cooper	2	Capt. F. C. Hogg	0
Major E. A. Heape and	2	Major N. P. Procter and	0
Major G. B. Anderson	2	Capt. S. F. W. M. del	0
		Court	0
Major T. South and Lt.-Col.		Lieut. F. H. Else and	0
W. H. Samuel	4	Lieut. A. E. Green	0
Capt. G. W. Kempster and		Lieut. T. G. Symes	0
Col. J. K. Maitland	0	Lieut. G. P. L. Weston	0
	8		0

AFTERNOON.

Whitney and Kempster	0	Symes and Green	0
Heape and Cooper	4	Else and Del Court	0
South and Maitland	7	Hogg and Weston	0
Samuel and Anderson	0	Jefford and Procter	9
	19		9

FRIDAY, 3RD APRIL, 1936.

Singles.—Scratch: Capt. C. T. Whitney, 83; Major N. P. Procter, 86. *Handicap*: Lieut. E. J. Unwin, 92-24=68; Lieut. R. T. Guscott, 106-30=76.

Foursomes.—*Capt. C. T. Whitney and Major G. B. Anderson (3 up); 2/Lieut. Symes and Lieut. E. J. Unwin (1 up).

* Capt. Whitney did the 13th hole in 1.

THE ARMY OFFICERS' ART SOCIETY.

The above Society is holding its twelfth Annual Exhibition at the R.B.A. Galleries, Suffolk Street, S.W.1, from the 28th September to the 10th October, 1936, inclusive. Receiving day will be Saturday, 19th September.

The membership of this Society is open to officers holding, or having held, permanent commissions in the Regular Army or Royal Marines.

The Society exists for the purpose of affording officers interested in art the opportunity of meeting, and also provides facilities for the exhibition and disposal of their works.

Any officer interested is invited to communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Col. L. N. Malan, 10, Blenheim Road, London, N.W.8.

ROYAL UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTION,
WHITEHALL, LONDON, S.W.1.
TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ENTRANCE FEE.

As a temporary measure, and especially to enable as large a number of officers as possible to avail themselves of the facilities offered by the Institution during the period while His Majesty's Forces are being increased, the entrance fee has been suspended. Officers of all ranks whose names appear on the current official lists can, therefore, join the Institution by paying the annual subscription of £1 5s. only. Membership will date from the 1st January.

Life membership is £20, or four annual instalments of five guineas.

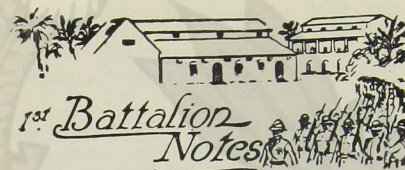
The Institution offers exceptional facilities to officers studying for promotion and Staff College examinations, especially in regard to the loan of books which they would otherwise have to purchase.

The quarterly journal, which is included in the subscription, is the leading Service publication, and contains lectures and articles dealing with all the most important subjects of professional interest, including international affairs.

Application for membership should be addressed to the Secretary, Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

MARRIAGE.

JONES—ASH.—On 29th February, 1936, at St. Mark's, Alexandria, Leonard Oliver Jones, Captain, Royal Marines, to Mary Geraldine Ash, elder daughter of the late Lieut.-Colonel W. C. C. Ash, D.S.O. and Mrs. Ash, 12, Cousins Grove, Southsea.



ON 16th March the Battalion embarked at Suez for Singapore, and as we write, is afloat in the Indian or Erythraean Sea on the s.s. *California*, and nearing Colombo.

A little after the last Journal's notes appeared we heard that we were without further question to become a machine-gun regiment, news which had been preceded by rumour for some time. The only result of this, affecting us at all closely at present, is that we shall be only a year in our fine new barracks that were promised us in Singapore, after which we shall move into quarters more befitting our new estate. Actually, it is prophesied that we shall not be converted until about 1939, but the home battalion in 1937.

For the past month or so our minds have been so occupied with the idea of the move that it is difficult to recollect anything else having happened at all, although in fact it has been a fairly eventful time, even if we consider only the more important happenings, and include such things as the celebrated affair of "the rabies," of which more elsewhere. But we must proceed in order.

The Abyssinian War is perhaps a little *passé* as a topic, and our readers know as much about it as we; the Great Trek into the Western Desert was coming to an end when we left: indeed there was a slight return the other way. The Manchester Regiment, whose architecture at Haig Camp (another novelty) was the admiration of the whole garrison in the autumn, are now coming back to enjoy the labour of their hands, and as for Capt. Heywood and his "Save Egypt" draft, they are all "melted into air, thin air." We hope they have not entirely forgotten us and Egypt, and we wish them the best of luck on their way. We hope we may see some of them again in Singapore, India, or wherever fate and the Army Council send us.

On 5th January the Battalion paraded for the Brigadier to present the Long

Service and Good Conduct Medal to R.S.M. Newman, C.S.M. Thomas, Sergt. Christie, Sergt. Edwards, and Pte. Gromm. We congratulate them all heartily.

On 22nd January the garrison paraded for the Proclamation of His Majesty King Edward VIII as King and Emperor. The Proclamation was read by Brigadier Sir Frederick Pile; it was unfortunate that owing to this parade being ordered at short notice the Commanding Officer and most of the senior officers, who were away for a training exercise, were unable to be present. The memorial service for His late Majesty was held on 28th January, and was attended by the whole garrison.

Training this year has had a certain uneasy anticipatory tone, owing to the strange warlike rumours that have been heard among us. The usual "company marches" were followed by a sort of climax, a Battalion march, which took us very nearly literally off the map, and was actually forced to a conclusion by shortage of water, so that we may claim to have experienced as much of desert warfare as it is possible to represent in peacetime. Lieut. Gwyn and his circus troop of "Bedouins" gave from time to time a performance of really startling activity and verisimilitude.

Brigade Training was an even more warlike affair; there we had as "enemy" the Royal Scots Fusiliers, who, in a fine Abyssinian frontier spirit, persistently foiled the attempts of the rest of the Brigade to keep inviolate the Suez Canal. This was an extremely strenuous exercise, particularly for the defence, who were given what was later admitted to have been an almost superhuman responsibility. Once again we have to congratulate the intrepid guerrilla leader, Lieut. Gwyn, on his handling of a troop of irregular light horse, which did great slaughter among the enemy.

The Battalion has distinguished itself notably during the past quarter in two ways: first, by winning the Command Boxing, defeating in the final the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers; and, secondly, by reaching the final of the Command Football, in which we were defeated by one goal by the Royal Scots Fusiliers (so that after all the honour and glory remained with the Canal Brigade). We

would like to congratulate the members of both teams, and all those who assisted them.

On 28th February the Brigadier inspected the Battalion for the last time, and afterwards, as has now become a custom, took dinner with the troops. On 12th March he gave us a farewell address, as did the G.O.C., Major-General Sir George Weir, wishing us the best of luck in our new station. On our departure, H.E. Sir Miles Lampson, C.B., K.C.M.G., M.V.O., sent us the following letter:—

"MY DEAR COLONEL,

"I much regret that your Battalion is due to leave Egypt for the Far East next week. After more than three years' stay in Egypt—first in Cairo and then at Moascar—the 1st Bn. The Middlesex Regiment leaves the country, taking with it a great reputation for military efficiency and prowess in sport.

"I should be glad if you would convey to the officers, N.C.Os. and men under your command an expression of my regret at their departure, and my best wishes for the future. I should also like to offer my warmest congratulations on the Battalion's record during its term of service in Egypt.

"Your Battalion is leaving for Singapore at a time when that place is becoming of increasing strategic importance to the Empire. I feel sure that in Singapore the Battalion will add to the fine record it takes with it from here.

"Yours sincerely,

"(Sgd.) MILES W. LAMPSON."

The following reply was dispatched:—

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,

"On behalf of the officers, N.C.Os. and men of the 1st Bn. The Middlesex Regiment, I wish to say how much we appreciated your congratulations and good wishes. It will be with great pleasure that I shall convey your message to the troops.

"We are sorry to leave Egypt, where the Battalion has had a very happy three years. The Battalion still has very pleasant memories of its time in China when you were there.

"I think our time in Singapore should be a very interesting one.

"With all good wishes from the Battalion,

"Yours sincerely,
"(Sgd.) O. H. TIDBURY."

* * *

Before we sailed, Major Stewart and Capt. Crawford rejoined us. Lieut. Newton, whom we have not seen since Cairo days, came from England on the *California* and joined us in Egypt, as did Lieut. P. A. Fishbourne and 2/Lieuts. Weedon and Gudgeon, whom we welcomed to the Battalion for the first time.

"H.Q." WING.

This quarter we of the Wing are on the wing to pastures new, but before we depart from our present abode we have a few remarks to pass on our recent deeds and perhaps our misdeeds in Moascar and vicinity.

There are heaps of things to write about, but the Journal has only a limited amount of space, therefore, as our readers have been continually getting our sporting side, we have decided to butt into the training department. This is a department in which we can say with a certain amount of honesty that we are "the men behind the scenes," and such will be the theme of our notes.

The order travels down the line, "The Battalion will carry out a night march." This great movement starts right away with the whisper for "The Intelligence Officer" and his staff, not forgetting his "Belisha beacon."

Then like Mary's little lamb, the Battalion will follow the beacon for miles and miles and obey the signals to "Stop and Go" like really well-trained pedestrians.

The Transport, under the forceful and lucid command of Sergt. Christie, follow up hill and down dale over any kind of country, sometimes like flies on a wall, but always with one eye on the beacon.

In the desert the horses have a distinct advantage over any other kind of locomotion except the camel, and the I.O. with the beacon is on one of these "ships of the desert."

The Signals hold the reins of government when the Battalion is on the ground in a defensive position. During Brigade Training the whole Battalion connected

up to one little tent by miles of wire, and every thought, word and action was duly registered by these makers of the long-distance speeches. Day and night they sit at the centre of control and allow all those "entitled" to talk to each other over their wire. This is known as "Telephone communication," and our Wing can do this. They also carry out numerous evolutions with flags, mirrors and lamps—in fact, they can talk to anyone by day or night in any position.

The Camel Corps also belongs to us and consists of selected men of the Drums under the I.O., and is known as the "Intelligence Section." The job of this corps is to collect information about the enemy or anyone else, and to use such evidence, if necessary, against the guilty party. In the desert this works very well, as the camels are silent and sure-footed in the sand. The personnel are also silent, having their bugles removed by force.

The Camel Corps and the "Belisha beacons" work together, as also do the map-makers and enlargers, and photographers, and all done from the hump of a camel.

The Cavalry Troop—popularly known as "Christie's Horse"—comes from the Transport Section and is a throw-back to the bad old days. On many occasions the troop has been very useful as a quick-striking force, and on the Brigade Training, mentioned elsewhere, assisted in shaking two enemy tribes so badly that they got indigestion and could not perform for about two days.

The Scribes must not be confused with the Pharaohs of olden times—they also belong to us and are the writers of any words of wisdom which may fall from the mouth of the Battalion Commander. They make a lot of copies and send them to all the affected commanders, so that their actions may be guided and controlled by the wisdom of the words spoken. They have even managed to control the typewriter in a gale or a sandstorm.

The stretcher-bearers in peace-time render us sweet strains from various instruments, and in war they carry us when tired and very seldom drop us more than twice in fifty yards. They know all about bones and gun-shot wounds, and, I believe, the correct use of a field dressing. They talk in a strange way about R.A.Ps.

and C.C.Ss. and perhaps R.I.Ps., but nevertheless they are ours, even if we do lend them out.

The "Antis" are a mixed lot—there is the Anti-Tank, the Anti-Gas and the Anti-Aircraft, and between them they come in useful as a spare fatigue party when required. The A.Ts. can stop a car by waving a flag (green and white), the A.A. play around the mulberry bush whenever possible, while A.G. is only a paper transaction. Still, as stated before, they are ours and will perhaps come in useful some day.

The "Cease Fire Department" is definitely ours, but we lend it out sometimes to other companies so that they all may know when it is knocking-off time. One bugler per company and one to the C.O. is the usual way of spreading the joyful tidings, and for the few moments that they do work they are a most popular body of men. Of course, they are employed in peace-time to blow "Cook-house" and "Defaulters," besides their war-time tunes.

Quartermaster (Caterers) is a highly trained and skilful job, and is a branch which can do mathematics with loaves of bread and tins of jam. How many people know that eight men equal one loaf of bread? They are also required to juggle with tents, brooms (hard and soft) and forms (six-foot) as well as many other weird things. Still, while they do the thinking and plotting we do the work, and between us we manage very well.

First Line is what we call greatcoats (in bundles of ten), the C.Q.M.S. (with his ration boxes) and the C.S.M. (with his flag). It may also include a cooker, some limbers or camels, and a water-cart. It often gets called other names, but, unless the grub is late or the greatcoats are missing, they are nice pet names.

There have been many cases known when they have actually got to us in time, but whether we met accidentally or not has never been decided.

Leaving training behind us, we now come to sport. Having predicted in previous notes that the Albuhera Shield would come to the Wing again, it is now impossible to lose it, by virtue of drawing for first place in the boxing with "B" Company and winning the cross-country by a margin of 47 points, including the

individual winner, Pte. Tarrent. Congratulations to both teams on their sporting performance.

The boxing team consisted of five or six of last year's team and one or two who have fought for their respective companies, the remainder being newcomers to the fistic art.

In the cross-country team newcomers were much to the fore, and there was no lack of volunteers; of course, it was not their fault that they were not all chosen, but their time will come later.

Inter-Company Rugby took place during December; we had to be content with third place. We lost quite a lot of stalwarts of the fifteen men playing another game in civilian ranks, but before finishing we would like to give our congratulations to "C" Company on winning the Inter-Company Rugby.

We are now looking forward to the tracks of Singapore, to get into training for the athletics in which the Wing are very keen to be to the fore to finish off a grand season.

W. S.

DRUMS.

Once again we put pen to paper, this time in a far happier frame of mind than the last, for Battalion and Brigade Training have finished, and we sail for Singapore on 16th March.

During Battalion Training the Drums performed their usual Intelligence and A.A. duties, but for Brigade Training they formed a platoon of "D" Company, who were short of men owing to the detachment at Port Said. We were all very glad to get back to barracks, and start packing for the move.

On the 5th the Annual Bugle Competition was held. Bandmaster Paisor, of the R.A.F., and Drum-Major Angel, of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, very kindly judged. The results were as follows:—

1, Dmr. Staley; 2, Dmr. Klintworth; 3, L./Cpl. Butt.

Boy Parsons is now on his service, so we welcome him to the men's room and the joys of a smoke in public. Boy Endersby starts life on his own, for his Ma and Pa sail for England this month.

We welcome the new class of Drummers: they have now settled down and have been accepted as one of us. Great

things are expected of them in Singapore, so that we can get back to the standard we were before the homegoers departed for England.

They have proved themselves very useful at sports, especially boxing and cross-country running.

Congratulations to Dmr. Holdford on the show he put up in the Inter-Company Boxing; he lost to Cpl. Markham in the final after a very good fight.

L./Cpl. Watson has decided to stop with us for another five years instead of catching the March boat. His presence was greatly felt during the Command Football Competition (one goal against the Royals, one against the R.H.A., and two in the semi-final against the 8th Hussars), and we are hoping to see plenty more of him in the near future.

Congratulations to Drum-Major Poulter on his being awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. All the best to his Drummers, and we wish him a long and very happy stay in "Pompey."

We are looking forward to seeing L./Cpl. Crawshaw and his wife on the *California*, and are wondering if he relishes the thought of coming East again.

L./Cpls. Ringe and Foster are now in possession of their first "dog's leg," so we wish them every success in the future.

Singapore has been spoken so well of by the "old timers" that we are sure of an enjoyable time.

The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers are the other regiment there, so some mention of sport with them should be made in our next issue. We have not been able to give much account of ourselves in the "drumming" line for the past few years, as we have been stationed next to a Scottish regiment!

Before we close, we must add that L./Cpl. Butt's mosquito boots have been safely crated and loaded on board!

SIGNALS.

Once again we are here to give you some enlightenment on the happenings among us Signallers during the past quarter.

There are many things to record, and one of the chief is that our tour in Egypt has but a few days to run, and we are all agog in anticipation of a lengthy sea

voyage with Singapore on the other end of it. There will no doubt be a few pangs of regret in the Section on leaving this country, which has been a home for some of us for over three years, and no doubt some will gaze towards Jerusalem and Palestine where we spent a very happy time which lasted for twelve months previous to coming here.

We will not be sorry somehow to say good-bye to Egypt's deserts over which our trusty helios have flickered many a message and on which our feet have oft-times ploughed up the sand.

Now for a few items of general interest, of which first comes Christmas. Naturally, we at Moascar put Christmas over in a big way, although unfortunately three were absent. Our "Big Chief" (Lieut. Bellers) was unluckily in hospital during the Yuletide period; however, on Christmas evening we descended on him *en masse* and we think we were successful in cheering him up, and some of us quite enjoyed hospital Christmas fare, which we partook of whilst we were there.

The remaining absentees were two of our high lights, "Oyster" (Hissy) and the inimitable "Johnno," of Everton fame.

We missed these two bright sparks and were very sorry to hear later that they spent rather a quiet time at Port Said (in fact, we understand that their Christmas consisted of "Who's speaking, please? Trunks, Navy House, speaking," and several other telephonic terms.) Apart from these unfortunate exceptions, however, we can safely say that Christmas, 1935, goes down in the annals of Signal history to be remembered among the sections for years to come.

Training is now over and the Section emerged with credit, to be congratulated by the Commanding Officer, and praise from him is praise indeed.

Brigade Training gave us a great scheme in which we, as a Section, showed up pretty well. Of course, we are now looking forward to Malayan jungle schemes in which intrepid line parties will brave tigers and other denizens of the jungle.

The Section has not been silent in the sporting line, and we congratulate "Oyster" on winning his weight in the Battalion and also on giving the Wing

six valuable points towards the Inter-Company Boxing Championships. We also congratulate Roskilly on reaching the final of his weight and thereby also contributing some valuable points.

We supplied several contestants for the Wing cross-country team which was successful in winning the Inter-Company Championships. (Well done, "Pop" and "Bob," also "Strangler Mac"!)

The above accomplishments give satisfaction, and we hope the new class we are getting shortly will enable us to maintain our present standard, as we will shortly be losing some of our stalwarts.

This epistle is now drawing to a close, and in conclusion we add a few miscellaneous articles and queries. Congratulations to "Shoggo" on his appointment to Lance-Corporal, and to "Cruncher," one of our ex-members, on attaining the position of Signal Storeman in England.

And so, as a final note, we send greetings to our brethren in the 2nd Battalion, and trust that those of the "Save Egypt" variety arrived back safe and sound from their week-end with us.

BAND.

Well, by the time these notes are in print, the only moments we shall have of Egypt will be in the form of snap albums, and a few alabaster Sphinxes. Moascar will be just another station of sand and sun and, perhaps, sorrows.

During the past quarter much has taken place in the Band, musically and otherwise.

In the Brigade six-day exercise we put down the stretcher to take up the rifle, and many were the varied remarks, such as "What's a range chart?" and "What I know about an L.G. could go on an akka stamp." Practically the whole of the Band helped to make up the strength of "C" Company, and we hope that we were more of an asset than a liability—at least, we did not fire any red Very lights to see where we were going!

We would like to congratulate Bdsn. Clargo on his performance as goalkeeper for the Battalion soccer team during their excellent attempt to win the Command Cup. He never had an off day, and in the final against our old friends the Royal Scots Fusiliers, he covered himself with

glory, as the *Egyptian Mail* says. Well done, "Buntz."

We have to add another pat on the back to Bdsn. Cousins for his performance at Cairo in the Team Boxing Championships. He won in the usual free and easy style. We were hoping to see him represent the Army in the annual contest against the R.A.F., but owing to our move this was not possible.

The Band are putting in the usual efforts at cross-country running and hope to help the Wing to retain the shield. Cash is in good running form (but his best run is to the dining hall; dieting is not part of his training!).

We bring these notes to a close in the usual manner and hope that many of our old friends will remember that the post carries far and we would always be glad to hear from them; and last, but not least, good luck to all Bandsmen at home.

A SOLDIER'S FAREWELL.

Braziers flickering, bargainers bickering,
Galabehs rustling by,
Struggling with the slanting shadows,
Subtle glows reach to the sky,
Skies that blazed as empires fell,
We, like they, must say farewell.

Soldiers marching, throats are parching,
See the green of Nile draw near:
Through the haze of desert evening
Comes the view of distant cheer.
Cæsar's men saw this as well,
They have long said their farewell.

Steel a-glistening, hundreds listening
For the words "Advance in line";
Then two ranks swing past the Colour
As one man, though sand is fine;
Fife and drum must weave their spell
As we say our last farewell.

Governments blathering, storm clouds
gathering,
Madmen shake their fists on high;
Threats are made at every frontier,
"Peace" looks on and wonders why;
Yet the might of right must tell,
Egypt, Suez, Nile—farewell.

F. R. S.

CANAL SCENE ON TRAINING.

The camel tethered to the bank
Stretched its hairy limbs so lank,
Gave voice in no uncertain terms
Defying all poor human worms;
While natives hurried to its head
A Cockney voice, quite nervy, said:
"I hope it can't get in our tent,
I think I'll fasten up the vent."
Then Corporal Phel was heard to say,
"Don't trouble, Private Topper, pray,
For if his blankets are G.S.
He's welcome to our humble mess!"

F. R. S.

"A" (S.) COMPANY.

The past quarter has been an exceptionally busy one. Battalion and Brigade Training have both been completed during the past few weeks, and Parts 3 and 4 of the A.M.G.C. were fired during the busy preparations for the move to Singapore.

Once again the Range-takers, under L./Cpl. Sach, came out with flying colours on their range-taking tests. The actual result was as follows: 13 firsts, 1 second, 2 failures. These results are certainly a credit to L./Cpl. Sach.

In spite of this hectic training period, quite a number of interesting sporting events have taken place.

In the Inter-Company Rugby League we finished with equal points with "H.Q." Wing and "D" Company. We were rather handicapped by the absence of some of our best Rugby players who were required for training for the Battalion boxing and football teams. In view of this, the result was quite a creditable performance. We have found some promising material who, when they have learnt the finer arts of the game, will become good Rugby players.

The Inter-Company Boxing was rushed through at the last moment, and we found it rather difficult to furnish a team. No one was really fit to box, and once again we were without some of our best boxers. In finishing third it reflects great credit on all those who took part, especially as most of the teams were only novices.

An interesting cross-country run resulted in our finishing second to "H.Q." Wing.

In the Platoon Sports we have been exceptionally successful. We were treated to all "A" Company finals in both the Football and Hockey Knock-outs. No. 4 Platoon beat No. 2 Platoon in the Football, and No. 3 Platoon beat No. 2 in the Hockey. Thanks to our fine sporting platoons, we have retained the Mons Shield for a further year.

A summary of their sporting successes is rather interesting:—

Inter-Platoon Passball Knock-out.—
No. 4 Platoon.

Inter-Platoon Cricket Knock-out.—
No. 2 Platoon; runners-up, No. 4 Platoon.

Inter-Platoon Football Knock-out.—
No. 4 Platoon; runners-up, No. 2 Platoon.

Inter-Platoon Hockey Knock-out.—
No. 3 Platoon; runners-up, No. 2 Platoon.

At present we are on our way to Singapore. We were fortunate enough to call in at Aden, where many of us were able to renew our acquaintance with Lieut. W. H. P. Chattey, who left us two years ago for service in Aden with the Aden Protectorate Levies.

The annual turn-over is due to take place on this voyage, and this appears to be the only thing that is liable to mar an otherwise pleasant trip. The turn-over is something we never look forward to, for it is here that we lose some of our best friends.

We are sorry to have lost Lieut. R. W. D. Sword, who has left us for a tour of duty with the King's African Rifles. We wish him the best of luck in his new sphere, and shall be looking forward for the time of his return.

In apologizing for these short notes we would like to remind readers that new stations give new ideas, and they can safely look forward to something more interesting next quarter.

ACK EMMA GEE.

"B" COMPANY.

The Company had a lone Christmas at Port Said, where we were doing our turn as detachment. This, I may mention, had no damping effect on people's feelings, except perhaps those who jumped into the water with their clothes on to cool off a day's drinking. Everyone seemed to enjoy himself, and that is the main thing on such a holiday. We had

an excellent dinner which had been arranged by our C.S.M., who also put in a lot of really hard work decorating the dining hall. Things were so good that our P.R.I. dipped his hand into the Tombola accounts pocket, and produced enough to fill our glasses to the top. At Christmas the water is cold (even in Egypt), but at 2 a.m. a brave soldier from "B" dived in and rescued the life-belt which had got adrift.

Just before the New Year we said good-bye to some old members of the Company, whom we were able to watch embark on the s.s. *Cameronian*. We wish them all the best of luck in civilian life.

Early in the New Year we were back with the Battalion, and had started training; and what a quarter's training it was! We never want to see sand again. Enough is as good as a feast, and we have had more than enough. Some very useful lessons were learnt, the one for section commanders was a trench with a hole for message reading in its wall. It may be mentioned that this hole was put to many other uses, as it was light-proof. Most of our Brigade Training consisted of patrolling the Suez Canal, but some scouts searched the little bushes and completely ignored the big ones. We are still under the impression that they were in league with the enemy. Anyway, we can assure our friends in England that the Suez Canal is still there. We must mention here the patrol which sent up its red S.O.S. Very light when it encountered "C" Company of our own Battalion, but mistakes will occur.

The Company boxing team must be congratulated on the result obtained last month. We tied with "H.Q." Wing, and after an exciting finish our captain proved more fortunate with the toss of the coin: this gave our team the winners' cups.

C. J.

"C" COMPANY.

Does fortune favour the few? Just a little question from the old saying, "Fortune favours, etc.," which has made the Company battle against great disadvantages, especially in the realm of sport.

At the moment we go to press we are the weakest company in the Battalion,

being able to muster only eighty-six all ranks to keep the "Maroon Cork" afloat. This has been ably done by our representatives in the various sports, who have acquitted themselves well during the past quarter. The reinforcements were permitted to assist us, but this was of no avail, as they departed for the United

managed with four short of a team of fifteen to pull through and tie for fourth place with "D" Company. We were only five points behind the winners, which goes to prove that with a complete team we would have been higher up the ladder of success. Out of eleven entries, we had seven finalists, and we heartily



[Photo: S. Sarkis, Cairo.]

**"C" COMPANY, 1st BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.).
Winners, Inter-Company Rugby League, 1935-36.**

Back Row.—Pte. Robinson, '50. L./Cpl. Burrell. Pte. Marable.
Middle Row.—C.S.M. Thomas. Sergt. Paterson. L./Cpl. Price. L./Cpl. Robinson. Pte. Bristow. Pte. Hurlock. Pte. Lever.
Seated.—Pte. Jones, '63. Pte. Elkins. Pte. Saunders. Capt. A. V. Weller. Lieut. A. W. F. Peal. Pte. Hill. Pte. Burbidge.

Kingdom before the competition events took place.

Our rugger XV are to be congratulated on winning the competition with an unbeaten record, but unfortunately a considerable number of our team have since left us, amongst whom we may specially mention Pte. Watts, who has left us for the United Kingdom and will be missed not only for his rugger capabilities, but for his assistance in various other branches of sport.

The Inter-Company Boxing Championships were held during March, and we

congratulate them on the fine show they put up. The winners of their weight were as follows:—

Light Heavy.—L./Sergt. Roseblade.
Middle.—L./Cpl. Ellis.
Welter.—L./Cpl. Price.

The whole of the team showed a good knowledge of boxing, and Pte. Dormer was awarded a best loser's prize. Pte. Boggis just missed winning his weight after some very good fights. Pte. Izzard also deserves mentioning for his plucky display against the Battalion heavy-weight representative, Pte. Hutton.

Practice games for hockey and football have occupied our spare afternoons, and the Company has produced plenty of keenness and some promising talent for next season as a result.

We close with the Inter-Company Cross-Country Run, having to rest content with fourth place. Enthusiasm was great, and stalwarts Boggis, Roseblade, Ellis, Lever, Bell, Hill, Rothwell and Elkins all finished among the first thirty. The tail-end of the team, however, just needed that little extra effort which will put us eventually among the rulers of the roost.

The 23rd of February marked the close to most of us—dare we say all?—of mimic desert warfare. On this date the Company returned to Moascar after having put in a Brigade exercise which continued without a break for one week. It was a fitting close to four seasons of this kind of training. For this scheme the Company was reinforced by spare files from the Band, and "A" (S.) and "D" Companies, and we take this opportunity of thanking them for the splendid way in which they performed the many strange and arduous duties which were imposed on them.

Prior to the Brigade exercise, the Battalion carried out a few schemes under the direction of the Commanding Officer which were based on lessons from the Great War in the defence of the Canal. The area covered, whilst making hard going, nevertheless provided some interest by virtue of the war relics, barbed-wire entanglements, etc., which were discovered, not to mention the prehistoric body excavated by Pte. Heath. Thanks are due to Lieut. Gwyn and his Camel Corps for also providing some diversion and relieving the monotony of long night marching by reason of his excellent traffic signals. In fact, it required only a man in blue and Belisha beacons to have completed the delusion that Watling Street in Sinai was in reality Piccadilly Circus. On the whole, I think the Company rather enjoyed the training—perhaps the knowledge that it was the last made this fact possible. All agree that beach protection and jungle fighting will make a most welcome change after four years of desert warfare. So roll on, Singapore!

"D" COMPANY.

As predicted in our last notes, the Company on 31st December relieved "B" Company on detachment at Port Said. Though following on the heels of Christmas, the move was carried out without any undue flurry. The handing over left nothing to be desired—bugs, cockroaches and lake flies that here breed in millions being coaxied from sight. The private handing over of fishing gear and tackle was a case of "a mackerel for a sprat."

We tender our apologies for a regretted oversight in our last notes, and now take the opportunity of congratulating L./Cpls. Harvey, Powell, Osborne and Hartnett on their promotion to Lance stripe; also Cpls. Shaw and Crowley to Corporal.

The only ones in the Company to do Battalion Training were Capt. Worton and 2/Lieut. Allen, and their servants. You should have heard the latter! But that did not mean a "scrounge" for the rest; the guards here altered that. When Brigade Training drew nigh the personnel chosen for it could not restrain themselves and kept counting the days. (Oh, yeah!) Anyway, judging by the reports from those "foot-sloggers" who returned with the experience of one more Brigade Training to their account, the Company as a whole feels the loss.

Writing of sport, our Company has had a fair share, considering the difficulty of procuring the grounds. Our thanks go to 2/Lieut. Allen for the active interest he has displayed in promoting matches with the Navy and civilian clubs.

Owing to the guards and the resultant absence of regular players, the teams for both hockey and football have been varied as never before; everybody has played in some match or other. A keenness for hockey in the Company is awakening and augurs well for "Don" in "Singo."

In the Inter-Company Rugby League versus "A" Company we lost 3-6, several of our players being unable to play, as they were required for Battalion boxing training. We lost a hard game to "C" Company, the eventual winners. In the last game of the league our luck changed and we beat "B" Company 12-0. Cpls. McDowell and Wadsworth, the chief influences in the team, with Cpl.

Crowley, were the most consistent scorers for us.

In the Inter-Company Boxing the results found us fourth. We congratulate Cpl. Markham and Pte. Roberts on winning their respective weights, and Pte. Cornford on the well-fought fight that earned him the best loser's prize.

With regard to the cross-country running, Cpl. Shaw and L./Cpl. Lane have earned great kudos for the interest and energy they have taken in trying to turn out a good team from indifferent material. Of the actual results, the less written the better. In excuse, let it suffice that the train journey to Moascar tired our representatives.

Having some spare ackers in the old oak chest, the C.S.M., with the help of Sergt. Tiller, arranged various competitions of darts, passball and treasure hunts. The last-mentioned had to be discontinued owing to its popularity; two combined sections of No. 15 Platoon proved invincible in the passball; and with regard to the darts I doubt if anybody could compete against our cooks in view of the practice they have had.

Lately we have had competitions with H.M.S. *Active* on the miniature range, and honours have been equally divided. Sergt. Russell ("Pasha"), in a specially arranged shoot with a Petty Officer, won and succeeded in getting the lowest score.

At the time of writing, C.S.M. Burt is in the British Civilian Hospital and on the dangerously ill list. We all unite in wishing him a speedy recovery.

We learn that L./Cpl. Gratton will not accompany us to Singapore, and are sorry to lose another old face.

We extend a hearty welcome to the Christmas draft, and are now looking forward to the "Singo" draft, with whom returning to us from leave in the United Kingdom will be L./Sergt. Hopwood, Cpl. Game and L./Cpl. Mills *née* "Gummy" Tatt. Lastly, we are looking forward to the help in sport of Lieut. Fishbourne, who is destined for our Company.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

This quarter has been, as far as the Journal notes are concerned, absolutely uneventful, but even so the Editor still

demands, on behalf of our readers, his pound of flesh.

We have just completed a week of Brigade Training, in which a really original idea of the Brigade Commander's was tried out, and this certainly tried us out in our various war jobs. There is no doubt that the scheme could not have been nearer the real thing, considering that it was a peace-time scheme, and the defence of the Canal would be no easy job, especially if the defenders are sitting on it like we were.

It is with great joy that we now register the fact that there have been no departures from our midst during this quarter, and we welcome Sergt. Russell from the 2nd Battalion to our happy band. May he live long and happily with us.

An undercurrent of expected excitement pervades all our present actions, which on the surface shows itself as "packing up" and "handing over." The packing goes quietly on and the baggage staff have settled in with loud cries of "Give me" and "Bring out your boxes" so that we may reduce them to hundred-weights and cubic feet.

The handing over to the 2nd Bn. The Royal Berkshire Regiment seems to be going on smoothly and in a very friendly manner. We hope that they will enjoy their stay in Moascar as much as we did, and we wish them the very best of everything in the future.

We are looking forward to the move to Singapore, and are bombarding those members who have already had one spell there with questions about the place and the people. Sergt. Thompson, who is our advance party, has sent us some very useful information under this heading, for which we thank him.

In our last notes we made a statement which was incorrect and we would like to take this chance to correct that and also offer an apology to the member concerned. We stated that R.S.M. Newman was the only member of the original 4th Battalion still with us. We now discover that Sergt. Champion was also in that Battalion, and served as a member of the Sergeants' Mess in Gibraltar.

On Tuesday, 10th March, the Sergeants of the Royal Engineers and the 1st Bn. The Royal Scots Fusiliers entertained us to a three-legged indoor sports contest. This was in the nature of a farewell

"smoker," and a very enjoyable evening was spent by us and we hope by all. The sports contest ended very conveniently in a three-sided draw of 50-all, and we think that a vote of thanks is due to the marker for this very even result.

C.S.M. Brockman again carries all before him at blowball, and the game was fast and furious until someone punctured the ball with his nose.

We presented the 42nd Company, R.E., Mess, Moascar, with a little token of our friendship in the shape of a shield which we hope will always remind them of our happy times here.

On the Thursday we invaded the Mess of the Royal Scots Fusiliers and left them a similar token with the same hopes and wishes given and received by all.

Now that we are leaving Moascar we would like to leave on record that we have definitely to thank the members of both these Messes for a considerable amount of the enjoyment we have had in Moascar.

CORPORALS' MESS.

Very little has happened since our last notes were printed. Owing to Cpl. Smith being employed as Cook Sergeant he, as Mess President, was unable to spare the time for our last quarter's notes.

Collective Training is now a thing of the past, and many lessons have been learned from it. Brigade Training this year took the form of a seven-day war. We found that the job of protecting the Suez Canal was a more complicated affair than we had imagined. However, we had the situation well in hand, and the job was tolerably well done. C.S.M. Russell became a casualty in the latter stage of the war, and was admitted to hospital.

In the realm of sport the Battalion again proved their worth. For the second time we won the Command Challenge Boxing Cup, and found a lot of new talent to carry on the good name which we have gained during our sojourn in this country. The football team, after a series of smashing victories, were unfortunate in losing the final by one goal to nil to the Royal Scots Fusiliers.

The Inter-Company Boxing Tournament resulted in a draw for first place by "H.Q." Wing and "B" Company. The standard of boxing was high, and we congratulate all members of the Mess who participated.

We congratulate L./Cpls. Ringe, Foster and Whybrow on their recent appointments, and welcome them to the fold.

By the time these notes are published we will be in our new barracks at Singapore, and, although everything possible has been done to make our stay here as pleasant as possible, we will not be sorry to leave the land of the Pharaohs.

In conclusion, we wish all members of the 2nd Battalion Mess the best of luck for the future.

THE WANDERING MID.

By SERGT. W. SNELL.

Once upon a time, in the year of our Lord 1755 to be precise, there was banded together a band of men who were known then as the 59th Foot. These men were in sore need of employment, and to find this thing they did follow their leader unto the Mediterranean Sea, where, not knowing their own minds, they did work as part-time soldiers and sailors. This employment they did follow for the full period of two years, when it was suggested to them that they were better soldiers than sailors, and they did take the hint (thank goodness). Then, without counting the cost, did they cut off two foot and become known as the 57th Foot. This enabled them to keep both feet on the ground and become indeed soldiers of a very high class.

So it came to pass that for a full period of 179 years they did remain at soldiering, but not being good at the learning of history, they did spend their leisure hours in the making of history for their successors to learn. Time has proved that in this manner they did become history makers of a very high grade. They did also take upon themselves the task of breaking the record set up by "the Children of Israel," who wandered for forty years in the desert. This they have also done extremely well, having wandered in and out of deserts for the

afore-mentioned 179 years with their homes on their backs and their weapons polished. It is a well-known thing that they are still wandering, having, it seems, no place in all the world in which to settle.

Much practice has taught these 57th Foot that the best way to wander is to *walk*, and they have grown to love this way and would hate to change this way even for the chariots of the idle rich. It is very usual to see them moving through the lanes and byways in search of some place in which to pitch their tents. This has become known to the rural councils and the Cabinet Ministers, who, when their roads require pressing, do send the 57th Foot along that way in the rainy season so that the roads are pressed and made hard for the coming year by the big flat feet of these wanderers.

Now, it has come to pass that certain high chiefs, liking not the country on which their eyes do rest, have employed these men to dig holes in the valleys and on the hill-tops, and in this way do they change the appearance of the countryside so that the eyes do not tire nor the maps speak truth. These holes may be seen to-day on any of the paths trodden by these wanderers, and have become known as "Section Posts" and "Platoon Areas." Thus do the 57th Foot leave their mark on the face of the earth.

From the year M.X.150 to the year M.X.179 certain bodies of men, also in need of employment, have been making horseless chariots called "motor vehicles," which are being given to some soldiers to play with, and this will be called "Mechanization." It is predicted that in the year M.X.180 these toys will be given to the 57th Foot. This will not mean any change in employment or in habit, except that they will be able to wander faster than before and tear up the roads which they pressed so hard in the years gone by.

Think not, oh, 57th Foot, that thou wilt cease to walk, because mechanization only means that thou shalt walk and push instead of walk and carry. Again, oh, 57th Foot, thinkest not that thou shalt dig no more—because mechanization means that thou shalt dig oftener and deeper than ever before. Thinkest not that "it is duff," because thou shalt work faster and faster while the wheels go round,

and when they stop we will all sing the old anthem—

"Get out and get under," or "Dig, blast you, dig."

Thus will we also leave our mark on the face of the earth.

BATTALION RUGBY.

There have been few Battalion matches this year, but for the first time since we have been abroad we have succeeded in playing off an Inter-Company League (Single), which was won by "C" Company. The games were generally rather spoilt by the hardness of the ground. However, they brought forward a lot of players who had never played the game before, and the general standard was considerably higher than the few Company matches that were played last year. We most sincerely hope that these matches have produced a number of people who are keen to learn the game properly in Singapore, where a regiment's reputation very largely depends on its success in the rugby field; we can at least promise them that the ground will always be soft.

The order in the Inter-Company League was as follows:—

"C" Company, "H.Q." Wing, "D" Company, "A" (S.) Company, and "B" Company.

"H.Q." Wing, and "D" and "A" (S.) Companies won an equal number of matches, but finished up in this order on points scored.

FOOTBALL.

It is doubtful if even our most ardent supporters could have dreamt on reading our last notes of the unqualified success to be achieved by the Battalion football team during the last few months of our stay in Egypt.

For many years great efforts have been made to produce a really good team, and we have grown tired of the exasperating failures that have resulted.

This season we had not entered for the Robert Hughes Charity Cup, and so found ourselves after Christmas in the difficult position of being faced with the first round of the Command Cup without having had any practice in competitive matches.

"COMMAND FOOTBALL CUP FINAL.

"FUSILIERS SOCCER DOUBLE.

"SPLENDID PERFORMANCE BY MIDDLESEX REGT.

"CLARGO IN GOOD FORM.

"R.S.F., I; MIDDLESEX REGIMENT, O.

"MOASCAR.

"The final of the Army Command Championship Cup between the Royal Scots Fusiliers (Holders) and the Middlesex Regiment was played off on Sunday afternoon and resulted in the Fusiliers retaining the senior soccer trophy in the Egyptian Command by the only goal scored.

"It was a glorious day and the event attracted a very large crowd, who were treated to an excellent display of football.

"Even the most ardent supporters of the Middlesex could not place much hope in their team beating the formidable opposition of the R.S.F., but they certainly lived up to the name of 'Diehards' in this final.

"There was no score at the interval and the score sheet hardly represented the play, for the R.S.F. had by far the best of the game, although the Middlesex defence played a splendid game and kept their opponents from scoring. During the second half, Clargo, the Diehards' goal-keeper, absolutely covered himself with glory and saved in magnificent style a penalty taken by Neil.

"The Fusiliers' forwards were always dangerous, but Tams had an off day. Walker was undoubtedly the best forward on the field, and the winning goal he obtained was a real beauty.

"HOW THE FUSILIERS WON.

"The R.S.F. won the toss and commenced with the wind in their favour. Tams immediately set his forwards going, Jamieson being nicely stopped by Lawlor. After a brief visit to the other end, Froud put forward nicely for Jamieson and Walker to trouble Clargo, who was very soon after called upon to clear from George. Williams broke up the attack and Pearson, racing through to the

The first match, on 9th January against the Royal Dragoons, recently arrived with a great football reputation from India, caused a great sensation, and our 5-1 victory proved to be the first rung in the ladder of success.

In the period before the next round we were very grateful for a practice fixture with No. 4 Flying Training School, R.A.F., at Abu Sueir, whom we defeated in a game in which clean passing and good team work were much in evidence.

The second cup match, against the formidable 1st Brigade, R.H.A., was undoubtedly the keenest-fought struggle ever witnessed on our ground, and was won entirely by the team's spirit, fitness and determination to win.

That they had won the Cairo Military League two years running caused anxiety, but when, five minutes from the start, Jones, our centre half, had to retire on account of an injured knee, one felt that the task was well-nigh impossible, and their first goal a few moments after this calamity confirmed our worst fears.

The "ten men," however, appeared to think otherwise, and with only four forwards ran the larger R.H.A. team off their feet, and at the final whistle were carried exhausted off from the ground victors by 3 goals to 2.

The semi-final on the Slade Ground, Abbassia, against the 8th Royal Irish Hussars was played two days after the boxing finals. Spurred on no doubt by the success of our boxers, we won the match by 6 goals to 2. It was a disappointing game in many ways—two goals in the first ten minutes, then a very long and scrappy period, finally regaining our true form and scoring four goals in the last twenty minutes of the game.

The grass troubled our team throughout the match and was certainly the cause of the majority of mistakes.

And thus a team of "giant killers" reached the final, which was played at Moascar against our old rivals, the Royal Scots Fusiliers (holders for the previous two years), before a crowd of several thousands.

The following is a cutting from the *Egyptian Mail* giving an account of the match:—

corner, centred finely, but Dean shot wide with only Canning to beat. The R.S.F. quickly returned, but Jamieson was robbed by Freshwater, the ball then went to George, who set Tams in motion, the latter forcing Clargo to save with Jamieson troubling him. Williams then beat Walker in a tussle and passed to Dean, whose good centre was picked up by Watson, but Canning was not unduly troubled by his shot at goal. From a free kick, well placed by Neil, Jamieson missed a fairly easy chance. With the Fusiliers doing most of the pressing, Tams got through and Clargo brought off a beautiful save at full length, conceding a corner. The kick was well taken, but the goalie cleared well from Eustace.

"Play settled down in midfield with the Fusiliers having the better of the exchanges, until Williams very neatly stopped Jamieson from going through on his own, and transferred play to the Fusiliers' half, this led to Mizon passing to Saw, who narrowly missed the goal. The Middlesex continued the pressure and from a free kick near the penalty line Mizon placed the ball dangerously near the goal and Canning only cleared with difficulty. The Middlesex were awarded another free kick, but Mizon shot over the bar. Tricky work by Neil relieved the pressure and Tams passed out to Jamieson, whose centre was cleared by Freshwater. Just before the interval Walker got through the defence, but when only about 8 yards out Baylis came across and kicked the ball off his toe.

Half-time: R.S.F. 0; Middlesex 0.

"On resuming the Middlesex got through and forced a fruitless corner. Some good work by the Fusiliers' halves put Eustace in an excellent position, but he shot over the bar; a few minutes afterwards Jamieson on the other wing shot wide. The ball did not, however, go out of the Middlesex half, and Clargo was called upon to come out of goal to effect a brilliant save from Jamieson, at the expense of a corner; this resulted in Walker shooting over the bar.

"From the breakaway, Pearson made a good run and Canning was forced to concede a corner. The ball was swung about in midfield for a period until Walker obtained it and made for goal; being intercepted by Lawlor he passed the ball to

Jamieson, who centred. Baylis here handled the ball and stopped it from going into an empty goal. From the resultant spot kick taken by Neil, Clargo made a brilliant save.

"The Middlesex then took the ball to the other end, but Morris cleared to George who swung the ball out to Jamieson, after nicely tricking Freshwater, Jamieson passed in to Walker, who beat Clargo with a splendid shot. The second half had then been in progress 26 minutes.

"This reverse put more life into the Middlesex attack, and from a spell of pressing Watson came very near obtaining the equaliser, but his shot went just wide of the post. A few minutes afterwards Canning was pulled up for carrying and from the free kick Hedges received the ball, but shot wide. The Fusiliers then raced along to the other end, but Jamieson spoilt a good movement by getting offside. Both sides were trying very hard. A further spell of midfield play took place. Saw took up a nice pass from Dean and looked like going through on his own, but was nicely tackled by George.

"Four minutes from the end Mizon tried a long shot which was only cleared by Canning at the expense of a corner. From this kick, which was very well taken by Pearson, Canning was forced to punch away at the expense of another corner, which was taken by Dean and in the last minute Hedges was presented with an open goal from about 8 yards range. Neil flung himself desperately at the ball and robbed him just as the whistle blew.

"R.S.F.—Canning; Morris, McKim; Neil (Capt.), George, Froud; Eustace, Dawson, Tams, Walker, and Jamieson.

"Middlesex.—Clargo; Lawlor, Baylis; Freshwater, Mizon, Williams; Pearson, Hedges, Watson, Saw and Dean.

"Referee: R.Q.M.S. Yates (Gren. Guards).

"At the termination of a splendid afternoon's football, Brigadier Sir F. A. Pile (General Officer Commanding Canal Brigade) made a suitable speech complimenting the two teams on their splendid achievement and asked General Weygand (former French Chief of General Staff) to present the Cup and medals to the teams. This he was pleased to do, and also complimented each man individually.

"By kind permission of Lt. Col. O. H. Tidbury, M.C., of the 1st Bn. Middlesex Regt., and Lt. Col. B. H. Badham, D.S.O., of the 1st Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers and Officers, Band, Pipes and Drums of the two Regiments played before the commencement of the game and at the interval. The Marseillaise and National Anthem were played after the presentation of Cup and medals."

* * *

Of the players, L./Cpl. Watson, as captain, has throughout been an inspiration to his side, in keenness and dash.

Pte. Dean, the outstanding forward of the line, has proved a tower of strength on the left wing, and is always capable of putting the stoutest defence to rout.

Pte. Saw, as inside left, is a greatly improved team player with good ball control. He has formed, with Pte. Dean, the chief goal-scoring machine of the side.

Ptes. Hedges and Pearson on the other wing have both done their share. The former deserves especial praise for his untiring energy throughout every match.

L./Cpl. Freshwater, and Ptes. Mizon and Williams have all shown astounding improvement, and have held the team together on many a difficult occasion. The first-named has proved himself outstanding in defence, and the way in which he bottled up the Army left wing in the final deservedly brought him the whole-hearted applause of the crowd.

The backs, Ptes. Lawlor and Baylis, have shown what a really determined and fearless pair can do despite their opponents' size and weight. That they were chosen to represent the Army in Egypt against the R.A.F. is proof enough of their capabilities.

Bdsn. Clargo must now be classed as quite one of the best players in the side. He has become self-confident, and on each occasion has given a really magnificent display of goalkeeping.

It would be impossible to close these notes without reference to Sergt. Williams. His capable training of the team and unbounded optimism have contributed very largely to our season's success.

BOXING.

THE BATTALION TEAM.

As a result of the good performances of our boxers at the British Army in

Egypt Individual Competition, we had a good chance of carrying off the Egyptian Command Team Championship which we eventually won for the second year in succession.

We realized how weak our team had been made, through the loss of six of the best boxers we had had in recent years. These men have gone to the Army Reserve, but their places were soon filled with fresh talent. Thus we were able to enter a well-balanced team. We were fortunate to receive a bye in the first round, and fought the Royal Scots Fusiliers in the second series. Some good bouts were witnessed, and, although some fights were "touch and go," we managed to win by the comfortable margin of 11 fights to 4.

The Seaforth Highlanders were our next opponents, and they proved to be a much harder proposition. They, like ourselves, had some extremely good individual boxers, and the fighting was good, the boxing being of a fairly high standard. Pte. Stone outclassed his opponent and showed good style throughout. There were other bouts which were also pleasant to watch, namely, Bdsn. Cousins and Pte. Dowell, and Cpl. Markham, who outpointed the Army champion in fine style. We eventually won by the narrow margin of 8 fights to 7.

The finals against the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers were postponed for a week owing to the death of King George. This gave us a chance to make alterations and strengthen the team.

The team was:—

Bantam-weight.—Pte. Stone.

Feather-weight.—1st String: Bdsn. Cousins; 2nd String: Pte. Murray.

Light-weight.—1st String: Cpl. Markham; 2nd String: L./Cpl. Almond; 3rd String, Pte. Head.

Welter-weight.—1st String: L./Cpl. Ellis; 2nd String: Cpl. McGrady; 3rd String: L./Cpl. Price; 4th String: Pte. Dowell.

Middle-weight.—1st String: L./Sergt. Roseblade; 2nd String: Pte. Dean; 3rd String: Pte. Watson.

Light Heavy-weight.—Pte. Hatchett.

Heavy-weight.—Pte. Hutton.

This team beat their opponents by 10 fights to 5, and although it sounds a big

margin by which to win a final, it was very close all the way. Our oldest boxer, Hatchett, showed that he is still as game as ever. Not many spectators realized that Hatchett was 36 years old, and was a member of our team in 1923, 1924 and 1925 at Aldershot, where we won the boxing at home. Sergt. Roseblade proved that he is still the best middle-weight in Egypt. Pte. Dean completed the "hat trick" by beating his man. L./Cpl. Ellis also beat a good man in his string and his tenacity is to be admired. Cpl. McGrady won in great style, and many consider that he is one of the few who fight with their head, while Pte. Dowell was also too good for his opponent, and L./Cpl. Almond won very easily against a much taller opponent. Pte. Head and Bdsn. Cousins also displayed good workmanship; the latter appears to possess untold reserves of energy by the way he outpaces his opponents. The remainder fought very hard. Ptes. Wass and Drake, who represented the team in the earlier series, are to be complimented as good triers.

Just before we left Egypt for our new station a dinner was given in honour of the team's success. Lieut. Peal, who has managed the team throughout and whose great interest in this form of sport has gone a long way to ensure our success in two successive years, presented cups to L./Sergt. Clark, our trainer, who put in so much time to ensure our fitness, and also to Ptes. Wass and Drake, who did not represent us in the final, but had fought consistently well in previous years.

Owing to our move, we are debarred from having anyone selected to represent the Army in the Inter-Services matches.

We are justly proud of our success in Egypt, and we will no doubt do ourselves credit in Singapore, but we must realize that the standard of boxing in the Egyptian Command is not considered by experts as high; and in comparison with home we have still to improve. We have, however, the material, and little fault to find with our individual performers. There are still too many bouts in which no exchanges really take place.

We hope that on arrival at Singapore we may meet with further success against our fresh opponents.

The Inter-Company Boxing Competition was held on the 2nd, 3rd and 5th March, and the following is a brief account of the fighting and results:—

On the first evening, beginning at 6 p.m., twenty-three fights were contested, and very early in the evening it was seen that the competitors had entered in the best spirit and were going all out. Space does not permit us to give each fight in detail and we can only deal with the more outstanding ones.

It was noticeable that whenever a novice came up against a known boxer the novices fought extremely well. The referee on numerous occasions congratulated losers on their fine performance as well as both contestants collectively.

The first evening finished with the companies as follows: "A" (S.), 15; "B," 15; "D," 13; "C," 12; "H.Q.," 11; from which it will be seen that the company teams were fairly evenly matched.

The second evening was a repetition of the first, and if possible even better from the spectators' point of view. Twenty-two fights were staged and exceedingly well fought. At the close, the order of companies stood as follows: "A" (S.), 36; "D," 34; "H.Q.," 34; "B," 33; "C," 30; and in consequence the competitive spirit between companies became extraordinarily keen.

The evening of the 5th was set aside for the finals, and fifteen bouts were fought off. This was indeed a good evening's entertainment and has shown us that we have no lack of material to augment the Battalion boxing team. On two occasions during the evening all companies were equal in points, and the final decision depended on the last two fights of the evening. In fact, the last fight of the evening decided whether "H.Q." were to win or draw with "B" Company. The final result was a draw between these two teams. "B," 45; "H.Q.," 45; "A" (S.), 42; "C," 40; "D," 40.

It is a really remarkable result when one considers that sixty fights could result in such a draw and with the other companies so evenly placed.

The Brigade Commander, Sir Frederick Pile, presented the prizes at the conclusion of the fighting, and in his speech warmly congratulated all teams on their

fine performances and clean fighting. He said, "It is a great pleasure to me to come at any time to watch sporting events in the Middlesex Regiment, especially boxing, as you hold the best reputation for that sport in the Egyptian Command."

Three good losers' prizes were awarded and the men chosen for this distinction were Ptes. Cornford, "D," Dormer, "C," and Claxton, "A" (S.).

We would like to place on record that many others could have been chosen to increase this number had the rules permitted. The officials certainly had a difficult task in selection from the available list.

We are particularly pleased to see Major Phillips once more acting as referee, as we know how keen he is on this form of sport.

We now close on a successful note until our arrival in Singapore."

THE M.I. IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THE following notes on the services of the M.I. Detachment during the South African War were amongst the papers of the late Pte. C. H. Tindall, a notice of whose death appears elsewhere, and were kindly placed at our disposal by his brother, Mr. A. W. Tindall.

A RECORD OF THE SERVICES RENDERED BY "C" COMPANY, 5TH DIVISION, M.I., DURING 1900, 1901, 1902.

The M.I. detachment of the 2nd Middlesex Regiment, of which "C" Company, 5th Division M.I., was composed, were raised in August, 1900, and camped at Volksrust, where they were given three weeks' training.

About the middle of September the Company was sent to join General Hildyard's column at Blood River, and was attached to Major Gough's Composite M.I. Regiment, with which corps they were continually employed on convoy and patrol duty, coming into contact with the Boers on most occasions, as the district was very full of them.

In October, Major Gough was sent to Zululand, and after a very severe trek returned to Ngutu and the Company remained there with him until 26th December. Whilst there they were employed on all the Vryheid convoys, and took part in the relief of Vryheid, after the attack on that post, on 12th December.

Near Scheepers Nek, during this relief, there was heavy fighting and the Company chased a party of Boers, including Generals Louis Botha, Lucas Meyer and Cherre Emmett for several miles, until our horses, which had come some distance, gave out and the chase had to be abandoned.

When the Company left Ngutu they ceased to be attached to Gough's M.I., and early in January they were split up, half a company going to Vryheid, where they remained for nearly a year. The other half-company were stationed at De Jager's Drift, and continued to form a portion of the escort to Vryheid convoys with most of the 5th Division M.I., more especially during General French's eastern move. The half-company at De Jager's eventually joined Headquarters of the 5th Division M.I. at Ngutu and from there moved to the Nkandhla district of Zululand, in which neighbourhood they remained until peace was declared. The duty of the Regiment there was to defend the border and prevent parties of Boers raiding the Zulu's cattle.

Whilst stationed on the border the Regiment on many occasions crossed into the Transvaal and succeeded in capturing numerous Boer stock, and killed many Boers. When camped at Itala they drove off the pick of Louis Botha's army on 26th September, 1901, the attacking force consisting of between 2,000 and 3,000 men and the fighting lasting for nineteen hours. The Middlesex men engaged on this occasion worthily kept up the best traditions of the 77th Regiment, and drove off the Boers from their trenches after they had crept up to within ten yards of them. The result of this action was considerable, as the whole of Zululand was saved from invasion, and probably Natal too.

Since the fight at Itala the half-company in Zululand distinguished themselves in the field on several occasions. The half-company at Vryheid were the only mounted troops in the garrison, and a

large amount of arduous work fell upon them in consequence. The garrison was completely isolated except when opened up by convoys every eight to twelve weeks, and the whole country round was swarming with Boers, who never left their district, retiring to the mountains when columns came along. Observation posts furnished by the M.I. were frequently engaged, and there was seldom a movement made for a few miles beyond the town defences without opposition being met. Several night raids were undertaken and some of these were most successful. The Middlesex M.I. were thought highly of as scouts in the difficult country, and on every occasion when a reconnaissance was made by the troops who had brought in a convoy were employed in the first line. This half-company left Vryheid in December, 1901, and held a line of posts from Helpmakkaar to Rorke's Drift and Vant's Drift on the Buffalo River until after the declaration of peace.



THE 25th (RESERVE) BATTALION.

To stand an' be still,
To the *Birkenhead* drill,
Is a damn tough bullet to chew;
An' they done it.

THE obituary notice of ex-Pte. Spraggett in the November Journal recalled the mining of H.M.T. *Tyndareus* with the 25th Battalion on board.

We are indebted to Major H. W. M. Stewart for some newspaper cuttings describing this incident.

The story is indeed a stirring one, but, taking place when it did, half-way through the greatest war the world has ever known, it has never received the notice which is its due.

On 25th February, 1852, H.M.T. *Birkenhead* sank off Danger Point (Simon's Bay) after striking rocks, and it is a coincidence worthy of note that on 9th February, 1917, H.M.T. *Tyndareus* struck a German mine off Cape Agulhas (Simon's Bay) and commenced to sink.

The subsequent story of the *Birkenhead* is known the world over. It was then that the famous order, "Women and children first," was given, and suitably enough it was the soldiers' poet, the late Rudyard Kipling, who summed up the courage then displayed in the lines at the head of this article.

But the story of the 25th Battalion on board the *Tyndareus* is not so well known. Briefly the facts are as follows. A southeasterly gale was blowing when the ship struck a German mine and commenced to sink by the bows; so quickly indeed that the propellers were soon out of the water. Meanwhile, as soon as the disaster occurred the "Assembly" was sounded, and, to quote from the Admiralty report, every man paraded "in perfect order." The roll was then called, followed by the order "Stand easy." It must be remembered that this was *not* carried out on the barrack square, but on a slippery deck, the incline of which was increasing every minute, and a shark-infested sea all around!

As soon as the Battalion Commander, Lieut.-Col. John Ward, had addressed the men, they struck up "Tipperary," and continued singing for half an hour until the arrival of two British warships.

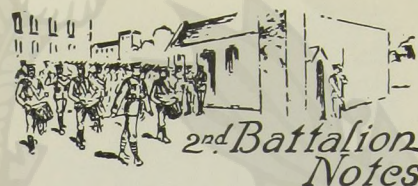
The Admiralty report on the incident ran as follows:—

"It is noteworthy that the incident took place not far from the spot where the *Birkenhead* was lost; and never was the tradition of the British Army more worthily upheld than on this occasion.

The following telegram, addressed to the Naval C-in-C., Simonstown, stamps the incident with the hall-mark of fame:—

"Please express to the Officer Commanding the 25th Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment my admiration of the conduct displayed by all ranks on the occasion of the accident to the *Tyndareus*. In their discipline and courage they worthily upheld the splendid traditions of the *Birkenhead* ever cherished in the annals of the British Army.—GEORGE R.I."

It is not too much to claim that the stand of the 25th Battalion on the sloping decks of the *Tyndareus* is worthy of the stand made by their predecessors of the 57th Foot on the ridge at Albuhera.



THE notes for the last Journal were written in an atmosphere of anticipation rather than realization. We are now more in a position to appreciate our new station. The great setback is that, situated as we are in the middle of a city, all collective training has to be done right away from barracks, and the firing of the Annual Weapon Training Course has to be carried out on Browdown Ranges, near Gosport.

At the time of writing, half the Battalion are at Fort Gomer engaged in the latter, while the remainder are preparing to do so, and it will not be until the end of September that the Battalion will be together in barracks for more than a few days.

On the morning of 4th March the Battalion were inspected by the Colonel of the Regiment. Lieut.-Col. Jefferd was unfortunately ill, and the Battalion was commanded by Major Wollocombe. In the afternoon Brig.-General Heath presented medals to the winners of the United Services' Challenge Cup (Football), at the conclusion of the final, which was between the Regimental team and H.M.S. *Victory*, and which was won by the latter. An account of this match appears in the football notes.

There is still some doubt as to where the Battalion is going for camp, consequently any comment in that direction is premature. "C" (S.) Company are going to Warminster from 2nd to 12th June for the Annual Machine Gun Concentration.

We are still not in a position to comment on our reorganization which takes place during next winter. The only outward sign of the coming change is an increase in activity in "C" (S.) Company and Lieut. Jacob's absence on a Mechanical Transport Course at Aldershot.

Our numbers are sadly depleted as the result of the draft of the 1st Battalion of over 160 men which left on 6th March.

Lieut. Fishbourne and 2/Lieuts. Gudgeon and Weedon accompanied the draft, and we wish them all the best of luck.

We would also like to take this opportunity of welcoming 2/Lieuts. Langley and Pullman, who joined the Battalion from Sandhurst at the end of February.

Capt. and Bt. Major Procter and Capt. Wray have rejoined the Battalion, the former from the Depot, and the latter from the 7th City of London Regiment; Major Newnham has also been posted to the Battalion, and is at present on leave. We have lost Capt. Jones, who has commanded "C" (S.) Company for four years. He has joined the Embarkation Staff at Southampton. Capt. Pain is at present on three months' sick leave, and we wish him a quick return to health.

With regard to sports, the Battalion has made an excellent start in Portsmouth and especially in boxing by winning the Girdwood Cup, in soccer by reaching the final of the United Services' Challenge Cup, and in rugby by the excellent record which is shown in the rugby notes.

Companies are now preparing for the Battalion Sports, which take place on 15th and 16th May.

In conclusion, we wish the 1st Battalion the best of luck in their new station.

"A" COMPANY.

Once more we take up pen to record the doings of "A" Company.

The quarter under review has little to offer, however. Once again we raise the old cry of shortage of men, and this time we are more justified than on any previous occasion. Drafting requirements and transfers have left us shorter than ever. At the time of writing we are preparing for our move to Fort Gomer for the A.W.T.C. and Platoon and Section Training, and if we are to rely on our own strength it rather looks as though we shall have to confine ourselves to Section Training.

Our sporting activities have been few for the reasons outlined above. We were lucky to draw a bye in the first round of the Inter-Company Hockey, but so far have not been able to muster eleven men to play in the semi-final against "G." Our "A" team justified our optimism in the Miniature Rifle League, and was tying for top place when the competition

had to be discontinued. "B" team, also, was finding its feet and returning useful scores.

To those of our numbers who have recently left us for the 1st Battalion we extend our farewells and best wishes for the future.

The talk these days, as will probably be noted elsewhere in the Journal, is full of our coming conversion to a mechanized unit. It would appear that the particular fate reserved for us is that of scout company. Nothing seems to be definite, however, and those of us who hope to spend the rest of our service dashing about the countryside in motor-cars or astride motor-cycles, may be in for a rude shock. Lieut. Jacob is on a Driving and Maintenance Course, and Sergt. Cooper leaves us shortly for a similar course, so things are definitely moving.

C.S.M. Donaldson is still at Hythe, and will return but to leave us for the T.A., and we wish him a "D" and the best of luck with the "Terriers."

"B" COMPANY.

The past quarter has been a time of disintegration as far as the Company is concerned. This, of course, has been due to having to contribute to the large draft which the Battalion had to send to the 1st Battalion, and also to having several transfer to the Army Reserve, and discharges owing to some disability or on compassionate grounds.

In the Inter-Company Hockey Knock-out we were fortunate to beat "Q" Company by the odd goal. This takes us into the semi-final against "C" (S.) Company.

At boxing we have tried hard, and in the Inter-Company Novices' Team Championships we were beaten by "Q" Company by two points. All our team were youngsters, and, although they did their best, the "older hands" of "Q" were too much for them.

We congratulate L./Cpl. Hudson on representing the Battalion in the Girdwood Cup Competition and on winning both his fights.

At the present time most of the Company are firing their A.W.T.C. at Fort Gomer, where they will also undergo Section and Platoon Training.

Five of our senior N.C.Os. are attached to the Support Company learning the mysteries of the Vickers gun, and we learn that they will be going on a course at Netheravon within a month or so.

Sergt. Hows departs on a course of driving and maintenance in the near future. All of this is in preparation for the change which takes place at the end of the year, when we understand we are to be the second M.G. company.

Our Company Commander is at present on a long vacation (three months' sick leave), and we hope that the rest will cure him of his illness.

Cpl. Hull has left us to go on a Vocational Training Course at Hounslow. We wish him luck in civilian life.

Lieut. P. A. Fishbourne, 2/Lieut. M. P. Weedon and forty-one other ranks left us on 6th March to join the 1st Battalion in Singapore. We wish them *bon voyage* and good luck in their new station. Many good soldiers went on this draft, and we regret having to lose them, and can only hope that they will soldier as well, if not better, when they join their new unit.

We regret also that Cpl. Grant and L./Cpl. Lavalette have been discharged owing to physical disability, and hope that they will make a success in their new sphere.

To close on a brighter note, we are looking forward to receiving a draft from the Depot in July, and these, together with the draft which arrived in February, will help to pull the Company through the extra work which the coming change-over will entail during the winter months. In addition, we look to these new arrivals to do their bit in helping the Company out at sports and letting the other companies see that "B" have not got their "tails down."

"C" (S.) COMPANY.

We are very sorry to have to say good-bye to Capt. W. H. V. Jones, who has left us for the Embarkation Staff at Southampton, after being our Company Commander for more than four years, during which period he has been an inspiration to the Company both at work and at play. In his stead we are very pleased to welcome Capt. and Bt. Major Procter, who has just returned from an

M.G. Course at the S.A.S., Netheravon. During his absence, the command of the Company has devolved upon Lieut. Willoughby.

The projected reorganization of the Regiment into a machine-gun battalion has led to a considerable amount of activity in our ranks, and we are very busy with classes of officers and N.C.Os. from the rifle companies, to say nothing of the new gunners who have been posted to us. Them we welcome very heartily, and hope that they will prove adequate substitutes for those who have left us. We feel sure that they will enjoy their stay with us and will soon become "Vickers-minded."

Congratulations are due to Sergt. Parsler on obtaining a "D" and to Cpl. Eastland on obtaining a "Q.1," both at the Machine Gun School, thus keeping up the high standard of qualifications that we have learned to expect. We hope to send some more N.C.Os. shortly, being the first of a veritable spate of potential instructors for the new battalion who have had their initial training with us.

The Miniature Range Rifle Competition is suspended for the time being, but we are glad to say that our "A" team is standing at the head of the table, while our "B" team is also very respectably placed.

In the Inter-Company Hockey Knock-out we drew with "D" in the first match of the first round, sharing two goals, but in the replay we emerged victorious by the odd goal in three, after a very hard-fought struggle.

In the not-so-distant future we are going on safari into the unmapped jungles round Fort Gomer and Browndown, to fire our Annual M.G. Course. We implore the good wishes of our brothers abroad, and in return wish them the best of luck in their new station.

LATE EXTRA.

A "blessed event" has occurred in the family of Cpl. Payne, who has become the father of a fine daughter. Congratulations!

"D" COMPANY.

Now that we have supplied the 1st Battalion with a draft of twenty-seven, the Company is sadly depleted.

Many popular faces have left us for the tropics to keep the overwhelming hordes from stopping our supply of bananas. If it were not for the great "Harryboy," "Scratch" and numerous minions such as "Tich and Co.," I am afraid our song next Christmas would be "Yes, we have no bananas."

L./Cpl. Hinton and Pte. Keogh are leaving us for civilian life, as they are purchasing their discharge. Ptes. Stuart, Falk, Rhodes and Morrison have been transferred to the Army Reserve. Ptes. Glenville and Hurren have also left us, as they have been discharged as medically unfit. Pte. Hurren was employed in the Sergeants' Mess as waiter and silverman for three and a half years of his four with the Battalion. L./Sergt. Bennett is another old and familiar face that we shall miss, as he is now at the Vocational Training Centre. We wish all the above members of the Company who have left us the best of luck in their new callings.

Cpl. Stone has joined us since the last Journal was published, but, in his case, we never know if he is going to transfer his affections back to the squad of quavers, saxbuts and horns. Another great figure who has returned to the fold is Sergt. Nash.

Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. Tibble on his promotion to Colour-Sergeant, and we welcome him back to "D" Company. Although he has been Acting C.Q.M.S. for so long, he has only been attached from "A" Company.

The cross-country team gave a very creditable performance in the Inter-Company Cross-Country Run, as they managed to get second place, losing to "C" (S.) Company by only a few points. In the hockey we were unfortunate enough to lose valuable members of the team before we met "C" (S.) Company, who beat us by 2 goals to 1.

BAND.

Much water has flowed under London Bridge since last our efforts appeared in the Journal, bringing the usual changes and surprises one usually associates with Army life. The first good impressions we received of Portsmouth, as a station, have been upheld to the hilt, and we hope our stay will be a long one. To return to matters on hand, great consternation

was caused in local circles when, following the golden example of the Band Sergeant, Cpl. Stretton was tied for ever to the light of his life in December. As such matters generally run in cycles, we are trembling among ourselves as to who shall be next! Cpl. Stone has just joined our ranks as "attached," and we hope that his stay will be a pleasant one.

The Dance Band is now launched in a businesslike manner, and will probably be in great demand, as dances are very popular here, and "Tiger Rag" and "Minnie the Moocher" will probably take on a new lease of life.

What sporting events that have been held have brought a fair measure of success, both football and hockey teams being well up to scratch.

The draft to the 1st Battalion contained quite a few bandsmen, and it seems as if "Lennie" laid his pound down in vain. Anyway, they have our best wishes during their period abroad.

A visit from Major Adkins, of Kneller Hall, is anticipated very soon, but, alas, our lads are very far from their lutes and harps. Instead they are tripping it merrily amid sundry pots and pans and boiler-houses, etc., and of course it is all very good experience, but hardly conducive to good playing.

Congratulations must be offered to L./Cpl. Phillips on his appointment, and it is pleasing to note that both he and L./Cpl. Hogg did well on the Cadre.

In conclusion, we wish our friends of the 1st Battalion all the best, and hope they find Singapore as pleasant as we do Portsmouth.

N.B.—ANSWERS TO READERS: No, "young hands" do not practise from 8 till 9 p.m.; the disturbance you speak of is probably Oscar with the piano-accoridian.

DRUMS.

Annual furlough has once again come and gone. The Drummers had their usual breaking-up party. On this occasion we held it at the "Plymouth Cellars." Ah, could it have been the dear old "Mermaid"! We have nothing to relate of our prowess at sports except for an occasional knock-about with the Band.

Four of our number left us for the Mystic East on 6th March, namely, Page,

Collis, Wise and Martin. We wish them all the very best of luck in their new atmosphere.

The Drum-Major and the Drummers entertained the draft to a show at the Portsmouth Hippodrome and some "refreshments" afterwards on the evening before they left us, and Page's request for a "pound out of the till" caused quite a ripple of merriment. But his request was not granted.

We all had a very enjoyable evening, and take this opportunity of thanking those responsible for its organization. We hope that we have a few more of these.

At present we are on the verge of moving to Fort Gomer for the A.W.T.C. Four of our number have already gone there, and from the accounts of the place which they bring over to us every other evening, our ideas of the place are "not so good."

We have heard that the Band and Drums are taking part in the Tidworth Tattoo this year. Such is fame. One member hopes that there is not a "black buck" in the show, while another hopes we wear wigs. Why?

The Drums have taken over Regimental and Garrison employments owing to the shortage of duty men in the Battalion. The N.C.O. i/c Dining Hall looks about ten years older since his staff has been composed of all drummers. No, Ben! The butter machine is not a "tommie gun," and you do *not* pass forms out through the windows before you open them. But, in spite of our now very small numbers, we are still carrying on.

Before closing down, we should like to congratulate Dmr. Webster on his very fine show in the last Novices' Boxing Meeting. But it is *not* true that he remarked to the judge, "Just watch me, pal."

SIGNALS.

Eight of our number sailed with the draft on 6th March, and we wish them the best of luck with the 1st Battalion.

We who are left are getting down to serious work under L./Cpl. O'Doherty. Lectures and readings fill in most of the programme, and we live in hopes of good results when Classification comes round again.

As far as football is concerned, our only game resulted in a 4-0 win, but we do not count this, as our opponents were on the small side, and—well, that's all there is about it.

L./Cpl. Rose is still on his course and seems to be making steady progress. Best of luck, old son.

We have no medals to present, as no one has done anything of note lately. Getting lazy, I think, or perhaps spring has something to do with it.

We hear that L./Cpl. Mackay is coming back to us, and we extend a hearty welcome to him and hope he soon falls into the old run of things.

We wish our opposite numbers of the 1st Battalion the best of luck in their new station, and to all our readers a merry life and a short one (who wants to grow old?).

We are very sorry to hear that L./Cpl. Peasley is seriously ill, and wish him a speedy recovery.

EMPLOYED GROUP.

Hullo, everybody, this is the "Crazy Water Crystal" programme, broadcast on a wave-length of thirteen hundred and four metres—at least, that is what "Archie's" wireless seems to be always saying, and, believe me, half the Group seem to be going crazy according to their performances at a recent Corporals' dance, which were due, in fact, to "Crazy Water"—excellent stuff!

As regards sport, we have not done as well as expected, owing to the fact that most of our Group have reached the "old soldier" stage, or at least they give us that impression.

We must congratulate L./Cpls. Irons and Islip, and Ptes. Reeder, Phillips and Tyler on representing the Group in the Inter-Company Novices' Competition, and with the help of the Drums we managed to romp home victors. Hard luck, "C" (S.)!

Ptes. Bennett and Tyler represented the Battalion in the Brigade Inter-Unit Knock-out and won some very hard fights, and we feel that the former one of these years will become an Army champion. Keep it up, Ben!

We have lost L./Cpl. Du Heaume to the 1st Battalion. We wish him the best

of luck in his new sphere of life, and welcome Lieut. Pilley, who is our new Quartermaster; his presence with the Employed Group is one of long standing, and we wish him the best of luck.

BOYS.

Having spent about six months at this naval port, we are almost as "seaworthy" as the average citizen. There is no doubt about the benefit we are gaining by living so near to the sea. Almost every day we get an opportunity to enjoy some vigorous sports training on the sea front. Is the time wasted? No, a thousand times no! We have proved that by our recent successes at various sports.

We had four entries in the Boys' weights of the Brigade Boxing on 18th and 19th February, and two of them won their weights! We congratulate Boys Burrell and Ceaton on winning the Boys' feather-weight and light-weight respectively. The points they earned were almost invaluable to the Battalion team, which, we are proud to say, won the Girdwood Cup. Compliments are due to all those who were responsible for giving the Battalion such a good start in the new station.

Boys Redding and Streat proudly represented the Battalion in the Southern Command Area Cross-Country Competition. Yes! The Boys are certainly finding their places in the Regiment.

The appointment of N.C.O. i/c Boys has again changed hands. This time L./Cpl. Phillips, whom we congratulate on his recent promotion, succeeds Cpl. Stretton. The latter has lately "taken unto himself a wife," and he expects to "live happily ever after." Still, we will not let our armchair criticisms prevent us from heartily congratulating him and Mrs. Stretton. We wish them both the best of luck.

Our tunes are being modernized. The flute players are now "brezing up" "Riding down the Sunset Trail" and "Lights out." We hope they respond to the Drum-Major's ambitious speculation.

In conclusion, we wish all readers the best of luck, and hope they are having as good a time as we are.

JUVENILE.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

We have lost quite a few members since our last notes, and also gained a few, and we hope the following list does not omit any:—

C.Q.M.S. Jones was discharged from Vocational Training in January last; we wish him every success in civilian life. We should also like to wish C.S.M. Cook the best of luck. He was discharged in January, and, although he has been with the Territorials for some time, we have not forgotten him. C.S.M. Donaldson has left us, in the first instance for a course at Hythe, and he is then proceeding to the 9th Battalion to relieve C.S.M. Simmonds, who is coming back to us. The good wishes of the Mess go with C.S.M. Donaldson and his family.

L./Sergt. Ramsden has proceeded to Singapore to join the 1st Battalion, and L./Sergt. Bennett has left the Battalion to go on Vocational Training. The best of luck to them both.

We welcome Sergt. Hows to the Mess again on his rejoining the Battalion from the Regimental Depot, and we are very glad to see Sergt. Green back again.

The congratulations of the Mess go to C.Q.M.S. Tibble on his promotion, and to Sergt. Jenkins on his; also to Sergt. Wright, the Orderly Room Clerk, on his marriage.

We have little to record in the way of social activity, the only event of importance being the first of our dances at Portsmouth. This was held on the third Friday in February and was a very well-organized and enjoyable evening. The number of visitors who accepted the invitations far exceeded all expectations, and it needed a very plausible and delicately expressed apology on the part of C.Q.M.S. Franklin, on behalf of the Mess, to explain the rather poor display of whist-drive prizes available for selection. However, we shall know who to expect next time, and the Committee will make arrangements accordingly. We shall be having the whist drives and dances monthly now, until the very light evenings make them impracticable.

We are very busy looking round for a place in Portsmouth in which to hold the Annual Albuhera Ball. For various reasons, the choice of ballrooms available is very limited. However, there is little

doubt that a suitable place will be found, and we shall hold the ball. We shall be very pleased to see all our old friends from the Depot, T.A., etc., present there.

The Battalion is gradually being split up, and already there are several Mess members at Fort Gomer for the Annual W.T. Courses.

RUGBY.

Results since Christmas:—

1ST XV.

- v. R.E. (Gosport), won 9—0.
- v. 4th Medium Brigade, R.A., won 9—0.
- v. United Services, Portsmouth, lost 0—10.
- v. A 19th London Regiment XV, lost 0—4.
- v. R.A.F., Lee-on-Solent, won 5—0.

2ND XV.

- v. 1st Medium Brigade, R.A., drew 3—3.
- v. 1st Medium Brigade, R.A., won 9—0.
- v. R.A.O.C., lost 0—14.

Summary of season's matches:—

- 1st XV.—Played, 16; won, 12; lost, 4; points for, 177; points against 59.
- 2nd XV.—Played, 10; won, 8; drawn, 1; lost, 1; points for, 80; points against, 23.

The second half of our season was unfortunately very largely curtailed by circumstances over which we had no control. The furlough season did not finish until the third week in January, and then the death of His Majesty King George V caused the cancellation of three weeks' football. In addition, the inability of some of our opponents to raise a side at all caused further matches to be cancelled. Consequently, our 1st XV has played only five matches since December, and our 2nd XV only three.

What football we have had has been most enjoyable. We have had two most enjoyable games with the Royal Engineers at Gosport, and the 4th Medium Brigade, R.A., at Christchurch, both of which resulted in a victory by 9 points to nil. We were then lucky enough to be able to rearrange our match with the United Services which had been cancelled. They paid us the compliment of turning out what was virtually their best side, and beat us by 2 goals to nil, after an excellent game forward, where our scrum

showed a welcome improvement in heeling.

On the Sunday after the England and Scotland match we played a XV which was very kindly raised by the 19th London Regiment, at Ewell. The scratch XV contained a large contingent from the 1st XV's of Blackheath, Richmond and Rosslyn Park, and defeated us by a dropped goal to nil after an open and most enjoyable game. It is hoped to make this

March. He has been unlucky in the way of injuries here this season, but has played one or two excellent games, and we hope to see him playing a big part in the rugger of the 1st Battalion at Singapore.

The feature of our team's play since Christmas has been the great improvement shown by L./Cpls. Mules and Williams at back and hooker respectively; both were distinctly disappointing at the



(Photo: Russell & Sons, Southsea.)

UNITED SERVICES (PORTSMOUTH) v. 2ND BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX
REGIMENT (D.C.O.).
PORTSMOUTH, 11th MARCH, 1936.

Standing.—Pte. Short. J. G. Clivecall. L./Cpl. Trotobas. Pte. Eyles. 2/Lieut. J. W. G. Ormiston. 2/Lieut. T. G. Symes.
L./Cpl. Mules. Lieut. G. O. Porter.
Seated.—Sergt. Jenkins. Pte. Kent. Lieut. E. J. Unwin. Lieut. G. P. L. Weston. 2/Lieut. C. M. Beath. L./Cpl. Rawlinson.
L./Cpl. Williams.

fixture an annual one, for not only does it provide the background for a very pleasant week-end, but also the chance of watching the international match and learning a few tips by playing against first-class London club players.

We wound up the season by playing the R.A.F. at Lee-on-Solent, where we won by 5 points to nil.

We were sorry to lose 2/Lieut. Gudgeon with the draft to Singapore in

start of the season, but have improved beyond all recognition.

If only we can drill our pack to hook the ball both in the tight and in the loose next season, and find a scrum-half who can throw out a long and accurate pass, we should be able to go a long way in the Army Cup.

Before closing we must congratulate the 2nd XV, under the inspiration of Cpl. Marshall, who did not lower their

colours till the last match of the year, when they took on the 1st XV fixture against the R.A.O.C., and lost after a very plucky fight, with but fourteen men after the first ten minutes' play.

The new Battalion "Colours" this year were: 2/Lieut. Ormiston, L./Cpls. Williams, Eyles, Trotobas and Mules.

And now "au revoir" until next season, and may it be as successful as the one we have just completed.

FOOTBALL.

There were no football notes in the last issue of the Journal owing to there being no competitive football in Colchester before leaving for Portsmouth, with the exception of the first round of the Army Cup, where as usual we failed to advance any farther. We were playing against the R.A., Shoeburyness, at home, and we lost by 0 goals to 2. At half-time there was no score, and just after the kick-off of the second half L./Cpl. Delaney met with an accident and was taken to hospital. This appeared to disorganize the team. We hope that in the future we shall be able to get farther than the first round.

On arrival at Portsmouth our first match was against the R.A.F., Gosport, in the first round of the United Services' Challenge Cup at Gosport, and on a very windy day we drew with them 1-1. On the following Monday we replayed them at Portsmouth on No. 1 U.S. ground, and the team, playing splendidly, beat the R.A.F. by 3 goals to 0.

In the semi-final of the same competition we met the Royal Marines at Pitt Street, and the team, playing splendidly, over-ran the Royal Marines, who were known to be a formidable team, by the large score of 11 goals to 1, thereby creating a record in a semi-final of this competition. L./Cpl. Delaney scored eight goals.

The final was played at Fratton Park, Portsmouth on 4th March. At half-time there was no score and we had hopes, but after a very soft goal for H.M.S. *Victory*, our opponents ran out victors by 5 goals to 0, and we came away a very disappointed team.

In the first round of the United Services' Challenge Cup we received a bye. In the second round we played H.M.S.

Dolphin and won by 3 goals to 1. In the semi-final we met the Rifle Brigade and beat them by 2 goals to 1. In the final, which was played on No. 1 U.S. ground on 18th March, we met H.M.S. *Excellent*. This team had had a hard job to get into the final. They had to play the Royal Marines twice before there was a decision, and after extra time they beat them by 3 goals to 2. Our scouts had watched these games, and on the play everyone said that the cup was as good as ours, but again the fates were against us, and after drawing at half-time with no score we finally lost by 0 goals to 2. It was the team's own fault that we lost; they played as though it was the first match of the season, and our followers were very disappointed.

Before leaving Colchester we agreed to participate in the United Services' League, Divisions I and II, and to take over the fixtures of the York and Lancaster Regiment. They left us a nasty legacy in Division I: played 5, won 1, lost 4; and as there are only 16 games in this division we could not hope to win it, but we have been doing our best and up to the time of writing we have played 8, won 4, drawn 1, and lost 3. We have three matches to play and hope to be in the first three, after arriving here at the bottom of the league.

Our second team were entered for Division II, and they have been playing fairly well, having played 14 matches, won 7, drawn 3, and lost 4.

We hope that before next season we shall get some likely talent from the Depot to take the place of those who are getting too old to play.

Our good wishes go to the 1st Battalion teams, and we hope that when they arrive at Singapore they will have plenty of football.

HOCKEY.

In the latter half of the season only three matches were played.

These three matches were against the Royal Marines, the Rifle Brigade, and the last was in the third round of the Army Cup. In the first two games we fielded our strongest Battalion team in preparation for the Army Cup; in both cases we won, the scores being 4-1 and 3-1 respectively.

The third, and for us the last, round of the Army Cup, in which we met the Green Howards, proved to be rather an adventure. Lieut. F. M. Elliott, R.N., very kindly arranged for the hockey team to be taken by his destroyer, H.M.S. *Ambuscade*, to Portland. It turned out to be one of the roughest days of the year, but only two of the team felt at all uncomfortable.

Having arrived, we had to wait two days before we could play, as the grounds were out of play. However, when we were able to play we had easily our best game of the season, and it lasted three hours.

The Green Howards were the first to score, the ball rolling slowly over the line from a scrimmage in front of the goal after about a quarter of an hour's play. This was the only score in the first half.

About ten minutes after the start of the second half Lieut. E. J. Unwin scored to equalize, and a few minutes later the Green Howards scored their second goal. Towards the end of the second half 2/Lieut. J. G. Symes equalized again, and the score remained, in spite of extra time and a decision to play until the first goal. The umpires stopped the game when the light was failing, after nearly three hours of play, and ordered a replay.

The replay took place the following day and we were beaten 3-0 after a comparatively slow game.

Owing to the shortage of grounds here we have marked out the barrack square for hockey, and a large number of friendly games within the Battalion have been played.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING.

SEASON 1935-36.

The activities in this sport during the past season have been greatly restricted. One reason for this was the move to a new station, where suitable country for training a cross-country team, within easy reach of barracks, is extremely limited. Another reason was the paucity of material, owing to the large number of men who went abroad with the draft.

The usual Monday runs for everyone under the age of thirty have been held fairly regularly throughout the season, a

two-mile course having been marked out on Southsea Common.

The Inter-Company Run was held on 17th February over a course of about four miles on Southsea Common. "C" (S.) Company were first with a score of 268 points, and "D" Company second, less than 50 points behind. Cpl. Day was first man in.

On 3rd March the Battalion team ran against the 1st Bn. The Rifle Brigade, but were defeated by 78 points. The Battalion team ran in the Southern Command Championship, held at Tidworth on 10th March. The race was over a very stiff course of seven miles, and was the very reverse of the country to which the Battalion team were used, so they did well to come in sixth out of the nine teams competing. Pte. Baggs and Cpl. Day ran very well indeed to come in 17th and 18th respectively. We have hopes of doing much better next year.

BOXING.

Since the Battalion has been stationed at Portsmouth only two boxing meetings have been held. First the Novices' Team Competition, held on 10th and 11th February, and second, the 9th Infantry Brigade Inter-Battalion Championships for the Girdwood Cup.

The Novices' Team Competition produced some very keen and enthusiastic boxing, "O" Company being the winners. "Q" Company defeated "B" Company in the semi-final, and "C" (S.) Company in the final. "C" (S.) Company defeated "D" Company in the semi-final and lost by 12 points to 15 in the final.

The boxing on the whole was well up to novices' standard, and what the combatants lacked in skill they made up for in enthusiasm.

The Girdwood Cup, for which all the battalions in the Brigade competed, was fought on 18th and 19th February. The Battalion team fought very well throughout and carried off the cup. The 1st Bn. The Green Howards were second 7 points behind.

The whole team is to be congratulated on putting up an excellent show. At the

end of the first day's boxing we had no less than nine out of eleven of the team in the finals, and two in the Boys' weights.

The finals saw us with seven winners:

Pte. Grogan and L./Cpl. Hudson: 1st and 2nd string feather-weight.

Ptes. Bennett and Tyler: 1st and 2nd string welter-weight.

L./Cpl. Stanton: heavy-weight.

Boys Ceaton and Burrell: Boys' light-weight and feather-weight respectively.

The final placings and points for the Girdwood Cup were:—

1. 2nd Bn. The Middlesex Regt. ... 44
2. 1st Bn. The Green Howards ... 37
3. 1st Bn. The Rifle Brigade ... 33
4. 2nd Bn. The Queen's Royal Regt. 20

This year we entered four of the Battalion team for the Army Championships, held at the Albert Hall from 3rd to 6th March.

L./Cpl. Lowe (bantam-weight) drew a bye in the first series and lost to Sergt. Callaghan, 16th/5th Lancers, in the second. Lowe put up a very good fight and has the satisfaction of knowing that he lost to the ultimate winner of his weight.

L./Cpl. Morley (light-weight) lost to Cpl. Collins, 2nd King's Regiment. Collins was runner-up in the weight.

Pte. Grogan had a very successful meeting, in which he defeated three opponents, eventually falling to one of the finalists.

Pte. Bennett (welter-weight) also reached the fourth series, in which he only lost on points after a hard fight to L./Cpl. Spiers, Dorsetshire Regiment. Spiers won his weight and has since been runner-up in the Amateur Championships; he admitted after his fight with Bennett that it was one of the hardest he had ever had.

All the boxers deserve the highest praise for their fighting, and we hope to see some of them as finalists next year.

It has been impossible to run the Open Individual and Team Competitions yet; these it is hoped will be held when the Battalion is in camp. Lack of men and half the Battalion at Fort Gomer are largely responsible for the postponement of these meetings.

To sum up, the boxing since Christmas has been most promising, and the success

of the Battalion team in the Girdwood Cup is a good omen for next season.

The following received their Boxing "Colours" for the season 1935-36:—

L./Cpls. Stanton, Lowe, Morley and Hudson, and Ptes. Bennett, Tyler and Grogan.

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION NOTES.

PROCEEDINGS of an Executive Committee Meeting, held at the Library, Central London Recruiting Zone, Whitehall, on 29th January, 1936.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

In accordance with Rule V 1 (a) the Colonel of the Regiment has nominated Major P. H. Graves, D.S.O., to be ex-officio member representing the 6th Battalion.

Present:—

Col. A. M. O. Anwyl Passingham, O.B.E., D.L. (Chairman), Col. M. Browne, M.C., Lieut.-Col. W. W. Jefford, Lieut.-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O., Lieut.-Col. W. H. Samuel, Major R. A. Slee, Capt. S. F. W. M. del Court, M.C., Capt. H. E. Foster, Capt. J. G. E. Reid, Capt. C. T. Whinney, M.C., Lieut. W. C. Newton, R.S.M. Davis, C.Q.M.S. Hills, Mr. R. E. Evans, D.C.M., Mr. F. E. Holmes, and Capt. F. A. L. Lawrence (Secretary).

Before business was discussed, the Chairman read a copy of the telegram of condolence which had been sent to the Colonel-in-Chief on behalf of all ranks of the Regiment, past and present, and also a copy of the reply thereto. He then called upon all present to stand for a few moments in silence as a tribute of respect for his late Majesty King George V.

Apologies.—Apologies for non-attendance were received from Brig.-General R. J. Ross and Lieut.-Col. G. L. Brown.

Minutes of Last Meeting.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and passed. During the reading, the Chairman took the opportunity to explain the delay in erecting the two additional Cottage Homes, which was caused by the terms of the deed of trust, whereby the funds were vested in the Charity Commissioners,

whose sanction had first to be obtained. He reported that the matter was now in the hands of the Association's Hon. Solicitors.

Cenotaph Parade.—The question of the Cenotaph parade, which had been referred from the Annual General Meeting with the ruling that no financial responsibility could be accepted by the Association, was then discussed. The unanimous view was that the parade had been a very popular event, but for that very reason it was felt that to make it an annual event would destroy its special appeal, and invest it with a quality of routine. It was, therefore, unanimously decided that there would be no parade in 1936.

Hon. Secretary's Report.—The Hon. Secretary's report for the past quarter was considered, and it was decided that a sum of £150 be allocated for the relief of necessitous cases during the quarter ending 31st March, 1936.

Old Comrades' Dinner.—It was unanimously decided that the arrangements for the Old Comrades' Dinner will in general be as for last year, i.e., to be held at Headquarters, 1st City of London Regiment, at 7.30 p.m., and that the price will be three shillings.

It is notified for general information that the United Services Corps is again open for recruiting.

The present strength of the Corps is approximately 1,200, but owing to the uncertainties of employment during the recent trade depressions no attempt has been made to increase this, the number of candidates applying for enrolment being more than sufficient without circularizing the Forces.

Improvement in the employment situation, however, now justifies a larger number of enrolments, and it may be to the advantage of those of our readers who are anticipating discharge or transfer to the Reserve to know something of the activities of the organization in question.

Last year the average effective weekly employment statistics worked out at approximately 97 per cent.

The United Services Corps was founded soon after the close of the South African War, and was originally known as the

EMPLOYMENT.

The
REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION
pay the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
for

EMPLOYMENT OF
EX-REGULAR SAILORS,
SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN

£100 A YEAR

to act as their Agents for finding
Employment for ex-N.C.Os. and
Men of the Regiment.

If you are unemployed, therefore, you should register, at once, with the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION at one of its Branches and follow carefully the instructions they give you.

London Branches:—

62, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

Gipsy Corner, Victoria Road,
Acton, W.3.

143, Bow Road, E.3.

52a, Deptford Bridge, S.E.8.

48-56, Station Road, Wood Green,
N.22.

Veterans' Corps. It is a uniformed Service organization for the employment of ex-Regular soldiers, sailors and airmen in the better positions of responsibility and trust. The governing body is the Council, composed of distinguished naval, military and air officers, with other influential persons. The organization is conducted on military lines, and members are subject to the discipline and regulations of the Corps.

Membership.—Membership is confined to ex-Regular soldiers, sailors and airmen of exemplary character, who must enrol within three years of their discharge from the Service or transfer to the Reserve, preference being given to those who apply immediately on leaving the Forces. Only men of the highest character are accepted, and before enrolment can be finally approved the candidate is required to submit himself for an interview with the Commandant at Headquarters.

Entrance Fees, etc.—The Corps is not a charitable organization in the accepted sense of the word, and every member is required to contribute towards Corps Funds. The enrolment fee is £6 10s., with an annual subscription to the Corps of 16s. payable on enrolment, and afterwards on the 1st January of each year or by quarterly instalments. In addition, a deposit of £1 as a guarantee of good conduct must be paid at the time of enrolment. This deposit, together with a portion of the enrolment fee, is returnable subject to the conditions laid down in the regulations of the Corps.

Uniform.—This is compulsory, and the cost of the first full issue of kit, which must be paid for on enrolment, is £6 10s.

Physical Fitness.—Every applicant, before final enrolment, must produce a medical certificate showing that he has been thoroughly examined and found fit in every respect.

Corps Guarantee.—Every member of the Corps is specifically guaranteed by the Council to the extent of £50.

Residence.—Corps Headquarters and four divisions are located in London, and there is also a small division at Birmingham. Members (except those in the Birmingham Division) are required to reside in London, as the main operations of the Corps are confined to this area.

Employment.—Enrolment in the Corps is not in itself a guarantee of employment, but no man is accepted unless the Commandant considers that the candidate possesses suitable qualifications for the type of work found by the Corps, which is as follows:—Commissionaires, reception and inquiry clerks, police, staff supervisors, timekeepers, gatekeepers, storekeepers, bank and stockbroker messengers, resident caretakers, club stewards, watchmen, lift attendants, club porters, etc. The average rate of wages is £3 per week, or 10s. per diem for temporary duty.

Further information, together with enrolment forms, can be obtained on application to the Commandant, United Services Corps, 19, Hand Court, W.C.1.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Consequent upon the automatic retirements in accordance with Rule V 1 (b), the ex-officio members have selected the following officers to fill vacancies:—

Category 1.—Brig.-General V. L. N. Pearson, D.S.O., *vice* Col. A. M. O. Anwyl Passingham, O.B.E., D.L.

Category 2.—C.S.M. G. Anderson *vice* R.S.M. Davis.

Category 3.—Mr. G. N. Capel *vice* Mr. F. E. Holmes.

2nd/10th BATTALION BRANCH REUNION DINNER.

"But we'll remember—with advantages."

THE Thirteenth Reunion Dinner of the Branch has come and gone, to take high place in the series. More than one hundred comrades assembled, and the gathering welcomed many faces on return from overseas or from work at a distance from London as a sign of continued strength and increase in membership. The success of the evening was assured in advance by the presence in the chair of a most popular President, Mr. C. A. Rush, of "B" Company (in parentheses, the members never say "late" of any company, so present are their recollections of long periods of company solidarity and rivalry), and on the proposal,

16th BATTALION ANNUAL DINNER.

THE Fifteenth Annual Dinner of the 16th Middlesex Association was held at The George, 213, Strand, London, on Saturday, 16th November, 1935. Capt. Clarence Bigge presided, and about seventy former members of the Battalion were present.

After the usual toasts had been duly honoured, a letter was read from Brig.-General J. Hamilton Hall, C.M.G., D.S.O., the first Commanding Officer, in which he said: "I very much regret that owing to illness I am still unable to meet you all again at our Annual Dinner, but my thoughts and best wishes will be with you then. I should like to take this opportunity of asking you to express your appreciation to Wallis Grain for all the labour and trouble he has expended in bringing out the War History of the Battalion. . . . May you all have an enjoyable evening and many pleasant memories to discuss, and may good luck be with you in your future." A letter was also read from Major F. R. Hill, D.S.O., regretting his inability to be present, hoping there would be a very good reunion, and recalling many of the great events in which we all took part.

It was decided to send a telegram to General Hall thanking him for his very kind letter and expressing the hope that he might have a rapid and complete recovery.

The members present then thanked Orderly Room Sergt. Grain for his book, and L./Cpl. R. T. Cooper for his splendid menu card.

After a thoroughly happy evening the proceedings terminated, as usual, with "Auld Lang Syne."

DEPOT NOTES.

AS the Depot, unlike the Battalion with its changes of station, does not alter its routine, "Depot Notes" become a series of repetitions.

Training during the winter months is rather difficult, as there is no drill shed, and training on verandas is the only

by Capt. N. B. McIvor, M.C., of the Chairman's health, full opportunity was taken to express the esteem of the members and their thanks for very valuable work as the Branch's first Secretary. Mr. Rush, in his reply, paid tribute, in words to which deep feeling gave eloquence and weight, to the comradeship of the war years—comradeship felt not only in the close association of the few (in the language of those years "the clique"), but in the association of the whole, both in the unit and beyond.

Capt. F. A. L. Lawrence, of Headquarters, replied to the toast of "The Regiment and the Regimental Association," and urged that all branches must bear in mind, on the toast of "Absent Friends," not only those who did not come back, but also those who were prevented by ill-health or ill-fortune from attending these gatherings.

The guests included representatives of the 9th Battalion, the 1st/10th Battalion and the Machine Gun Corps.

During the evening there was presented to Mr. A. D. Scudamore, in appreciation of his services as Branch Secretary, a cup, formerly the property of the 2nd South Middlesex Volunteers, the 10th Battalion's predecessors, and presented by a former Adjutant, Capt. Reid-Todd, for competition in drill. It was felt that a pleasant link with the days of the Battalion's "forefathers" was in course of being preserved—a pleasure reinforced by the fact that the son of the original donor had served in the Battalion.

It is the custom of the Branch (adopted from the 1st/10th Battalion) to elect its President from the commissioned and other ranks in alternate years. Following out this custom, Major N. P. Procter, M.C., now of the 2nd Battalion, but, in the eyes of the Reunion, still O.C. "C" Company, was elected for the year 1936-37.

A smoking concert, arranged by Mr. Charles Davis (if such a formal description be allowable of a former member of the Divisional Concert Party who can still take us back through the years to the desert and the wadi) concluded the evening.

alternative during the wet and foggy weather.

Despite these trying circumstances, training of recruits has progressed extremely well.

Major N. H. B. Lyon, M.C., the Commanding Officer, has just returned from a course at the Senior Officers' School. Lieut. J. W. A. Stephenson is at present attending a course at the Army School of Physical Training. Lieut. W. C. Newton has left us to join the 1st Battalion at Singapore, and Major N. P. Procter, M.C., has returned to the 2nd Battalion on completion of his tour of duty. The Depot as a whole is very sorry for these departures, and our best wishes go with them.

Capt. S. J. Clark has relieved Major Procter as Officer Commanding Training Company.

Our attached Supplementary Reserve Officers, 2/Lieuts. F. S. C. Hancock and P. D. H. Marshall, have left us to complete their preliminary training with the 2nd Battalion at Portsmouth.

The War Office decided, as an aid to recruiting, to have a film made, and this Depot was selected to produce some "film stars" for a part of this film. C.S.M. Anderson, Sergt. Johnson and two parties of recruits acting as guards were consequently drilled into the art of being "shot." Their debut into "film-land" was apparently a huge success, and the studios at Wardour Street thought so much of the display that one of the "stars," Sergt. Johnson, was called upon to make further efforts in another film in connection with the broadcast of His Majesty The King. The Depot are now left wondering whether he will attempt to grow a moustache and proceed to Hollywood in an effort to get into "big money."

The Army "At Home," as far as this Depot is concerned, will be held on 4th July, 1936. The public will be admitted to barracks and will be shown the life of the soldier. Physical Training displays, drill, weapon training, etc., will all be in progress. The public will be allowed to have the experience of going through the gas chamber and firing on the range. We are very fortunate in having the Band of the 2nd Battalion with us on this occasion and are hoping that we shall have the

pleasure of having the Regimental Band playing at an all ranks' dance in the Gymnasium in the evening.

The following squads have joined the 2nd Battalion since the last notes were written: Badajos (Sergt. Hows) and Vittoria (Sergt. Painter); and the following squads are at present undergoing training: New Zealand (L./Sergt. Moir), Alma (Sergt. Northcott), Ladysmith (Sergt. Kemp), Mysore (Sergt. Chasney), Albuhera (Sergt. Blake), Inkerman (Sergt. Johnson) and Ypres (L./Sergt. Day), forming.

3rd Class Certificates of Education are being obtained by nearly every recruit before leaving the Depot and in many cases a 2nd has been obtained.

The following were winners of recruits' competitions during the quarter:—

PHYSICAL TRAINING BADGES.

Vittoria Squad.—12th Week, Pte. Jones.

New Zealand Squad.—8th Week, Pte. Rouse; 12th Week, Pte. Baker.

Alma Squad.—4th Week, Pte. Teasdale; 8th Week, Pte. Teasdale.

Ladysmith Squad.—4th Week, Pte. Milroy; 8th Week, Pte. Connolly.

Mysore Squad.—4th Week, Pte. Thomas.

SHOOTING.

New Zealand Squad.—Empire Test, Pte. Viner; Table "A," Pte. Clevedon.

Alma Squad.—Empire Test, Ptes. Fox and Gibbs (tie); Table "A," Pte. Teasdale.

Ladysmith Squad.—Empire Test, Ptes. King and Foakes (tie).

CORPORALS' CLUB.

Once again this onerous task has devolved upon "yours truly." Just what to say or how to say it is causing me no little unrest. True, spring is in the air, but I, not being poetically inclined, am forced to leave it there.

Social functions have been deplorably few during the past quarter—though not due to any lack of initiative on the part of the Committee; more so, it is due to the over-zealousness of the previous Committee, who utilized the whole of the funds for dances and such. We did manage to stage one dance, however, and my! what a success! Our dances are

becoming increasingly popular, probably owing to the fact that so many of our junior "non-coms" are good-looking and eligible (ahem!). Now that our funds have been reinstated, we are taking full advantage of them, and a dance was held on 28th March.

Some months ago I predicted that many more of our members would be married in the near future. Whether merely to uphold my predictions or because it is leap year I do not know, but the rebate is sadly on the decline. In fact, if it were not for the "Confirmed Bachelors' Brigade," we would probably be in debt to the P.R.I.

We wish the 1st Battalion *bon voyage* and happy hunting in their new home. I have heard that "Sing" is a fairly good station—in fact, I have heard more than a little about it from one or two of our members who were there some fourteen years ago.

The Club roll presents very much the same appearance now as it did last quarter. There are three additions, and each is an expert in his own calling. L./Cpl. Daly puts Inman to shame, while the great "Bing" would be hopelessly outclassed by L./Cpl. Cain. Good King Louis thought well of Pagliarri's caviare, but then he had never tasted L./Cpl. Water's currant duff.

We have lost Cpl. Blackman since our last issue, and now crib is a thing of the past. L./Cpl. Parry will be leaving us soon. Recently he stopped reading in order to sit for his First, in which we wish him luck.

Some very amusing news has just been circulated. L./Cpl. Lovell is to be confined to his room, with several recruits, for ten days owing to a local case of scarlet fever. Is he happy?

SERGEANTS' MESS.

The year 1936 opened very dull after the terrific pace in which the closing months of 1935 finished.

New resolutions (since broken), hazy visions and the Arctic conditions of the Mess, made almost realistic by the aid of the R.E., were responsible.

The Annual Dinner, held on 11th January, proved very successful. Fifty-six members, wives and friends attended, and it was followed by a "convivial" instead of the usual games tournament.

The monthly whist drives have been most enjoyable, although not so well attended as one would like to see.

At the games tournaments held after the February and March dinners, Sergts. Chasney and Blake were the winners of the silver spoons (they must have been practising a lot in Egypt).

We welcome Sergt. Walters, A.E.C., who has arrived as relief for W.O.II Benwell; also L./Sergt. Day, whom we congratulate on his appointment.

Sergt. Dujardin (midnight comedian) is shortly leaving us, and now gets up with, instead of going home with, the milk.

On 17th March a well-attended dance was held in the Institute; many old friends were present, and it was very successful.

We are now looking forward to some outdoor sport, and the tennis court, improved since last year, should be a great attraction.

The pace is improving with the weather, and a revised "price list."

At the end of March we had a visit from the Permanent Staff Instructors of the 7th Battalion for the purpose of zeroing their rifles. Whilst at lunch they were challenged to a shoot by the Administrative Staff of the Mess.

This shoot duly took place, and, sad to relate, the P.S. were easily "seen off." At the conclusion of the shoot a very new recruit who had been watching said to the R.S.M. of the 7th Battalion (in plain clothes), "Don't worry, chum; you join the Regular Army and they will teach you how to shoot." As the R.S.M. is a Guardsman of considerable service, our team "faded," expecting a burst. However, like the good sport he is, he very gently informed the recruit who he was. This did not impress the recruit much, but left him wondering what happens to P.S. with T.A.

FOOTBALL.

DEPOT v. ST. ALBANS THURSDAY F.C.

Played on 5th March, this was our first game in 1936 owing to the state of the weather and ground. The game was played in ideal weather, and the final score of 3 goals each fairly represented the play. Our opponents were a lively lot, and, considering it was our first game for months, it was some time before we could settle down.

DEPOT v. BUSH HOUSE.

Played on 28th March, this match resulted in a win by 5 goals to 0. We have squeezed in some football since the St. Albans game, and it was evident in this game. For the first fifteen minutes both teams were well matched and played good, fast football. Then Cpl. Knights was beating the defence; Baker, too, on the left wing, began to round his man. The second half was too much for Bush House, as the final score of 5-0 shows; even so, many more goals should have been scored by our forwards with a little more steadiness.

This game concluded the Depot team programme for 1935-36.

Amongst the recruits we now have two shields for monthly competition—Eleven-a-Side and Six-a-Side games. These were both won by New Zealand Squad. In the present competition New Zealand and Alma Squads are combined owing to shortage of numbers, and the results to date are:—

ELEVEN-A-SIDE.

New Zealand and Alma Squads, 13; Ladysmith Squad, 1.

Mysore Squad, 1; Albuhera Squad, 9.

This should end with New Zealand and Alma Squads and Albuhera Squad in the final, with the former favourites.

SIX-A-SIDE.

Albuhera Squad, 3 points; New Zealand and Alma Squads, 2 points.

Ladysmith Squad, 4 points; Albuhera Squad, 1½ points.

Inkerman Squad, 4½ points; Mysore Squad, 3½ points.

The final between Ladysmith and Inkerman Squads has yet to be played.

We have been rather fortunate this season in having quite a number of very useful recruits, and the following recruits have represented the Depot in most games: Ptes. Baker, Clevedon, Rouse and Clenshaw. These should be an asset to the Battalion in the near future.

BOXING.

An Individual Competition took place on 10th January in which thirty-eight recruits entered. The winners and runners-up were as follows:—

Middle-weight.—Pte. Delaurie (New Zealand) knocked out Pte. Bosley (Badajos).

Welter-weight.—Pte. Evans (New Zealand) obtained a walk-over.

Intermediate-weight.—Pte. Milroy (Ladysmith) beat Pte. Howe (Badajos).

Light-weight.—Pte. Teasdale (Alma) beat Pte. Poole (Vittoria).

Feather-weight.—Pte. Grundy (New Zealand) beat Pte. McCoy (Ladysmith).

On 15th and 16th January there was an Inter-Squad Competition. In the first round New Zealand beat Vittoria by 12 points to 9, and in the semi-finals they beat Alma by 11 points to 10. The winners of the other semi-final were



DEPOT BOXING TEAM.

Semi-finalists, Eastern Command Inter-Depot Tournament, 1936.

Ladysmith, who beat Badajos by 11 points to 10, and then went on to beat New Zealand in the finals by the same margin. While giving full credit to Ladysmith Squad for their victory, praise is also due to New Zealand, who were runners-up despite their numerical weakness.

In February a team was entered for the Eastern Command Inter-Depot Competition. The preliminary contests took place at Hounslow, where we were successful over the Royal Fusiliers by 4 fights to 1 in the first round, and over the East Surrey Regiment, also by 4 fights to 1, in the second. The next stage of this competition took place at Woolwich about a week later, when we were beaten by the Royal Artillery by 4 fights to 1. The Gunners were the eventual winners, beating the 3rd Carabiniers in the final round, the runners-up having previously disposed

of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment in the semi-final. Our team consisted of Pte. Sargeant (Albuhera), feather-weight; Ptes. Teasdale and Kelly (Alma), light-weight; Pte. Milroy (Ladysmith), intermediate-weight; and Pte. Clenshaw (New Zealand), welter-weight. The result of the competition was very satisfactory, as it was the farthest a Depot team has gone since winning the event in 1927. We congratulate the team and their trainer, Sergt.-Instr. Day, A.P.T.S., whose impending departure will be much felt.

On 26th March the boxing season was wound up with another Individual Competition, the winners of the last tournament being debarred from entering. There were twenty-nine entries, and owing to the preponderance of light-weights these were divided into two sections.

The winners and runners-up were:—

Feather-weight.—Pte. Sargeant (Albuhera) beat Pte. Shepherd (Albuhera).

Junior Light-weight.—Pte. Tarbuck (Alma) beat Pte. Cook (Albuhera).

Senior Light-weight.—Pte. Bryant (Mysore) walk-over; Pte. Chatton (Albuhera), scratched, medically unfit owing to an injured arm caused by a previous fight.

Intermediate-weight.—Pte. Kelly (Alma) beat Pte. Iszard (Mysore).

Welter-weight.—Pte. Coleman (Albuhera) beat Pte. Porter (Albuhera).

Middle-weight.—Pte. Chapman (Inkerman) beat Pte. Cooper (Albuhera).

A good loser's prize was awarded to Pte. Stevens (Inkerman).

This competition showed that there is great keenness, and lack of skill is made up by pluck and determination, but we should have liked to have seen more entries from the senior squads.

EXTRACTS FROM THE "LONDON GAZETTE."

REGULAR ARMY. COMMANDS AND STAFF.

The follg. appts. are made:—Capt. and Bt. Maj. (now Maj.) H. W. M. Stewart, O.B.E., M.C., Midd'x R., to be G.S.O., 2nd Grade, Canal Bde. (temp.); Lt.-Col. G. L. Brown, D.S.O., h.p. list (empld.), to be Bt. Col., under the provisions of Art. 182A, Royal Warrant for Pay and Promotion,

1931 (Jan. 1); Capt. and Bt. Maj. B. G. Horrocks, M.C., Midd'x R., from Staff Capt., War Office, to be Bde. Maj., 5th Inf. Bde. (Feb. 24).

The follg. relinquish their appts. :—Maj. H. W. M. Stewart, O.B.E., M.C., Midd'x R., as G.S.O., 2nd Grade, Canal Bde. (temp.) (March 17).

Midd'x R.—The follg. Lts. are sec'd. for serv. under the Colonial Office (Jan. 10):—L. H. J. de la M. Herapath, R. W. D. Sword.

The follg. Sec. Lts. to be Lts. (Feb. 2):—

Midd'x R.—J. E. F. Willoughby, G. O. Porter, E. J. Unwin, P. A. Fishbourne.

The follg. Gentlemen Cadets, from the Royal Military College, to be Sec. Lts. (Jan. 30):—

Midd'x R.—A. O. Pullman, H. M. F. Langley.

Midd'x R.—Capt. D. Y. Cubitt is sec'd. for serv. with the R.A.P.C. (Feb. 22); Capt. E. M. G. Wray, D.S.O., is res'd. to the estab. (Feb. 22).

MEMORANDA.

Maj. H. B. W. Savile, M.C., Midd'x R., is granted the local rank of Lt.-Col. whilst empld. as Comdt., Fed. Malay States Vol. Force (Nov. 20, 1935); Capt. (local Maj.) C. W. Haydon, M.C., Midd'x R., is granted the local rank of Lt.-Col. whilst empld. with the R.W.A.F.F. (Jan. 18).

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

The following having attained the age limit of liability to recall, cease to belong to the Res. of Off. :—

Midd'x R.—Lt. C. W. Hotine (Jan. 19).

GENERAL LIST.

Col. (Hon. Brig.-Gen.) R. M. Heath, C.M.G., D.S.O. (Col. Midd'x R.) (March 5).

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

INFANTRY.

Midd'x R.—Trooper P. D. H. Marshall, from Inns of Court Regt., T.A. (late Cadet Corpl., Repton Sch. Contgt., Jun. Div., O.T.C.), to be 2nd Lt. (Feb. 8).

Midd'x R.—Lt. P. A. Clifton resigns his commn. (April 18).

The follg. to be Sec. Lt. (April 18):—

M. I. Harrison (late Cadet, Cranleigh Sch., Congtg. Jun. Div., O.T.C.).

TERRITORIAL ARMY.

8th Bn. *Midd'x R.*—Capt. S. Maddex, M.B.E., to be Maj. (Dec. 3, 1935).

10th Lond. R.—Capt. S. H. W. Eames, M.C., having attained the age limit, relinquishes his commn. and retains his rank (Jan. 15).

7th Bn. *Midd'x R.*—Sec. Lt. A. D. Jefferson to be Lt. (Jan. 28).

9th Bn. *Midd'x R.*—J. T. Bull (late Cadet Corpl., Repton Sch. Contgt., Jun. Div., O.T.C.) to be Sec. Lt. (Feb. 28).

7th Bn. *Midd'x R.*—Lt. J. G. Westcott resigns his commn. (March 6).

9th Bn. *Midd'x R.*—Lt. B. L. Sutcliffe to be Capt. (Feb. 15).

9th Bn. *Midd'x R.*—Sec. Lt. M. J. Abbott to be Lt. (March 4).

7th Bn. *Midd'x R.*—P. S. Ingham (late Cadet Sergt., Uppingham Sch. Contgt., Jun. Div., O.T.C.) to be Sec. Lt. (April 8).

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF
OFFICERS
GENERAL LIST.

INFANTRY.

The follg. offrs. are transferred retaining rank and seny. (Dec. 15, 1935) :—

From 7th C. of Lond. R., T.A. Res.—Maj. L. E. Peppiatt, M.C.; Maj. K. O. Peppiatt, M.C.; Maj. S. J. King, T.D.; Maj. J. H. P. Dalton; Capt. R. F. Potter; Capt. P. B. Berliner, M.C.; Capt. A. L. Horsburgh; Capt. A. E. Hope; Capt. J. E. Crampton; Capt. C. R. Millen, M.C.; Capt. C. H. G. Ross; Capt. L. W. Manley; Lt. J. F. Preston, M.C.; Lt. W. T. James, M.C.; Lt. E. A. Clarke; Lt. H. Clarkson; Lt. H. F. S. Wilson; Lt. R. B. Pattinson, M.C.; Lt. L. W. Vedrenne; Lt. G. K. Gillies; Lt. C. R. N. Groom; Lt. D. B. Miller; Lt. J. N. D. Harrison.

From 10th Lond. R., T.A. Res.—Lt.-Col. W. McClure, D.S.O., T.D.; Capt. H. T. Tipton; Capt. G. J. Banfield; Capt. R. V. North; Capt. G. F. Haigh; Capt. R. C. Franklin; Lt. H. D. Jarrett; Lt. G. H. Eden; Sec. Lt. G. W. Harwood.

Capt. N. E. de Vesian, from T.A. Res. of Off. (9th Bn. Midd'x R.), to be Capt. (Jan. 15); Sec. Lt. G. F. G. Eaton, from 21st Lond. R., to be Sec. Lt. (Jan. 15).

The follg. offrs. are transferred, retaining rank and seny. (Dec. 15, 1935) :—

From 7th C. of Lond. R., T.A. Res.—Capt. P. L. Smout, M.C.; Lt. C. F. Rofe; Lt. E. A. Hubbard.

The follg. offrs. resign their comms. (March 7) :—

10th Lond. R.—Maj. C. J. Bantick, T.D., and retains his rank, with permission to wear the prescribed uniform; Maj. J. G. Stokes, D.S.O., M.C., and retains his rank, with permission to wear the prescribed uniform; Capt. A. E. Dodkin; Capt. W. G. Cuttle; Lt. W. E. S. Jotcham, and retains his rank; Lt. L. Gladding, and retains his rank; Lt. R. C. Atherton; Sec. Lt. T. E. Priest.

7th C. of Lond. R.—Lt.-Col. and Bt.-Col. W. B. Vince, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., T.D., resigns his commn. and retains his rank, with permission to wear the prescribed uniform (March 11).

7th C. of Lond. R.—Maj. C. G. Potter, and retains his rank, with permission to wear the prescribed uniform; Capt. H. G. Head, and retains his rank; Lt. R. C. R. Richards, and retains his rank; Lt. A. S. Avery.

7th Bn. Midd'x R.—Maj. G. A. H. Bower, M.C., T.D., from Active List, to be Maj. (March 25).

7th BATTALION NOTES.

THIS year again we commenced our New Year activities with the Children's Christmas Party, which was a great success. A large number of children, with their parents, sat down to tea, and thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment provided afterwards. A happy afternoon concluded with the distribution of presents by "Santa Claus & Son." Once again

our grateful thanks are due to Mrs. Pringle and the other ladies who so ably assisted in the excellent arrangements for the tea. We feel sure that this event is much looked forward to by married members of the Battalion and their families, and we hope it will be one which will be continued.

With the writing of these notes the last Company Dance of the season has been held, and we would like to take this opportunity of congratulating all those companies who held dances this year. They have been extremely well attended, and deservedly so, for a great deal of time and labour has been spent on each one to ensure the enjoyment of those attending. The standard of company dances in the Battalion has reached a very high level, and there is keen competition between the companies to excel in this form of entertainment.

Of course, the outstanding feature of the past quarter has been the Annual Prize Distribution, which took place at Headquarters on 7th March. On this occasion the Chairman of the Middlesex County Council (Sir Howard S. Button, J.P.) very kindly came to present the prizes. Again a large attendance witnessed the distribution, which went off without a hitch. An all ranks' dance followed, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all in spite of the fact that, with the large numbers present, collision was more or less inevitable. We were sorry to see so many of our present serving members turn up for the distribution in plain clothes, and we would like to remind them that this is an occasion when their uniforms could do with a well-needed airing, and we hope they will not forget this in future.

During the period under review our chief form of training has, as in the past, been weapon training, and the attendances at parades since the Christmas break, it is gratifying to see, have been better than for some years past. Much keenness has been displayed, and we look forward with some confidence to good results when we commence firing the Classification practices at Easter.

"D" Company were again the winners of the Fire Direction Competition for the Barnet Cup, and, as a result of their victory, were chosen to represent the

Battalion in the Fire Direction Competition, which this year was held at Hornsey. In this also they were successful, and we should like to take the opportunity of congratulating the team on the amount of hard work they put in practising, and for the keenness they displayed throughout. This is the first time for some years that the Battalion has won this competition, although during the past few years we have been very near to doing so.

The Efficiency Competition for the Clay Memorial Shield has once again been won by "D" Company. Their success was very well deserved, for they have done consistently well throughout the year. We heartily congratulate them on their fine effort.

To turn to the sporting side of our activities: boxing and cross-country running have held pride of place. Our annual boxing match with the Depot had to be cancelled owing to the death of His Majesty King George V. In the Group Boxing Championships, which were held this year at Willesden, we again had only one champion, Pte. Bromley, whom we congratulate on winning the light-weight competition. In addition to this success, we had the runners-up in the following weights: fly, light, middle and heavy. The team as a whole boxed very well, and we look forward to many more successes next year, when our boxers have gained more experience.

The Battalion Cross-Country Running Championships were again held at Mill Hill, over the usual course, and once again "D" Company won both team and individual honours. We congratulate them on producing such a fine team, and we hope that next year some of the other companies will take this event a little more seriously.

In our annual match against the Depot, which was held at Mill Hill on 14th March, we were successful in defeating the Depot team by 18 points, and so reversed last year's result. In this match, as in the Battalion Championships, Sergt. Bundy, "D" Company, was the first man home.

We closed our cross-country season by winning, for the first time since the war, the Divisional Cross-Country Championships, which were held at Sevenoaks on 29th March. Our team on this occasion

ran remarkably well, all six of them finishing well at the head of the field. Whilst congratulating all members of the team most heartily on their excellent performance, we should like particularly to mention the very fine running of Sergt. Bundy. He attained what we believe has been his ambition for some years past—the winning of the Individual Championship. He was closely followed by Pte. Trafford of the same company, who is also a runner of distinct promise, and has given Sergt. Bundy very close races on other occasions. The team's effort was truly magnificent, and exceeded the wildest hopes of even our most optimistic spectators. We wish the team success in the Territorial Army Cross-Country Championships, which will have been held by the time these notes appear. We feel we have a sporting chance unless some of the other teams are "dark horses." At any rate, we can feel quite confident that the team will put up a good show, and we hope we shall have as large a number of spectators to cheer them on on this occasion as turned up at Sevenoaks to witness their victory in the Divisional Championships.

Before closing our notes we should like to convey to our Commanding Officer our best wishes on the occasion of his marriage.

BATTALION EFFICIENCY COMPETITION.

The following was the result of the Battalion Efficiency Competition for the Clay Memorial Shield for the year ending 31st October, 1935 :—

	Points.
1. "D" Company	589.63
2. "C" Company	512.15
3. "B" (S.) Company	511.21
4. "A" Company	507.69

SHOOTING.

Match v. 47th Divisional Signals, held at Hornsey on 13th March. Result :—

7th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment, 379;
47th Divisional Signals, 339.

Won by 40 points.

Barnet Cup Competition (Inter-Company Fire Direction), held at Hornsey. The result was as follows:—

	Points.
1. "D" Company	180
2. "B" (S.) Company	156
3. "C" Company	133
4. "A" Company	100

BOXING.

Middlesex Group Championships, held at Willesden on 8th February. Result of competition for Group Boxing Trophy:—

	Points.
1. 9th Bn. Middlesex Regiment ...	12
2. 7th Bn. Middlesex Regiment ...	6
3. 8th Bn. Middlesex Regiment ...	6
4. 44th (H.C.) Divisional Signals	0

The following individual successes were obtained by personnel of the Battalion at the Group Championships Meeting:—

Other Ranks' Light-weight Champion.—Pte. Bromley, "C" Company.

Other Ranks' Fly-weight Runner-up.—Pte. A. Rosser, "D" Company.

Other Ranks' Light-weight Runner-up.—Pte. A. Trafford, "D" Company.

Other Ranks' Middle-weight Runner-up.—L./Cpl. W. Desborough, "D" Company.

Other Ranks' Heavy-weight Runner-up.—Pte. E. Williams, "D" Company.

Divisional Championships, held at Chelsea on 22nd February. The following individual success was obtained:—

Other Ranks' Light-weight Runner-up.—Pte. A. Bromley, "C" Company.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING.

Inter-Company Team and Individual Championships, held at Mill Hill on 29th February. The result was as follows:—

	Points.
1. "D" Company	113
2. "C" Company	94
3. "B" (S.) Company	78
4. "H.Q." Wing	24

Individual Champion: Sergt. G. Bundy, "D" Company.

Individual Runner-up: Pte. A. Trafford, "D" Company.

Match v. Depot, held at Mill Hill on 14th March. Result:—

7th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment, 60 points; Depot The Middlesex Regiment, 78 points.

Won by 18 points.

"H.Q." WING.

We have left our Journal notes to the very last moment again, as usual. However, on this occasion we have been phoned up and told that, provided we get down to our journalistic efforts at once, the Editor will arrange to delay the make-up of THE DIE-HARDS in order to include our valuable contribution. Many thanks!

We bid farewell to C.S.M. Bryan and C.Q.M.S. Dodgson. Good health and good luck to them in the years to come. Their places have been taken in the Company by the promotion of C.Q.M.S. Ellis to the appointment of C.S.M., and Sergt. Silvey to the rank of C.Q.M.S. We welcome them to the fold, and hope that they will have many years of hard work and happiness with "H.Q." Wing. Our condolences with "A" Company and Sergt. Rockall.

The Company, one and all, offer their sincerest congratulations to the Commanding Officer on recently gaining such a charming bride, and we wish both Col. and Mrs. Murray the best of luck and happiness in the future.

At the moment of writing we are very busy with practice for the King Cup, while the Signallers are hard at it for the forthcoming Classification.

The Transport and Signallers are looking forward to spending a few days with the 2nd Battalion at Portsmouth.

The Prize Distribution, with the dance that followed, was acknowledged by all ranks to be a splendid show, and we hope next year to carry off more than two trophies.

In conclusion, we offer our heartiest congratulations to all members of the Battalion cross-country team on their splendid achievement at Sevenoaks, while we welcome the young officers who have recently joined the Battalion.

"B" (S.) COMPANY.

Years ago, when we edited our school magazine, our final date for contribution was, like our publication date, rather in the nature of a pious hope than of a serious suggestion. But the casual ways of the sixth form are not for those grim deities who preside over Battalion Headquarters, and therefore when the Company Commander said to us, "Write THE DIE-HARDS notes!" and added as a sort of

after-thought, "and, provided you send them in to-morrow, they'll only be twenty-four hours late," we saw clearly that we had no time to waste, no time to polish and round off our periods, to check up our facts, and, as it were, call the roll of them to see that we had missed nothing out. In fact, we are writing these notes in bed in the small hours of a Wednesday morning, and we would apologize in advance for all our deficiencies.

The outstanding event since the last notes were written was, of course, the death of H.M. King George V. On Tuesday, 21st January, "B" Company paraded as usual, and was forthwith dismissed, not to meet again until after His late Majesty's funeral. All the officers of the Company were privileged to be spectators of the funeral, and it will live for ever in their memories.

The past few weeks have been remarkable both for the rush of recruits and the size of our parades. As we write, we have just returned from a parade which fifty-two other ranks, out of a total of ninety, attended; yet, so used have we become to large parades, that this only evoked passing comment. If due allowance is made for men on night and shift work, it will be observed that we have very few slackers in the Company.

Many members have boxed—all with much enthusiasm—some with distinction. We would particularly mention Sergt. Parker, who, although out of training, took part in the Middlesex Group Championships at very short notice, and was beaten only on points, and that narrowly. Now Parker fought at Loos, and he was not quite a recruit then. Well done, Parker!

We took third place in the Battalion Cross-Country Run, over at the Depot, despite the fact that our team was on the whole very young, and had not done any serious training. We hope for better things next year.

We deeply regret to record the death of Pte. Harvey. He was an able and willing soldier, and one whom we shall all miss.

As we write we are busy preparing for the official dance on 28th March. The Sergeant-Major lives in a realm of flags and coloured paper. He is, however, constantly being brought to earth by the vulgar fact of wet paint and shavings, as

we are being redecorated, and the builders expect to be done in time. Still, we are very optimistic.

In fact, all things considered, we think that we are having a very successful year.

"D" COMPANY.

Things continue to move apace at Tottenham. We welcome to the Company new officers in the persons of Mr. Hatfield and Mr. Monk, and we sincerely hope they will enjoy their period of service in the Battalion. We are also glad to see a large number of new recruits, who will, we feel sure, help to maintain the old traditions of the Company.

The Battalion Prize Distribution will have been reported elsewhere, but in case the enthusiastic reader has been so misguided as to turn to our jottings first, we would inform him that "D" Company again won the Efficiency Competition. The Warner Drill Cup got its bi-annual wash in the N.C.Os.' Mess during the dance which followed.

We are pleased to welcome the local police to the Drill Hall. They are using the miniature range every Monday night, and a party of about twenty-five turned up on the inaugural evening. The following evening the Company entertained a similar number to a shooting match, which was followed by an impromptu sing-song in the canteen. We won at shooting, but the police were definitely superior at the entertainment.

On the previous Sunday, 15th March, we lost to University College School O.T.C. by 2 points (392—390), a similar result to the shoot held before Christmas. The team was without Pte. Coomber, but was otherwise about the best we could produce for a Sunday shoot, and we must congratulate the boys on a good effort. We hope to beat them later on, on the open range.

The Company was again successful in retaining the Barnet Cup, and in doing so put up one of the best scores made in this competition for many years. The team was Cpl. Huggins (Section Leader), L./Cpl. Tassell, and Ptes. Coomber, Levett, Blundell, Russell and R. Lucas. The first five represented the Battalion in the Brigade Fire Direction Competition held at Hornsey on 5th March, and we are glad to report that the team was success-

ful by a small margin over the 9th Battalion. Hearty congratulations to Cpl. Huggins and the Section on a really good effort.

We had four representatives in the Brigade Boxing: Pte. Williams (heavy-weight), L./Cpl. W. Desborough (middle-weight), Pte. Trafford (light-weight), and Pte. Rosser (fly-weight). All these were runners-up in their respective weights. Unfortunately Pte. Watts was unable to fight owing to an injury to his hand. In our humble opinion we believe Watts would have gone far, and we are looking to him for great things next year.

More talent was unearthed this year for the Battalion Cross-Country Run. In this we fairly swept the board, inasmuch as our first four—Sergt. Bundy, Ptes. Trafford and Thompson, and Capt. Scott Lowe—were respectively first, second, third and fifth. Ptes. Chapman and Roberts completed the team, and both finished well.

Congratulations to Sergt. Bundy and Pte. Trafford on again coming in first and second, and to Pte. Thompson on a good debut.

Incidentally, our first four are members of the St. Mary's (Hornsey) Harriers. We celebrated our victory at a dance at the Drill Hall, in the evening, and as it was 29th February, a large crowd enjoyed several novelty dances. The hall had been excellently decorated, due to the efforts of C.S.M. Bishop and Sergt. Fuller.

Lastly, we must mention camp, which this year is to be at Falmer, near Brighton. It is to be hoped that all members of the Company will by now have made arrangements to attend for the full period. A bumper camp is anticipated, and it will be even better if the Company can muster over 100 strong.

STOP PRESS.

Hearty congratulations to the Battalion cross-country team on winning the Divisional Cross-Country Championship. We feel proud that we provided the winner and runner-up in Sergt. Bundy and Pte. Trafford, and also two other members of the Battalion "Six" in Capt. Scott Lowe and Pte. Thompson. We may say that it was no secret that one of Sergt. Bundy's great ambitions was to win this race, and we heartily congratulate him and Trafford on an excellent achievement.

KING EDWARD VIII AND HIS ARMY.

By R. MAURICE HILL.

IN his message to the Army on his accession to the Throne, our new King, Edward VIII, has said, "My own association with the Army is of long standing. I look back on my services as a young officer in the Great War as one of the most valuable experiences of life. It gave me the privileges of comradeship with soldiers drawn from the United Kingdom, from the Dominions, from India, and from the Colonies." Never since the British standing army came into being has any monarch ascended the Throne with so great a personal experience of soldiering as our new King.

James II fought against the Dutch at sea and was wounded in action while serving as a Colonel of Marines. William III saw a great deal of active service—at the Battle of the Boyne, where he placed himself at the head of the Inniskilling Dragoons, saying, "I have heard much of your valour. Now I shall be able to witness it." He was also present at the Battles of Steinkirk and Landen, the Siege of Namur, and several other engagements in Flanders. George II fought against the French at Oudenarde and Dettingen. But all these monarchs started their military careers in positions of command. None of them can be said to have served an apprenticeship to the profession of arms as King Edward VIII has done.

In the days of yore, sons of the Royal House used to start their Army service with a commission in a crack regiment—frequently as Colonel. In 1913 a new departure was made when Edward, Prince of Wales, was enrolled as a cadet in the Oxford University Contingent, Senior Division, Officers Training Corps, and commenced to learn the work of a soldier as a "rookie" on the barrack square, along with other undergraduates. The Oxford University Contingent consisted of units of cavalry, field artillery, signals and field ambulance, as well as four companies of infantry. It would not have occasioned any surprise if the Royal recruit had gone into the cavalry squadron, which was regarded as an aristocratic

unit; but His Royal Highness joined the infantry battalion, and remained in it until he was commissioned after the outbreak of war. Nowadays the Senior O.T.C. cadets wear a hybrid sort of uniform which is not quite an officer's, but quite different from that of the rank and file. In 1913, however, the uniform worn by the Prince of Wales and his fellow-cadets at Oxford was commonplace khaki service dress, exactly like that worn by the ordinary "foot-slogger" of the infantry of the line. The cap-badge was the white-metal "Bugle Horn with Strings" of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (of which the University battalion had formed part in pre-O.T.C. days); indeed, except for the letters "O.T.C." on the shoulder-straps, there was nothing to distinguish the Heir to the Throne, when in uniform, from any Regular or Territorial Private of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

His Royal Highness took his duties very seriously, became an efficient member of the corps, and in due course was rewarded with his first stripe; never before had a Prince of Wales held the appointment of Lance-Corporal. The knowledge that their future ruler was also a wearer of the "one dog's leg" was a source of pride to many members of that hard-worked and little-appreciated community, the "Lance-Jacks" of 1913. Unfortunately, Oxford University is known to the present generation as the place where a meeting of misguided students passed a resolution that under no circumstances would they fight for King and Country; for the honour of an ancient seat of learning, let it be recorded that when war was declared on 4th August, 1914, there were already 377 members holding commissions in the Army; and that between August, 1914, and March, 1915 (*i.e.*, the first seven months of the war), no less than two thousand ex-cadets of the Oxford University O.T.C. were gazetted as officers of His Majesty's Fighting Forces, one of them being the Prince.

On Saturday, 8th August, 1914, H.R.H. The Prince of Wales was gazetted as a Second-Lieutenant in the Grenadier Guards, and posted to the 1st Battalion. At 5 a.m. on the following Monday morning he left Buckingham Palace, motoring

to Warley, Essex, to join his battalion. At 8 o'clock on the same morning he was on parade for the first time. During the first few days of his service the battalion went on a long route march, and an old Grenadier has told the writer that quite a few bets were made that the newly joined Royal subaltern would fall out. Those who staked their money on His Royal Highness sticking it out to the bitter end came off winners, for, despite his youthful and somewhat frail appearance at that time, the Prince was able to stay the course. The Prince took his share of duties in the usual way, and was on one occasion Ensign of the Guard, carrying the Colour at the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace. Never before had an heir to the Throne "mounted Buck" (to use the Guardsman's slang phrase) at the Palace where some day he would reign as King.

When the Battalion went to France in September, 1914, the Prince of Wales, to his great chagrin, was not allowed to accompany it, an official announcement being published that, "as His Royal Highness has not completed his military training, Lord Kitchener submitted to His Majesty that for the present it is undesirable that His Royal Highness should proceed on active service." From that time onwards His Royal Highness commenced to worry the powers-that-be until his desire for service overseas was gratified on 18th November, 1914, when he was made Aide-de-Camp to Field-Marshal Sir John French, Commander-in-Chief of the British Armies in France.

For the benefit of those who think that the Prince while in France had a safe and "cushy" time of it, General War-drop, the present G.O.C., Northern Command, can tell how he was with the Prince in a house near Laventie which was struck by a German shell, which crashed through the roof and ripped one side of the house away. Capt. Butler, of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, has written a description of a chance meeting with the Prince near Bourlon Wood. "Up to that time," this officer writes, "we were of the opinion that our Prince was kept at G.H.Q., wrapped in cotton wool, but such was not the case, and what concerned us most was why he was not kept farther back from the danger zone."

Shells were falling just around him, but he certainly did not mind them a bit, and I was told later on that it was with extreme difficulty that he was kept out of the front line itself. You can bet it did not do us any harm to see our beloved Prince taking his life in his hands as well as the rest of us, and in the near future we were destined to see a good bit of him." If further evidence be required in proof of our new Monarch's claim to be known as a "Soldier-King," it is furnished by the following brief extract from the History of the Welsh Guards:—

"On the 15th June, 1917, the battalion took over the front line by Boesinghe Château, the line they would attack from. The Prince of Wales and General Gathorne-Hardy visited the battalion in this line. The shelling was very heavy."

In the same volume, Col. C. H. Dudley Ward records how the Prince once had a narrow escape from our own gunners: "One of our greatest annoyances came from a heavy gun of our own which was firing short. Nothing could apparently stop it, although it was causing casualties. In desperation, Jack Stirling loosed off the pigeons to H.Q. with rude messages. Still it went on shooting the battalion in the back. The Prince of Wales came up to the line, and the gun started to drop shells all round him, so that he and General Gathorne-Hardy had to double across to some pill-boxes in the Grenadier lines. With great delight this incident was reported, but had no result. Finally, Colonel Vickery, commanding the brigade of field artillery behind the battalion, was chased by the gun all the way from Broembek to Louvois Farm. His language was picturesque and profane. About two hours after he had left the front line, the gun, for some reason or other, fired no more—or else confined its attentions to the enemy."

In the later stages of the war, the Prince served as G.S.O.2 of the Canadian Corps, and the story is told that when a Canadian officer who was temporarily acting as host during a visit to a battalion headquarters showed signs of being nervous and overcome by the unaccustomed duty of welcoming a Royal visitor, His Royal Highness laughingly put him at ease by saying, "Now, look here, you can't possibly be afraid of me, and I'm

sure you have no need to be frightened by my name!" The Prince of Wales was with the Canadian Corps in its victorious march into Mons, and has said, "I shall always feel very proud that I was serving with the Canadian Corps on Armistice Day."

On 3rd June, 1919, King George's birthday, it was announced that His Majesty had been graciously pleased to appoint H.R.H. The Prince of Wales to be Colonel of the Welsh Guards. This appointment was very popular, as His Royal Highness had been in close touch with the regiment at home and abroad ever since it was raised in February, 1915. The senior company of the Welsh Guards is known as "The Prince of Wales's Company," just as the senior company of the Grenadier Guards is known as "The King's Company."

In addition to being Colonel of the Welsh Guards, King Edward VIII was, as Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of the 12th Royal Lancers, the Royal Scots Fusiliers, the South Wales Borderers, the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, the Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire), the Seaforth Highlanders, and the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry (Prince of Wales's Own). In no case has His Majesty allowed his connection with any of his regiments to be merely nominal, but has at all times taken a keen interest in everything appertaining to their welfare, and has visited them, at home or abroad, whenever possible. A few years ago the Prince stayed under canvas with the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry during their annual training on Salisbury Plain. No doubt this visit to a Territorial camp would bring back to our King memories of the days when he, too, was a "spare-time soldier" in camp with the O.T.C.

The fundamental principle of the British Army has always been the Spirit of Service. During his twenty-five years as Prince of Wales, our new King has nobly lived up to his own motto, "Ich Dien" (I Serve), in a manner befitting the best traditions of the Army to which he has belonged since 1913. Now that he has succeeded to the Throne, we, his subjects, have no doubt that King Edward VIII will devote his life to the service of the Empire, following in the footsteps of his beloved father; and as His Majesty well

knows, whatever the future may hold in store, whether good or ill, storm or sunshine, he can place implicit faith in the unswerving loyalty of the soldiers and ex-soldiers of his realm, the men of whom Kipling has written:—

"For we are bred to do your will:
On land or sea, wherever flies
Your flag; to fight and follow still,
And work an Empire's destinies."

8th BATTALION NOTES.

SINCE our last contribution to the Journal we have shared with many millions of people a deep sorrow in the passing of our well-beloved King George. We who so proudly wore his uniform found in him a fine soldier, a great English gentleman, and a true friend. To his son, now our gracious Sovereign, King Edward VIII, we wish with loyalty and affection that his reign may be long and peaceful and that he may for many years be with us as our Colonel-in-Chief.

This quarter has been a busy one with us, as these notes will show, and our numbers now register 469 all ranks. Nothing like hard work for maintaining one's strength.

On 22nd January six officers attended a Brigade sand-table exercise conducted by the Brigade Major at the London District School of Instruction, and in a few hours we made an interesting tour from the base to railhead and on to advanced positions, noting on the way the method and distribution of all supplies, evacuation of wounded, etc. The neat little model hospital ships in the base harbour brought back memories to those of us who were lucky enough to get "Blighty ones" in the late war.

On 2nd February we had a good muster of officers, W.O.s and Sergeants for a T.E.W.T. in the vicinity of Mytchett.

The Battalion Fire Direction Competition was held on the 20th and resulted in a win for "H.Q." Wing with 72 points, "D" Company being second with 65 points, and "B" (S.) Company third with 61 points. Unfortunately, "H.Q." Wing, not being eligible to compete in the Brigade competition which followed,

"D" Company represented the Battalion, but took only third place this year, and we hand over the shield with congratulations to the 7th Battalion.

Our Annual Prize Distribution was held at Headquarters on the 26th, and the Lord-Lieutenant of the County, Col. The Right Hon. The Lord Rochdale, presented the trophies before a large and distinguished audience. Among those present were Sir Montagu and Lady Sharpe, Col. Hibbert, D.S.O. (Commanding 132nd Infantry Brigade), Col. Garner, C.M.G., T.D. (Honorary Colonel), Col. A. M. O. Anwyl Passingham, O.B.E., the Mayor and Mayoress of Ealing (Alderman and Mrs. J. J. Lynch), and many past officers of the Battalion, including Col. Pank, C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D., Col. and Mrs. Dams, Major and Mrs. Hirst, Capt. Palmer, Capt. and Mrs. de Salis, and Mr. K. T. V. Russell.

Lord Rochdale dined in Mess with the officers before the ceremony, during which the Band played selections, and later gave a short programme of lively music before and after the prize-giving. The following were the awards:—

The Herbert Cup (highest percentage of attendances at Annual Training).—"A" Company.

Col. Garner's Efficiency Cup.—"B" (S.) Company.

Battalion Sports Cup.—"B" (S.) Company.

Col. Bott's Cup (highest points in the Brigade L.G. Competition).—"C" Company.

Battalion Challenge Cup (highest points Annual Weapon Training Course).—"D" Company.

Col. Dam's Winter Weapon Training Cup.—"D" Company.

Miniature Range Shield.—"D" Company.

Montgomery Memorial Cup.—"D" Company.

Cross-Country Cup.—"D" Company.

Fenton Boxing Cup.—"D" Company.

Major Lawe's Challenge Cup (highest percentage of efficient).—"H.Q." Wing.

Ladies of Whitton Challenge Cup (highest points in the High Sheriff's Cup).—"H.Q." Wing.

Isleworth Cup (Drill and Tactics).—"H.Q." Wing.

Game Football Cup.—"H.Q." Wing.

Individual winners:—

Col. Bott's Cup, Officers (highest points in the Lord-Lieutenant's Competition).—Lieut. & Qmr. S. A. Cox.

Ladies' Cup, W.O., N.C.O. or Man (same conditions).—Pte. Browne, "A" Company.

Col. Baker's Signalling Cup (highest points in Annual Classification).—C.Q.M.S. A. Woodall, "H.Q." Wing, Cpl. Gill, "A" Company, and Pte. Baldry, "H.Q." Wing, 100 per cent. marks each.

Battalion Bugle Competition.—1, Dmr. Mobley; 2, Dmr. Rockliff.

Sergeants' Shooting Cup.—Sergt. Johnson, "C" Company.

Recruiting Trophy (awarded by Middlesex T.A. Association to the P.S.I. obtaining the highest number of recruits throughout the year).—C.S.M. Barber, "D" Company (37 recruits).

We will close our notes with a few brief remarks upon our recent sporting activities, and boxing has perhaps been the foremost of these. We had an interesting match against the Royal Fusiliers at Hounslow Barracks, which was drawn. L./Cpl. Jones and Pte. Sharpe won their fights. Pte. Coleman lost on points to one of the Carabiniers in a special contest after a very close fight.

In the Brigade Championships we were unfortunately without one or two of our first strings, but tied for second place with the 7th Battalion. Congratulations to the 9th Battalion on retaining the cup.

In the Divisional contest we were represented by Pte. Brown, who knocked out his opponent and went on to reach the finals of the T.A. held at the Albert Hall.

On Saturday, 14th March, we once again visited the Aerodrome at Northolt, where, through the kindness of the R.A.F., we held the Battalion Cross-Country Run. This was again won by "D" Company, with "H.Q." Wing a close second, who actually had the first six men home. "C" Company team had a walk-over! It must have been the smell of the sausages and chips being prepared in the Canteen which tempted them to take the by-pass!

Our Battalion team will be taking part in the forthcoming Divisional and T.A. runs.

OBITUARY.

We regret to record the death of Major H. D. Norwood and R.Q.M.S. Hards.

Major Norwood served in the Battalion and until quite recently was a regular attendant at our Old Comrades' Reunion Dinner. The Adjutant, several other ranks and a bugler attended the funeral at Staines.

R.Q.M.S. Hards met his death as the result of an accident. He was for some years C.Q.M.S. of "H.Q." Wing, and as Secretary of the Social Club and a keen footballer he took an active interest in the affairs of the Wing.

To the relatives of the deceased we offer our sincere sympathy.

"H.Q." WING.

Since our last notes the Miniature Range Shield Competition and the Cross-Country Run have taken place.

MINIATURE RANGE SHIELD COMPETITION.

We won the Miniature Range Shield, but unfortunately we were unable to represent the Battalion in the Brigade, as we are not a rifle company. The team was as follows:—

Cpl. Castree (Section Commander), L./Cpl. Harper, and Ptes. Billimore, Bennett and Hazell. Reserve: Pte. Whiterod.

INTER-COMPANY CROSS-COUNTRY RUN.

This took place at Northolt on 14th February, and after a very hard race with "D" Company we finished second. We congratulate the following men on their fine effort:—

Ptes. Gibson, Kirsopp, K. Whitworth, Chandler, Goodsir, Rodden, Brooker, Gregory and G. Whitworth.

The following have been selected to represent the Battalion in the Divisional Run: Ptes. Gibson and Whitworth; reserves, Ptes. Kirsopp and Goodsir.

We are very sorry to lose Major Ellis on taking over Second-in-Command, and welcome Capt. Hartley as our new Company Commander.

At the time of writing, some of us are looking forward to Easter training at Portsmouth with the 2nd Battalion.

"A" COMPANY.

STOP PRESS.

Recruiting.—We welcome all new recruits to the Company, and earnestly hope that they will bring at least one pal along to the Company Office per month.

Prizes.—The Company Commander has informed the editor of these notes that the Company is going all out for prizes this year. So step up, you bright youths, and win your "spurs," or your first black eye!

Small Arms.—We understand that the Regiment is to be made into a machine-gun regiment. If this is the case, we hope to enjoy ourselves, as a bird whispers that M.Gs. are water-cooled and in the event of a campaign in the middle of a desert the chances are that brewery shares may increase and the guns will show a large amount of ullage.

Courses.—We congratulate 2/Lieut. C. W. Summers on passing his "promotion to Captain" examination.

2/Lieut. Hamilton attended a Transport Course at the L.D.S.I. and obtained a satisfactory report. We hope that is not to be taken as initiation for future share pushing.

L./Cpls. Costello and Raynsford attended a Weapon Training Course at the L.D.S.I., and obtained satisfactory reports. Apparently they both read last quarter's Journal notes and are trying to qualify for the position of water diviners.

T.E.W.T.—The Company Commander is going to Brighton for a T.E.W.T. in the near future. More I cannot say at the moment, but I will tell you what he looks like when he returns.

Parade Attendance.—Parades are now averaging a good 33½ per cent. of the Company's strength, which is a distinct improvement on last year.

Pots.—We wish to congratulate all ranks on putting up a very fine show at camp last year, and thereby winning the Herbert Cup for the highest percentage attending Annual Training. Considering that this was Aldershot, we consider this is indeed a feather in our cap.

We also congratulate Pte. D. R. Browne on winning the Ladies' Cup for the highest score in the Lord-Lieutenant's Competition at the Brigade Rifle Meeting.

Gas!—A sewer overflow in Sunbury-on-Thames caused a large cloud of persistent gas to hang over Hampton, and it was been said that Sergt.-Major Atkins, after having attended a Gas Course recently, dashed out into the road with a 20-packet of Wills in his hand to see if any red spots appeared on the cover, before he wrenched his mask away from the baby. We understand that red spots did not appear, but one or two Indian mammals did and so our Sergt.-Major is referring to the various manuals, paragraphs, sub-paragraphs and amendments to find out the cause of this phenomenon.

"B" (S.) COMPANY.

All ranks were very sorry to hear of the illness of Major Maddex, and are glad to learn that he is now well on the road to recovery. He has the best wishes of everyone for a speedy return to the Company.

The Company has suffered a loss in the death of Pte. G. Chick, who was killed in an accident in Ealing. A keen member of the Company, his untimely death will be greatly felt by all. A wreath from the Company was placed on the grave by a serving member in uniform.

Now—in a more cheerful strain.

In the absence of Major Maddex, Lieut. Reddy has taken over the Company, and is keeping the old flag flying with a vengeance. We—that means everyone—aim at once again proving that "B" is best.

Spring-cleaning and redecoration have been in full swing in the bar and club-room, and both are now resplendent in their new uniform. There is absolutely no foundation for the rumour that the local Woolworth's sold out of "Light Stone" and "Chocolate."

The new dart-board and table tennis have been used with gusto, and the Club members are already lining up for the repaired billiard table that is on the way.

Congratulations to Pte. F. Bond on his really splendid results in the Divisional Boxing. He got as far as the final, but was unfortunately defeated. Better luck next time.

At the time of writing, the cross-country run is the next sporting event. Although there are not as many entries as we should like, we hope to maintain our usual standard in this particular sphere.

Now that the War Office has at last realized the tremendous importance of the T.A., we hope to put in some really useful training, and—who knows?—we may be mechanized before A.D. 2000!

Sergt.-Major Trestain has readily fallen into Territorial routine, but has had a spot of bother with the local milkman over half a dozen eggs and a quarter of Brooke Bonds. He looks very efficient sitting before the typewriter, and is quite good at figures.

We have just learnt with deep regret of the unfortunate accident which resulted in the death of R.Q.M.S. Hards, and offer our deepest sympathy.

"D" COMPANY.

We unfortunately missed the last issue, but we must claim, even while apologizing, that we were so busy that we had passed the date for publication before we could look round. The proof of this, we hope, will be seen by the following news.

The Company has gone right ahead, and we hope that this will be kept up for next year. Before describing our triumphs we would like to congratulate the main reason for our successes, *i.e.*, C.S.M. Barber, on winning the Recruiting Cup for the highest number of recruits, and we have great hopes that this will be followed by yet another this year. Our strength is now 84, and so we look like getting to the coveted century even yet.

To cut a long story short, we were successful in winning the following cups and trophies, which were presented at the

Battalion Prize Giving on 26th February by the Lord-Lieutenant of Middlesex, Lord Rochdale:—

Montgomery Memorial Cup for Battalion Championship, Battalion Challenge Cup for highest score in the Annual Weapon Training Course, Cross-Country Cup, Fenton Boxing Cup, Miniature Range Shield, Col. Dam's Cup for Winter Weapon Training Competition, and the Association Cup for the P.S.I. obtaining the highest number of recruits in the year.

We have recently competed for the Fire Direction Cup again, but unfortunately lost to "H.Q." Wing. Hearty congratulations to the latter.

We were chosen to represent the Battalion in the Brigade Shoot, but here again we were not up to our standard. However, we made up for this lapse by again winning the Cross-Country Run, supplying the first three men home. We congratulate Pte. Shepperd on winning this event, but at the same time regret that he was discharged next day. We are therefore very anxious for a few more good runners.

Turning to boxing, as stated we were successful in winning the Battalion Cup, and the Battalion only just lost to the 9th Battalion, being second with the 7th Battalion. Hearty congratulations to Pte. Brown on his fine effort in the Championships at the Albert Hall, where he lost in the semi-final.

We are now in the midst of the preliminary to Bisley on the range, and are pleased to see that the recruits are coming along well.

We are pleased to say that we have two gentlemen attached to the Company before coming in as (we hope) Company officers. We sincerely hope that our wish comes true, as we can do with some more keen officers.

We find that we have kept very strictly to the working side of our life, but we also manage to have a very cheerful time as well.

In closing, we must say that we are keenly looking forward to a renewal of our acquaintance with Falmer.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MOASCAR, ISMAILIA,
EGYPT.

January, 1936.

To the Editor of "The Die-Hards."

DEAR SIR,

I enclose an interesting extract from General Foulkes' book, "Gas."

The 1st Middlesex did make a most gallant attack on 25th September, 1915. At that time the Battalion was under the command of Lieut.-Col. Rowley (now Brig.-General), and it is certain that a few of our men did penetrate the German front line on the northern part of the frontage of the battalion opposite the mine crater "Point D," but it was never claimed that our men had actually seized a part of their first objective. No officer or man from "B," "C" or "A" Company got their objectives, although Capt. Deighton, O.C. "C" Company, was last seen in the act of getting through a gap in the German wire.

The two officers referred to in the letter were Lieuts. Choate and Henry, who came through the ordeal unscathed in addition to Lieut.-Col. Rowley and Capt. and Adj. M. Browne (late O.C. 2nd Battalion). The Company C.O.s. were:

"A."—Capt. A. Dyer (killed).

"B."—Major Swainson (late O.C., 2nd Middlesex, wounded).

"C."—Capt. Deighton, M.C. (killed).

"D."—Capt. N. Y. L. Welman, D.S.O. (killed).

It is gratifying to know that the supremely gallant attack of the 1st Battalion has at last been recognized, as at the time they were informed after the attack that "it was never anticipated the attack would succeed."

In spite, however, of the appalling losses, the 1st Battalion resuscitated itself in a remarkable manner.

H. W. M. S.

EXTRACT FROM "GAS!"

THE STORY OF THE SPECIAL BRIGADE.
By MAJOR-GENERAL C. H. FOULKES.

As the German wire was found to be intact, none of their trenches were gained

excepting on the extreme right of the Division front: here the gas discharged by the 9th Division on the right, drifting northwards, reached the objectives of the 1st Middlesex Regiment (of the 2nd Division), who made one of the most gallant efforts of the day, and wounded men from this battalion reported having seen many gassed Germans in this section of the German line. (Actually this drift of the gas cloud from right to left occurred all along the front of the First Army, so that even when Divisions gained no advantage from the gas discharged on their own front the troops on their left had the benefit of it).

The reports referred to above, made by wounded men, were discredited at the time; but two letters were brought to my notice a week or two later which confirmed their statements. The first was written to a friend by a telephonist on the headquarter staff of the 1st Middlesex Regiment when in hospital in England, and it reached me through the censor's office, the following being an extract:—

"I don't want to see another scene like last Saturday morning. It was just hell with the lid off. You will have read of the splendid advance we made south of the La Bassée Canal. The artillery bombarded them for four days and four nights, never stopped, seven hundred guns behind us. At 5.45 on Saturday morning we turned the gas on the devils—it was an awful sight—and at 6.30 we climbed over the parapet and charged them. I carried a field telephone: four of us started; I was the only one to reach the first German trench, which was full of dead, about three or four deep, all gassed. But they had the machine guns in the third-line trenches and they mowed us down, and everywhere was mud and blood. When they called the roll on the 1st Middlesex 96 answered present out of 1,020. All the officers except two went down; but that is the price of victory. Poor Baines was killed. The last I saw of him was running down after some Germans down their communication trench, bombing them as he went."*

* According to the Official History, this battalion did not pass the German wire, which they are said to have found intact.

THE BARRACKS,
MILL HILL, N.W.
15th April, 1936.

DEAR SIR,

In the course of the past months the Secretary of the Middlesex Regiment Old Comrades Association has ascertained that in the case of certain Service Battalions of the Regiment there are in actual living existence unit Old Comrades Associations.

He has also learnt in consequence of inquiries made that these unit Associations have no real connection with their parent Association representing the whole Middlesex Regiment, including Regular, Territorial, Special Reserve, Service Battalions and, in fact, every unit, whether existing or not, which bears or has borne the title of the Regiment.

You will be aware that one of the primary aims of the Regimental Association is to promote *esprit de corps* and to unite in common union, purpose and comradeship all ranks past and present of the Middlesex Regiment.

Bearing in mind the enormous increase in the number of units bearing the Regimental title, which resulted from the Great War, it has for many years been a matter for both regret and surprise that the numbers of Old Comrades attending Regimental functions such as Old Comrades' dinners and social gatherings should be so small and should bear so slight a relation to the numbers serving in the Regimental ranks in the late war. It is felt that at present this deficiency in numbers must bear obvious witness to the fact that the Regimental Association is not exerting its full influence in regard to the purposes for which it was formed, and that this failure is most marked in regard to units raised in the late war and since disbanded.

In this connection, it is desired to mention that the continued existence of so many unit Old Comrades Associations some twenty years after the Armistice of 1918 is a result which redounds to the credit of our Regiment, and is a living proof of that pride of comradeship which existed so strongly during the period of the war.

For reasons already given, it is, however, desirable and urgent to extend, to broadcast and to strengthen these most

admirable activities. It is also important to cement them in the common union and purpose of the Regiment.

It is with that object that the following proposals are made, and in which your willing co-operation is desired and is essential for success.

In this connection it is perhaps unnecessary to hasten to add that in making such proposals there is neither intention nor wish to interfere in the work now being performed by an unit Association. It is, however, contended that close touch can be obtained between Regimental and Unit Associations through the medium of the Regimental paper, THE DIE-HARDS Journal, which is issued quarterly. At present the Journal contains a full record of the life of the existing Battalions of the Regiment, and the activities of the Regimental Association. Notes are also included regarding Old Comrades, together with obituary notices concerning the death of members of the Regiment.

It is now suggested that the Secretaries or officials of all unit Old Comrades Associations should keep in close touch with the Secretary of the Regimental Association, furnishing him with records of their activities and arranging with him for the publication of such notices as they may desire to bring to the eyes of Old Comrades. If you would agree to this proposal, the Secretary will communicate details of procedure to you direct.

It is thus trusted that this proposal will not only tend to render the existence of unit Associations more widely known, but will also have the happy and desirable effect of widening the numbers included in the Regimental Association, and thus help to foster the purposes for which it was formed.

In this connection, it is only right to indicate that from the profit on sales of THE DIE-HARDS Journal a very material sum is added to the funds of the Regimental Association so urgently needed for the relief of distress in the case of ex-soldiers of the Regiment.

You will be aware that many such cases of financial assistance are devoted to the relief of ex-soldiers of Service Battalions of the Regiment. Should you so desire, the Secretary will always arrange to notify to you any case in which an ex-soldier of your unit has been assisted. Equally,

you could bring to his notice cases requiring financial or other help (such as employment, advice, etc.). The Secretary is at all times anxious and ready to use every effort to assist such cases.

In conclusion, it is urged that this proposed co-operation will greatly strengthen Regimental *esprit de corps* and will widen the scope of both Regimental and Unit Associations as a whole. The ties which should unite all units of the Regiment will be improved, and our common purpose assisted.

An early answer to these proposals is sought, the replies being forwarded at your convenience to the Secretary of the Middlesex Regimental Old Comrades Association.

Yours faithfully,

A. M. O. ANWYL PASSINGHAM, Col.,
Chairman, Regimental Association of
the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).

Addressed to Old Comrades Associations of 7th, 8th, 9th, 1st/10th, 2nd/10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 16th, 17th and 23rd Battalions.



9th BATTALION NOTES.

NOTES on the activities of the Battalion are once again in demand, and it seems only yesterday that those for the February issue were being compiled. The difficulty always lies in deciding which events in the life of the Battalion are of most interest. For instance, do you want to know that we are starting shooting at Bisleigh on 29th March, or would you rather we told you that a certain boxing Sergeant in "B" Company had had all his teeth out in order to save his opponents trouble? We hope that you realize our difficulty, because there is no doubt that notes for the Regimental Magazine generally read more like a catalogue than anything else.

We heartily congratulate Capt. F. G. Hogg and Lieut. B. L. Sutcliffe on passing their promotion examinations, and the latter on obtaining a "D."

We welcome 2/Lieut. J. T. Bull to the Battalion.

On 29th February an officers' week-end tactical exercise was carried out at

Friston. The subject was "Defence," and the ground lent itself so admirably to the scheme that it made the exercise doubly interesting, particularly as we knew the ground, having been there for Annual Training. It was a very enjoyable week-end, and was more so owing to the C.O.'s and Mrs. Lamont's hospitality in giving us all a wonderful lunch on the Sunday at their house at Friston, and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking them very much for their kindness to us.

The Transport Section has been doing extra Sunday training, and large-sized cart horses have been seen digging up the square under the supervision of the Transport Officer. However, they have not been alone in their industry, for the Signal Section have been seen performing their curious antics at Chorley Wood on at least two Sunday mornings. The Section held a very successful course at Headquarters during February and March, and are looking forward to going to Portsmouth at Easter. It seems that the advantages and interest of signalling are becoming more appreciated, and this is shown by the number of recruits, but we would like to point out that many more are needed.

Lieut. H. W. W. Gray and 2/Lieut. W. F. Parlane attended an Intelligence Course at the London District School of Instruction. It seems to be the cause of mirth to some people, but no doubt they learnt a great deal. Lieut. Gray has now embarked upon an Anti-Gas Course at Albany Street.

On 20th March a reconnaissance was held at Falmer for officers, for, as you will see in the other Battalion notes, we are going there for Annual Training again this year.

The Old Comrades held their Annual Dinner at Pound Lane on 7th March, and a very successful dinner it was. Lieut.-Col. Lamont, Col. Blumfeld, and four other former Commanding Officers attended amongst many officers and ex-members of the Battalion, and, while mentioning successful dinners, we must not forget that of "D" Company on 29th March. We would like Capt. Hardcastle to tell us exactly what "an implement of boast" is sometime.

"B" (S.) Company won the Battalion Fire Direction Competition.

We were very sorry to hear that 2/Lieut. M. J. Abbott had left us, as he has obtained a post in Hong Kong, but we wish him the best of luck. Our other departure is that of C.S.M. Simmonds, who is going back to the home-service Battalion. We shall miss him, and hope that he will still keep in touch with us. We wish him, also, all the best, and at the same time welcome his successor, C.S.M. Donaldson, also of the 2nd Battalion. We hope he will enjoy his stay with us.

Football is progressing well, and we hope to enter a bigger league next season. We are keeping our place as second in the Wembley and District League, and may be at the top yet. A lot of new players have been found, and we have every prospect of a jolly good season next year.

Shooting on the miniature range has started again, and many matches have been arranged by the Club.

Owing to the increased importance of the Territorial Army—or perhaps it would be more accurate to say the increased public interest in the Territorial Army—our recruiting is very much on the up-grade. We feel that, although a great deal of nonsense is talked about Territorials, it is definitely gratifying to know that we do fill an important part in the defence of the country. This publicity has achieved something if it has told the private soldier what his work is for, and it is surprising how few really knew why they did their training before.

BOXING.

The past boxing season has been a successful one for the Battalion, commencing with the Middlesex Group, which took place at Headquarters, Pound Lane, Willesden. This meeting was well supported, and the spectators were treated to an exhibition of skill as well as to some really hard and clean fighting.

Results and points:—

1. 9th Bn. Middlesex Regiment	... 12
2. 7th Bn. Middlesex Regiment	... 6
3. 8th Bn. Middlesex Regiment	... 6
4. 44th Divisional Signals	... 0

The following individual successes were obtained by personnel of the 9th Battalion:—

Fly-weight.—Dmr. W. Routledge.
Bantam-weight.—Pte. G. Smith.
Feather-weight.—Pte. R. Chick.
Welter-weight.—Pte. A. Gaitt.
Light Heavy-weight.—Cpl. A. Major.
Heavy-weight.—Pte. J. Weaterton.

The Divisional Championships Meeting held at Chelsea was well supported by members of the 9th Battalion. The Adjutant, who was responsible for organizing this meeting, was ably supported by the senior N.C.Os. of the Battalion, and it was due to their efforts that the meeting was a great success, in spite of the missing blackboards.

Results and points:—

9th Bn. Middlesex Regiment	... 10
5th Bn. Queen's Royal Regiment	... 6
8th Bn. Middlesex Regiment	... 3
5th Bn. Q.O. R.W.K. Regiment	... 2
4th Bn. Royal Sussex Regiment	... 2
6th Bn. East Surrey Regiment	... 2
7th Bn. Middlesex Regiment	... 1
4th Bn. Queen's Royal Regiment	... 1
58th Field Brigade, R.A.	... 1

The following men of the Battalion won their respective weights in the Championships:—

Fly-weight.—Dmr. W. Routledge.
Feather-weight.—Pte. R. Chick.
Welter-weight.—Pte. A. Gaitt.
Heavy-weight.—Pte. J. Weaterton.

2/Lieut. D. F. Hill and the winners of the Divisional Championships represented the 44th (H.C.) Division at the Albert Hall, and the duties of Capt. H. W. Clayden, who acted as team captain, were considerably lightened by the fact that five members of the team of eight came from the 9th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment. The eliminating rounds were fought at the Headquarters of the London Scottish. 2/Lieut. Hill, and Ptes. Gaitt and Weaterton were successful in reaching the finals, and all three won their weights at the Albert Hall. We congratulate them on their splendid effort. The fact of having three Territorial Army individual champions must be almost a record.

"H.Q." WING.

Training has been progressing steadily during the past three months, every department of "H.Q." doing their bit.

The Signallers' ranks are sadly depleted, but at the moment of writing several

promising recruits have been posted, and things are looking a bit brighter.

In the Battalion and Brigade Boxing Championships we had a winner in the light heavy-weight class, Cpl. A. Major, whom we congratulate on a very good performance for an "old un."

As a matter of fact, the Regimental Police are very much in the limelight now—Richardson has been appointed Lance-Corporal, on which he also receives our best wishes (when the canteen is open).

BAND.

The Band is looking forward to a busy season. Engagements have already been booked for the season at Alexandra Palace, the London County Council, and also several private engagements. We are looking for a French-horn player and side-drummer, otherwise the strength of the Band is well maintained.

DRUMS.

We still manage to make a little headway and are very grateful for the regular attendance at practice of the "old hands." One feels that the "young hands" might put in a little more individual practice, but in spite of all the difficulties we have to contend with, even they are making slow but sure progress.

At the moment, music has given way to musketry, and we are busy firing the Empire Test, under the watchful eye of the Permanent Staff and Sergt. Pocock. Results to date are satisfactory, and, like our brother—"fiddlers" in the Regular Battalions, we are displaying that enthusiasm which leads to the Drums supplying their quota to represent "H.Q." Wing in the competition which the Commanding Officer has instituted at Battalion Headquarters.

Whilst on this subject, we are looking forward to firing our anti-aircraft practices at Eastertide, and hoping that the results will be satisfactory. We shall then settle down to practice again, and, although it seems a long way off, time absolutely flies, and before long we shall be once more at Falmer for the Annual Camp.

Needless to say, everybody is looking forward to this break from our rather humdrum everyday existence, and one hopes that employers will "pull their weight" so that we can have a good attendance and show what the Drums can do.

SIGNALS.

The Signal Section have just finished a special course of three weeks' duration. The results have shown that short courses of an intensive nature have much to be said for them. The recruits have benefited particularly, because they have not had the time to forget the previous night's instruction.

We also had two Sunday schemes, worked in to demonstrate the practical effect on signalling in the field. Altogether, everybody has had an invigorating refresher after the usual winter training.

The Section are bound for Portsmouth for the Easter holiday, where business and pleasure can be blended in the most advantageous way.

Incidentally, we shall be able to sample the newly erected modern barracks, with hot and cold water laid on to every cot!

For Whitsun we hope to assist "B" (S.) Company in their strenuous efforts to "rout the enemy just over the hill." We are not quite sure where we are going, but we hope for the best.

We offer a hearty welcome to our recruits, and hope that the future will be free from blisters.

We would like to point out that we are still in urgent need of more signallers to make up our strength.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

The principal feature of the past quarter has been the gradual improvement of the social side of the Mess.

Owing to the national bereavement, our January social was cancelled, and we opened the year on 28th February. A most enjoyable evening was spent, and the Mess was fairly full. The usual small preliminary whist drive was held and was followed by a dance and social. We have made an innovation, and, instead of hiring

a small band, Sergt. Maggs kindly loaned us a radio-gramophone, and before the evening was over some members became quite expert wireless operators. A Regimental Paul Jones was ingeniously arranged by playing a march record on the gramophone and then switching on the wireless dance music. Light relief and rest were provided by a clever ventriloquist introduced by C.S.M. Jones, who incidentally showed that he is an expert at musical chairs. (Is this what the M.Gs. learn at their Easter weekends?)

A large number of old friends and Old Comrades were present, including ex-C.S.M. Barton, father of our own Sergt. Barton. Sergt. Barton also contributed to the success of the evening by producing a cousin who entertained us with song, and, better still, an uncle who conveniently had a birthday. It was greeted with musical honours and brought the evening to a very successful finish.

The second social, held on 20th March, was an even greater success. We welcomed as guests the 26th A.A.S.L. Battalion, R.E., Sergeants' Mess, and the Mess was packed to capacity. The usual routine was followed, but Sergt. Maggs's radio-gramophone developed sore throat, and we had to fall back on a pianist.

"C" Company had a night out, as Mrs. Hill not only won the ladies' whist-drive prize, but also a prize for double musical chairs, and her husband was not her partner. Two of the Old Comrades from Wealdstone also captured prizes, including Mr. C. Sampson, who had to cut at cards, as he tied with Wally Hemmington. What a wangle!

We were entertained by Mrs. Bushell, who sang two popular songs, and also by Mr. Cameron. Mr. Cameron is a piper, and we think it must be the first time the Mess has been entertained in this fashion, although several of the Old Comrades informed us that the "Die-Hards" once had a pipe band.

We are looking forward to a good camp this year, and it is by means of these functions that members get to know one another better than if they only met for one fortnight in the year.

"A" COMPANY.

There is nothing of great importance to report during the past three months.

We hope to win the Sherwood Shield Competition this year, and if results of the recent N.C.Os.' promotion examination are any indication we should do very well. Out of the six entrants, four passed, and we congratulate Pte. Hartley, Pte. Woodcraft, L./Cpl. Ward and L./Cpl. Millie in occupying second, third, fourth and fifth places respectively.

Pte. Hartley, who is still in the recruit stages, deserves extra praise for obtaining 100 per cent. marks in map reading.

To the two unsuccessful candidates we say, "Better luck next time."

We welcome to our Company a new subaltern, and we hope that Mr. Bull will have many happy and successful years with us.

We bid farewell to two old and trusted N.C.Os., Cpl. Hylton and L./Cpl. Parker, who have been with us many years.

ACKAY.

"B" (S.) COMPANY.

The only outstanding event in the past quarter has been the Company's success in the Battalion Fire Direction Competition, this being the third successive win.

We would like to take this opportunity of congratulating the following on the good show they put up: Sergt. Yelland, L./Cpl. Prouse, and Ptes. Jones, White and Robbins.

The Company have started tactical training in readiness for camp, and we would like to thank Capt. Clarke for coming up from the Depot on two occasions to give us a lecture and a sand-table exercise, which were well attended. We have set our hearts on winning the Perrin Trophy this year, and if the present keenness shown by the N.C.Os. and men is maintained, I think that cup will find its way back to Willesden.

At the time of writing, we are busy preparing for the Annual Machine Gun Course, which is to be fired on Easter Sunday at Bisley, and we are hoping that this event will bring a few of the sleeping members of the Company out of their shells.

"C" COMPANY.

Our social activities this quarter have been rather cut down.

We again had much pleasure in shooting against Harrow School, in a match

arranged by our Company Commander, and, although we put up a good score (thanks to one of our team who put on 97, a score he has never reached before or since), we again had to admit defeat. Sergt. L. Spivey was our top scorer with a 99. Team scores were: Harrow School, 769; "C" Company and Old Comrades, 762.

This is the only shoot we have had this quarter, but now the league is almost finished we are hoping to keep in form with friendly shoots. We are shooting against the United Bank of Scotland in the very near future, the result of which will be too late to get into this issue of the Magazine.

While on the subject of shooting, on Sunday, 15th March, "C" Company fired their cards for the T.A. Small Bore Rifle Match, scoring a total of 593 against last year's total of 570. This is a great improvement, but hardly up to the standard of the team who took part in the shoot. We thank Col. Beech very much for so kindly coming over to witness the shoot.

We are getting to the end of our winter weapon training, and are looking forward to starting our shooting this year, which will take place at Bisley. All ranks should be pleased with having such a chance to fire their course on these splendid ranges.

Before closing these notes, all ranks of "C" Company wish Lieut. and Mrs. Abbott the best of luck in their new adventure in Hong Kong. Lieut. Abbott in his farewell note to the Company and Old Comrades says he will be looking forward to seeing them in camp in 1941, when he comes on leave. I am sure everyone will be pleased to see him.

"D" COMPANY.

Boxing must be the main topic of our notes this quarter because Mr. Hill and Ptes. Weaterton and Gaitt have gained for us a distinction which we believe to be unique in the annals of boxing in the Territorial Army—namely, the distinction of having three Territorial Army boxing champions in one company. We hold, through Mr. Hill and Ptes. Weaterton and Gaitt, the Officers' welter-weight, and the Other Ranks' heavy-weight and welter-

weight championships. We congratulate these champions and are proud of them.

We do not wish to appear vain, but we must admit that our boxers are too good—their very excellence minimizing our chance of winning company as distinct from individual honours in the ring, as these three boxers of ours, and one other, Pte. Chick, are not allowed to represent us in the Battalion Boxing Championships.

We were, however, quite well represented in the Battalion Boxing Competitions and had two runners-up in their weights—Pte. Moore in the heavy-weight, and L./Cpl. Goodenough in the middle-weight. Our representatives in the other weights all did well, and the experience they gained will stand them in good stead next year.

In the Brigade Boxing, Ptes. Weaterton, Gaitt and Chick won their respective weights and helped the Battalion to regain the Brigade Championship.

In the Divisional Championships the above and Mr. Hill won their weights and helped the Battalion to win the Divisional Championship. Mr. Hill's fight—his first in Territorial Army boxing—was an excellent one, and the best officers' fight we have seen for many a long year.

The other big event of the quarter was our Dinner. This was an historic occasion: first because the Mayor of Hendon sat down to dinner with us—the first time we have been so honoured—and secondly because we have never had such large numbers; 147 sat down to dinner, including a goodly proportion of Old Comrades, who are always most welcome.

We are gradually improving the amenities of our Drill Hall. The removal of our cumbersome and little-used billiard table has given us more room, and we believe that our two dart-boards, side by side and with independent lighting, are more appreciated than ever the billiard table was. We have also spent a large sum of money on new furniture, and hope shortly to spend more and make our Drill Hall really attractive.

Reading through these notes, one could justly surmise that we think rather of play and pleasure than work. Far from it: we have been working hard, preparing for the Sherwood Shield Competition, and the number of rounds fired on the miniature range must be nearly a record, as must

also the number of courses attended by Mr. Gray at the London District School of Instruction. Incidentally, his attendance at these courses will benefit us who are looking forward to the latest "tips" from that hot-bed of efficiency.

OBITUARY.

COL. L. G. OLIVER, C.M.G.

Lionel Grant Oliver joined the 77th Regiment from Sandhurst at Dublin in 1879 (that year the 77th Regiment was the best shooting regiment in the Army for the third time), and, being a first-class rifle shot, was very welcome.

He accompanied the Regiment to Dover that year, and in the following year, 1880, proceeded to India with the Regiment and was at first stationed at Bellary, in the Madras Presidency. In 1881 he accompanied the Regiment to Burma and was quartered in Rangoon, and later on he proceeded with his company to the Andaman Islands. He afterwards returned to India on being appointed Adjutant to the Planters' Volunteer Corps in Travancore. While there he often had some big-game shooting, and some of his bison heads are still in the Officers' Mess of the 2nd Battalion.

On promotion to Captain, he was posted to the 1st Battalion and later on, when the South African War broke out, he proceeded there and served with the M.I.

He afterwards commanded the 1st Battalion, and during his command new Colours were presented at Allahabad by H.E. Lord Minto, the Viceroy of India.

After being in command for three years, he was appointed a Brevet Colonel, and retired at the end of his command.

On the outbreak of the Great War, Col. Oliver rejoined the Colours. He was given command of the 13th Middlesex and the 2nd/5th Northumberland Fusiliers, and took part in the Battle of Loos. He was afterwards mentioned in despatches and received the C.M.G.

In 1916 he was invalided home, and retired later on.

After the war he married and settled down at his home, Summer Hill, Heacham, Norfolk, where he was always very popular at shooting and boating

parties, he being a member of the Brancaster Sailing Club.

He was in ill-health for the last year of his life, and died at his home on 27th March, 1936, at the age of 77.

The death of his wife followed on 4th April just a week after his own, she being very ill at the time of his death.

The Regiment was represented at Col. Oliver's funeral on 31st March at St. Mary's Church, Heacham, by Capt. H. E. Foster and Col. M. Browne, M.C., and a wreath was sent "From the Officers' Club, Middlesex Regiment." The local branches of the British Legion (both men's and women's sections) were also largely represented, together with his friends, and local acquaintances.

G. W. W. S.

LIEUT.-COL. H. G. W. CHANDLER.

Lieut.-Col. H. G. W. Chandler died at his home at Ipswich on 14th January, 1936, aged 66.

Educated at Wellington and Sandhurst, he was gazetted to the Regiment on 4th December, 1889, and joined the 2nd Battalion at Mhow.

He accompanied the Battalion on the expedition to Kelat in 1893, when they were ordered to escort the treasure of the Khan back to the Palace at Quetta which was destroyed in the recent earthquake.

Early in 1894 the Battalion proceeded to Ahmednagar, and shortly after arrival there Chandler transferred to the Indian Army and was posted to the Old Hyderabad Contingent. He was employed with the Tirah Field Force, 1897-98, and in the latter year transferred to the Military Accounts Branch. He held several administrative posts, and was subsequently Controller, Burma District. He retired in 1920.

Chandler always maintained a lively interest in the Regiment and its doings, and was a frequent visitor at the 2nd Battalion's functions at Colchester.

To his widow we offer our sincere sympathy.

THE ITALO-ABYSSINIAN WAR.

THE LATE MAJOR G. A. BURGOWNE.

By the death of Major G. A. Burgoyne on 6th March, 1936, killed by a bomb from an Italian aeroplane whilst in command

of the Ethiopian Red Cross transport train, the Regiment is brought into touch with the present war in Abyssinia.

Gerald Achilles Burgoyne was the eldest son of the late P. B. Burgoyne, of Broadlands, Ascot, and brother of the late Sir Alan Burgoyne. He was educated at Rugby and joined the 3rd (now 5th) Militia Battalion in 1892 at Hounslow.

In due course he was gazetted to a Regular commission in the 3rd (P.W.O.) Dragoon Guards. His peace-time soldiering was all spent at home, and regimental employment was varied by the Adjutancy of the Fife and Forfar Light Horse. When the South African War broke out he obtained employment on the staff of General Carrington, retiring later to regimental duty. He was mentioned in despatches.

On retirement he joined the Special Reserve of the Royal Irish Rifles, and whilst in Ireland indulged to the full his love of steeplechasing and point-to-points. It is worthy of note that, whilst at Carrickfergus, he founded the Sunnylands Beagles.

He proceeded to France with the Royal Irish Rifles in 1914, was severely wounded in the head, and for his services was twice mentioned in despatches.

He retired from the Special Reserve in 1920 and was called to the bar by the Inner Temple. In 1921 he was appointed Cork Pursuivant at Arms in Dublin Castle and was on duty and headed the cavalcade when His late Majesty King George V visited Ireland for the opening of the Northern Ireland Parliament in 1921.

He was at one time Master of the South Devon Hounds and later of the Wyllye Valley Foxhounds.

At the outbreak of the present war between Italy and Abyssinia, Burgoyne proceeded to Addis Ababa and was given charge of the Ethiopian Red Cross transport train. In the course of his duty with the column he made a journey of over 300 miles on foot to Dessie, over shocking roads—a good performance for a man aged 62 years.

We offer to his wife and two children our sincere sympathy.

EX-SERGT.-MAJOR EDWIN BEZAR.

On 6th February, 1936, died Edwin Bezar, twelve days short of his 98th birthday.

In him the Regiment loses its oldest and one of its staunchest supporters.

Bezar was born a Wiltshireman on 18th February, 1838, and enlisted in that county regiment at the age of 17. Within fourteen days he was on active service in the Crimea. In March, 1857, he was transferred to the 57th Regiment, stationed at Malta. A few weeks later, in consequence of unrest amongst the Sepoy Regiment at Aden, 200 men of the 57th were dispatched there in plain clothes (their uniforms and equipment being packed away as baggage) via Alexandria. It must be remembered that this was before the Suez Canal or the British occupation of Egypt existed, and hence Bezar and his companions had to travel through Egyptian territory as civilians! After a short tour of duty in India, the 57th was ordered to New Zealand in 1861, where their part played in the Maori War is a proud story. In this Bezar had his full share.

When the 57th left New Zealand in 1866 Bezar took his discharge as Colour-Sergeant and entered the Defence Department, being appointed Sergeant-Major of the Wanganui District. He retired in 1892.

On the occasion of the visit to New Zealand as Prince of Wales of our Colonel-in-Chief, Bezar had the honour of being presented, and later received an autographed photograph as a memento of the occasion.

He leaves a family of five sons and four daughters all living, his wife, whom he married in 1866, having predeceased him by some thirty years. He was buried at Wellington with full military honours.

Bezar never ceased to keep in close touch with the Regiment of which he was so proud.

In 1891 he published a small book entitled "Some Reminiscences of the 'Die-Hards' (57th West Middlesex Regt.)," and one of the original copies has now been deposited in the Regimental Museum.

So passes another link with the past.

EX-CPL. H. G. BROWN.

This Old Comrade died at Kilburn on 20th March, 1936. He was buried at Hendon Park Cemetery on 4th April, when a bugler from the Depot attended with a wreath.

Brown served in the Regiment from 1909 to 1918. His widow and family have our sincere sympathy.

EX-R.S.M. J. COOK (2187).

April 5th, 1936, saw the death of another old "Die-Hard" in the person of J. Cook. Cook, born in 1868, enlisted at Hounslow in 1887 and was posted to the 1st Battalion at Aldershot. The year 1894 found him with the rank of Sergeant with the 2nd Battalion, but service at the Depot, Hounslow, robbed him of his chance of active service in South Africa. Later he served in the 4th Battalion, of which he was Regimental Sergeant-Major, with the rank of Warrant Officer, Class I, in 1904. He held a similar appointment with the 1st Battalion in Burma, and was finally discharged to pension in 1912.

Cook was in possession of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, and the medal for the Coronation of King Edward VII.

The funeral took place at Aldershot on 9th April, when a wreath was sent from the Regimental Association. The Regiment was represented by Major B. G. Horrocks, M.C., and Capt. D. Y. Cubitt.

To the family we offer our sincere sympathy.

EX-C.S.M. J. J. GOULDING.

This Old Comrade enlisted at Stratford in 1900. He served with the Regiment in the South African War, being in possession of the Queen's Medal with two bars. Most of his service was spent with the 1st Battalion in India, when he was prominent both in the Battalion football team and in the athletic sports. Remaining behind with the details on the outbreak of the Great War, he rejoined the 1st Battalion on the Aisne in September, 1914, but was wounded in the knee in 1915 at Loos. After a period of home service he served with the 13th Battalion in France from 1916 to 1917, when he was finally invalided home.

Post-war service included a period at the Depot, and he was finally discharged to pension while serving as instructor with the 7th City of London Regiment in November, 1921. Goulding was promoted Warrant Officer, Class II, in July, 1915. He was in possession of all three medals for the Great War, and also the

Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

After discharge he was employed as a keeper in the L.C.C. parks until failing health forced him to give up.

He died on 3rd April and was buried at Nunhead Cemetery on 8th April, when a bugler from the Regiment attended with a wreath.

He leaves a widow and two sons, the latter now serving with the 1st Battalion, to whom we offer our sincere sympathy.

We have been requested by Mrs. Goulding to add here an expression of her appreciation of the messages of sympathy which she and the family have received.

EX-SERGT. J. T. HALL (4820).

We regret to announce the death of John Thomas Hall on 16th March at the North Middlesex Hospital.

This old soldier had been an invalid for many years. He enlisted on 21st April, 1896, and spent most of his service with the 1st Battalion.

During the Great War he was severely wounded in the back and thigh, and was finally invalided out in 1918 after twenty-two years' service.

For some time he was employed at the Finchley Post Office, but increasing ill-health compelled him to resign, and his last year was spent as an invalid.

Hall was in possession of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

The funeral took place at the Great Northern Cemetery, New Southgate, on 20th March, when a bugler attended with a wreath from the Regimental Association.

He leaves a widow and six children, to whom we offer our sincere sympathy.

EX-SERGT.-DMR. F. ROWE.

This old "Die-Hard," son of the late Sergt. Rowe, and born in the 57th Regiment in January, 1866, enlisted as a boy in the Band in 1880. He served nearly all his time in the 1st Battalion, from which he was discharged with a pension in 1905.

For many years he was Bandmaster of the Redhill Town Band, when the Great War claimed him, and he served at Hounslow in the Record Office. After demobilization he was employed as warder at Hampton Court Palace until shortly

before his death, which took place on 18th March, 1936.

The funeral took place on 21st March at Whitton, when a wreath was sent from the Regiment, no bugler attending by special request.

He leaves a widow, three sons and three daughters, to whom we offer our sincere sympathy.

EX-L./CPL. ALFRED SPARKES.

This Old Comrade died, an occupant of one of the Regimental Memorial Cottage Homes, on 3rd March, 1936.

He enlisted in 1905, completed seven years' Colour service, and then transferred to the Reserve. Called up for service on the outbreak of the Great War, he continued to serve until he was pensioned in 1929.

He took up the tenancy of No. 2 Cottage in 1933.

Sparkes was in possession of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in addition to all three medals for the Great War.

He died after a long, wearying illness, and was buried at Hendon Park Cemetery on 9th March, when a bugler from the Depot attended with a wreath.

We offer our sincere sympathy to his widow and family.

EX-CPL. J. A. STRETTON.

P.O. MARAISBURG,
TRANSVAAL.
3rd February, 1936.

To the Editor of "The Die-Hards."

DEAR SIR,

I much regret to report the passing away of an old member of the 2nd Battalion, Cpl. J. A. Stretton, who died at Boksburg Hospital on 17th January at the age of 59.

He joined the Regiment as a boy in 1891, and was posted to the 2nd Battalion, sailing from Cork in H.M. troopship *Crocodile* in February, 1892. He was a son of the late Sergt. Stretton, who was Master Shoemaker at the Depot at Hounslow.

He had two brothers in the Regiment, Bill and Fred; the latter, I believe, lost his life in the Great War.

WILLIAM TREZONA.

EX-PTE. C. H. TINDALL (5267).

We regret to have to announce the death of Christopher Tindall, which took place at his home at Dulwich on 19th March, 1936.

Born in the Army (his father was in the 19th Hussars) in 1879, Tindall enlisted in the Regiment on 16th November, 1897, and in due course accompanied his Battalion to South Africa, where he saw much active service with the 5th Division M.I.

Later, Tindall did his share of Indian service with the 1st Battalion, and it was with this unit, as an "Old Contemptible," that he went to France in 1914.

He closed an honourable military life of twenty-six years' service with the Queen's South African Medal (six clasps), King's Medal (two clasps) and all three medals for the Great War, and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

The funeral took place at Forest Hill Cemetery on 26th March, when a bugler from the Depot attended with a wreath.

To his relations we offer our sincere sympathy.

EX-C.S.M. HERBERT WRIGHT,
D.C.M.

Another well-known Old Comrade, Herbert Wright, passed on, in March, 1936.

Wright, a Londoner born in 1884, enlisted at Hounslow from the Militia in 1903, and spent nearly all his service abroad with the 3rd Battalion. He played his part to the full in the Great War, being wounded in the head, arm and leg, and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

He retired in 1922, being in possession of the Queen's South African Medal (three clasps), all three Great War Medals and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

The funeral took place at Kensal Rise Cemetery on 24th March, when a bugler from the Depot attended with a wreath from his Old Comrades.

He leaves a widow, whom we ask to accept our sincere sympathy.

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