



THE DIE-HARDS

The Journal of

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)

February 1939

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THE OLD COMRADES' DINNER, NOVEMBER 12th, 1938

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THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)

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

[57]

The Plume of the Prince of Wales. In each of the four corners the late Duke of Cambridge's Cypher and Coronet.
 "Mysore," "Serlingapatam," "Albuhara," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive,"
 "Peninsula," "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South
 Africa, 1900-02."
 The Great War—46 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914, '18," "La Bassée,
 1914," "Messines, 1914, '17, '18," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915, '17, '18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien,"
 "Frezenberg," "Bellevue," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916, '18," "Albert, 1916, '18," "Bazentin,"
 "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Flers-Courcellette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights,"
 "Ancre, 1916, '18," "Bapaume, 1917, '18," "Arras, 1917, '18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917, '18," "Arleux," "Pickle,"
 "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917,
 '18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrouck," "Bailleur," "Kemmel,"
 "Schepenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes,"
 "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suva,"
 "Landing at Suva," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem,"
 "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18," "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murmur, 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)	Hong Kong.
2nd Bn. (77th Foot)	Gosport.
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. (60th Searchlight Regiment)	Drill Hall, Pound Lane, Willesden, N.W.10.
Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment	Iverna Gardens, Kensington, W.8.

Amalgamated Anti-Aircraft Units of the Territorial Army.

32nd (7th City of London) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, R.E.	24, Sun Street, Finsbury Square, E.C.2.
33rd (St. Pancras) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, R.E.	Albany Street, N.W.1.

Allied Regiments of Canadian Militia.

The Prince of Wales Rangers (Peterborough Rgt.) (M.G.)	Peterborough, Ont.
The Wentworth Regiment	Dundas, Ontario.
The Middlesex and Huron Regiment	London, Ontario.

Allied Battalion of Australian Infantry.

57th Battalion	Preston.
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Allied Regiment of New Zealand Military Forces.

The Taranaki Regiment	New Plymouth.
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Colonel:

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

Officer Commanding Depot:

Major H. Phillips, 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. I 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



IT is with regret that we have to record in this issue the deaths of Col. J. Grove White, C.M.G., D.L., and Capt. H. E. Foster.

The record of service of the former is given in the obituary columns, and of the latter an appreciation appears in the Officers' Club Notes, and an account of the funeral of Capt. and Mrs. Foster and a record of Capt. Foster's service appear in the obituary columns.

THE OLD COMRADES' DINNER will be held this year on Armistice Night, at the Baltic House Restaurant, Leadenhall Street. Tickets, price 3s. 6d., can be had from the Secretary, Regimental Association, The Barracks, Mill Hill.

Our congratulations to Brevet Lieut.-Col. C. H. C. Pennycook, M.B.E., Cheshire Regiment (formerly Middlesex), on obtaining the Brevet rank in the New Year's list.

Golf. Attention is directed to the notice on page 469 *re* the Past *v.* Present match at Hendon, on 13th April.

We regret to announce the death of Brig.-General V. L. N. Pearson, D.S.O., who died at Hove on 17th January. We tender our sincere sympathy to his widow and son. A record of his services will be given in our next issue.

OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES

MARRIAGES

WHITING—AARON.—On 12th November, at St. John's Cathedral, Hong Kong, by the Very Rev. Dean Wilson, Capt. F. B. Whiting, The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own), to Lilian Aaron.

DEATHS

GROVE WHITE.—On 1st November, 1938, Col. James Grove White, C.M.G., D.L., late Middlesex Regiment (57th), of Kilbyrne, Doneraile, Co. Cork.

DELANO—OSBORNE.—On 8th November, 1938, at The Old Palace, Bekesbourne, near Canterbury, Gertrude Alice, dearly beloved wife of Major-General O. H. Delano-Osborne, C.B., C.M.G., second daughter of the late E. W. and Mrs. Last, of Bournemouth, and widow of Stuart Gaussen, R.M., of Listowel, Ireland.

STORR.—On 14th November, 1938, Edward Charles Storr, Priest, late Rector of Maldon, Essex, younger son of the late Henry Storr, aged 57 years.

FOSTER.—On 5th December, 1938, at 30, Kensington Square, W.8, Capt. Hubert Edmond Foster, late of the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment), aged 67.

FOSTER.—On 3rd December, 1938, at 30, Kensington Square, W.8, Janet Drury, beloved wife of the above-named Hubert Edmond Foster, and daughter of the late Leedham White, aged 67.

PEARSON.—On 17th January, 1939, at Hove, suddenly, from heart failure, Brig.-General V. L. N. Pearson, D.S.O., late Middlesex Regiment.

PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE HEADQUARTERS, CENTRAL LONDON
RECRUITING ZONE, WHITEHALL
ON 26TH OCTOBER, 1938

PRESENT: Col. M. Browne, M.C. (in the chair), Col. E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Lieut.-Col. W. W. Jefferd, Lieut.-Col. E. W. Fane de Salis, M.C., Lieut.-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O., Lieut.-Col. W. H. Samuel, Major H. Phillips, M.C., Major S. J. Clark, Major J. B. Worton, Major N. H. B. Lyon, M.C., Capt. H. E. Foster, Capt. F. A. L. Lawrence.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting were read and passed.

2. PAYMENT OF CLERK

It was proposed by Major Lyon, and seconded by Capt. Foster, that the amount of £20 per annum be paid for the services of a part-time clerk for the Officers' Club. (Carried.)

3. BUDGET FOR 1939

On the proposal of Col. Baker, seconded by Major Lyon, the Secretary's proposals for the Budget for 1939 were passed as follows: Cricket, £130; Tennis, £12; Golf, £49; Dinner, £130; Office, £60; "At Home," £60; Journal, £45; Depot Mess, £25.

FROM THE TOWER AT LEE-ON-SOLENT, OR GLIMPSES OF THE REGIMENTAL AUTUMN GOLF MEETING

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—It is regretted that this article was not ready in time for the last issue, but, on behalf of our contributor, we plead "the Crisis" as an excuse.]

Considering all things, the Regimental Autumn Meeting was a success. True, we have had larger numbers and better weather, but, despite a small attendance and stormy conditions, those who did take part had an enjoyable time and Lee-on-Solent Golf Club, of whose hospitality we availed ourselves this year, apart from its proximity to the 2nd Battalion at Gosport, a great asset, proved a very suitable rendezvous. If it has not the length and severity of Hayling Island or Liphook, it proved a more than adequate

test during this particular week-end, as the scores published in the November, 1938, issue show.

Of those whom we expect to see on these occasions, Arthur Cooper, Jock Horrocks, Shorty Lyons, Heape, Hogg, and Fox were missing.

The absence of Cooper we cannot explain, but Horrocks was presumably busy turning out Generals. Lyons was sharpening his ash-plant preparatory to leading a devoted band of Legionaries to a boat in the Thames. Heape was sick, and Hogg and Fox were still in a state of mobilisation.

In partial recompense we had our distinguished legal luminary, A. W. Lewey, and Chattey junior. Gordon Parker, too, reappeared after a long absence, and a new-comer in 2/Lieut. Hicks, of the 7th Battalion, made his debut. We congratulate the latter on so bravely entering the lion's den, for never has there been such a senior meeting. Lieutenant-Colonels, and Majors littered the place like autumn leaves. Captains were far outnumbered, and subalterns were as rare as mushrooms on the greens.

On Saturday morning, with the exception of Messrs. Lewey and McIvor, we got off to a very prompt start for a medal round. The conditions were quite reasonable and there was no reason why decent scores should not have been produced. However, there are several traps at Lee which may easily spoil a card, and for no particularly good reason putting seemed to afford some difficulty.

The first tee, standing as it does on the edge of the road, open to the gaze of passers-by, and flanked uncomfortably close with trees on the left and hedges on the right, caused an early loss of strokes for many. The short ninth saw many painful moments when luckless players found their hook wafted away into the trees, or, worse still, a swamp.

Apart from these two holes, however, there seemed to be trouble in plenty at many others for those who failed to control a shot in the wind.

It is impossible to play and get more than hearsay information of the fate of others, but whilst struggling round ourselves we heard rumours of excellent play by Whinney and Crawford, and witnessed ourselves the tribulations of Phillips and Worton. Of South, I heard not a word.

On arriving at the Club House it was not surprising to hear that Whinney had returned a 75. But this was not good enough, since

South had quietly putted himself into a 74 and, with this, cleared the board. The best Officers, of course, took 77.

The afternoon was taken up with the contest for the "Cooper" Cup. A touch of novelty was introduced this year as the result was a tie between Phillips and Worton representing the Depot and Crawford and Stephenson of the 2nd Battalion.

The tie was decided by playing off over three holes, and all and sundry faced the rain to watch.

Phillips and Worton made certain of the cup with three steady holes, which was more than their antagonists could produce. The meeting then adjourned for baths and change before reassembling at the 2nd Battalion Mess for supper.

After supper the annual meeting took place.

Whether it was the effect of supper or not, the meeting was uneventful and unanimous. The Hon. Secretary resigned and as there was no option but to accept his resignation, Hong Kong being a little too far away for him to carry on the work, a unanimous vote of thanks was passed for his work as secretary. The Committee resigned *en bloc* and were unanimously re-elected, and that was that.

The draw for Sunday was made and the business ended.

For the rest of the evening all was peaceful chatter, interrupted only by the periodical returns of Capt. Weller to the Mess after each fruitless effort to trace the house where his guest was waiting to be collected.

Sunday dawned damp and dreary, but competitors were once more commendably prompt—with the exception, of course, of the McIvor-Lewey combination which on this occasion came in with the tide at 12.30 p.m.

As it was damp and blowing half a gale we were not sorry that our allotted partners did not appear. This allowed us to wander from bush to bush around the course gathering first-hand information. Competitors were once more paired off for foursomes and provided some good entertainment between them.

The first tee again provided difficulties and a variety of shots, from Stephenson's boomerang which ended up on the far side of the second fairway in a bunker, to Parker's well-hit draw over the copse into a field 100 yards away to the left.

There had been some doubts over night regarding Chattey's handicap which he claimed to be 15, but which seemed unduly high seeing that he was a product of "South's

course for schoolboy golfers." We were not surprised, therefore, to receive, early on, information that in Worton and Chattey there was a pair to be watched as the latter had a beautiful swing.

Off we went, sailing before our umbrellas, to watch this and were rewarded by a masterly chip. We stayed for a while, but, alas, from then onwards we saw no schoolboy champion, only a very definite 15 handicap. When one was afar one could say, "There is a class player." The familiarity of juxtaposition brought certainty, however, that the swing was not producing the results and that here, as with so many of us, was a great performer without a ball.

We moved next to the burial ground of our own hopes the day before, the ninth hole. There we gathered that Samuel and Symes were going strong and were all square, whilst Crawford and Green were two down. We saw a superb shot of Coles's from the bunker—we saw other shots of his elsewhere, not so superb—and then we saw Rackham running about from the eighth to the sixth fairways like a dog which has lost its master. Mounting a hummock to see the cause, we noticed distinct signs of tension all along the line and heard considerable discussion. We heard someone say, "You must apologise," and we heard someone else say, "No, you do it, I'm playing with him this afternoon." As tactfully as possible we approached and, inquiring the cause of the trouble, found that a comedy of errors had taken place and that three couples had all succeeded in playing with the wrong ball.

Such things will happen, but, we regret to say, the aggrieved party was the heir presumptive to the secretaryship of Leatherhead Golf Course who, finding that his ball had been played in error by someone in another game, did not know what A should do then. What a secretary!

As it seemed to be getting rather warm in this corner we moved away and came upon a cheerful partnership in Phillips and Baldwin; their combined efforts at most holes were something like this: $a - b = 7$ or more.

At the moment we came upon them it was Baldwin's turn to remove the ball from the 14th tee and we saw him withdraw round the bushes to the teeing ground. The next we heard was a sickening thud, some sounds of consternation, and then the announcement, "I've hit my caddy."

Fortunately, the caddy was struck on a non-vital spot and was, owing to the weather, well covered and, we presume, he was standing at cover-point because, according to the law of averages, it should have been the one safe point at the moment.

Assured that death, or such less punishment, had not crippled the caddy, Phillips—regardless of the rules of golf—sought out the ball where it lay under a tree and attacked it with determination. He did not hole out. As truthful journalists we must even admit that the club passed right over the ball.

At this moment rain came down harder and we retired to see who had won as rumour had reached us that the Samuel-Symes—Crawford-Green battle was closer and closer. And so it proved, both couples having wilted at the end to tie with 4 down.

In the afternoon an innovation was tried by playing greensomes. As we were very busy ourselves this time we only know that, somehow or other, Worton and Hicks managed to collect the boodle and really what could be more appropriate as a finish.

It remains, therefore, only to thank the Committee of Lee-on-Solent Golf Club (and congratulate them, amongst other things, on their scones), to record the visitors' gratitude to the 2nd Battalion for their hospitality, and to Capt. Weller for kindly sitting at the receipt of customs.

The business of collecting sweep money, carrying it around, and so on, is a thankless job, but to have some non-playing volunteer to relieve the Hon. Secretary helps the meeting tremendously and for this reason only, I think, I may venture to add a word to what has already been written in the last issue on behalf of the golfing fraternity, as golfers only, regarding one of those who used to collect our half-dollars.

News of Phil Wray's tragic return to Palestine reached us just as the Golf Meeting closed and if there were no other ties it would be hard to think that one of our most successful voluntary customs collectors has passed on. To say that Phil never played golf would not be strictly accurate, but golfers will remember better that from time to time he had managed to collect our dues and, what is more, he managed to create the impression of getting enjoyment out of this extortion.

As in other spheres of Regimental life a blank is left, but a memory remains of one whose ability to find a source of enjoyment and humour in almost every situation never

decreased with the passing years, and whose interest was not confined to any particular game or pastime, but included anything of Regimental interest.

On behalf of the Regimental Golfing Society we mourn the passing of a true Regimental soldier and sportsman.

NOTICE

PAST & PRESENT GOLF MATCH

Officers eligible and desirous of playing for the Past team, on 13th April, are requested to forward their names and handicaps to Lieut.-Col. W. H. Samuel, Junior United Service Club, Charles Street, S.W.1, by 20th March.

CAPT. & MRS. H. E. FOSTER

AN APPRECIATION

The deaths of Capt. Hubert Foster on 5th December last, and of Mrs. Foster on the 3rd, was a great shock to their numerous friends, and, by many of them, must have been unexpected.

The late Capt. Foster joined the 2nd Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment, at Quetta, in 1892. He served with it in South Africa, and was present at the action of Spion Kop. He returned from South Africa in 1900, to take up the appointment of Adjutant, in the recently-formed 4th Battalion Middlesex Regiment, at that time commanded by myself. After the termination of his period as Adjutant, he was on the Staff of an Infantry Brigade of the Territorial Army; but failing sight cut short a promising military career, and he retired from the Army in 1908.

The quality most outstanding in Hubert Foster's character (a quality which Mrs. Foster shared with him) was, perhaps, his genius for friendship. They kept in touch to the last with his former Regiment, and with their many friends in it. In my own case that friendship included three generations, for it was extended to some of my grandchildren, as well as to their parents.

But their greatest quality, to my mind, was the splendid courage with which they faced, for many years, his impending blindness, which, at the last, was almost complete. He could no longer see to read, and, during his wife's illness, availed himself of my offer to read aloud. A few days before Mrs. Foster's death, though suffering from distress, and anxiety, he appeared to be in his usual health;

but the shock of her death brought on a heart attack, from which he could not rally. First cousins, they began life together in early days; and, as, we think, they would have chosen, ended it together.

C. R. SIMPSON.

December, 1938.

REGIMENTAL FIXTURES FOR 1939

April 13th and 14th.—Officers' Club Golf Meeting, Hendon.

June 25th.—Cricket v. Hampstead Heathens.

June 26th.—Cricket v. The Cryptics.

June 27th.—Cricket v. The Incogniti.

June 28th.—Cricket v. The Free Foresters.

June 29th.—Cricket v. The I. Zingari.

June 29th.—Officers' Club Dinner.

June 30th.—Officers' Club "At Home."

July 1st.—Cricket v. Hampstead Cricket Club.

July 1st and 2nd.—Tennis Tournament.

October 5th and 6th.—Autumn Golf Meeting (subject to confirmation).

November 11th.—Remembrance Day Service at the Regimental War Memorial.

November 11th.—Old Comrades' Dinner at The Baltic House Restaurant, Leadenhall Street.

EXTRACTS FROM THE "LONDON GAZETTE"

REGULAR ARMY COMMANDS AND STAFF

Lt. J. W. G. Ormiston, Midd'x R., to a spec. appt. (temp.) (Sept. 29).

Maj. E. M. G. Wray, D.S.O., Midd'x R., to a spec. appt. (temp.) (Sept. 29).

INFANTRY

Midd'x R.—Maj. F. G. Parker is restd. to the estab. (July 1).

Midd'x R.—Lt. C. V. U. S. Bilbrough is sec'd. for serv. under the Colonial Office (Sept. 28).

Midd'x R.—Lt. J. W. G. Ormiston is sec'd. whilst holding a spec. appt. (Sept. 29).

Midd'x R.—Capt. M. Crawford to be Major (Dec. 23).

RESERVE OF OFFICERS

INFANTRY

Midd'x R.—Lt. J. F. Morley, from Supp. Res. of Off., Midd'x R., to be Lt. (Oct. 24), retaining his present seny.

Midd'x R.—Lt. A. E. Blake having attained the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the Res. of Off. (Oct. 22).

Midd'x R.—Lt. G. L. M. R. Wilcox, from Supp. Res. of Off., Midd'x R., to be Lt. (Dec. 5), retaining his present seny.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

INFANTRY

Midd'x R.—S. E. Illingworth (late Cadet Corpl., Haileybury Contgt., O.T.C.) to be Sec. Lt.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

INFANTRY

9th Bn. Midd'x R.—Rfmn. P. Collins, from Queen's Westminsters, K.R.R.C. (late Cadet Corpl., Berkhamsted Sch. Contgt., Jun. Div., O.T.C.), to be Sec. Lt. (Oct. 5).

8th Bn. Midd'x R.—Lt. J. C. Holcombe, from 6th Bn. Devon R., to be Lt. (Aug. 15).

Kensingtons, Midd'x R.—Sec. Lt. H. C. Pyne to be Lt. (Oct. 23); Sec. Lt. C. K. Williamson to be Lt. (Oct. 23).

Kensingtons, Midd'x R.—Capt. F. Marshall, T.D., resigns his commn. and retains his rank with permission to wear the prescribed uniform (Sept. 20).

Kensingtons, Midd'x R.—The follg. Lts. to be Cpts. (Nov. 1):—J. Harley, G. D. Paterson, B. L. Bryar.

8th Bn. Midd'x R.—R. A. Booth (late Cadet Corpl. Wrekin Coll. Contgt., Jun. Div., O.T.C.) to be Sec. Lt. (Dec. 21).

RESERVE OF OFFICERS

INFANTRY

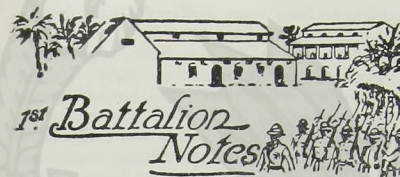
9th Bn. Midd'x R.—Lt. C. E. Abbott resigns his commn. and retains his rank (Sept. 24).

8th Bn. Midd'x R.—Lt. A. J. K. Wilson, from Active List, to be Lt. (Oct. 26).

Kensingtons, Midd'x R.—Capt. L. O. M. Collingwood, from Active List, to be Capt. (Nov. 2).

Midd'x R.—Lt. J. Hayer, having attained the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the Res. of Off. (Nov. 16).

Kensingtons, Midd'x R.—Lt. M. H. Falconer, from Active List, to be Lt. (Nov. 23); Lt. H. P. Low, from Active List, to be Lt. (Nov. 23).



LOOKING back on the past three months one cannot help feeling that the fates have been against us. The Battalion, by the beginning of October, was just starting to take shape as a Machine Gun Unit. Valuable groundwork had been completed, and all Companies had reached the stage when they



1ST BATTALION SWIMMING TEAM, 1938
Winners Area Aggregate Cup, Hong Kong

needed more than anything else to be left alone, uninterrupted, in order to put the finishing touches to their training. However, this was not to be, and Platoon training, let alone Company training, has been held up right from the very start.

At the beginning of October, "B" and "D" Companies had completed the second part of their Individual and Section training period, and "A" and "C" Companies were about to start on theirs, when—literally at a moment's notice, it was actually in the middle of the night—they were ordered to the Frontier to control the threatened influx of refugees who were expected to enter the Colony following the Japanese invasion of South China. This meant an unexpected

hold-up to training, more especially as neither Company, on account of the Internal Security role they were playing, took machine guns with them. In fact, the only members of the Battalion to gain any real benefit from the Frontier manning were the M.T. drivers, who were kept busy, from morning till night, maintaining the posts.

The actual duties involved in this Frontier patrolling were of a purely routine nature, and, when once the novelty had worn off, became monotonous in the extreme. At the beginning of November, the situation had eased sufficiently for the Posts to be withdrawn to San Wai Camp, near Fanling, thereby enabling "A" and "C" Companies to make a belated start to the second period of their training.

On 18th November, "D" Company moved to Lo Wu Camp as Advance Party, and on the 20th, "A" and "C" moved over from San Wai. Two days later they started firing Part Three on the Field Firing Range. But this was not for long, for within a week, not only "A" and "C" Companies, but the whole Battalion was taking a very active part on the Frontier. A full account of our part in the Border Incidents is published elsewhere in these notes, so it is unnecessary to repeat them here, except to say that for four days we were all kept at full stretch.

Now, at the end of December, life has once more taken on its normal appearance. "A" and "C" Companies have completed their Field Firing, and the former is enjoying

a well-earned rest in barracks. "B" and "D" Companies have fired Part Three. Taken as a whole we are still very far from being trained machine gunners, but we are, undoubtedly, making progress.

This quarter, like every other, has had its arrivals and departures. On 4th October, H.M.T. *Lancashire* brought us a large draft from the 2nd Battalion. On 1st November, she sailed for England, taking with her Major Stewart on six months' furlough, and Lieut. Beadnell, who was bound for the 2nd Battalion on completion of his tour of foreign service. On 25th November, H.M.T. *Dunera* arrived with Major Gordon and Bandmaster Kifford



1st BATTALION WATER POLO TEAM, 1938
Winners Hong Kong Large Units League

on board. The former, who has taken over the command of "D" Company, rejoins the 57th after an absence of nine years. To both we extend a very hearty welcome.

A few days later the *Dunera* left for home with C.S.M. Northcott, M.M., bound for Vocational Training. He will be much missed in every branch of the Battalion.

Once again there are very few ceremonial functions to record. On Armistice Day a small representative detachment was sent to take part in the parade service at the Cenotaph on the Island, whilst the remainder of the Battalion observed the silence in Sham Shui Po. The following day, Sunday, a strong-as-possible Church Parade was held in the Matshed Church in barracks, at the conclusion of which the Battalion marched past the Colours, and the C.O. took the salute.

Games have also suffered through our activities on the Border, and, in comparison with last year, there has been a noticeable decrease in the number of matches played, with the exception of the two football teams, who continue to do as well as ever in the First and Second Divisions of the Hong Kong League. The Battalion swimming team concluded an excellent season by winning the Area Inter-Unit Swimming Championships and carrying off the Area Aggregate Swimming Cup. In so doing, we won every water polo and swimming competition for both Small and Large Units, with the exception of the mile and half-mile; a really fine performance

Although the "Albuhera" Shield contests have not progressed very far as yet, the "Mons" Shield is well up to programme, and the pass-ball is all that remains to be decided. The Band scored wins in both the football, when they beat "B" 7 in the final, and the hockey, when they defeated "D" 14. The cricket was won by "B" 7. The standard of play throughout has been exceptionally high.

EVENTS ON THE ANGLO-CHINESE FRONTIER, OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 1938

The Japanese found that their offensive up the Yangtse was not going as fast as they wished towards their objective, Hankow, the Chinese Government H.Q.s of Chiang Kai Shek.

They also knew that arms and munitions were pouring into South China via Hong Kong from Germany, U.S.A., France, and Great Britain. They had announced that they would capture Hankow by 1st September, but by the end of October this had not been achieved. Accordingly, they resolved to start the long-delayed offensive in South China, in spite of the risk of being involved in incidents with Great Britain owing to the proximity of Hong Kong.

This led the Japanese to their Bias Bay combined operations, 25 miles to the N.-E. of Hong Kong, with an offensive, a little later, up the Pearl River (N.-W. of Hong Kong) to Canton.

This took place on 12th October and led to the hurried wiring of the Anglo-Chinese frontier by the 5/6th Rajputana Rifles, and the occupation of all frontier posts by "C" Company on the right and "A" Company on the left. From a glance at a large-scale map of Hong Kong it will be seen that, in and out, this frontier is over 14 miles in length, part of it being demarcated by a small track which may be used by both countries, and in the west by the north bank of the Sham Chun River.

During the Japanese operations that followed Hong Kong was carefully avoided, but after the fall of Canton they decided to drive southwards to the areas they had missed in order to capture or disperse the remnants of the 153rd Chinese Division.

During the five weeks that had elapsed after the Bias Bay operations the situation was so uneventful that Command decided that the 1st Middlesex could be withdrawn and that the Battalion could get on with field firing near Lo Wu Camp, leaving the former concentration centre at Sun Wai as a standing camp with a small maintenance party.

Suddenly, on the evening of 24th November, we received a message to be prepared to re-occupy all frontier posts to control refugees and possible Chinese soldiers as the Japanese had given warning that they were going to mop up the area south of Canton as far as the frontier. On Friday evening, 25th November, Lieut. Man visited the Sham Chun railway bridge and brought back such disturbing news about the massing of Chinese troops in Sham Chun village just across the border that, in addition to a Platoon that had already gone to Sha Tau Kok, 2/Lieut. Langley's Platoon was sent forward to guard the road and railway bridges which crossed the Sham

Chun River into Chinese Territory. On Saturday morning the fun began; Major Chang, the local Chinese Police Official, reported to us that there were no Japanese troops within 20 miles; this turned out to be a typical piece of Chinese optimism, for within half an hour he was shot through his shoulder blades, just above the heart, by Japanese troops who had suddenly come on the scene in M.T. As usual, the local Chinese-controlled Press stated that he put up a magnificent defence, but, be that as it may, his revolver was seen decorating the bar counter of the "Hunter's Arms," Fanling, for some days after.

By 10.30 hours, the Japanese attack was in full swing and did not look like stopping at the frontier. Planes came flying overhead showering down leaflets with large, red circles on them, calling on all good Chinese soldiers and citizens to show their goodness by disarming when the Japanese troops should arrive, and by sticking the leaflets on their doors when they would be sure to receive very special attention!

Several Chinese civilians, both male and female, were subsequently brought into British territory to be buried, well cut about the body and with odd pieces, such as noses, cut off. The Japs now started shelling No. 9 Post by the Road Bridge with shrapnel. The wooden bridge was hit, a piece was taken off the corner of the sand-bagged post and a Police Sergeant was wounded. Not content with this they also shelled a busy road junction about half a mile inside our territory and effectively prevented reinforcements proceeding along our frontier road, since by this time events had taken such a serious turn that the Commanding Officer had obtained permission to occupy all the frontier posts. 2/Lieut. Langley, with about 17 men, was at the railway bridge and here also the Japs attacked in force using M.G. and shell fire. Chinese troops and refugees were swarming over all the time, the soldiers throwing down their arms and kit, and tearing off their uniforms and even their shorts in order to hide their identities, for they knew well that the Japs had no intention of taking any prisoners.

Kit thrown away by them included hundreds of rifles and carbines of ancient pattern, but some of their equipment was surprisingly modern and included field telephones (better than ours), Mauser pistols, range-finders, anti-tank mines, and a new Continental pattern Bren gun. This latter was at once

taken into our block house and sited on a fixed line on the railway bridge.

Events now moved faster still. A Jap Officer arrived at the bridge, but was prevented from crossing whilst shell-fire fell near No. 12 Post which we had evacuated to prevent casualties, and the Japs swarmed across the river, occupied it, and planted their flag on top. They opened M.G. fire from the top of the wireless station hill just inside Chinese territory and fired about 10 bursts at refugees near Lo Wu Camp.

Several natives were hit and 2/Lieut. Langley telephoned to the Camp for M.G.s to be mounted to cover the railway bridge. At once Lieut. Man got four guns on to the ridge forward of the camp and prepared to open fire, and a Jap shell landed on Crest Hill about 500 yards away, but failed to explode.

Major Ayscough, commanding "A" Company, involved on this part of the frontier, parleyed with Jap Officers, including the Jap Battalion Commander, none of whom could speak, but could just read a little English; showed them the frontier as demarcated on our 1/20,000 map; and insisted that the frontier be maintained, and that they should withdraw from No. 12 Post.

After considerable hesitation this was done and then Capt. Boxer, the Command Language Officer, arrived on the scene and "consolidated" the situation.

Whilst all this was going on, the situation on the right portion of the frontier was by no means quiet. Japanese action had forced the remaining Chinese troops, who had not crossed over into British territory, towards the east and to Sha Tau Kok where "C" Company under Capt. Newton was holding the Posts on the frontier. Whilst L/Cpl. Smith and four men were busy disarming a party of about 12 Chinese soldiers, who had come over the border track near No. 3 Post, another group of Chinese irregulars arrived in the vicinity and started firing at our troops and their deserting comrades. Our men were ordered under cover, but the Chinese continued firing. Since no Officer was within a mile of this post, Smith ordered his men to open fire on the Chinese with one round each. A total of five rounds were fired and at least two casualties are known to have been caused.

Thus all in the same morning we found ourselves taking on troops of two different nations and, as often occurs, our task as

Imperial Policemen nearly turned us into the "Jam in the middle of the sandwich."

The Japanese Commander, Lieut.-Col. Miyazaki, now tried on the usual Jap practice of putting in a protest first, knowing full well that he was in the wrong. He sent over to the railway bridge an English-speaking private soldier with the following message in duplicate, both in English (of a sort) and Japanese, which he politely requested Major Ayscough to sign and return:

"When Japanese Armies reached the Sham Chun Station on 26th November, 1938, attacking for Chinese Armies, had been shot from British Post on other side of the river, so we Japanese Armies attacked them. Because this case has been smoothly resolved between Japanese and British Armies on the same day, declare that any complaint does not prefer in future."

On receipt of this absurd excuse, which is, however, quite typical of Jap methods, Major Ayscough and Capt. Boxer between them composed an answer which was a masterpiece of indignation at the ungentlemanly behaviour of our erstwhile Allies and ended up by saying that under no circumstances did this smoothly close the matter, but, on the contrary, we reserved the right to make any complaint and to demand adequate compensation for damage done. This was sent across to them, also in duplicate, with a space at the bottom for the Jap Commander to sign, acknowledging his guilt.

Although we were very much in the dark at the time and did not know that the Jap force in front of us was the only one operating on the border, the Japs were very alarmed at the idea of having caused an International Incident, and were most anxious to get anyone to sign an indemnity paper for them, clearing them of all guilt. Having failed all day to get this they notified us that they intended starting operations against Sha Tau Kok at 06.00 hours the next morning.

This was very bad news since the position of this village on the extreme east of the frontier lies on both sides of the border, the road running down the centre dividing the British from the Chinese section.

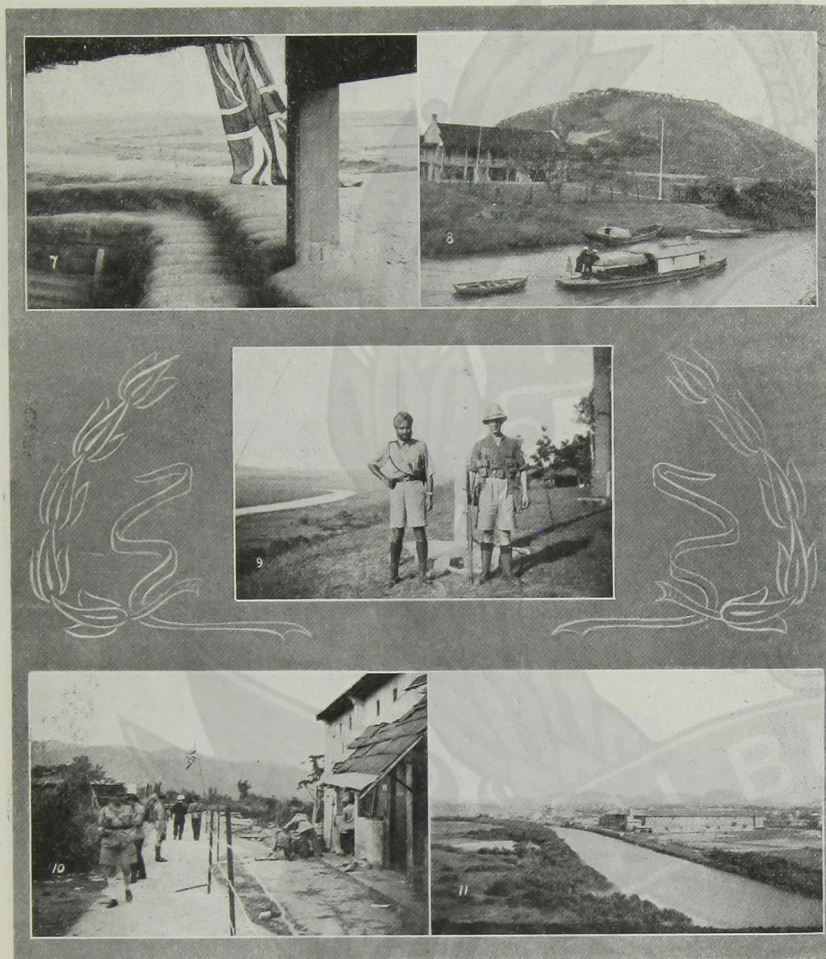
The place was full of Chinese troops who were approached by influential Chinese in Hong Kong to surrender to the British and cross the border where they would be disarmed.

However, the very proximity of the border at this spot lent the so-called defenders "Dutch Courage" for they knew well that they could



1. 2/Lieut. Langley and a group of Japanese soldiers near the Shum Chun Railway Bridge.
2. 2/Lieut. Langley with a group of Japanese soldiers on the Shum Chun Railway Bridge.
3. A Middlesex Battalion Sentry on the Shum Chun Railway Bridge showing some of the arms and equipment thrown away by the Chinese Army.

4. The main street at Sha Tau Kok, showing the line of barbed wire dividing the British from the Chinese side.
5. A Middlesex Battalion Sentry on duty at the Barrier at Sha Tau Kok.



7. A view from a Post at Lok Ma Chau.

8. The Chinese Customs station at Shum Chun, with the Wireless Station in the background.

9. An "A" Company Sentry with a Sikh policeman at Lok Ma Chau.

10. The wire at Sha Tau Kok, showing a Chinese machine gun on the right covered with a sack.

11. The Shum Chun Casino used by the Japanese as their H.Q. In the foreground is the Shum Chun River.

hop across the frontier at any time if the Japs really did attack them. Accordingly, they issued a statement to the effect that they intended to hold out to the end.

The Japanese attack was next reported as due to take place two hours later and we accordingly made all arrangements. Major Overell raised a mixed force to man 10 M.G.s, belt filling went on until midnight, and the Regimental bus was expressed to fetch up steel helmets for everyone. The Medical Officer got ready his two available ambulances and stuffed them full of lint, bandages, and iodine. Field dressings were issued and 10 per cent. casualties might well have been expected if the village was actually shelled.

Before dawn we were all up and every one at action stations, waiting expectantly for the "balloon to go up." The balloon, or rather, Blimp did go up since the Japs had one working from a lorry and this they used for Artillery spotting and also, no doubt, a good deal of telescopic lens photography of British territory. Intelligence reports all pointed to an eastwards movement of the Japs, but the attack on Sha Tau Kok never actually came off and we came to the conclusion eventually that this must have been the Japs' final bit of bluff to induce us to sign the paper they required before they went away.

However, this was never done; we took a firm stand and at length, after a conference with the Japs which included our Brigadier and the Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Col. Newnham, they informed us that honour was satisfied since such senior Officers had met and shaken hands and early next day they departed north just as quickly as they arrived.

Conditions became gradually normal after that, although "C" Company had a tricky time patrolling Sha Tau Kok whilst R.E.s came and wired the village.

This account would not be complete without a word about the Morris truck drivers who, throughout all this anxious time, drove continuously on the narrow frontier roads; also mention must be made of the Signal Section who maintained literally miles of signal cable, which was sometimes even cut by the shelling, and enabled constant touch to be maintained throughout the entire time between all the scattered out-posts, some 16 in all, and Battalion Headquarters.

BAND

That terrible man, the Sub-Editor, is calling again for some notes, even though we are up to our eyes in work owing to being at camp. Like a true newspaper editor of the films, he says, "The public wait for no man. Our scandal sheet must go to Press whatever happens." Hence, yours truly pounding away on ye olde writers, type . . . 1.

To get down to the more serious business, let us commence by wishing Bandmaster Judge, who has left us for the "terriers," a really successful time in his new sphere and hope that he gets the same support from them as we hope that we gave him. His departure was a loss, not only to the Band, but to the Regiment. We welcome his successor, Bandmaster Kifford, who, although not having been with us long, has entered the vacant role admirably, and we all wish him and his wife a very long and happy time with us.

As regards sports, we are the "top dogs" now, having won the football and hockey knock-outs, and being runners-up in the cricket.

Both the football and hockey were hard-fought contests and it was only after a couple of replays that the final decisions were reached. We were the victors over "B" 7 in the football, the score being 2-1, and over "D" 14 in the hockey with a score of 1-0. "B" 7, however, had their revenge in the cricket and it was to them we lost in the final.

Our engagements have not been too numerous, even the Officers' Mess has "given us a break." We have not been idle, nevertheless, as we have been doing quite a number of guards. Whilst we are on the subject of guards, we must not forget to record that Len was the "stick man" on one occasion. (Who said it was a "fiddle"?)

As the opening of these notes denotes, we are in camp at Lo Wu near the Anglo-Chinese border. Plenty has been happening around this district with the Japs, but, as we were tucked safely away in barracks, we will leave it to the "Frontier Campaigners" to describe in their notes next quarter.

Christmas will have come and gone by the time that these notes appear in print, and we hope that all readers had an enjoyable time during the festive season.

We welcome back from leave L/Cpl. Geary and with him the reliefs from the Home Battalion, namely, Bdmn. Smith, Bolam, and McDonald.

In conclusion, we wish all members of the 2nd Battalion Band all the best.

"BOB'S YER UNCLE."

DRUMS

Hello!! . . . Station D.R.U.M.S. calling from Hong Kong, the land of the slant-eyed sirens. Well, slant-eyed, anyway. So to the serious business of recording our deeds of daring.

First, we are glad to announce our win in the Platoon hockey knock-out over 9 Platoon, "B" Company, the score being 3-1. In the same competition we had to haul down our flag to 14 Platoon, "D" Company, the score being 0-1.

Continuing sports, the Battalion came first in the swimming in which Dmr. Murray (03) finished champion plunger of the Battalion.

On 1st September, there was a "ten-day break" for the Battalion, and quite a number of drummers dispensed with breakfast for the period, finding a "lay-in" infinitely more desirable. During the break the Drums had an outing to Big Wave Bay. With the Cook Sergeant's sandwiches and the Marcel Café beer, a fine time was had by all.

On 26th September, L/Cpl. Webster went on a P.T. Course. It is hoped that he will not become too muscle bound to parradiddle on his return.

On 4th October, Cpl. Ringe (to whom goes our congratulations on his promotion) and L/Cpl. Holdford returned home after being abroad in England for six months, and proceeded to narrate a crazy yarn about trams going along without horses.

On 11th October, the first batch of Middlesex left for the frontier. There are now two Companies there in camp for the purpose of regulating the refugees from Canton and South China. This is owing to the Japanese invasion of South China. Dmrs. Savage and Powers went up as buglers; lucky stiffs.

Of the draft which arrived on 4th October, we have three attached for training—Ptes. Sturgess, Dewberry, and Walker. Dewberry, having blown a bugle in the Terriers, has only to learn the calls and he will be taking his turn at having a night out of bed.

Last, but not least, the six-two-double-O.s, like the poor, are always with us, but judging by some of the remarks bandied about lately re the *Dunera*, the six-two-double-O.s of the Drums do not expect to be with us much

longer. In case they are "on the boat," we will wish them a fond farewell and all the best.

To Drum-Major Jeffree and his wife we wish a happy furlough in U.K. and look forward to their return.

We will fade out, wishing the drummers of the 2nd Battalion a good month's furlough and a happy Christmas, although by the time these notes are in print all that will be over and, perhaps, almost forgotten.

"DOUBLE TAP."

BOYS

Tuning-in to Gosport, England, we call all Boys of the 2nd Battalion. We find ourselves backward with our journal notes, but we will endeavour to pass on to you some news of the past and present.

Firstly, we must mention about Boys Russell, Hardy, and Rooker attaining the age of 18 years, and are now able to smoke in peace.

Our hockey team is improving steadily under the keen eye of L/Cpl. Thorley, and we have had numerous victories over the Middlesex Ladies and various other teams.

Our strength is fast dwindling, and we have to fall back on our ex-Boys to form a football team, and, I regret to say, we have suffered a good few defeats, but we never say die. We entertained the Central British School Boys on the Battalion ground and, after a really exciting encounter, we went down under by 2-4.

There are many promising young players amongst our team, namely, Boys Hardy, Wilson, Smith, and Rowe, and not forgetting our most outstanding performer, Grossmith, who has many times been included in the Company team in the Small Units League. To him, we extend our congratulations, and also to Boy Hardy who was chosen to take part in the Battalion diving.

Into our silent six we welcome L/Cpl. Thorley who is to be our "great white boss" in place of L/Cpl. Moggridge, and we hope that he will enjoy his stay with us.

At the present moment we are preparing to go to camp at Lo Wu for about two months.

In closing these notes we wish the Boys of the 2nd Battalion a prosperous New Year.

"EL MUCHACHO."

THE CHINA WAR



1. Group of Japanese soldiers taken at the temporary barbed wire barrier at No. 11 Post.
2. Refugees returning to Chinese territory, being helped at No. 11 Post.
3. View of the Railway Bridge and No. 11 Post, taken from the Shum Chun Wireless Station, in Chinese territory.
4. A Chinese refugee carrying his family to safety.
5. A group of Japanese officers near No. 11 Post. Col. Miyazaki, O.C. Japanese Advance Guard, on the left.
6. The rail truck used to ration No. 11 Post from Lo Wu Camp.

"A" COMPANY

Another Armistice Day has arrived with no major war in Europe, but a minor affair with Japan and China which has been the cause of us spending a not too unpleasant time in camps and blockhouses.

Two Companies, "A" and "C," were ordered to their frontier posts on 12th October. We had about six hours to prepare for the move and we are very pleased to say that our Company was there on time and ready for war.

No. 4 Platoon, under the command of Lieut. Hewitt, took their Post at Lok Ma Chau, where a camp was erected under the able guidance of L/Sergt. Marshall, who was busy relating how they used to do these things in "Nagar." Nothing really exciting happened until the ghost of General One Lung Lewis hove into view whilst Pte. Allen was on sentry-go; then sparks did fly, when he awoke the whole camp with his screeches. The wild animals did not worry us much, although some of the Platoon say that they saw things like wolves, boa constrictors, and elephants. This was not due to inebriation, owing to the fact that the N.A.A.F.I. only came once a day.

No. 5 Platoon, under Lieut. Beadnell and L/Sergt. Britton, to say nothing of "Scratch," were in a nasty spot at Scham Chun Railway Station, but, according to reports, were content with what little shelter they could get. This was the unlucky Post that never saw the N.A.A.F.I. and, consequently, had to utilise the "Ration Truck" for getting in their store of "HB," not to mention "Red Label." The sentries on this post must have been alert as a message was sent through to Company "H.Q." to the effect that an aeroplane with *black spots* under its wings had passed over the Post. Evidently the "HB" had taken effect, or perhaps it was due to the fact that the sentry had missed his daily dose of quinine.

No. 6 Platoon, under their Platoon Commander, Lieut. Langley, was at Company "H.Q.'s" Sun Wai Camp, in reserve, and were employed in putting up a camp under the eagle eye of our C.Q.M.S., whose cry, "That tent is in the wrong place, put it up here," will ring in the ears of our young soldiers for many months to come.

It was heard said that they would sooner face the wrath of General Hata, than that of the C.Q.M.S.

On the administrative side, undoubtedly, the man of the moment was Pte. Betts, who performed his duties as ration guide admirably.

One would have thought, to hear him relate his experiences, that he had served in half a dozen campaigns during his two years' service. To sum it up, if there was anything wanted the answer was "See Betts," and if he was absent, "See French," so "Q" branch was in the able hands of these young soldiers.

Now that the emergency is over we are moving to Lo Wu for a spot of training.

TRAINING

We started our training this year with our new Company Commander, Major Ayscough, with whom some of us have served before. We heartily welcome him and, with the aid of the last draft, we hope to serve as loyally as we did before.

Platoons are being trained by their own Officers and N.C.O.s, and up to the present some good results have been obtained. Young subalterns are busy making out schemes, such as follows: General Majong with about 300 bandits has captured Sham Chun Railway Station with the object of cutting off supplies to Canton. "A" Company "Scotch Warwicks" and 1 Platoon of 1st (M.G.) Battalion The Middlesex have been sent out as a punitive force to retake the station. I intend: and there follows the ordinary routine; we always manage to win and I am afraid I do not know what would happen if we lost.

N.C.O.s are busy swotting safety and fire-control. We have attached to the Company two old friends, C.Q.M.S. Bayles, and Sergt. Ramsey, who are preparing themselves prior to being promoted W.O. Class III. We congratulate them.

SPORTS

Inter-Platoon Hockey

The Company were unlucky in the inter-Platoon hockey, 4 and 6 Platoons being knocked out in the first round.

5 Platoon reached the semi-final, but were defeated by the Band by the narrow score of 1-2 after drawing in the first game 1-1. Both games were spoken of by many keen hockey fans as two of the finest games they have witnessed for a long time, and there was not a dull moment throughout the games, but it must be admitted that the Band were a superior team, though it was only sheer hard work and grit on the part of every member of the team that kept them from scoring and inflicting a heavier defeat. Credit must go to Pte. Webb in the second game. He was brought in at the last moment to play in goal

through our regular goal-keeper being in hospital. He played a sterling game throughout and the two goals that were scored were no fault of his.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

As mentioned before we welcome Major Ayscough and were all sorry to lose Major Dobbs.

Our popular C.S.M. has left us for home and we wish him all success in his venture hoping that some school will need a coach, and that "Bunny" is selected.

Another draft has arrived from England, consisting of Sergt. Maloney and Cpl. Sheen, and 36 others. We hope they enjoy their stay with us.

"B" COMPANY

We find it difficult to find an opening phrase on which to start these notes off this quarter, as what with wars and rumours of wars we find ourselves, like the remainder of the world, all "Topsy Turvy." Midst all this "Topsy Turvism" we have managed to play several competition games, and, although we failed miserably at hockey in the "Mons" Shield Competition, we have more than held our own at football and cricket. No. 7 Platoon is our best Platoon at present. They have won the "Mons" Cricket Shield, beating the Band by over 240 runs, but were beaten by the Band in the final of the "Mons" Shield (football) by 2-1. A very good show, 7 Platoon, and the Company heartily congratulate you on your performances. In the Small Units Football League we have played three games, won two, and lost one. We beat "B" Company Kumaon Rifles, by 4-0 and "D" Company Middlesex, by 3-0, but we lost to "H.Q." Company Middlesex, by 0-3. We were surprised to be beaten by "H.Q." Company, but we hope to get our own back at some future date. We have won the "Albuhera" Cricket Shield, a very fine performance indeed. It is remarkable the great keenness that is shown in all these competition games and to win a shield at any sport is no mean achievement. We have a very good sporting spirit in the Company these days and congratulate all those who have worked so very hard to bring this about. We welcome all those who joined us with the last draft from England. We hope that in the near future we shall be

able to include them in the Company sports teams, as there seems to be some very promising talent amongst them.

We welcome Pte. Bennett from leave, and take this opportunity of saying good-bye to all those who leave us this Trooping Season. We shall lose some very good men, and it is felt it will be some time before we shall be able to replace them.

BEER.

"C" COMPANY

Since our last notes were sent in for publication we have had quite a large slice of excitement, caused by the Sino-Japanese War.

During the night of 11th and 12th October, our slumbers were rudely shattered by the Company Orderly Corporal turning us out of our beds, and warning us to get packed ready to man our out-posts. At 06.30 hours on 12th October, 1938, we were on our way to the battle zone; No. 10 Platoon to Shau Tau Kok, No. 11 Platoon to Ta Ku Ling, No. 12 Platoon to Ling Ma Hang, and Company Headquarters to Sun Wai. After the Company had been out on the frontier for about 10 days, Platoons were withdrawn from Posts and all concentrated at Company Headquarters (Sun Wai Camp), which is roughly five miles from the border.

Two Companies were at camp at Sun Wai, "A" and "C," and both enjoyed their stay, for the camp site was ideal for two Companies. Camp life at Hong Kong is a fine life, but it has one great drawback—"Mosquitoes"—these are very savage. In fact, they seem to wear ammunition boots, and kick quite freely. This can be proved by the number of our lads who have departed to hospital.

On 20th November, the Company struck camp and proceeded to another site (Lo Wu), which is the Battalion Camp, where we commenced Field Firing; but the Japs did not intend to let us rest in peace, for on the afternoon of 25th November, No. 10 Platoon was suddenly ordered out to man their Posts again, and No. 12 Platoon were sent on patrols along the frontier road, whilst the remainder of the Battalion settled down to spend a peaceful night, only to be awakened by the sound of hurrying feet and words of command. On investigation it was found that one of the "A" Company Platoons was departing for the frontier, and the peace of the night was again enjoyed. On the morning of the 26th,

it was found that nearly all Platoons were drifting out to their Posts and positions.

The remainder at Lo Wu Camp were lucky enough to obtain an excellent view of the capture of Shum Chun, a Chinese town about one mile from Lo Wu Camp.

Everyone was excited when the Japs began shelling, especially when shells dropped within two thousand yards of the camp, but everything passed off fairly quietly.

One of the main jobs of our troops was to disarm any foreign troops which crossed the border into British territory, and whilst doing this one of No. 10 Platoon Sections (mentioning no names) proceeded to disarm about 80 Chinese soldiers, but the Chinese did not seem to like this idea, and dispersed into Chinese territory, at the same time turning to fire on our lads who promptly retaliated in self-defence. Our lads came through this small battle intact, and it is said that two hits were recorded for our side. "Good shooting, 'C'."

Quite a number of Chinese soldiers crossed the Border, some of these had been injured, but mostly because they had no good leaders.

Arms and ammunition were plentiful along the frontier, and the Regimental Museum should have some very interesting relics. What about opening a new wing for this antique stuff?

A few days were spent in watching for the Japanese troops. These failed to appear, and we soon found ourselves back in the main camp once more, to continue Field Firing with Emma Gee. (It was found out that the Japs had withdrawn, and had promised to keep off the border, much to the disappointment of our lads, who were looking forward to a rather hectic time.)

We are glad to welcome to our Company, C.Q.M.S. Paterson and C.Q.M.S. Donovan from "A" and "D" Companies, who are attached to "C" Company for their probationary period as P.S.M.s. They have been training with Nos. 11 and 12 Platoons, and we hope they have gained a certain amount of experience in readiness for their forthcoming examination. We sincerely hope they are enjoying their stay with us and wish them every success, and may they come through the examination with flying colours.

In conclusion, we extend our congratulations to L/Cpls. Phillips, Wood, and Wright on their appointments, and wish good luck to

Cpl. Keefe, Ptes. Lewis, Towler, and Izzard, who have left us for civilian life, and hope they are successful in their new sphere.

To all old members of "C" we extend the season's greetings and wish them all the best for the year 1939.

"CHARLIE."

"D" COMPANY

Having passed through another three-month period we find ourselves again in the position of having to lay our typewritten notes on the Editor's table.

Alas! We have lost our Company Commander, Major Stewart, and all we can do about it is to extend our best wishes and hope to see him back with us again next year.

We welcome in his place, Lieut. Man, who has had command of our Company before, and who has taken over temporary command until the arrival of Major Gordon from the 2nd Battalion. We hope his stay with us, though short, will be a happy one.

To say that the general political situation has affected us, would be idle words, and we must thank Major Stewart for enlightening us on world affairs, in his periodical lectures.

With the rest of the world we have just passed through rather a hectic time. Dame Rumour, as usual, not helping to make things look any brighter, and the nearness of the Japanese not very assuring at all. Anyway, we find ourselves facing the situation with the usual British calmness and, at present, we have "A" and "C" Companies on the frontier; not shooting Japanese, but helping to control the influx of refugees into the Colony. Quite a different occupation from what was at first expected. It appears it depended on the spin of a coin as to which Companies were to occupy the frontier and, luckily or not, "D" Company stayed behind and with "B" Company have taken over employments and duties. This will not last for long, however, as we hear we go to Lo Wu on 18th November, to erect camp for Battalion training.

Armistice Day has passed, and we observed the silence with the usual passiveness. No Battalion Parade was held, but on Armistice Sunday there was a special service in the Matshed Church to commemorate the occasion, while at Hong Kong the usual Cenotaph Ceremony was also held. Since the last notes

NOTICE

Will anyone finding any spare molars on No. 2 ground, please return to "D" Company office, as the loser would like to keep them as a memento of his performance of his now famous swallowing-the-hockey-ball trick?

FOOTBALL

The disorganisation of the sports world in the Battalion owing to Sun Wai Camp has affected most sports, including football, although we hope to finish off the Small Units League which was started before that time.

We began badly, losing our first three matches, but the return of Cpl. Hammond from leave has strengthened the team and we have now won three of our last five matches. The following are the results: Kumaon Rifles, won 5-2; "B" Company, lost 0-3; "B" Company, won 1-0; "H.Q.," lost 1-2; "H.Q.," won 2-1.

We were also unlucky at the beginning of the season in meeting Company teams who were strong in Battalion players, they being allowed to play for their Companies as long as they had not played two matches for the Battalion.

An experiment with Mills at inside-right has been tried and has turned out successfully. Pte. Revell, of the last draft, ably fills the vacancy at right back. Pte. Cutter and Pte. Simpson, both newcomers to the team, have been playing very well, especially the former, who has been in fine form in the last few matches. Pte. Cooper (of the hammer-throwing Coopers) has returned to perform between the sticks, thus allowing Pte. Berry to resume his position at left back, strengthening the defence.

We have been unfortunate in having Pte. Painting and Pte. Jones, two very sound players, in the ranks of the injured, but hope that they will be fit when the Albuhera Shield games come off, and so with the return of our Battalion players we should have quite a useful team.

SHOOTING

Although the H.K.R.A. Meetings have been held regularly, they do not seem to be attended quite so well as last season. The windy weather we have been experiencing may have had a lot to do with this, especially as far as the S.R.A. class is concerned. L/Cpl.

we have had a draft of 110 men from the 2nd Battalion; of which 26 came to our Company. We welcome them, and hope that by now they have settled down in their new environment. We also welcome back Serjts. Priddy and Castle, Cpls. Lane, Hammond, and Shaw, and Pte. Jones, who have returned from leave and courses.

SWIMMING

We congratulate all members of the Company relay team who put up a great performance in winning the Command Small Units Relay Race, especially Lieut. Chival and Pte. Davies, who gained much lost ground. Pte. Buckle, our last man, took over about three yards behind, only to bring forth a super-human effort to win a very exciting race, by a small margin. Ptes. Berry, Buckle, and Davies still maintain fine form in keeping their place in the Battalion water polo team. We also congratulate Pte. Berry on being chosen to represent the Services.

HOCKEY

"A" and "C" Companies going to Sun Wai Camp has also affected this sport, so far as the Company team is concerned, no Small Units matches being played to date. We are due to play "C" Company in this competition, but whether the game will materialise is very doubtful.

Hockey is progressing very favourably in the Company; most of us now have a very good idea of the game and, with a bit more practice, the Platoon standard should be very high. Taking advantage of the absence of "A" and "C" Companies, which means more ground allotments, Platoons have been getting in plenty of practice, nearly everyone in the Company getting a game at some time or other.

14 Platoon have done remarkably well, having reached the final of the inter-Platoon knock-out, which they stand an excellent chance of winning. They have a good, sound team ably led by Pte. Wilkinson, who, although a beginner, shows every sign of developing into a very good player.

15 Platoon, the acknowledged team of scruff games, went out first round, losing to "A" 5 after putting up a plucky fight against a superior team. 13 Platoon also were unfortunate in losing to "C" 12.

Rawling is still doing wonders with his shooting iron, having collected five spoons out of six shoots; a fine performance. Pte. Tully also has one spoon to his credit.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Sergt. Priddy, Sergt. Ramsden, Sergt. Castle, and Cpl. Shaw on the results of their courses; L/Cpls. Rawling, Noble, and Vallance on their appointments to that rank; Sergt. Hopwood on his "D" at Netheravon; and anyone else in the Company who thinks that he should be congratulated.

"DON."

SERGEANTS' MESS

Besides the shortage of water, we have to report a distinct scarcity of notes this quarter. The note drought is more serious than the water—after all, one can always get a fruit pop at the Mess. Anyway, if readers want good value, they must read these notes twice.

Nothing serious in the way of sport has been attempted this quarter, apart from a cricket match *v.* the H.K.V.D.C., the seriousness of which can be imagined when we say that the weather clerk made good leeway on that occasion with a steady downpour. However, we gained the honours and the day concluded with a convivial evening in the Mess.

The fortnightly whist drive and dance continues to be very popular and attracts many old friends and other Mess members. Unfortunately, these functions are now suspended until the Battalion returns from camp towards the end of January. An invitation to a dinner was extended to members of the 2nd Battalion East Surrey Mess during their stay in Hong Kong recently. Quite a large crowd came and an enjoyable evening was spent by all.

C/Sergt. Colbourne and Sergt. Quick are becoming quite expert yachtsmen. We understand the former mistook the course in one race (mixing up port with starboard).

Bandmaster Judge left us for civvy life in August, having obtained employment and taking his discharge whilst in U.K. on furlough. All our best wishes go with him. His successor, Bandmaster Kifford, is arriving shortly on the *Dunera*.

Once more the trooping season is taking its toll. C.S.M. Northcott, M.M., and Sergt.

Kruck are leaving soon for the U.K., the former for Vocational Training, and Sergt. Kruck for a tour of duty at the Depot. All our best wishes go with them. Sergt. Kruck we hope to see again, but for C.S.M. Northcott we can only say farewell. Apart from a tour of duty at the Depot from 1928 to 1930, he has been a member of the 1st Battalion Mess for the past 12 years. As these notes go in, we are arranging a farewell function, and will send him off in the time-honoured manner.

Sergt. Maloney is welcomed to the Mess on posting from the 2nd Battalion. He arrived in October on the *Lancashire* along with Sergts. Priddy, Castle, and Chaplin from courses and furlough. Sergts. Priddy and Castle can now discuss such things as pistons, petrol, and pumps on equal terms with the Battalion M.T. experts.

Dart playing is now quite an institution, and the board is wearing thin along with the hair of the players.

Finally, our congratulations to C/Sergt. Hale on his appointment to Orderly Room Sergeant and promotion to C/Sergt (uneasy lies the head that wears the crown), and to Sergt. Chaplin on his appointment to O.R.C.

Still harping on the subject of water, it is recorded of a certain mining town in Australia (in the good old days), that their water supply had been cut off for two days before anybody noticed it.

* * * *

During my leave in U.K. I came across a few ex-members of the 1st Battalion Mess, and hope the following notes may be of interest.

Sergts. Blake and Chasney who took their discharges from the Depot early in 1938 are now working at the Edgware Post Office and are comfortably situated. At the farewell dinner given at the Depot Mess on the occasion of the presentation to these N.C.O.s, Mr. Chasney senior, in a short speech, mentioned that he himself had received a similar presentation in the same Mess when he left the Regiment to pension.

Ex-C.S.M. Anderson is working for the G.P.O. as a postman, also ex-L/Sergt. Glover who is doing well as a lineman. What Mrs. Glover thinks of the wires and lines he erects in his house for practice, we do not know.

There is quite a military atmosphere pervading the Post Offices and it is worth mentioning

that a large number of vacancies in the G.P.O. are being offered to ex-Service men. Taking into consideration the steady employment, sick benefits, pensions, leave, etc., these jobs are worth having and worth registering for.

Ex-R.Q.M.S. Crouch is in his element as a Cadet Instructor at the Mill Hill School. Ex-C.S.M. Burt is in a good position as school board officer—he is fully mechanised, having acquired a bicycle with the job.

Ex-Sergt. Painter is a school caretaker with the L.C.C. Ex-C.S.M. Fleming is at the Aldershot Command Swimming Baths.

All these former Mess members wished to be remembered to old friends, and would like the old times over again.

R. C.

CORPORALS' CLUB

From far and near the scribes get together for a pow-wow to let the other half know what has taken place in that mystery room of the Corporals. It is with great pleasure that we return to our luxury home, namely, the new Corporals' room. We have heard that it rivals the palace, at the Depot.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to Cpls. Turner, Powell, and Kidby, upon obtaining that coveted second stripe, and we also congratulate that selected few who have taken the chance of becoming future Field Marshals.

As regards sport, we have very little to report, as half of our members have joined a Chinese conference which is taking place on the border.

Those seemingly delightful words, "The boat is here," are quite prevalent in the Mess this year, owing to the fact that the much-sought-after postman, namely, L/Cpl. Brewer, took to his sea legs on the last boat. To Cpl. Turner, L/Cpls. Ellingworth, Morris, and Roberts we wish all the best and *bon voyage* and sincerely hope that civilian life offers plenty of H.B.

We welcome back to the fold, Cpls. Shaw, Lane, Sheen, and L/Cpls. Holdford and Rogers from leave and courses in U.K., also wishing a delightful stay to all members who wish to investigate this mysterious East. L/Cpl. Dyson seems to have fed himself on pork during his four years in civilian life, but we are afraid he will have to be content with a rissole diet for the present.

By the time these notes have come to your notice the boat will have brought back many old faces to whom we extend a hearty pocket-shake, and a pleasant stay in the dear old homestead.

At present, betting is strong amongst all members as to who will win the billiard table outright, the chief contestants being Stripper, Sav, and the little pocket dictator. Steps have been cut in the table legs by the little fellow to help him get on the table.

A great depression is being felt in the singing world, our opera singer has walked out on us, and the rafters do not now ring with his melodious voice.

We conclude by wishing fellow members at home bright prospects for the New Year.

SNOOKEY.

FOOTBALL

We started this season with high hopes, as we had practically the same eleven as last season, in which we did so well. The only absentee was Pte. Hartley, our goal-keeper, who left us to join the R.A.S.C., and is now playing very well for Kowloon. Pte. Jackson, the new goal-keeper, has, however, ably justified himself in this position.

Our opening games this year were charity matches against both South China "A" and "B" teams, and a combined Chinese eleven. The first two matches were won by the Chinese, and in the final game the Battalion team put up a really good performance to win 3—2 against a very strong eleven.

We commenced our league programme in a very confident frame of mind and it appears that this was our undoing, for we lost our first match to the Club after putting up a very mediocre performance. Playing very good football indeed the following week, we beat South China "A" 2—1 in a rousing game at Caroline Hill. In this game our captain, Cpl. Watson, was injured and was unable to play against Kowloon, to whom we lost 0—3. The next three matches against St. Joseph's, Kwong Wah, and South China "B," all went to our credit, the last named being one of the best matches seen at Sookunpoo this year. Against The Royal Scots we were lucky to draw in the last minute of the game, after having 90 per cent. of the play. In this game we were without the services of Bdmn. Bright, our pivot, and he was sadly missed. The following week, against the Navy, in one of the most attractive matches seen this

year, we lost in the last minute of the game, 3-4. In this game we also missed the services of Bright. Several of our players have already played in representative games, namely, Ptes. Saw, Pearson, and Sheehan, and Bdmn. Grogan. Cpl. Watson has again been selected to captain the Army team, and also to captain the association team against all China.

The 2nd XI are still doing well in their division, and have, to date, only lost one game, viz., that against South China, the result being 0-1. No more players of note have come to light, but we have hopes that a few players will improve and help us towards the end of the season. Pte. Thomas is still the mainstay of the 2nd XI, and it is unfortunate that he has to understudy such players as Bdmn. Bright and Pte. Courtney.

We close with a note of regret in losing one of the old members of the Battalion team who played for many years at both soccer and cricket, and who still plays the latter game as well as ever, namely, C.S.M. W. Northcott, who is leaving us to go to civilian life, where we all hope he will do as well and have as many friends as he has in the Army.

SWIMMING

The Battalion swimming team has every reason to be satisfied with its record this season. As reported in the last issue of the Journal, we had won all the water polo competitions and had, thereby, built up a substantial lead in points for the Area Aggregate Cup. It only remained for us to do well in the marathon race—a distance of approximately one mile—and to get a reasonable number of points in the inter-Unit championships. As events turned out, we did both.

In the marathon we suffered from a considerable disadvantage, in that we had no place near at hand in which to practise, for, unlike the Gunners at Lyemun, we cannot bathe in the harbour off Shamshuipo. Consequently we entered the race very short of practice, and very far from confident. The team, however, swam really splendidly, and, it must be admitted, to the surprise of everyone gained second place to the 5th A.A. Regiment, R.A. All we had to do now was to get well placed in the championships, and the cup was ours.

Here again, we were short of practice, but we managed to get in some last-minute training at the Y.M.C.A. Bath, and one day

at the V.R.C. Bath, where the swimming was to take place. The meeting was spread over two days, with heats on the first day and finals on the second. Since our team consisted of a few really good swimmers and the remainder good hard triers, this arrangement was bound to impose a strain on our first strings who were appearing in several races. However, after a great deal of thought and a certain amount of juggling, we managed to arrange the team so that the first strings were not called upon for too much, but, all the same, their task was by no means a light one.

The racing again showed the excellent fighting spirit of the team, and the issue was never really in doubt. Not only did our first strings, who were forced in some cases to swim two, and occasionally three, races in rapid succession, do all that was expected of them, but the second strings pulled their weight nobly. It is always hard to single out names in a team show like this, but Bdmn. Stemp, Haigh, Ptes. Davies and Buckle showed that determination to win can in some cases overcome a faster swimmer. Dmr. Murray, Capt. Guscott, and Pte. Goldsmith did particularly well to win the plunging. Ours was essentially a team victory, and every man did his share in securing it. Before closing, a word must be said about the coaching of Sergt. Poulter. Without his advice and help it is extremely unlikely that we should have won the cup.

HOCKEY

The season started in Hong Kong at the beginning of September, and we have so far played only Battalion friendly matches, with other Units.

The Large Unit knock-out matches start in 1939, and the Small Unit knock-out matches, which had started, had to be postponed owing to the Sino-Japanese situation. All companies in the Battalion entered teams for the Small Unit knock-out, but "H.Q." Company, who were last season's joint winners of the cup with an R.A. Unit, were beaten this year in the first round by "D" Company 5th/6th Rajputana Rifles, by 2-1.

Lieut. Beadnell, Ptes. Gorman and Stickley were selected to represent this Command in a hockey tour in Singapore in September, and returned on the troopship *Lancashire* after a very pleasant and successful tour in October.

POLO CLUB

The first of a series of tournaments started here in October for the "Lady Stubbs" Cup. Teams entered included the following: Mounted Infantry, H.K.S.R.A., Fixed Defences, and "Old Soldiers." Capt. H. Marsh and 2/Lieut. F. S. C. Hancock each played in two of these teams and gained valuable tournament experience. Further tournaments will be played in the New Year and the inter-Regimental matches take place in February.

The Frontier Emergency in October and November was not allowed to interfere with this activity, since we still have our private polo ponies in barracks, whilst only those chargers "on the strength" went out to camp and have been kept busy keeping the Field Firing Ranges clear of wandering Chinese.

The Fanling Hunt is now in full swing. Meets take place every Wednesday and Sunday in the New Territories in the vicinity of Lo Wu and Sun Wai Camps, so that we are well placed for hunting whilst in camp.

The Battalion has been well represented at meets by Mrs. del Court, Capt. and Mrs. Jacob, Capt. Marsh, and 2/Lieut. Hancock.

There has been one casualty in our stable. "Evermore," the Adjutant's public charger, had to be destroyed in November. He was originally a very fine polo-playing China pony, but after a very hard season's training last year, when he was sent to another Unit, he came back to us unsound and has never been of any further use.

"Wanderer" is now a member of 2/Lieut. Hancock's string. The latter has had very bad luck, one of his ponies—"Until Then"—having been lame for several months from a nail picked up.

Pte. Stickley has since been selected to represent the Army v. Navy at right full-back. The services of Lieut. Beadnell have been missed since he returned to England on 1st November.

The Platoon knock-out competition for the "Mons" Shield after a series of closely-contested matches resulted in a final, when Battalion "H.Q." (Band) beat "D" 14 by 2-1. The points for the "Mons" Shield were: "A" Company, 1½; "B" Company, 1½; "C" Company, 3½; "D" Company, 3½; "H.Q.," 5.

The inter-Company league competition for the "Albuhera" Shield has not yet taken place.

We were very pleased to pull off a victory over the Kumaon Rifles for the first time since we have met them at hockey in the Colony, Bdmn. Bright scoring the winning goal five minutes from the end of the match.

Results to date:

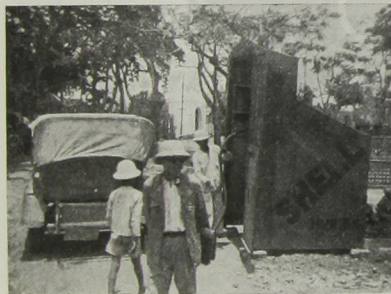
1ST XI				
v. Y.M.C.A.	..	..	Won	3-2
v. H.K. Police	..	..	Drawn	0-0
v. H.K.S.R.A.	..	..	Lost	1-3
v. East Surrey Regiment	..	..	Won	5-2
v. R.A.F., H.M.S. Eagle	..	..	Won	3-2
v. H.K. Police	..	..	Won	4-0
v. Kumaon Rifles	..	..	Won	4-3
2ND XI				
v. R.A.F.	..	..	Won	6-5
v. 5th A.A. Battery, R.A.	..	..	Lost	1-3
v. R.A.F.	..	..	Won	3-1
v. H.K. Police	..	..	Won	2-0
v. H.M.S. Medway	..	..	Won	3-2
v. Fortress Company, R.E.	..	..	Won	6-0
v. Rajputana Rifles	..	..	Drawn	1-1
v. H.K.S.R.A.	..	..	Drawn	2-2
v. Fortress Company, R.E.	..	..	Drawn	1-1
v. Royal Scots	..	..	Won	4-1

stand, which is why Chinese paintings look like stage scenery: the hills themselves look like stage scenery.

We entered Hanoi by what I took to have been the Doumer Bridge, described in the guide book as "a monumental work 1682 m. long. This bridge, of soft steel, consists of nineteen arches . . . on each side, a cart road was added in 1922-23." The cart road remains in my memory, as there preceded us across it three Tonkinese, competing who could impart the least motion to a handbarrow: their progress was just perceptible, as that of the minute hand of a large clock.

The guide book written by a M. Madrolle is excellent, full of detail one would never discover by oneself. Nobody is too well informed to read a guide book; as far as Luang Prabang, at which it ceased, mine was continually useful. The English translation has an opulent florid style that gives great pleasure.

We turned southward from Hanoi, along the Mandarin road, and crossed into Annam over some low hills. At the frontier post, Dong-giao, an Annamite policeman put his head into the car and asked for what in the end I took to mean a medical certificate. I had got at Hong Kong a vaccination certificate, written illegibly in English by an R.A.M.C. officer, and stamped "Consulat de France", which I found an incomparable help in letting me pass everywhere; Annamite officials would study it, occasionally upside down, hand it to one another, and finally impressed by either the official paper with the Royal Arms, or the medical officer's cryptographic handwriting, or the consular stamp, let me go wherever I liked. In the douane at Dong-giao I probably left my hat, at least I missed it soon afterwards; objects of that kind often mark one's



Petrol Station at Do Lu'ong

path across a country and later travellers must sometimes be puzzled to account for them.

South of the border the country is more hilly and the soil full of sand. The villages



Song-Ca River

surrounded with palms looked almost Malayan. Two or three times we came to rivers, and were poled across on a raft for 10 cents; one such ferry had a small outboard motor, and charged 30 cents. The dress of the people gradually changed; several wore a kind of sarong, and there were fewer of the Chinese sort of trousers that one sees in Tongking.

We left the Mandarin road at Phudien and began to follow the inferior road inland; at Do Lu'ong we stopped to refuel, from the last petrol pump I saw in this country. We ate a luncheon of bread and potted meat; the rain had stopped and the heat reflected from the bare dust of the village street made the inside of the car stiflingly close. Outside Do Lu'ong, at a place called Ngoc Tra, we crossed by another ferry a wide river, very placid and smooth-flowing, in which the trees and clouds were reflected with remarkable clarity; I believe it was the Song-Ca.

There were fewer houses to be seen as we continued westward; now and then cattle would get on to the road and canter in front of us for several minutes; the driver, typically, would not go more slowly to let them find their way off the road, but followed at their heels, trumpeting incessantly with his horn.

We were among the hills all the afternoon and towards three o'clock began to climb. The road grew steadily worse. We passed a frontier post of the "Garde Indigène," a building surrounded by a long, low wall with a tower at each corner. The road took a serpentine course along the side of one steep

valley after another, and was crossed at intervals by transverse ravines, over which were laid precarious bridges decorated with, one would say, fairly obvious warnings not to exceed 5 km. per hour. Our driver charged these at 50 or 60 km.; they shook and rattled, but supported us.

About this time the scenery began to be monotonous; at first the variety of the hill country, the sudden alteration of height and depth, had been pleasing, but with the passage of time, and the lurching motion of the car, the change of view at every turn of the road became more and more tedious. I had lost our position on the map; I knew we ought to reach Chieng Kouang that evening, but when at about five o'clock we passed the village of Cua-rao, our chances seemed small.

At Mong Sen I went on strike and said we would stop. The first driver protested faintly that we had another 500 kilometres to go on a very bad road, but I did not care how far we went next day so long as we went no further that night.

There was a rest-house, a "sala" at Mong Sen, and we drove the car into a small yard beside it. A croaking old man directed me to a ramshackle wooden hut with a verandah, one large room in the middle, and two smaller rooms, one at each side, all three with wooden beds, mosquito nets, chairs, and tables. On a shelf against the wall were a dozen bottles of water and a cupboard containing tumblers stood in the corner. Two old books with paper covers lay on a table, their inner pages perforated by worms, one a novel written in the 'nineties, the title of which I forget, the other a work on hypnotism.

While I was getting my kit from the car, which took some time, the rest-house keeper failing to understand, and the drivers de-



Hills near Mong Sen

camping at intervals to find petrol and lodgings, the rain began again. The village stood on a high bank above the river, and the changing lights on the hills opposite, as the sunlight emerged and receded among the clouds, was most impressive. The rain fairly streamed down, and soon turned the road into a water-course; this was ominous.

When I got back to the bungalow, the old man brought in an oil lamp, and served me a meal, watery but eatable, and a roll of bread that rang against the plate with a metallic note and tasted of woodsmoke; it resisted all attempts at breaking and had to be gnawed in one piece. Presently the chief driver appeared; he was full of foreboding about the state of the road, and wanted me to send a telegram to Chieng Kouang to ask whether the way was clear. I began to suspect him of making difficulties in the hope that we should be turned back or that I should abandon the journey; this made me the more determined to reach Luang Prabang by any means, although I had already in a weak moment considered going south through Siam. To humour him I went to the village telegraph office, a small room at one end of a hut, where the clerk sent a message.

The bed at the bungalow was surprisingly comfortable, and I slept very well until half past four, when the old man called me with a cup of coffee and piece of last night's bread toasted to the consistency of a brick. After breakfast I went to the telegraph office and knocked on the door which was opened after a long delay by a dirty oafish fellow who yawned and scratched and stared uncomprehendingly; my best French meant nothing to him, but he let me into the hut where another ragamuffin rolled off a sort of "K'ang" in one corner and went into an inner room out of which the telegraph clerk came in his shirt. He said no answer had come to my message. The night's rest and the freshness of the morning had so enlivened me that I said we would go, without waiting for an answer.

We left Mong Sen at about six o'clock and crossed the Nam Mo river and began to ascend into the hills. The view along the river valley was charming in the early light. The mist was fairly thick in the hills, the road more sinuous and uneven than it had been. Once we started a herd of a dozen ponies, who galloped in front of us a little way and then disappeared in the scrub; the leader carried a bell on his neck which jangled musically.

As we came down a particularly steep slope a man in a yellow sarong, standing by the side of the road, signalled to us. The driver stopped and asked, "Fini?", in an expectant



Nam Mo River at Mong Sen

voice, but he was disappointed, as the man only gave us some warning or other, and further along we came to where they were mending a narrow piece of roadway that had collapsed.

We passed another post of the "Garde Indigène," I imagine at the boundary of the Laos country, and gradually emerged on to a sort of downland, a basin of limestone covered with short grass, and pine trees growing in small spinneys; I saw no running streams, only water holes where the buffaloes lay, the same colour as the light mud with which they caked themselves. I thought I once caught sight of some deer, but I am not sure of what kind.

About here the road divided, and we followed the branch leading towards Luang Prabang, consisting of two ruts separated by a strip of turf to which the eye became so accustomed that later near Luang Prabang the road looked naked without its line of green in the middle.

In the afternoon we left the downs and entered the hills again, first climbing, then descending gradually towards the valley of the Me-Khong. We progressed as on the day before, swaying and bouncing along the execrable road, swerving around one bend after another in an apparently endless series. At one time it rained so heavily for an hour or more that we could hardly make headway. We met several parties travelling on foot, who showed active alarm at the sight of us and ran pell-mell into the jungle, driving their beasts before them. I was glad to see they had ponies: I might have needed them if the car

had failed. Most of the men we met were dressed like jungle people with only a sarong and a headcloth, but I saw one "Bombay bowler," a reassuring sign of civilisation. Anyone who had any pretence of a hat, doffed it as we went by; evidently, only very rare and important persons travelled by car in this part of the country.

It is difficult to express the sense of solitude that comes from knowing oneself to be on the only road within some hundreds of miles. Phrases like "trackless wilderness" come readily to one's mind, but no more convey the notion of isolation than does a walk on a temporarily deserted country road in England. The notion is not conveyed by what one sees, but by what one knows to be there.

We stopped for a meal near a small stream that fell in a cascade by the side of the road, and soon after we had moved on, the sun set and darkness began. Driving in the dark was more disturbing than ever, as the deep shadows cast in the headlights' rays made precipices appear where they were not. Innumerable insects were attracted by the light, entered the car, and crawled about and obscured the windscreen. Once we stopped suddenly—a tree lay across the road. "Now," I thought, "we are foxed," and got out to reconnoitre; luckily, the trunk was rotten and could be lifted easily and broke in two when we raised it.

All this time we were descending, and at about ten o'clock we came on to a wide, level road; a few lights could be seen among the trees, and presently we crossed a wooden bridge and entered Luang Prabang on the eastern side. We asked and were shown the way to the rest-house, a tall, wooden building on piles; it had once been the "Commissariat" and was now kept for travellers, of whom there were none at this time of the year, and our footsteps echoed hollowly in its empty corridors.

I was given a very decent room, unloaded my kit, and paid the drivers. They were going back the next day. I paid them for a distance of two thousand kilometres, which the speedometer showed since we left Haiphong. I see now, it was impossible that we could have gone more than two-thirds of this distance in two days' driving, and the speedometer must have been "cooked," but at the time I was too tired to notice.

So far the journey had been disappointingly easy, but I had still no conception of how I should get further; the worst was yet to be.

(To be continued)



TO the compiler of these notes falls a peculiar task. The Journal, as a whole, is a record of the activities of the Regiment as a whole. That whole is a combination of parts. Each Battalion and the Depot form these parts, while their contributions are in turn composed of items recounting in detail the story of particular portions. Each Company, the Drums, the Band, the representatives of each sport, all contribute notes. In this way every sphere of activity is covered. Thus, to the editorial is left the redundant task of repeating in general what is dealt with in detail elsewhere.

The life of the Battalion may be divided into the military and the social branches. In both branches the past three months reveal ample activity.

Brig. B. L. Montgomery has left the 9th Infantry Brigade for Palestine, there to assume command of the 8th Division. In his place we welcome Brig. W. Robb. His first introduction to the Battalion took place on 14th November, when he first of all inspected the Battalion and then took the salute. Later in the morning he watched normal training proceeding under the new Cadre organisation, which is being tried out during the current individual training season. Some two weeks later, Brig. Robb saw us again when he accompanied Lieut.-General A. P. Wavell who visited the Battalion and saw ordinary training in progress.

Our congratulations are due to "C" Company on winning the machine gun cup competition for the second year in succession.

Since the last issue of the Journal, Lieut. Bilborough has left us for The Royal West African Frontier Force, and is now stationed at Kaduna. He is shortly to be joined by Lieut. Symes, who has been appointed to the Gold Coast Regiment, and sails on 4th January. Capt. Stephenson, too, has left us temporarily, but he is not so far away, employed as he is, at "H.Q." 43rd (Wessex) Division, and comfortably installed at Salisbury.

The last three months have provided us with a fair share of sporting success. Our footballers have entered the fourth round of the Army Cup Competition by defeating our neighbours, the K.O.S.B. and the R.A.O.C., Hilsea, in the first and second rounds and, more recently, winning their third match, against the 2nd Battalion The Sherwood Foresters. The boxing team, after very close fighting, won the second round of the inter-Unit Team championship against the 2nd Battalion The Lincolnshire Regiment. In the Army Cup Competition, too, the Battalion has reached the third round, while the realisation that the service of the team totalled over 130 years, has caused a great attempt to rekindle interest in the game among the younger members of the Battalion. The K.O.S.B., who have so often been our first-round opponents, avenged their defeat at our hands in association by winning the rugby match, and thus knocking us out of the competition after a very close match.

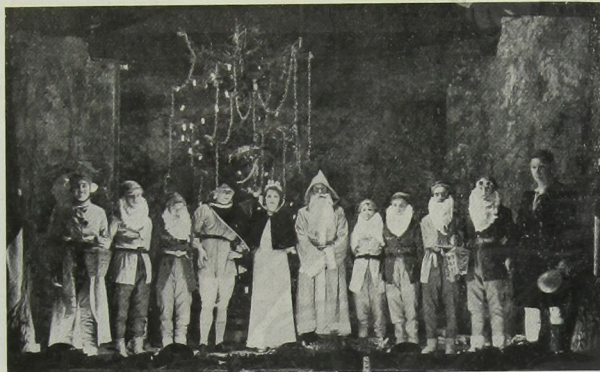
Nor has golf been neglected, for on 6th November, a team of Officers played a match against the Netheravon Wing of the Small Arms School, at Lee-on-Solent, and proved that even machine gun experts must occasionally admit the superiority of the machine gunner in ordinary. Furthermore, two Officers are hunting fairly regularly with the Hambledon Hunt—the first time anyone has hunted since we were stationed at Colchester. We might mention, in passing, that the path of the would-be horseman in Gosport is strewn with difficulties, for it is necessary to cover upwards of two miles of streets and houses before the open country is reached, and even then the ground available is strictly limited and not very good.

From the foregoing it will be clear that the 2nd Battalion has been leading a full and busy life, and, since it is expedient to close on a cheerful note, we would inform our readers that on 17th December, the Battalion went off to face the annual leave, the Christmas celebrations, and the New Year.

"H.Q." COMPANY

We welcome to the Company as Officer Commanding, Major E. L. Heywood, on completion of a tour of duty at the Depot, where he was relieved by Capt. P. D. ff. Powell.

During the absence on leave of Major Heywood, Capt. A. V. Weller has been officiating as O.C. Company.



The cast of "Small-ridge's" Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs



Married Families' Christmas Tea Party



Men's Christmas Dinner

We have great pleasure in extending a hearty welcome to 2/Lieut. E. L. G. Passy who comes to the Company as Signal Officer in place of Lieut. J. W. G. Ormiston, who is seconded for service in Palestine.

Life during the last quarter has not been particularly eventful. We returned from M.G. Concentration a few days earlier than was anticipated, in order to fill sand-bags and position them around barracks, and generally carry on with A.R.P. preparations. The scare having blown over, we once again reverted to normal, but the sand-bags remained some few days, only to disappear as quickly as they arrived. The next job out of our peaceful monotony was the annual inspection, postponed two or three weeks owing to the departure of our former Brigadier and the arrival of the present one. After this occasion all thoughts were directed upon annual furlough, which is now in full swing and, to the dismay of many of us, terminates on 15th January, 1939.

Driving and Maintenance Cadres (chiefly composed of Band personnel), M.G., and other forms of training have been extensively in vogue, and we flatter ourselves that "H.Q." Company now has as good drivers, gunners, and other technicians as are in any other of the Companies. In addition, our normal duties have not been neglected; the Band and Drums still practise as assiduously as ever, and the Signallers are still dot-dashing as of yore, particularly the new class which has just commenced.

We are sorry to lose many of the old faces which were so familiar to us. C.Q.M.S. Bishop has left us for a Vocational Training Course at Hounslow, and his duties are being carried out by Sergt. West. O.R.Q.M.S. Deane, Drum-Major McEnery, Sergt. Osterholm have all left for civil life and with them go our best wishes.

We congratulate Sergts. Claxton, Ceaton, Baker, and O'Connor on their elevation to the Sergeants' Mess and all those others, too numerous to mention, who have gained promotion in any form.

In the realm of sport the Company has a good record. We still provide various stalwarts for the Battalion teams and have several others waiting for the chance to join them.

The Band, Signals, and Employed have an inspiring record in the Inter-Platoon League. The Band and Employed have not yet lost a match and have a most formidable goal average. The Signals are very little behind and the end

of the season should provide quite an interesting struggle for position in the table.

C.Q.M.S. Bishop and Pte. Robinson (29) have been awarded the L.S. and G.C. Medal. We congratulate them and know they have deserved them.

"A" COMPANY

I must first apologise to our readers should these notes be short. Two excuses can be made for this; firstly, during the last quarter things have been rather quiet, and secondly, being the leave season, one is apt to think more of the good things to come than of the things that have happened.

The Company, with the remainder of the Battalion, is now busily engaged with Individual Training. This, unlike other years, is being run under Battalion arrangements, which means that one does not see so much of ones Company at work. We do, however, come together as a Unit once a week, when we attend a Battalion Drill Parade. This parade helps to revive memories of former days before the Regiment was mechanised. Dame Rumour has it that we are practising for a Trooping of the Colours, which, I am sure, will be a happy break from the noise of trucks.

Before the Company proceeded on their annual furlough several members received a nice Christmas-box in the way of promotion. To each of the following we tender our hearty congratulations on their reward for work and zeal: P.S.M. Johnson, to W.O., Class II; Sergt. Gatehouse, to W.O., Class III (well done, Charles); Cpl. Parry, to L/Sergeant; L/Cpl. Jarvis, to Corporal; L/Cpls. Clark, Monk, and Maple, to their appointment to Paid L/Corporals; and, last but not least, Pte. Allingham, to the appointment of Unpaid L/Corporal. These promotions may mean that some will leave the fold, but our loss will be someone's gain. Whoever goes, our wishes go with them.

Speaking of going, I must say how sorry we all are to lose Lieut. T. G. Symes who will be sailing on 14th January to Africa. He came along just before we proceeded on furlough and said "Good-bye," and, though he is looking forward to a new type of soldiering, I am sure he is sorry to leave the old Company. "Good luck, sir."

I am afraid I cannot give you much sporting news, even though the Platoon football league is in full swing. If anyone wants a couple of

strong teams call on us for two of our Platoons have been holding the league on their shoulders since it started. Still it is the sporting spirit that counts and as that is there we can say to Nos. 4 and 6 Platoons, "well done!" We did have three in the same boat, but No. 5 Platoon went mad and won a couple of games and managed to creep away from their pals. They must have been reading the tips from Littlewood's Log. The Company was well represented in the Battalion boxing team in the first round of the Army Cup. Sergt. Wray, Ptes. Markham and Knight each won their fight on points. L/Cpl. Chapman had bad luck in meeting the Middle-weight Champion of the Army (Officers' Class).

The following N.C.O.s and men are proceeding on Courses of Instruction, and to each one of them we wish success and hope they return with "D.s": Sergt. McDowell (Gas); L/Cpl. Clark (D. and M.); Ptes. Markham and Fanning (Fitters).

Before bringing these notes to a close, we wish all old "A" Company members, both at home and abroad, the very best of wishes for 1939.

"B" COMPANY

During the last three months we have been training on a Battalion basis, and we now have 75 per cent. of the Company fully trained in almost all weapons they would be required to use in time of war.

Except for a draft of 17 which has recently joined us from the Depot we have about the same percentage trained as drivers.

Our strength remains round about 200 N.C.O.s and men so we consider the results are good in so short a time. Among the last draft are some promising lads and we know the Company will give a good account of themselves both on training and in the sports line. We are fortunate in having Major Parker in command of the Company. He is also Battalion Cadre Officer.

Every N.C.O. and man in the Company has now been given a free issue of sports kit, and each afternoon is devoted to sport, so we consider we shall find some new talent by the time the Battalion sports meeting comes round.

Talking about this meeting, it is rumoured it will take place in the afternoon of Albuhera Day. We are also rehearsing the Trooping of the Colour, which, we understand, will take

place in the morning, so that, altogether, everyone should spend a very enjoyable and entertaining day.

We have had a few changes in the Company lately and are very sorry to lose the following Officers: Capt. Stephenson and Lieut. Willoughby, the former having left us to go on the staff at Salisbury, and the latter on the staff of the Machine Gun School, Netheravon.

Both Officers took a great interest in the Company, both at work and in the sports line. They will be greatly missed by all concerned, and we wish them the very best of luck in their new appointments and hope they will not forget to visit us as often as possible.

We must congratulate Pte. Mead on getting his place in the Battalion first eleven (soccer).

The following must also be congratulated on the keenness shown in the novices' individual open competition, also the inter-Unit team championship boxing meetings: Sergt. Trotobas, L/Cpl. Hudson, Ptes. O'Brien, Smith, and Clayton.

Sergt. Fuller has left us to join the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong. With him go our best wishes.

At the time these notes are being written the Company are on annual furlough and we hope everyone is spending a thoroughly good leave; not forgetting to wish all members of both Battalions a very Happy New Year.

It is rumoured the Battalion has been selected to give a P.T. Display at the Tidworth Tattoo during 1939, so we expect to be busy during the year. As we have mentioned before, on top of this we have Trooping the Colour, a new Machine Gun Course has to be fired, and finally, Collective Training has to be carried out. We are sure the Company will give a good account of themselves, should they be selected to take part in any of these duties.

We have plenty of sports, such as Company and Platoon football, rugby, and hockey. The Company has not, as yet, excelled in any of these, but we warn others that it will not be long before we are able to give a good account of ourselves in any of the above-mentioned sports.

Lieut. Marshall must be congratulated on the smooth running of the various boxing meetings for which he has been responsible of late, and we hope he will continue his efforts so that we beat The Gloucestershire Regiment whom we meet in the semi-final stage of the Army inter-Unit team championship, on 24th January.

"C" COMPANY

It is always a bad thing to have to start these notes with an apology, but, nevertheless, we must do so this time. They are being compiled well up in the frozen north, temperature considerably below zero, where even a thought seems to "freeze," so, as we say, we apologise for the shortness, due both to lack of time and the weather.

Since the last notes appeared, we have all been working at speed, Cadres and courses, driving trucks and motor-cycling, etc., and we now have a comfortable feeling as regards our efficiency in the near future.

For the second year in succession we have won the A.R.A. Inter-Company Machine Gun Cup. We feel it quite a tragedy we did not get an opportunity to fire in the A.R.A. Control Cup Competition, as we might have been able to bring off a "double." However, as, no doubt, we will win the former again next year (we will want a replica, please), we will go all out for the "Control Cup" as well.

We extend a hearty welcome to 2/Lieut. Allott who joined us from Sandhurst two months ago. Also to all members of the draft from the Depot who joined us in November, and wish them very happy and successful careers in the Regiment.

Lieut. Beath is now at Woolwich rapidly becoming a highly-qualified motor engineer, and 2/Lieut. Lyon will be returning from the P.T. School, Aldershot, to show us the finer points in boxing.

Congratulations to P.S.M. Day and Davidson on their promotion; we are sorry it necessitated the latter leaving us for "B" Company after having been so long with us. Congratulations also to C.Q.M.S. Snell, Sergt. Delaney, and Cpls. Clenshaw and Rouse, the latter two having now been posted to the Depot. We wish them every happiness and success. A happy New Year to all present and past members of the Company.

"D" COMPANY

The death of our late Company Commander, Major E. M. G. Wray, D.S.O., was not announced until after the notes for the last Journal had gone to Press, so this opportunity is taken of recording the great loss that we, in particular, have sustained. Since abler pens have written of him, both in the last Journal and in *The Times*, no more than these

few words will be written here. It was a thoughtful act to arrange that "D" Company should lead the Battalion to church for the memorial service.

The past quarter has been a very busy one. Cadres, centralised under the Battalion Training Officer, have been in full swing in the mornings, whilst the afternoons have been devoted to training in the various sports in preparation for the Army Cup Competitions. Many have found their evenings, too, fully occupied with boxing, "P.I.," and other matters, not unconnected with the Brigadier's inspection, now, to our relief, a thing of the past.

Our Company Commander, Capt. Baldwin, had no sooner arrived than he was sent off on courses which seem to be claiming his attention until late in February. He managed, however, to "look in" on us for a week or two before the leave period began, when he gave our "rugger" team some instruction and practice.

Capt. Man is attending an N.C.O.'s Weapons Cadre and acting as Company Commander as well. Lieut. Lane is always fully occupied in the garages supervising M.T. Cadres, whilst 2/Lieut. Warren is still away on a P.T. Course. C.S.M. Trestain, to whom we offer a hearty welcome, together with congratulations on his double promotion and marriage, has come to us from the 7th Battalion, where C.S.M. Kemp relieved him. We hope that both will be happy in their new duties.

Sergt. Smith, until recently the A/C.Q.M.S., has left us to become A/C.S.M. of "H.Q." Company. He is now a P.S.M.; our congratulations to him, too. Sergt. Ison has taken over our money affairs, aided by Pte. Whitbourn, the capable Company Clerk.

In addition to the promotions already mentioned, the following N.C.O.s of the Company have been in the news: L/Sergt. Thomas who has recently returned from the Depot, Cpls. Jennings and Blackman, A/Cpl. Rawlinson, and L/Cpl. Lowe, each of whom has gone up one step in rank. Congratulations to them all.

In the Platoon football league, the three Platoons are maintaining a good position on the right side of the half-way line, whilst the Company team has shown itself to be a match for all, except "H.Q." Company. Ptes. Crocker and Flynn are the Battalion goal-keeper and first reserve, respectively; both are playing well. Sergt. Scott, our captain, has, unfortunately, left for "H.Q." Company.

We have managed to fit in some games of hockey, both at Gosport Park and on the square, and look forward to giving a good account of ourselves when the inter-Company competition begins.

Cpl. Rawlinson has just returned from a Boxing Course, at which he qualified, whilst Cpl. Lowe, Ptes. Bradshaw and Izzard, who recently came to us from the 1st Battalion, have been doing well in the Battalion boxing team. Although we did not win any weights in the novices' competition, our representatives put up some good shows.

Our best wishes go with Pte. Spellacy, for so long our Company Cook, who has left us for a Vocational Training Course and civilian life.

Before closing, we feel sure that our married people would want to take this opportunity of thanking those responsible for giving them and their children such a good time at the Christmas party. All enjoyed themselves immensely.

May 1939 be a happy and peaceful year for all members of the Regiment, both at home and abroad.

SIGNALS

The first thing we have to mention in these notes is the fact that we have lost a good Signal Officer in Lieut. Ormiston who has left us for Palestine, and at the same time we welcome Lieut. Passy as the new Signal Officer. We hope his stay will be a long and happy one.

It is with the deepest regret that we learn of the death of Major E. M. G. Wray, D.S.O., who recently left us for that ill-fated appointment. Major Wray was well liked by everyone in the Battalion and was one of the Officers who had been in this Battalion since the days of Egypt in 1919.

We must congratulate one or two members of our group who have put up such a splendid show in the boxing line, namely, Ptes. Parker, Harris, and L/Cpl. Green.

We now have a new class and hope they will keep up the tradition of the older members, and enter for all competitions.

We hear Capt. Stephenson is having a reunion dinner in London during the month of January and that ex-Signallers of the time when Capt. Stephenson was Signal Officer will be present. May we wish them the very best of luck in the New Year?

In the inter-Platoon football the Group have managed to maintain a good position,

having won seven matches out of the eight played to date.

We congratulate L/Cpl. Jennings on his promotion to Corporal.

The Group are at present on leave and we hope they are having a really enjoyable time, as they will find plenty of training to be done on their return.

In conclusion, we wish all members of the 1st Battalion a very happy New Year.

EMPLOYED

The majority of the Group being away on annual furlough now seems to be the best time to let forth their innermost secrets to an expectant public.

Robbo (29) has now reduced his consumption of malt liquor from 20 per night to half that amount.

Nick, or so rumour says, is still hovering on the brink of matrimony.

Tosso has definitely taken the plunge and now wanders around with the harassed look so prevalent among married men.

Badger (of the bald locks) is contemplating a Course of Vocational Training. We are willing to wager that the said course has no connection with matters, "montey tock."

Archie is still the real genuine. Proof may be obtained of this statement by an inspection of the numerous bikes about the Battalion.

Ginger is "going to the dogs." He has decided it is cheaper to buy a kennel of his own, rather than feed someone else's.

To all those clients who pay their weekly doles to supply Messrs. Littlewoods and various other persons, wherewith to purchase big fat cigars and the other necessities of life, we offer our best wishes and hopes of a first dividend.

Our congratulations to Sergts. Baker and Claxton on their promotions, to Sergt. Wright on taking over the duties of O.R.S., and welcome to Sergt. Scott on being appointed Inspector Hornleigh of New Barracks.

We have surpassed ourselves in the inter-Platoon football league. We have not lost a game to date, and we have a goal average that Arsenal would probably envy.

We welcome to the Group, P.S.M. Smith, now Acting C.S.M., and Sergt. West, Acting C.Q.M.S., and hope their stay will be a long and happy one.

We should like to congratulate Robbo on attaining his "rootie gong." Evidently there is no truth in the old adage, "Murder will out."

The old school tie brigade, having come to the end of its capacity of grey matter, will now close. So long, cads.

DRUMS

Since the last issue of THE DIE-HARDS, Drum-Major McEnery has left us, to obtain civil employment, and he and the Army have parted after pensionable service with the Drums.

We were very sorry to lose so fine a Drum-Major, but we extend to him our heartiest wishes for a prosperous life in the new circle in which he must now move.

We offer our congratulations to Drum-Major Ceaton on his promotion and appointment, and sincerely hope that his stay in the Drums will be a long and happy one.

We congratulate Cpl. Jones on his promotion to that rank, and sincerely hope that he will now get sufficient money to buy himself a decent bicycle. The decrepit thing he uses now has long ago developed the true spirit of a "Die-Hard," but the trouble is, it lets everyone know that it is dying. Still, it used to come in handy for "Mac" when he had to see the tailor, barber, armourer, caterer, etc., on the "Livener, mate" rounds.

Cpl. Carpenter is now attached to the P.A.D. School down in good old Cornwall, and we hope that his temporary stay there will not hamper his musical abilities when he returns to the fold.

L/Cpl. Drury has attended a Bren Course at Hythe, and we share his confidence in the excellent qualification which must be his when the result is known.

L/Cpl. Phipps, Dmrs. Phillips, Burt, and Havell have now completed half their period at the Vocational Training Centres, and we sincerely hope that they will make as good civilian employees as they have been drummers.

Midst the height of one of the worst storms since the Flood, the Drums A.A. Section and other P.A.D. duties distinguished themselves during an A.R.P. practice last December.

Speeding joyfully through the deluge to their respective posts, the A.A. Sections, against terrific odds, mounted their guns and let the enemy have it, and they stayed gallantly at their positions as the precious minutes

ticked by, although the remainder of the Battalion had packed up and gone to tea ages beforehand. Yes, like true, stout soldiers, they stuck to their guns, and would probably have stayed there all during the furlough if an innocent individual, whose name must needs be remain unspoken, had not then chanced by there and queried, "What's up, mates, is there really a war on then?"

Since last October, the Drums have been engaged on M.T. Cadres, and, consequently, their musical training has had to be fitted in where it could do so without causing eruptions.

Buglers are now graded as to their ability, to assess points for S.P.P., and during the grading last December we received many requests to "take it round to the moat and drown it."

Still, we return to normal Specialist Training on 30th January and say, boy, will we blow those bugles, will we play those flutes, and will we learn that music?

It is too late now to wish readers a Merry Christmas, for Christmas is only a head-aching memory, but we can certainly wish all readers a happy New Year and good fluting.

BOYS

Once again we are required to fill in the spare space in the Journal. Hence this attempt into the sphere of the literary world.

Not much has happened in the realm of sport. There has, however, been two boxing meetings. In both meetings the Boys put up a good show, and are to be congratulated.

As regards football matches we have, unfortunately, been having rather heavy reverses, but the away matches gave us good outings, which we thoroughly enjoyed.

Drum-Major McEnery has left us for civilian life, and we all wish him success and prosperity in his new sphere of life. At the same time we cordially welcome our new Drum-Major, and hope that his stay with us will be a long and happy one.

Seven of the smallest Boys acted in the pantomime for the Christmas party. Needless to say, they were aptly named the Seven Dwarfs. We presume when they are old-stagers, they will come out with the saying that, "When I was on the stage I did —"

As our numbers have been vastly augmented in comparison with previous years, we did not attend the Christmas party. We were

treated to the pictures instead, and we thoroughly enjoyed the show.

Congratulations to the new Boys who have obtained their 2nd- and 3rd-class certificates recently. Carry on, there is a special to be got yet.

By the time these notes appear in print, Boys Gregory and Rickard will be on man's service. We hope they will be happy in the realm of clearing plug and combined sights.

Owing to the notes being written during furlough there is a lack of news. Therefore, we must conclude by wishing the Boys of the 1st Battalion a happy New Year.

YOBOS.

BAND

Time has arrived when we have to sit and think out what has happened in the last three months.

Very little exciting has happened, except the filling of sand-bags and the emptying of them in early October, but less said about this the better as there were too many moans and groans to be mentioned.

Since our last notes L/Cpl. Lowe has left us and gone to duty and we must congratulate him and L/Cpl. Riseley on their promotion to Corporal.

It will be noted that Cpl. Riseley has not proceeded on a Vocational Training Course, as stated in our previous notes, but has signed on the dotted line.

We welcome Major E. L. Heywood as Company Commander, and P.S.M. R. Smith as A/C.S.M., both of them having much previous experience with "H.Q." Company.

We must not forget our A/C.Q.M.S., Sergt. West, and we hope he does not forget us on Friday. He is new to the Company, but we hope he stays long.

In sports we are improving and in the Platoon football league we are at present top, but we have some of the best teams to play. We have now played 10, won 9, drawn 1, 54 goals for, and 3 against.

Interest in hockey is increasing and we have the making of a good team. It must be mentioned that in a friendly match, Signals v. Band, an umpire stated just previous to the commencement that all rules of hockey were to protect the players from injury, but, strangely enough, a player walked off the field with a black eye and a tooth knocked out, and he still states that he did not obstruct by turning on the ball.

By the time these notes are printed our A/Bdmn. will have been increased by the coming of age of Boys Gregory and Richard, and we hope they will soon settle in their new circle. We regret to say L/Cpl. Avery has left us for a Vocational Training Course, and Bdmn. Shreeve and Chatfield will soon be gone, so we take this opportunity of wishing them the best of luck in civilian life.

We must now conclude by wishing the Band abroad a happy and successful New Year.

TENUTO.

SERGEANTS' MESS

The first thing we have to do in these notes is to fulfil the promise we gave in the last notes to publish the promotions to Warrant Officer, Class III, etc., so herewith, with a vengeance. There are so many of them that it will be necessary to show them in tabulated form, and we must content ourselves by congratulating them on their promotion or welcoming them on their entry to the Mess, as the case may be, *en bloc*.

Sergt. Johnson to W.O., Class III, and subsequently to W.O., Class II.
Sergt. Trestain to W.O., Class III, and subsequently to W.O., Class II.

Sergt. R. Smith to W.O., Class III.
Cpl. Day to W.O., Class III.
Cpl. Davidson to W.O., Class III.
Sergt. Gatehouse to W.O., Class III.
Sergt. Chillery to W.O., Class III.
Sergt. Snell to C.Q.M.S.
Sergt. Wright to Orderly Room Sergeant.
L/Sergt. Wray to Sergeant.
L/Sergt. Elcome to Sergeant (now proceeded to the Depot).
L/Sergt. Smith to Sergeant.
L/Cpl. Baker to Sergeant (Pioneer Sergeant).
L/Cpl. Claxton to Sergeant (Sergeant Master Cook).
L/Cpl. Ceaton to Sergeant (Drum-Major).
L/Sergt. Knight to Sergeant.
L/Sergt. Fuller to Sergeant (now proceeded to join 1st Battalion).
Cpl. O'Connor to L/Sergeant (Orderly Room Clerk).

Cpl. Trotobas to L/Sergeant.
Cpl. Cummins to L/Sergeant.
Cpl. Delaney to L/Sergeant.
Cpl. Blackman to L/Sergeant.
Cpl. Griffiths to L/Sergeant.
Cpl. Parry to L/Sergeant.
Cpl. Jennings to L/Sergeant.

The following have left us for civilian life and we wish them every success and happiness: O.R.Q.M.S. Deane and family (discharge), C.Q.M.S. Bishop and family (Vocational Training), C.S.M. Sherriff (Vocational Training), C.Q.M.S. Rogers and family (Vocational

Training), C.S.M. Thomas (discharge) (We did not have the pleasure of seeing this W.O. in the Mess as he went straight to Hospital from 1st Battalion; however, we wish him the best of luck in civilian life), Sergt. Beaveridge and family (discharge), Drum-Major McEnery and family (discharge), Sergt. Osterholm and family (discharge), and L/Sergt. Hawkins (discharge).

C.S.M. Kemp and Sergt. Nash have left the Mess for the T.A. (7th and 8th Battalion, respectively) and we wish them luck in their new jobs.

Our best wishes also go with Sergts. Soden and Fuller who have left us to join the 1st Battalion at Hong Kong; also with Sergt. Elcome who has proceeded to the Regimental Depot.

We should also like to mention C.S.M. Mewett who has been discharged from the T.A. and wish him every success. C.S.M. Mewett was a member of the Mess for many years during the Battalion's service abroad and many of us remember him.

We must take this opportunity of welcoming back to the Mess, C.S.M. Trestain, who has rejoined us from the T.A. on his promotion.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to three of our members who have entered the blessed state of matrimony during the quarter: Sergt. West, married on 5th October, 1938; P.S.M. Chillery, married on 15th October, 1938; C.S.M. Trestain, married on 29th October, 1938.

Quite a big "catch" for one quarter and we wish them all a very happy married life.

Sergt. West's marriage was a local one and many of the Mess members were invited to the ceremony and the reception; the dance section of the Regimental band rendered their services, and quite a jolly evening was the result.

It is with the deepest regret that we now have to strike a sad note in the quarter's contribution and make mention of our sincere sorrow on the death of Major E. M. G. Wray, D.S.O. Major Wray was extremely popular with the members of the Mess as he was, indeed, with the whole Battalion, and we venture to think he was the only Officer who had remained with the Battalion for such a long time, prior to his leaving us on that ill-fated appointment. The members of the Mess and many of the families turned out to render what little final homage to his memory we could, at the memorial service held at the Garrison Church, on 16th October, 1938.

With the coming of the winter season we have started the season's dances. We have had two already, one for October and one for November. As the Mess premises are so small we have relinquished the idea of whist drives and have the entertainment in the form of a dance in the gymnasium, which provides ample facilities for such functions. Both dances were well attended and very enjoyable. The October one was attended by the Mess members of the Depot Mess and we were very glad to have them there. They are very welcome any time they like to attend the future functions. We should also like to mention how glad we are to be able to invite the Officers and their ladies to our dances and to thank them for the way they have responded to the invitations. For the Officers and their ladies to attend our normal monthly dances is by way of being a new departure in the Mess, and we hope the custom has come to stay. We like to see the Officers and their ladies at our functions and can assure them of a very hearty welcome and enjoyable time at all our dances.

The majority of the members are at present on their annual furlough and the Mess is virtually closed down until 16th January, when they return.

CORPORALS' CLUB

Once again we are asked to produce notes for the Journal. We dread this, and try to forget them. However, the long arm of demand demands that we produce them; hence these notes.

Since the last notes, more new faces have become members of the club, which is a home from home. (Opinion varies, of course.) Anyway, we welcome them into our midst and hope they will become the future social elites.

The list of members who have been promoted to the Sergeants' Mess is too long to name. We do, however, congratulate them, and do not doubt that they will add further honours to their names.

We regret that owing to certain exigencies, our social functions were not a success (we did not have any). This sad state of affairs will not be allowed after furlough, we are glad to state.

It will, no doubt, interest certain people that a board for the game of darts has been purchased thereof. It is presumed that it will be surrounded by beer swillers, or, at least, blowers of froth.

Sport is not a natural of the club as a team, but we must congratulate the members of the football and boxing teams for their good show. For we hope, betime these notes appear, to be encouraging them in the finals with a cheer.

By the time these notes appear, furlough will have been completed, and George again will be supporting the counter. We wonder what is the attraction, the counter or the beer; probably neither, we fear. As fast as new faces appear, old faces disappear. Therefore, we wish those members who have just left us, and those who will soon disappear, the best of luck in their new sphere.

We now conclude by wishing our brothers of the 1st Battalion Club the best of luck for the New Year.

FOOTBALL

Once again we have settled down in the soccer world endeavouring to have another adventure in the Army Cup and whilst these notes are going to Press every effort is being made to get the team in good mettle to play the fourth round *v.* the 1st Battalion The Rifle Brigade on 28th January, 1939, at the United Services Ground, Portsmouth. We have apparently been rather fortunate in that we have been drawn at home in the second, third, and fourth rounds.

The first round *v.* the 1st Battalion The King's Own Scottish Borderers took place on the United Services Ground, Portsmouth. Both teams were greatly supported—a local Derby. After a keen tussle with good, clean football we ran out winners by 3—1.

In the second round *v.* the Depot The Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Hilsea, we managed to reverse last year's decision. This was a very hard-fought game, neither side actually settling down, due, no doubt, to over-keenness. The services of Pte. Vanner were lost, owing to injury after the first 20 minutes of the first half. Both defences were very stubborn. Result: 2nd Middlesex Regiment, one; Depot R.A.O.C., nil.

The third round *v.* the 2nd Battalion The Sherwood Foresters took place on the United Services Ground, on 16th December. The ground was a little sticky at the commencement of the game and a few showers during the game did not improve it. However, on this kind of pitch our team seem to revel. Adopting the short-passing game, the approach work of the forwards and half-backs, ably led by L/Sergt. Delaney, was of a high standard.

Bdmn. Phipps was in great form, greatly assisted by Cpl. Jones. There was some really excellent football shown and it was not the sort of football that is usually associated with cup-ties. Absolute unison between the whole team was maintained. The play of the team in this particular match has impressed everyone with great hopes of further progress of the team in this competition. Result: 2nd Middlesex Regiment, eight; 2nd Sherwood, nil.

Team: Goal, Pte. Crocker; backs, Bdmn. Phipps, Cpl. Jones; half-backs, Pte. Cross-thwaite, Cpl. Riseley, Pte. Mead; forwards, Cpl. Rouse, Pte. Lowton, L/Sergt. Delaney, Pte. Vanner, Pte. Baker.

In this round both teams were well supported. Approximately 400 all ranks of the Sherwood Foresters arrived by motor-coach from Bordon, and, besides the support from the Battalion, 150 all ranks came along from the Regimental Depot.

In addition to the Army Cup the Battalion is due to play the Royal Air Force, Gosport, on 18th January, in the semi-final of the Portsmouth Services Charity Cup.

Our position in the United Services Division 1 League is fairly good. Owing to our cup commitments and call by the Army Association for players to represent the Army, etc., it has been necessary to try out new talent with every endeavour to obtain some able reserves. As referred to elsewhere in these notes, scouts are keenly watching the Company and Platoon games, looking for likely aspirants for the Battalion team.

L/Sergt. Delaney, Bdmn. Phipps, and Pte. Vanner were selected to play for the Army *v.* Aston Villa, which took place at Aldershot on 23rd November, 1938. They were also included in the Portsmouth United Services representative side *v.* the Aldershot Command; the result being 9—0 for the United Services. Our representatives showed excellent form, L/Sergt. Delaney netting six goals, and Pte. Vanner, who played inside-left, netting one goal. Bdmn. Phipps played a stalwart game in the back division.

We have had the services of Pte. Lowton in the last two rounds of the Army Cup, but, unfortunately for us, he will not again be available. We heartily wish him all success in civilian life.

INTER-PLATOON FOOTBALL

With the coming of the furlough period, we have reached the half-way stage of the

HOCKEY

The state of hockey in the Battalion is not, at present, very satisfactory. There is a number of players and a number of others who are keen to learn the game, but the calls of a Platoon football league and other games, together with the lack of an easily-accessible ground, make the arrangement of Company and Battalion games none too easy. Battalion trial games to discover fresh talent, and 2nd XI matches, in which to give practice to candidates for inclusion in the 1st XI, have not been arranged frequently enough—in fact, at the moment a 2nd XI is non-existent. So far as is possible in our present station, these difficulties are being overcome, and it is hoped that in time it will be possible for all, who wish, to get a game, if not frequently, at any rate with greater regularity and under the supervision of experienced players. A pitch has been painted-in on the Square, and is popular with the Boys and other individuals in search of exercise. There is always a danger on hard grounds, such as this, that teams will not be properly organised, and that the umpire, if any, is inexperienced; with the result that bad habits, such as selfish play and “back sticks,” creep in, particularly where younger players are concerned. It is hoped that Company representatives are taking sufficient steps to prevent these faults where their Companies are concerned.

The Battalion team this year has suffered from lack of practice together, and of good forcing forwards, but, in spite of this, it has been able to hold its own with the majority of its opponents. The return of Major Heywood, and his appearance once more on the right wing, will do much to overcome the second of the two troubles mentioned above. It is unfortunate that Lieut. Symes will have left for West Africa by the time that this Journal has been published; he will be missed at centre-forward. Lieut. Bilbrough, of last season's team, left for the same destination before the present season began. P.S.M. Chillery, at centre-half, Sergt. Etheridge, and L/Sergt. Stickley continue to put in much useful work, and, with Major Heywood, must probably be considered the backbone of the side. A recent discovery, that the average Colour Service of each member of the team is over 11 years, gives added importance to the search for new players in the near future, and certainly before Foreign Service is once more begun.

season, and it would appear that any honours to be won will eventually be taken by either the Band, Employed, or Signals. These three teams head the league in that order, and a glance at the table below will suffice to show that they have an almost unassailable position. Their goal averages border on the phenomenal.

As in higher circles of soccer, “form” is apt to go by the board, as may be seen when the Signals were beaten 3—0 by the Drums, while the Band could only draw with No. 8 Platoon. A few more results of this nature, and the “mighty” may easily be toppled from their isolated perches. Most of the results are of a see-saw nature, with a Platoon winning to-day and losing to-morrow, there being a general level of equality, with one or two exceptions. No. 7 Platoon made an excellent start and gave the impression of the “dark horse” outsider. Owing to the loss of a player (promoted to Battalion-team status) and inadequate reserves (?) their chances have faded. The efforts of No. 4 Platoon are worthy of mention. Having played and lost their first four matches with a goal average of 1 for, 22 against, their recent endeavours show a marked improvement and they are to be commended.

The writer of these notes, having had the opportunity of seeing many of the matches, would like to add a word of praise to both players and the oft-abused referees, who have given their games, if not with a great measure of artistic skill, at least with that whole-hearted enthusiasm which has made them worth watching.

And in conclusion, may the under-dogs be biting the tails of the hotter dogs before the season ends.

POSITIONS OF THE PLATOONS UP TO 13TH DECEMBER

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Band	10	9	1	0	54	3	19
Employed	8	8	0	0	56	8	16
Signals	9	7	1	1	43	4	15
Drums	8	4	2	2	23	12	10
7 Platoon	12	4	2	6	14	22	10
15 Platoon	10	4	1	5	21	32	9
11 Platoon	11	4	1	6	14	30	9
12 Platoon	8	3	2	3	14	29	8
10 Platoon	7	3	1	3	12	15	7
13 Platoon	9	3	1	5	19	25	7
5 Platoon	7	2	2	3	14	21	6
4 Platoon	8	2	1	5	15	30	5
14 Platoon	7	2	1	4	16	22	5
8 Platoon	9	1	3	5	6	32	5
9 Platoon	7	1	1	5	12	28	3
6 Platoon	7	1	0	6	3	29	2

The first of several proposed trial games was held in December and several players were noted for further games in the New Year, when some 2nd XI matches will be arranged. A word of thanks is due here to the umpires, particularly Sergt. Jennings and L/Cpl. Wells, whose advice and assistance has been most welcome.

In the Army Cup Competition, 2nd Searchlight Regiment, R.A. were defeated by 2-1 in a game played at Gosport Park under the worst conditions of rain and wind, although the ground, fortunately, remained hard. The Battalion did not achieve much in the first half, owing to hanging on to the ball and failure to make use of the long pass, but if they were below form, the 2nd Searchlights were no better. After half-time, both teams improved. Lieut. Symes scored twice early on, to our opponents' once. For the remainder of the game, both sides made a series of rushes, in which the 2nd Searchlights probably came the nearer to scoring.

The Battalion team was as follows: Goal, 2/Lieut. Campbell; backs, Capt. Man, L/Sergt. Stickley; half-backs, Sergt. Etheridge, P.S.M. Chillery, Sergt. Wright; forwards, Major Heywood, Cpl. Blan, Lieut. Symes, Sergt. Elcome (Depot), Sergt. Day.

In the third round, to be played probably in late January, the Driving and Maintenance Wing of the Armoured Fighting Vehicle School will be met.

The results of matches to date are as follows: played, 8; won, 6; drawn, 1; lost, 1.

BOXING

An individual novices' open competition took place on Wednesday and Thursday, 23rd and 24th November, 1938. There was a good number of entries. The fights were keen and spirited. Of the losers, L/Cpl. Barter ("B" Company), Pte. O'Brien ("B" Company), and Pte. Taylor ("A" Company) gave exhibitions of plucky fighting. The results were as follows:

Feather-weight: Pte. Knight, "A" Company, beat Pte. Busby, "D" Company.

Light-weight: Pte. Parker, "H.Q.," beat L/Cpl. Green, "H.Q." Company.

Welter-weight: Pte. Riley, "D" Company, beat Bdmn. Allbrook, "H.Q." Company.

Middle-weight: Pte. Harris, "H.Q.," beat Dmr. Dench, "H.Q." Company.

Light-heavy-weight: Pte. Smith, "B" Company, beat Pte. Box, "A" Company.

An individual open competition for the Battalion Belts was held on 23rd and 24th November.

The number of entries was few; nevertheless there was some good hard and close fighting. 2/Lieut. Allott took heavy punishment from Pte. O'Brien, Pte. Christian had a close fight with Sergt. Wray, and L/Cpl. Chapman and Pte. Markham boxed well.

The Boys' open individual competition was held on the same dates. The winners were as follows:

Midge-weight: Boy Bellchamber.

Gnat-weight: Boy McCann.

Mosquito-weight: Boy Cox.

Feather-weight: Boy Roper.

Fly-weight: Boy Hilkene.

Bantam-weight: Boy Chalgrave.

Light-weight: Boy Masters.

Welter-weight: Boy Ryder.

On Wednesday, 7th December, the Battalion met the 2nd Battalion The Lincolnshire Regiment in the third round of the Army inter-Unit team championship at New Barracks.

The meeting proved to be a most exciting one. The Battalion made a startling beginning by winning the first six fights. The Lincolns then rallied and carried the next six fights. With three to go, the excitement was too great to hold.

The next fight was the light-heavy-weight. Pte. McDowell was knocked through the ropes and injured his eye on the floor, but he carried on and knocked out his opponent. This was followed by Pte. Izzard winning the heavy-weight. The last fight made a very fitting conclusion to an evening's good scrapping, Pte. O'Brien knocking out his opponent in the first round after a few seconds of hard hitting.

The results of the match were as follows:

Bantam-weight: L/Cpl. Lowe beat Pte. Thompson (Lincolns).

Feather-weight: Sergt. Wray beat Pte. Giddings; L/Cpl. Hudson beat Pte. Tucker.

Light-weight: Pte. Markham beat Pte. Liard; Pte. Bradshaw beat Pte. Baker; Pte. Christian beat Pte. Blake.

Welter-weight: Pte. Tyler lost to Pte. Rickus; Drum-Major Ceaton lost to L/Cpl. Jenkinson; Pte. Gedde lost to Pte. Jacklin.

Middle-weight: L/Cpl. Chapman lost to 2/Lieut. Murdock; Sergt. Trotobas lost to L/Cpl. Coates; Dmr. Dench lost to Dmr. Harris.

Light-heavy-weight: Pte. McDowell beat L/Cpl. Hall.

Heavy-weight: Pte. Izzard beat Pte. Pretey.

Welter-weight: Pte. O'Brien beat L/Cpl. Elston.

The Battalion has now been drawn against the Gloucestershire Regiment in the semi-final group stage.

This match is to be fought off at New Barracks, on Tuesday, 24th January, 1939.

Battalion belt holders are as follows:

Bantam-weight: Cpl. Lowe, "H.Q." Company.

Feather-weight: Pte. Christian, "H.Q." Company.

Light-weight: Pte. Markham, "A" Company.

Welter-weight: Pte. O'Brien, "B" Company.

Middle-weight: L/Cpl. Chapman, "A" Company.

Light-heavy-weight: Pte. McDowell, "H.Q." Company.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

This season has been most disappointing in more ways than one, so we shall commence this column with the "credits" as opposed to the "debits."

Lieut. Unwin went to South Africa with the British team and, according to all accounts, played extremely well. So far, he has not figured in any international trial matches, but we hope we shall see him in an England jersey before the end of the season. Pte. Kersey has again been playing in Army Trial XV.s. Unfortunately, he was crocked in one of them when he was playing really well.

The real high-light of the season so far, however, is that the Battalion have at last got a rugby ground of their own. For this, much thanks is due to the efforts of the Quartermaster who, according to him, had almost to sign away his birthright to obtain it!

The ground, unfortunately, is four miles from barracks and the present problem is the matter of getting there. However, we have been able to have a few trial and Company games there. It is extraordinary how the interest in rugby has increased now that we have a ground.

Much thanks is due to L/Sergt. Trotobas and Cpl. Jennings ("H.Q." Company), who spent many of their spare hours in marking out the pitch and painting and erecting the goal-posts.

The first two matches had to be scratched owing to the Crisis—our first opponents being at sea and the others "somewhere in the Midlands defending England!" So to start off the season a match was arranged between the Officers and other ranks which was won fairly comfortably by the latter, who were too strong forward, after a surprisingly good game.

R.A.F. (Gosport), runners-up last season in the R.A.F. Cup, were defeated 6-nil, and The 1st Medium Regiment R.A. was beaten 6-4, through a break-through by 2/Lieut. Lyon in the last two minutes. After this promising start we were soundly beaten 6-21 by H.M.S. *Excellent*, and 8-21 by Royal Marines, Eastney—these high scores being due almost entirely to ineffective tackling and disjointed play.

Then came the Army Cup which we lost by 6-11 and, moreover, we deserved to lose by more. The K.O.S.B.s played extremely well and we played worse than could be thought possible. It must be admitted, however, that we suffered severely through injuries—Lieut. Beath was still recovering from his cartilage operation; Cpl. Williams, the hooker, had a blood clot on his ribs and was unable to play for two months; Pte. Kent was unable to play; Pte. Rimmer was unable to play throughout the season; and Pte. Cronin had a strained heart and, consequently, has not turned out yet. Nevertheless, we should have won comfortably. Nobody seemed more surprised at the result than the K.O.S.B.s themselves.

The game rather resembled that of last season against the K.S.L.I.—we were knocked out of our stride early on and never recovered.

After this disaster we still could not get together as a team and though we won some matches this was due chiefly to the poor play of our opponents than anything else.

As usual, courses took their toll of the players and in one match five of our six out-sides were forwards, but, strange to relate, we won comfortably.

The one match in which the team really excelled itself was against Portsmouth R.F.C., who had just beaten the K.O.S.B.s by 54-0. We beat practically the same team by 12-9 after a most thrilling game in which for 20 minutes we had only 14 men. Such is life—if only we had played like that in the Army Cup!

This revival was due in no small measure to Lieut. Beath who decided that his knee was sound again and came all the way from a course at Woolwich to play—he played the game of his life.

The 2nd XV have only had three matches and have won them all—the novices have been playing really well and seem very keen.

Now to mention a few of the players.

Lieut. Willoughby has been playing very well and, as usual, has been a mainstay to

the side, whether at forward or three-quarter. We should like to take this opportunity of congratulating him on his marriage.

L/Sergt. Trotobas, as usual, has played very well and has done much for the good of the game in the Battalion by his boundless enthusiasm.

Pte. Clarke has excelled himself this season—his hands have improved and so has his defence. He has a rare eye for the slightest opening and has produced some really sparkling displays. He is hard to tackle and at one time well nigh impossible, especially if one went high near his head!

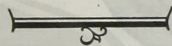
Pte. Flitcroft has started to play scrum-half for the first time and is progressing very well. By next season he should have sufficient experience to make a first-rate one.

To turn more to the novices, Cpl. Jennings ("D" Company) has taken up the game in real earnest and is doing very well. He

is an example to all for his keenness, as he has never missed a single practice or training run. Pte. Gazzard is a promising wing, and Pte. Draper should make a very good forward with more experience. There are many more, but space will not allow the naming of all of them.

We have always had a fairly good XV, but somehow we have never had sufficient competent reserves. This, it appears, should be rectified by next season.

It is sad that we were eliminated so early in the Army Cup, but, at any rate, we can put ourselves wholeheartedly into training and teaching new blood in order to produce a cup-winning side in the next year or so. All sides are bound to lose matches during the teaching period, but that is no reason to get down-hearted. Every game, whether lost or won, gives extremely valuable lessons and experience to all concerned.



DOUAI AFTER TWENTY YEARS

CAPTURE BY 2ND MIDDLESEX CELEBRATED*

A MEMORABLE TRIP

BATTALION'S WAR STORY RE-LIVED

(Illustrations by kind permission of "The Ypres Times")

CONCLUDING INSTALMENT

SPEAKING with great feeling, the Mayor addressed Col. Baker in these terms:

"Having the great honour of receiving you in our Town Hall along with the Officers who helped in the deliverance of our town 20 years ago, it gives me very great pleasure to tender to you the homage of the Douai municipal authorities and to give you a most cordial and affectionate welcome. We shall never forget that on the 17th October, 1918, the town of Douai was freed from its terrible plight by a British Regiment under your command.

"It was to commemorate this happy event that on the 19th May, 1919, a tricolour flag, embroidered by the women of our town, was offered to you as a token of our admiration and gratitude. A few months later, you had the gracious thought of presenting to the women of Douai a regimental flag with the badge embroidered upon it as a symbol of the affection which you felt towards our old city, and of the unbreakable friendship which now unites our two nations. We keep faithfully both the flag, which is now placed in our museum, and the moving letter which you sent with it.

"Since then we have on several occasions been visited by groups of former British soldiers, and on the 21st July, 1935, we welcomed Lady Haig in this same room. Let us take this opportunity of remembering once more the name of the great Field Marshal, worthy soldier-colleague of Maréchal Foch, and to honour the memory of them both. All these associations keep alive in our French and 'Douaisian' hearts feelings of gratitude and

*For an account of the 2nd Battalion's entry into Douai, see *THE DIE-HARDS* for August, 1924, Vol. 1, No. 9, p. 258.

brotherhood of which I am proud to assure you. These feelings are kindled each time we visit the innumerable graves in which your dead are now lying so close to ours in the cemeteries which spread along the former battle line, and where you know so well how to honour your dead heroes.

"And so at the same time as we have such pleasure in welcoming you on the twentieth anniversary of your entrance into our re-won city, we greet you not only as the agents of our deliverance, but also as messengers of peace and goodwill. For our two peoples who have worked so hard together, who have fought and suffered so much for the freedom of the world, cannot forget the blood shed side by side and for the most sacred of causes.

"All good Frenchmen who have faith in the future of our two countries are agreed that our two nations must remain friends. Their union alone can save peace and can put an end to any attempt at domination. Through this collaboration, so desirable and so necessary, we shall perhaps obtain respect for peace pledges and save our western nations from further sacrifices—signs of which we are now watching



Colonel Baker and the Officers

with anxiety. Through the joint efforts of our two peaceful nations, men will perhaps succeed in checking themselves before our civilisation comes to an end in further horrors.

"And did not your eminent countryman, Sir Edmund Gosse, recall on many occasions, in very moving terms, how the close union of his country and ours was justified both by interest and by tradition. For more than a century it has been the basis for political and social order in Europe, and every day we realise a little more how imperatively necessary it is. But our common aim will only be reached if to the uncivilised thesis of brute force over right we oppose strongly that of force to the service of the right. The most just must be

the strongest if they do not wish to be oppressed.

"It is of things like these (this truth so well carried out by facts) that we are thinking when at such happy and cordial re-unions as this we remember our common sacrifices and sufferings, by tightening the friendship which unites us. For we are more and more convinced that if our two countries remain strong and closely united they will inspire respect and in this way serve the sacred cause of peace and freedom. It is to this noble ideal, worthy of our two great nations, that I now raise my glass!"

Then followed a most impressive manifestation of the entente cordiale as our hosts and ourselves touched our glasses of champagne before drinking to the toast.

Speaking in excellent French which was followed with rapt attention and frequent applause, Col. Baker replied as follows:

"Mr. Mayor, Municipal Councillors, and our friends of Douai.

"In October, 1918, the Fates had put my battalion in the line opposite Douai. Thus it was to us that the honour was given of being the troops who drove the enemy out of your ancient and historic town. Proud as we were of that honour, we are even more proud to-day of the honour you do us by this magnificent reception at the Town Hall.

"We proudly carry the Douai Flag—as we call it—the treasured flag which was embroidered by the fairy fingers of the ladies of Douai. It has lost some of its original brightness, but since the War the battalion has been on foreign service in Egypt, Singapore, and India, where silk is harmed by the climate, necessitating the protection of the material by net. But I always think that historic treasures are valued more and more by a Regiment with the passing of years. I am very glad that you have been good enough to afford us the opportunity of displaying once more in Douai this bond of friendship, so to speak, between the people of the two great democracies. We were comrades in arms and we remain comrades—comrades in peace. Neither the French nor the English desire war; we firmly believe that trade is the foundation of prosperity and all we want is to carry it on so as to insure that all our people can live in happiness and peace, enjoying such blessings as heaven sends us. So we must go forward side by side, always on friendly terms, making it plain that we ask for no more than peace and justice for all, and if the aggressors refuse to allow it, we shall

oppose them with the whole combined might of the two nations.

"When we entered Douai in 1918, we found it sacked. Curtains were hanging out of the windows, cross-roads were blocked by craters, débris lay everywhere. In the houses, drawers had been wrenched out; forks, plates, and overturned chairs and tables lay on the floors. Everything was in disorder. To-day we are very glad to see the town in its restored condition.

"We were disappointed not to find any people in Douai, but to-day, after 20 years, we feel very pleased and honoured to meet our friends at last.

"This occasion will remain treasured in our memories till the end of our lives, and we thank you profoundly and sincerely from the bottom of our hearts."

Long applause followed Col. Baker's speech, and our happy fraternising with our French friends continued as we were shown the splendours of the Hôtel de Ville, and paused together for a moment of silence at the War Memorial in the building. Then, accompanied again by the hunting-horn band of the Association Philanthropique, we proceeded through the streets, which were be-flagged in our honour, as a grand procession, headed by the Mayor and Col. Baker, to the Douai War Memorial, where Col. Baker laid a wreath of poppies inscribed with the words: "*À nos camarades Douaisiens morts pour La France.*"

There was more fraternising, this time in smaller groups, and next we were entertained at luncheon in the Restaurant des Palmiers by the British-Club Douaisiens, the President, M. le Docteur Fauchaux, being chairman—with Col. Baker on his right and the Mayor directly opposite to him. An equal number of French guests attended with our party, and we were shown the most generous hospitality. The occasion was enlivened by spontaneous outbursts of community singing, chiefly of War-time songs, by members of both parties. The climax of this delightful occasion was reached in the speech of the President with his announcement that Col. Baker had been elected an Honorary Vice-President of the Club, and in Col. Baker's words of thanks, which were in these terms:

"Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mayor, Members of the Douai British Club, Ladies and Gentlemen.

"We are most grateful to you for your very generous hospitality. It gives us great pleasure to revisit in peace-time the scenes of our exploits 20 years ago. We hold many very

happy War memories of Regimental comradeship, of France, of the men of France, and of the fair ladies of France—it is well known that all Frenchwomen are beautiful. We know, because one of my Officers had the good sense to marry a French wife; I see he is looking at me.

"For me this part of France holds a great attraction. It was here that I found myself unexpectedly appointed an untried Battalion Commander. I knew here the comradeship and the loyalty of a thousand men. Here we successfully attacked the Germans four times in three weeks—at Arleux-en-Gohelle, at Biaches-St. Vaast, at Vitry-en-Artois, and at the Canal de la Sensée. Near here a little plot of France belongs to me where, not far from Croisilles, my younger brother has lain since St. George's Day, 1917.

"At the capture of Douai, the town was deserted. We rejoice to-day at meeting our good friends of Douai at last, not forgetting their charming ladies—we well know that all



The party near Le Transloy partaking of a wayside lunch. Site of Zenith Trench may be seen near skyline

the ladies of Douai are charming. We rejoice, I say, at meeting to cement the ties of our friendship at this time when danger again threatens Europe.

"We must join ranks in the face of aggression from dictators and I make so bold as to suggest a watch-word for us—the splendid motto of France with the addition of one small word. 'Liberty, equality, brotherhood, and unity,' the unity of each and the unity of both. That alone, I think, will prevent war.

"I mention that Lady Haig, who is always so pleased to be with you, is not in the best of health. We hope that she will soon be well enough to make her customary visit to Douai with Col. Robertson who is, I am told, a member of your club.

"On behalf of my English friends I thank you from the bottom of my heart, and I wish you the best of luck, the best of health, and the best of everything."

The remainder of Sunday afternoon was spent in the neighbourhood of Vimy Ridge. Many of our kind Douai friends accompanied us as we inspected the permanent "Canadian" trenches (which one or two of us felt sure had been German before they were Canadian). The new Canadian Memorial on Vimy Ridge impressed us all tremendously, even though it can never hold for us the same associations as the War-time Canadian Cross at Thélus. One of the great thrills of the whole tour was to find again the actual site of Crucifix Corner just out of Arleux-en-Gohelle. Capt. Mann had with him the actual trench map used in the capture of Britannia Trench, and with it the village of Arleux-en-Gohelle on 27th September, 1918. The map at once recalled all the familiar landmarks of many weeks of trench warfare 20 years before.

A memorable surprise greeted our return to the Hôtel du Commerce at Arras. News of the significance of our celebration at Douai had been spreading, and as we entered the hotel the orchestra in the crowded Grand Café played "God Save The King," and the whole audience rose to their feet in honour of the occasion. We were all deeply touched, and Col. Baker at once expressed our feelings when he personally thanked the proprietors of the hotel and each member of the orchestra for this gesture of goodwill.

On Easter Monday we went through areas which we had known as camps or billets. At a regenerated La Targette we saw the ruined tower of St. Eloi and re-built Neuville St. Vaast, and we crossed the road by which Col. Baker, as C.O., led us for the first time into the line in July, 1918. How different was the scene! Passing Cabaret Rouge, where Bairnsfather made many of his drawings, we came to Souchez and Notre Dame de Lorette. Here we realised the price paid by the French while we were training our national army. On the way to Noeux-les-Mines we saw Bully-Grenay, Mazingarbe, and Vermelles, and later Labourse and Beuvry. Then we came to Béthune—on a market day—very different from our memories of it! At La Gorgue, Col. Baker recalled his introduction to the jam-pot bomb in January, 1915, and at Estaires the two delightful young things who ran a tea-shop and entertained the guests with piano and fiddle. A road obstruction prevented our passing

through Bailleul, so we diverged through Steenwerck to the frontier and saw the new French defences in course of construction. All this country fell to the Germans in April, 1918. Passing Neuve Eglise, the Battalion's first Brigade reserve billet in November, 1914, we had a fine view of the Messines Ridge as we approached Mount Kemmel. Col. Baker told us how an order was issued during the battle in April, 1918, that Officers should make more use of their horses. As second-in-command of the 2nd Lincolnshire, he was detailed to act as Brigade Liaison Officer, and was sent from Vierstraat on his horse to find out the situation at Kemmel. The Battalion, from reserve, had marched up to Wytchaete to find no one between them and the enemy, so he was not surprised to find Kemmel already deserted, and never felt so conspicuous in his life as he rode across, not knowing how close the Germans might be. Through Vierstraat and skirting Dickebusch lake, we were back in Ypres for luncheon.

As this was to be our last set meal together the opportunity was taken of expressing the thanks of the party to those who had given us such a wonderful and unforgettable trip; to Capt. Taggart who had acted as Secretary, to M. Leupe for all his many services, to Capt. Pridham for his invaluable help as representing the Ypres League and, above all, to Col. Baker, whose health was proposed with musical honours.

Resuming our journey we saw where the Yser-Ypres Canal held up the German attack of April-May, 1915. Although the enemy crossed it at one point, he only remained for a few hours, and a stone marks the spot. M. Leupe pointed out places of interest in the Belgian line, and told us, by request, where and how he gained the Croix de Guerre (with palm), and where the sluice gates were opened at Nieuport to flood the country and hold up the Germans. He also showed us the impressive Belgian national memorial, not yet completed. We cannot realise what the Belgians suffered during the War with vast tracts of their country under water for over four years.

Soon after this we reached the coast, and before long were in Ostend where regretfully it came home to us that our unique and never-to-be-forgotten battle-fields tour was at an end.

DEPOT NOTES

WE are all sorry to lose Major E. L. Heywood who has returned to the 2nd Battalion on the completion of his tour. Capt. P. D. F. Powell has taken his place and is now the Training Company Commander.

Mention has been made in previous Depot notes of the Ordnance Depot and Magazines which are being constructed just below the Married Quarters, and its effect on the surrounding countryside. But since the last quarter, building has been started on an even larger scale, and at a very rapid rate on the W.D. land opposite the entrance to Mill Hill Station. The buildings, of which only the girders are at present visible, occupy the whole of the field between the road and the cricket ground. Looking down from barracks it is now quite difficult to pick out which is the sports ground; there is so much building activity all round it. However, the new football ground opposite the Corporals' Mess is functioning this season, for the first time, and this, to some extent, is a recompense for the loss of all the green fields round the original sports ground.

It may be of interest to those who have not visited the Depot recently, if we give some idea of the modernisation which has been carried out during the past year. If only so that the "older soldiers" can say that "It wasn't like that in our day." The R.E.s have taken over each barrack block in turn, and practically transformed it into a block of model dormitories. Each man has been provided with a wardrobe, into which he can lock practically everything. There is also a geyser between two barrack rooms to provide hot shaving water. Three barrack rooms in each block have been converted into sitting-rooms, furnished with armchairs and settees, and a benevolent P.R.I. has provided them with illustrated papers and games. In the very near future we hope to see work started on the Sergeants' Mess. We understand that it will be completely modernised and Single Sergeants' Quarters added.

Lieut. Unwin has rejoined us from his tour in South Africa with the British rugby team. It was apparently an excellent tour. They had some good rugby and were most hospitably met wherever they went.

Capt. Hall has been in France for the past two and a half months on a Language Course. He is at present attached to the 13e Chasseurs Alpines at Barcebonnette and we hope to

hear all about his adventures there on his return in the middle of January.

The Depot annual inspection was carried out by Major-General J. H. T. Priestman, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., on 15th November.

Brig.-General R. M. Heath, C.M.G., D.S.O., inspected the Depot Staff and Recruits before the annual service at the Regimental War Memorial on Armistice Day. The service took place in perfect weather, and a large number of old Officers and other ranks were present.

On 10th December, a large party of Depot Staff and Recruits visited the 2nd Battalion at Gosport and had a most enjoyable day. In the morning we saw a demonstration of a M.G. Platoon, and the Battalion vehicles, and afterwards the Band and Drums played. In the afternoon we watched the 2nd Battalion football team win a very decisive victory over the 2nd Battalion The Sherwood Foresters by 8-0 in the third round of the Army Cup.

The Depot was frozen over and snowed-under during Christmas, but now the thaw has come we were lucky to find that there were not too many burst pipes or tanks.

Winners of Squad Badges and Shooting Spoons were:

Lady Smith Squad: Twentieth Week Test.—Winner, Pte. Rogers; runner-up, Pte. Scott-Farne.

Alhambra Squad: Sixteenth Week Test.—Winner, Pte. Burns; runner-up, Pte. Stevens. Twentieth Week Test.—Winner, Pte. Burns; runner-up, Pte. Stevens. Table "A" Shooting Spoon.—Pte. Burns. Empire Test.—Pte. Burns.

El Boden Squad: Eighth Week.—Winner, Pte. Bird; runner-up, Pte. Groves. Twelfth Week.—Winner, Pte. Bird; runner-up, Pte. Groves. Sixteenth Week.—Pte. Bird; runner-up, Pte. Groves. Empire Test Shooting Spoon.—Pte. Groves. Table "A" Shooting Spoon.—Pte. Wright.

Alma Squad: Fourth Week.—Winner, Pte. Louvaine; runner-up, Pte. Knight. Eighth Week.—Winner, Pte. Louvaine; runner-up, Pte. Knight. Twelfth Week.—Winner, Pte. Louvaine; runner-up, Pte. James. Sixteenth Week.—Winner, Pte. Dixon; runner-up, Pte. Hill. Empire Test Shooting Spoon.—Pte. Louvaine. Table "A" Shooting Spoon, Pte. Louvaine.

Mysore Squad: Fourth Week.—Winner, Pte. Bathie; runner-up, Pte. Goozee. Eighth Week.—Winner, Pte. Bathie; runner-up, Pte. Goozee. Empire Test Shooting Spoon.—Pte. Barnsdale. Table "A" Shooting Spoon.—Pte. Barnsdale.

Mons Squad: Fourth Week.—Winner, Pte. Power; runner-up, Pte. Willard. Eighth Week.—Winner, Pte. Power; runner-up, Pte. Edwards. Empire Test Shooting Spoon.—Pte. Power. Table "A" Shooting Spoon.—Pte. Willard.

SERGEANTS' MESS

In common with most service institutions, we suppose, there has been a spirit of anticlimax in the air since the stirring days of September. We have worked—what Depot does not?—but there has been a continual search for something to take our minds off the dramatic scenes we witnessed in the Autumn. Fortunately, the snow became front-page news so that we could approach the too-brief holiday with more reasonable worries. Our trenches have been filled in, guns no longer point menacingly to the sky, and the atmosphere is charged with "appeasement," which has, we are told, nothing to do with heavy puddings. The snow, too, has gone. The Depot was a beautiful sight, with the exception of, perhaps, the School, which had received an epic bombardment, with first-class candidates having to run the gauntlet of accurately-thrown snowballs. Both the walls and the candidates looked bedraggled, but the accuracy of the hurlers bodes well for the cricket team next year.

On 14th October, the quarterly dinner was held in the Mess. It was well attended, some 65 sitting down. L/Sergt. and Mrs. Knight were the guests of the Mess, as he was shortly to be posted to the 2nd Battalion. The R.S.M. proposed his health and he made the customary modest reply. The social which followed was a very pleasant sequel.

A fortnight later the Mess was invited to the Gosport Mess opening dance. The party arrived in time for lunch, and everybody enjoyed the dance. However, it had to finish and we reluctantly left very pleased with an exceptionally well-spent evening.

Our appetite whetted by this adventure, we took the first opportunity to return ostensibly to cheer on the Battalion against the Sherwoods in the Army Cup. We all share in the hearty congratulations which we extend to the side, with further encouragement for the remainder of the season. It has not escaped the attentions of the Londoners here that Charlton Athletic are employing the talents of Phipps as an amateur. Congratulations! It would not be seemly to pass on without a most sincere vote of thanks to R.S.M. Parsler and the members of the Mess for the grand reception they gave us. Everything was prepared and nothing was too much trouble. Certain people here are wandering around with rapt expressions on their faces. They are probably working out a plan for re-

paying the 2nd Battalion at some date in the near future.

The winter series of whist drives has shown an increase in attendance and popularity. Perhaps it has become more widely known that one need not fear for the fate of one's shins under the table. Although mistakes have been made, not even the faintest sneer has been seen to sully the evening's entertainment. They have all ended with impromptu dances, which are, possibly, better fun even than those properly organised. A list of the prize-winners is interesting because it shows how well the good fortune has been shared.

September: 1, Mrs. Crouch; 2, Mr. Hale; 3, Mrs. Wilson; 4, L/Sergt. Thomas.

October: 1, Mrs. L. Clark; 2, Sergt. Housden; 3, Mrs. Burt; 4, Mrs. Franklin.

November: 1, Mr. Wilcockson; 2, Sergt. Smith; 3, Mrs. Hibberd; 4, Mrs. Warner; 5, R.Q.M.S. Goodall.

Recently the billiards and snooker tournaments have been occupying our attention. Perhaps it was as well that no book was made on the competitors, for the "Bookie" on certain occasions would have scored heavily. Close finishes were the order of the day. Typical of these was the final of the snooker. Sergt. Wilson had a commanding lead over C/Sergt. Franklin who, with the blue, pink, and black left, needed them all and a snooker. He got them and a penalty, and scraped home. It was a fine game, with congratulations to winner and loser. The final of the billiards tournament has not yet been played, but the finalists are Sergts. Wilson and Mason, the latter being very pleased because it is the first occasion in 10 years that he has reached so exalted a position. Of course, Wilson is an old and experienced hand and will not suffer from nerves. There is one consolation for those who always go out quickly in the tap-room games. (Sorry, Lindrum.) We will shortly have a ping-pong set, but, as some call it table tennis, we are not quite certain what it is all about.

We have two important engagements in January. On the 6th, we have our Annual Dinner, which will be described in the next Journal. On the 20th, a party of some 28 is going to Sandhurst. An attempt is to be made to explore the R.S.M.'s hide-out. He was there as an instructor for three and a half years. Judging by the usual difficulty in dragging him from any dance, there is a suspicion that he was there so long simply because they had one of those American

marathon dances there, lasting for three years. The other six months were taken up in having "Ones for the road." Be that as it may, those who went last year will certainly be there again this year—which implies that they are a real good do.

Among items of general interest we have noted that Sergt. Williams is skipping an undefeated football team and playing as well as ever. It has been said by one, who, it is true, has not seen the 2nd Battalion side, that they must indeed be good if they can afford to leave him out. L/Sergt. Selfe has also represented the older stagers in the young man's game. C.S.M. Hazeldine is still wielding his hockey stick to good effect.

We have to congratulate a Warrant Officer for picking three draws, when there were only five such matches on the card. We will only announce his initials, P.N., since it is not certain that the begging letter writer may not get to work on his £56 14s. od. For fear of infringing any regulation of advertising matter, we will similarly mention the firm, V.P., of Liverpool. We shortly expect a small car to take the place of Knight's trusty or rusty steed.

We have the pleasant task of welcoming Sergt. Wray and L/Sergt. Elcome. It is hoped that they will both enjoy their stays. (Let there be no confusion over this word.) L/Sergts. Thomas and Knight have returned to the Battalion on promotion. While regretting their departure we are pleased at their advancement. We all hope that "Tomo's" canine friends will continue to be friendly. Sergt. "Frank" Livens has left the Service, and we extend every best wish to him in his task of presenting us with all those pop guns, which will take the place of flags on manoeuvres. The boxing team will lose the services of a keen honorary trainer by his departure and it is certain that they will desire to be associated with our good wishes. We would also like to convey to Mrs. Boen our best wishes for a complete recovery from her indisposition. It is pleasant to see her about again.

We bring these notes to a close with the sincere greetings of the Depot to all members of the Regiment. We hope that they will enjoy an extremely happy and prosperous 1939.

CORPORALS' CLUB

A few promotions have occurred recently and congratulations are due to L/Sergt.

Ball who has left the Corporals' Mess for higher society. Cpls. Stebbing and Morley also have gone higher, but still remain in the Corporals' Mess, and are now in a position to become presidents of the Club if required.

Once again, as last year, we congratulate members of the 2nd Battalion soccer team on winning the third round of the Army Cup by such an excellent margin as 8—0. We sincerely hope that they will go further than the fifth round which they skilfully reached last season. Whilst on the subject of football we would like it to be known that L/Cpl. Phipps's recent success (namely, selection to play for Charlton Athletic F.C.) has not escaped our eyes or ears. We feel sure that this N.C.O. is quite at home there as we are aware of the fact that two more soldiers also form part of the team. Congratulations, "Phippo," for taking your place among them.

The only sport our Mess has taken part in recently has been two games of darts. We now have a dart team which journeys occasionally to a certain "dive" known as "The Cock Tavern," at Edmonton, where "Old Crusty" Wade opposes his team against ours, and during the game some very flighty arrows are thrown. So far we have won a game and lost a game. Cupid is also there throwing his darts, so I gather by the conversation in the Mess.

In November, we had a Corporals' dance which was held in the Institute. We were glad to see one or two of the "corpses" from the Battalion and would like to remind them that there is plenty of room for more.

We had a Mess photograph taken on 11th November, and were very fortunate to have the Colonel of the Regiment to "sit in" with us.

We take this opportunity of welcoming Cpls. Hockley, Palmer, Clenshaw, and L/Cpl. Clarke (68) to the Mess, two of whom are only attached. We trust they enjoy their stay, however long or short as it may be.

As usual, when we welcome anybody we also have to say farewell to others. The loss this time was L/Cpl. Barratt who was, without doubt, a very popular member of our Mess. We trust that he has settled down at Gosport and hope that he has found his "sea legs." We know he has no fear of crossing the ferry as he was on the "Save Egypt" draft.

Cpl. Clenshaw has left us for a while to attend a Fire Fighting Course. We wish him a "satisfactory" report, in spite of the

fact that he only had a day's notice, owing to Cpl. Millichap (who was originally to have gone) being admitted to hospital with a knee injury. We wish him a speedy recovery.

On Saturday morning, 17th December, there was a shortage of junior N.C.O.s at the Depot. When looked into, it was found that they were all "on pass," for the purpose of proceeding to a wedding. The lucky man (or victim, whichever you prefer) was Cpl. Morley. A Drummer also went, complete with bugle, and directly after the wedding, as the couple were leaving for home, the Drummer sounded "Orderly Corporal," but on this occasion Cpl. Morley obeyed the *first* order.

Another member who has recently joined the ranks of married men is L/Cpl. Chambers. We take this opportunity of wishing both these N.C.O.s and their wives every success in married life.

To quote R. E. Jeffrey, the film news reporter, "And now for the present, I leave you," wishing everybody associated with the Regiment a very happy and prosperous New Year.

"DOWNHOMER."

REGIMENTAL HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

THE following articles have been presented to the Regimental Museum during the past quarter, and their receipt is gratefully acknowledged.

A map and summary used to illustrate a battlefield tour in April, 1938, presented by Col. E. E. F. Baker, O.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., The Middlesex Regiment. It is divided into two parts. On the left is a map of France and Belgium showing Allied and German advances at various periods during the War. On the right is a summary of the places in France and Belgium which the 2nd Battalion visited from November, 1914, to December, 1918. It is divided into those places where the Battalion was in reserve, in the front line, or was actually fighting.

An enamel Regimental sports medal of a type which used to be issued to the 2nd Battalion a few years ago, and was found in the Barracks at Mill Hill, by R.S.M. P. Newman.

A photograph of the 1st Battalion on parade at Woolwich in 1914. This was bought and

presented by Pte. Gosling, late of the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, and shows the Battalion drawn up in close column of Companies under the Commanding Officer, who at that time was Lieut.-Col. B. E. Ward. This was probably the last time the Battalion paraded before embarking for France in November, 1914.

A Glockenspiel, which was presented to the Officers, 3rd Battalion The Middlesex Regiment by Capt. C. R. Hay. It was then handed over to the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment by 3rd Battalion, on disbandment at Cologne, in 1922. The 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment have now presented it to the Museum.

This Glockenspiel was always carried at the head of the 3rd Battalion Band, and, at times, by the 1st Battalion Band.

The painting of the 77th Charger, "The Arab," which is kept in the Officers' Mess at the Depot, has recently been completely restored, which has greatly improved its appearance.

BRITISH LEGION VOLUNTEER POLICE FOR CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

THESE are the personal experiences of P.C. 38. I feel no apology is needed for writing on the subject. Those who had the privilege of joining this Force should try to pass on the chronicle to those less fortunate. I will not vouch for the exact accuracy of the Diary, it is drawn from memory. The whole episode was a model of perfect organisation, and reflects credit on the entire staff of the Legion. It was the nearest approach seen, since 1918, to the comradeship of the Great War.

It has twice been my lot to serve the King in a blue lounge suit. The first occasion was in Kitchener's blue, 1914, the second with the B.L.V.P. in 1938. The second blue suit was infinitely the better one.

Method of joining. At the end of August, 1938, I returned from a motor tour of 2,500 miles round Germany; a Union Jack on the front and GB on the back of the car had ensured me almost preferential treatment. Without going into politics, I can say this, the keynote of many personal conversations in the

Reich was that the German people trusted implicitly the British Legion and the British ex-Service man.

I had a feeling that a call might be made on the Legion in some form or another, so, early in September, I registered my name at Haig House. When the occasion actually occurred, I repeated by wire, and I was told to apply to my local branch.

The conditions seemed all against me, as I was a reservist, and I resigned myself to not going. However, at midday on the



[Photo by Gale & Polden, Ltd., Aldershot]

5th October, I was rung up by a friend at the War Office with a message requesting me to go and see Sir Fetherston Godley at once. If required, the War Office would grant me permission to go to Czecho-Slovakia.

Within 24 hours I joined the B.L.V.P. as an interpreter. With great consideration the Chief Signal Officer, Aldershot, granted me leave from my present post and arranged for a deputy. I had a slight quibble with the law about a red light near Olympia, and reached the latter at 3.15 p.m. instead of 3 p.m. on the 6th October.

Thursday, 6th October, Olympia at 3.15 p.m. was an unforgettable sight. Legionaries were arriving from all over the U.K., many calling out in their own particular dialect for any other like-speaking comrade from "Somersetshire" or "Yorkshire." I joined the queue, already formed, and passed from table to table—at

each I was given an article or two. At the end I looked like a Christmas tree. Medical examination followed, no privacy asked and little given. Olympia had been placarded with all the counties of the U.K., including Isle of Wight and Isle of Man, the 1st Division, apparently from the South and West, being on the first floor. The second floor housed the 2nd Division from the North and East. "H.Q." Wing, consisting of Transport, Press, Post Office, Orderly Room Staff, Detachment of St. John Ambulance, and Interpreters, was also on the second floor. I joined my squad under Colonel Crosfield, and found that it included the following: 1 Lieut.-General, 1 man from Cooks, 1 man from Prague, 1 viscount, 1 sailor (grand chap), 1 author, etc. After joining our Units, we were all taken to Lambeth Police Depot and fitted out as Pleb. Cops with a constable's coat and cap. At 7 p.m. we were back, complete and ready to sail. Then started "blanket fetching" and "paliasse filling." I obtained leave to sleep out!

Friday, 7th October, was spent first in "Swearing In" *en masse* of the B.L.V.P. Force as special constables. Sir Frederick Maurice then addressed the parade, explaining how it had come about that the Force had been assembled. He also delivered messages from Their Majesties The King and Queen.

In the afternoon Col. Nye, an expert on plebiscites, gave a very fine lecture. From this lecture all gathered that the task was not going to be an easy one. General Sir Ian Hamilton made his appearance amidst a storm of cheering and singing. Finally, Lady Spencer Churchill spoke on behalf of the ladies' section, and said that the ladies of the Legion were making themselves responsible for the men's smokes in Czecho-Slovakia. In order to do this at once, Lady Spencer Churchill had asked two firms to grant "tick" for 60,000 cigarettes each. Both firms had refused tick, saying that they would make a present of the goods.

Saturday, 8th October, was noted for the one and only route march. This lasted one and a half hours and was chiefly intended as a test-out for new boots. It was revealed that, in little over 24 hours, the 1,200 men of the Legion had been organised and equipped and that the Force was now completed to the last Section and last button.

Sunday, 9th October. In the morning a service of remembrance was held, conducted

by the Bishop of Truro assisted by the Rev. J. H. Parsons, both B.L.V. Policemen. In his address, the Bishop stressed the necessity for the men to equip themselves for the task in hand, mentally as well as physically. The bulk of the Force accepted a special invitation to attend evening service at Westminster Abbey. The Police Band played at the morning service.

Monday, 10th October, was spent by the Divisions in learning how to handle crowds, etc., under police instructors. At 12.45 p.m. the Adjutant-General visited Olympia, and inspected the Guard of Honour of 100 men. He was obviously impressed.

In the afternoon there was a special "roll call" to discover stowaways, and to issue another shirt.

Tuesday, 11th October, was spent in getting ready to embark, marking of kits, etc. It was already becoming doubtful whether any plebiscites would be necessary.

Wednesday, 12th October. The Force embarked at Tilbury on S.S. *Naldera* and S.S. *Dunera* for what was to prove the shortest "troop" ever. The embarkation was soon over, all were old hands. There were no batmen and our Lieut.-General, viscount, etc., carried their own kit bags. There was no saluting, except of one's immediate leader. There were no badges of rank, the only distinguishing mark being different-coloured arm bands. All had the same pay, and all the same food. To the great delight of the crew, and to the credit of the ships' Officers, the Captain and all came to sausages and mash for dinner. There was a strong discipline, but it came from within and not from above.

Thursday, 13th October, we spent anchored off Southend; all were photographed for passports. Our Divisional General could not be found for an important conference on the *Naldera*. He was in the engine room all the time.

A smoking concert was held in the evening.

Friday, 14th October. It became known that plebiscites would not be held. A speech by Sir Fetherston Godley confirmed this, stating we could all go home next day. It was agreed that it was a "plebiscite" better that the peoples concerned should settle their own affairs without the help of us outsiders. There was great activity on board filling up documents and warrants for demobilisation.

Saturday, 15th October. We left Southend at 6 a.m. I personally was back in Aldershot

for lunch. All were as happy as sandboys, having renewed many life-long friendships, and made many more. Each of us was given a letter from Viscount Halifax and from the Commander of the Force. This day was, perhaps, marred by the public burning of a certain paper, and also an effigy of its proprietor. Since the inception of the B.L.V.P. this paper had done nothing but sneer at it. The feeling in the Force was getting heated. In my opinion, the Legion is much greater than any newspaper. Perhaps the greatest loss, in this affair, was the pyjamas of our viscount; these covered the nether portions of the effigy.

Finally, more than 17,000 volunteered before knowing the pay or conditions of the service in question. One must not forget the employers, who sacrificed much. One of the B.L.V.P. was a chauffeur to a lady of over 80. The latter spared him at once, saying "She would go without a car until his return." There was one youngster of no more than 20. I inquired, and discovered that he had only O.T.C. service to help him into the Force. He had, apparently, struggled and struggled until admitted.

Old soldiers never die—but they do fade away. We must get the young in to carry on the Legion.

7th BATTALION NOTES

IT is doubtful whether there is any precedent for recording a camp, a crisis, a conversion, and a re-building, all in the same issue of THE DIE-HARDS, and it is a little difficult to know where to begin, but lest great events beget forgetfulness of lesser ones we must deal with them in chronological order.

The most striking feature of Annual Training at Arundel, was the great use made of motor transport, which almost entirely blotted out route marching, although it had discomforts of its own, not unlike those suffered by Messrs. Skippers's sardines. The great advantage, of course, was that much more time was spent on the training areas and much less time in getting to them—a great gain for the price of a little companionable squashing.

But the use of all this motor transport was only a symptom of change. We knew that the 9th Battalion was about to leave us to become part of the Air Defences of Great Britain and we commiserated with them

frequently on their horrid fate. We did not then know that our own days as normal Infantry were numbered and that we should soon have to leave the 162nd Brigade ourselves. However, this, our last camp of the old régime, was a fitting end to an era.

As always, our thanks are due to the regular Officers and N.C.O.s who were sent to assist us. Those responsible for selecting them displayed considerable catholicity of taste, for we not only had Lieut. Clayton and Sergt. Fuller of the Regiment, but also Major H. W. Daniel of the Royal Fusiliers, N.C.O.s from the Black Watch, the Royal Fusiliers, and the South Staffords. They all proved to be as pleasant company in their respective Messes as they were helpful and patient on the training areas, and we can only hope that they liked us as well as we liked them.

In previous issues we have mentioned our projected new headquarters. For "projected," as an amendment would put it, substitute "building." When we returned from camp "The Elms" was still standing, although nobody was quite sure what a fresh breeze might do. A brief interval elapsed and then the component parts of three large wooden huts, formerly used, we believe, to house the Pay Corps, were dumped on the parade ground. Another interval for reflection: the huts were erected and notices bearing the words, "Orderly Room," "Officers' Mess," "C.O. and Adjutant," and "N.C.O.s," were affixed to the doors. The natural passion of the authorities for housebreaking now received a slight check when it was realised that the R.S.M. was still in residence on the top floor, whilst a considerable quantity of assorted junk remained in the crypt. Whilst this difficulty was being disposed of, several Officers took the law into their own hands. Having stripped the Officers' Mess, they proceeded scientifically to demolish it; two of them, more enterprising than the rest, even removed a chimney pot from the roof and bore it, sooty, but triumphant, to grace the ruin below. The housebreakers, we understand, took the poorest view of this *tour de force* and have not quite forgiven us yet.

Then the fun began. An Army (or at least, a Platoon) of workmen descended upon us, and whilst some boarded up large parts of the Drill Hall (which has made a Company parade look rather like a crowd at a cup final), others knocked the house down. More men then arrived with a cement mixer and vast

quantities of assorted stores which they dumped on the parade ground. That place was getting a little crowded! They also dug a number of holes one of which, perhaps because they knew that the Adjutant, who is a golfer, regards hazards with a professional eye, they placed approximately one yard inside the gateway. Fortunately, it was discovered by O.C. "H.Q." Company, who has a small and handy car, but his brakes will never be quite the same again.

At length these preliminaries were done and the new building began to arise before our delighted eyes. It is now so far advanced that we can assure ourselves that in its completed state it will be not altogether unlike the architect's perspective sketch. It is true that some critics have suggested that it would only be necessary to put the word "Employers" in large white letters over the front door to complete the resemblance to a labour exchange. Others have found cause for comment in the peculiar disposition of the Officers' Mess kitchen. It is, however, perfectly easy to find fault with any building, and we have no doubt that in the spring we shall at last have a Headquarters worthy of the Battalion.

We had scarcely moved into our huts when the international situation became acute and, on Monday, 25th September, we knew that a general mobilisation was probably imminent. Doubtless, the Companies will give details of the events of the hectic days which followed, in their own notes, and we need only say here that 13 Officers and nearly 100 other ranks of the Battalion volunteered for certain preliminary work. But the great Crisis passed, leaving us a little more conscious of the purpose for which we exist and of the immeasurable obligations which that purpose entails.

A few days after these great events had taken place, it was announced that the Territorial Field Army was to be completely reorganised on the same lines as the Regular Army. To our great joy we found that the 8th Battalion and ourselves were to follow in the footsteps of the regular Battalions and become Machine Gun Units. This, of course, will enable us to maintain and improve our very close liaison with them. It must have suffered severely had we been made to adopt some other role. Our one regret is that we have had to part company with the 8th Battalion who remain with the 162nd Brigade, whilst we have been attached to the 161st Brigade. We feel that we cannot let this change-over pass without paying some small tribute to our old Brigade

Commander, Brig. T. S. Muirhead, and his Brigade Major, Major Baker, of The King's Own. Their unfailing kindness and consideration and their hatred of unnecessary fuss have made our short stay in their Brigade a very happy one.

The actual process of conversion is not, of course, very easy, but the enthusiasm of all ranks for their new task is very great and there can be no doubt that all difficulties will be speedily overcome. An Elementary Course for Officers and N.C.O.s has already taken place and others, slightly more advanced, are in contemplation, whilst Machine Gun Training will have begun in the former Rifle Companies themselves before these notes appear in print.

At the time these notes were written the Battalion was well over establishment and recruiting remained good. We were very glad to welcome four new Officers—2/Lieuts. S. F. Caulfield-Kerney, R. J. E. Wilkins, F. J. Bennett, and J. K. Laurence—who joined us in the summer and we hope that their stay with us will prove long and happy. By abstruse mathematical calculation we have ascertained that we still have three-fifths of a vacancy for a subaltern Officer, but, no doubt, should a really likely candidate appear we shall be able to get him all in.

"H.Q." COMPANY

After an absence from print of some six months the Company scribe feels that it is his duty in this issue of the Journal to acquaint the world in general with the recent exploits of the Company—note that last word; no longer just an extremity for helping to propel the parent body.

There is no doubt that far more able pens will discourse at some length on the three most important events of the last few months, and so your humble scribe will merely touch on the points affecting the Company.

During the recent Crisis, almost a famous cliché now, the Company had two Officers and approximately a dozen men on duty. Our two "Comms" used many gallons of petrol running all round North London and as far south as Lambeth collecting supplies of every conceivable stores, from cotton wool to corrugated iron, and delivering them to the out-stations where a certain feverish activity seemed to be going on day and night. We understand that "Don" Company's rabbit

farm was not as successful as it was hoped and has now been disbanded. There can have been no more nerve-racking place in the Battalion area during that week than at Headquarters. Whilst other Companies were sand-bagging and gas-proofing every square inch of their Drill Halls those of us who were at Hornsey suffered mentally every time a telegraph boy or dispatch rider entered the gates . . . at least one of the latter now knows the way to leave our Headquarters "as we do in the Brigade of Guards." However, we are all pleased that things turned out as they did; even the Quartermaster, in spite of having the most amazingly varied collection of domestic stores ever collected under one roof—at present, the Miniature Range.

The second important and far-reaching event is the conversion of the Battalion from P.B.I. to a Machine Gun Battalion. If a change had to be made, surely we have been very fortunate in that change. The effect on the Company is at the moment somewhat obscure, except to the very, very senior. It seems that our strength is increased by certain tradesmen, carpenters, bricklayers, etc., and some Anti-Tank equipment, also the A.A. Section comes into more prominence. As we have not yet had time to get accustomed to our new role further comment may be left to a later issue.

The third major operation carried out during the last quarter has been the long-awaited demolition of our old Headquarters. So much has been said of this before that there is no need to dwell unduly on it, except to say that now things have started they are going along at a good speed and there is every hope that we shall be settled in the new building by March, 1939.

The Annual Church Parade this year was probably one of the most successful the Battalion has had and the Company mustered a very good turn-out, there being altogether 92 members on parade.

"B" COMPANY

We must apologise to our public for our absence in the last Journal and for the quality of our present notes. For it must be confessed our Company scribe has deserted us and at least he was a stand-by for note writing. We are extremely sorry to see Lieut. "Edgar" Wallis leave us for the comparative seclusion and sloth of Battalion Orderly Room.



A.R.P. at the Drill Hall

[By kind permission of "Enfield Gazette and Observer"]

When our last notes were due the Crisis was upon us and, what with digging up the Bush Hill Park golf course and plastering it (in bags) against the front of the Drill Hall, and with enlisting "W.A.T.S." and generally spending the country's money in the shortest possible time with the minimum of effect, the Journal rather faded into the background. For voluntary service we were extremely gratified that about 25 per cent. of the Company turned up to help and not only did a real job of work for the Company, but also helped to provide ammunition guards for a Battery of A.A. guns established in the vicinity. We "liaised" nicely with these Gunners and look forward to further crises if only for this liaison.

Otherwise, we have not been inactive. The Battalion is now a Machine Gun Battalion and, therefore, as the Support Company of the old Battalion we thought we were going to "sit pretty" and watch the rest of the battalion arrive at our state of erudition, but upon our souls, we really think we must begin to learn something of this gun ourselves.

The promotions and appointments have been numerous and we cannot single out anyone for special congratulations, and we, therefore, take this opportunity of giving all concerned a pat on the back with a hope that they will go on obtaining stripes and crowns and all other appertenances of rank in the years to come.

On the social side we managed to have a Company dance in November which was extremely well attended and was a success from every point of view.

We also had a shooting match against the L.P.T.B. in which both teams used their

own, as well as their opponents', rifles. To everyone's surprise we won and we have to thank our opponents for providing five spoons—one each for the two best scores in each team and one for the highest score in either team with a service rifle—well won by C.S.M. Thomas with a possible.

We are hoping, in the New Year, to arrange a "bung" with the local Police, in addition to a couple of dances and a Company dinner in April.

Those of us who can get to Hornsey occasionally, gaze with awe on Mackenzie's miracle, or the new Battalion "H.Q.," and we are looking forward to the time when we can call it our own.

Finally, we should like to offer our sincere congratulations to "D" Company on winning the Efficiency Shield once again, and to wish them and all our other friends a very prosperous New Year.

"C" COMPANY

An eventful six months has passed since our last notes were written and, no doubt, the Crisis, the conversion of the Battalion to Machine Gunners, and the rebuilding of Headquarters has been adequately dealt with in the Battalion Notes.

During the Crisis about 30 members of "C" Company volunteered to stand by at Hornsey each day, and, undoubtedly, if the tension had lasted a little longer, the whole Company would have been there.

We are looking forward to getting into our new Company Office very shortly now, and are hoping that it will be very different from the old Glory Hole.

Everybody has been working very hard lately, trying to teach themselves and others all about the Vickers Machine Gun, and what with these new toys and also Bren guns, Anti-tank rifles, mortars, and trucks we are thinking of turning up daily at the Drill Hall and just popping into our offices once or twice during the evening.

These events have rather cast our camp news into the background. These should, of course, have been reported in the last issue of THE DIE-HARDS, but the Crisis prevented them being written, so we shall have to content ourselves with saying that our Annual Training at Arundel was the most successful that this Company has had for many a long year, and we managed to win the "Warner" Drill Cup, the Sports Cup, and the Tug-of-War

Shield, and we were second in the "Lines" Cup. We had great hopes of pulling off the Efficiency Competition, but we were beaten into second place by "D" Company, whom we heartily congratulate on their success.

The strength of the Company is now 140, and having got rid of most of our paper strength we have great hopes of a record year. If only everybody will pull his weight and attend drills regularly, our hopes will, no doubt, be realised.

We have to congratulate Cpl. Wilkinson and L/Cpls. Ritchie, Foskett, Rockett, Roberts, Brownlie, and Thomas on their various promotions and appointments, and welcome to the Company, Sergt. Edwards, who has been transferred from "B" Company to help us in our Machine Gun Training.

Finally, we should like to take this opportunity of wishing all "Die-Hards," wherever they may be, a happy, prosperous, and peaceful 1939.

"D" COMPANY

As it is now six months since we graced these pages we shall have a large amount of news for our eager and expectant public. We will, however, endeavour to restrain our better feelings and keep our remarks down to normal.

The Battalion has now been converted to M.G., a change that is welcome to all ranks of "D" Company and we are looking forward with great interest to the different training which lies before us. We feel that we are lucky in our conversion as many worse things might have befallen the Battalion. By the time these notes appear we will have received a sufficiency of guns for training purposes, together with a certain number of trucks. In connection with the latter we welcome Cpl. Smith from "H.Q." Company as M.T. Corporal.

As camp, 1938, is now but a dim memory we do not propose to say much about it. Arundel Park lived up to its reputation and coupled with some glorious weather a good time was had by all—Tottenham ladies were to be seen admiring the tan of our lads after a fortnight's exposure to King Sol. Several good things emerged from Annual Training, 1938—no marching, to speak of, shirt-sleeve order in regulation shirts, and a later "Lights out," to mention but a few of the improvements.

This summer it was on the cards that we were due for Aldershot once more, but this



"D" COMPANY. P.A.D. WORKS AT TOTTENHAM.



"D" COMPANY. ANOTHER VIEW OF THE WORKS AND WORKERS.

is now officially denied and the odds are on a very old familiar place (not to be published at the moment of writing).

Camp, 1939, should be extraordinarily interesting, in as much as we shall be employed in our new role and will be with the 161st Brigade for the first time.



Entrance to "D" Company Command Post.

We are extremely sorry to part with our other Middlesex Battalions and the 5th Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, but feel sure that the 4th and 5th Essex and the 5th Royal Berkshires will make up for our loss.

We had hardly commenced training after camp when someone announced a crisis and the writer confidently expects that a few of his readers may recall the affair. At any rate, it was important enough for our annual shooting match *v.* The Hertfordshire Regiment to be cancelled. Volunteers were called for and the Company provided three Officers and 25 other ranks who paraded each day during the week from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (09.00 to 22.00, militarily speaking). During the week our time was not wasted, as we plastered the place with 1,000 large jute bags, two or

three times the size of an ordinary sand-bag. In doing so, our own P.S.I.'s garden was completely wrecked, being transformed from a sorry suburban garden sheltering two or three emaciated vegetables, to a large "hole in the road." It being held that the life of a T.A. Company is centred round its Canteen, we proceeded to gas-proof that noble edifice, and although a certain amount of air was permitted to enter for unofficial breathing purposes, there certainly was a man-size fog at the end of the week. Much loving care was bestowed on the air-lock at the entrance to the Canteen, and we were very loath to remove it when the all-clear came through. Other features of "Fort Tottenham" were our Miniature Range, sand-bagged to a height of five feet, and our P.A.D. arrangements, which entailed the construction of an additional shed, much to the delight of our several carpenters. The Crisis finished with an all ranks' supper and sing-song, and a remarkable week concluded on a highly cheerful note.

In the realms of sport, we have not taken a back seat, and whilst on some occasions we have not come in first, "D" Company has always given the opposition a good run for its money. An instance of this was in the sports at camp, when we gave "C" Company a rare fight with a rather depleted team. At the moment, we have no Pte. Morris, but there are several quite promising youngsters coming along, who should be useful to the Battalion later on.

The Battalion boxing took place at the Drill Hall this year, and we celebrated this by a big victory, scoring more points than all the other Companies put together. There was a time when the Company was accused of entering such a large team that they "had" to win, but in answer to our critics we would point out that two of the other Companies sent in larger entries than "D." We had a very well-balanced team, and the following reached the finals: Pte. Wilson (winner, fly-weight), Pte. Bush (winner, bantam-weight), Pte. Chapman (winner, light-weight), Pte. Stevenson (runner-up, light-weight), Pte. Hensman (runner-up, welter-weight), Pte. Bolitho (winner, middle-weight), L/Cpl. Fox (runner-up, middle-weight), Pte. Buffery (winner, light-heavy-weight). At the end of the following week, the Company representatives helped the Battalion team to draw with The 9th Middlesex, at Hounslow—no small achievement. Pte. Buffery won his weight, whilst

Ptes. Wilson, Bush, and Bolitho were runners-up, the latter having an excellent scrap with the ex-T.A. welter-weight champion, Pte. Jewitt.

Capt. Scott Lowe organised a football match between a team, which he collected, and the Company on the U.C.S. Old Boys' rugby ground, and we regret to say that the Company lost 3-4. We feel that this was partly due to the rugby tactics of the Company Commander's team, and the "birch" view of the referee, after he had been "bribed" with a pint at half-time.

Just before Christmas, the Company held its annual shoot for goods in kind, and in spite of the foul weather, 60 members turned up and removed the turkey, joints of meat, sausages, and other such like. The C.O. officiated at the prize "taking," and we were very pleased to see him and the other Officers at the shoot. A couple of successful dances were held before Christmas, and we are pleased to report that they were well attended by members of the Company and their friends.

Last, but not least, the Company won the Efficiency Competition once again, but only after a close struggle with the others. We must not rest on our laurels in 1939, as the change to M.G. will give every Company an equal chance, so see to it, the Dons. Remember, that on Tuesdays and Thursdays the motto is "on parade"—forget the old idea of "Parade if there is nothing better to do."

AN INCIDENT DURING THE GREAT WAR

[The following is an account of an incident written by N. T. Robinson, Esq., of Toronto, a Canadian, who served as an Officer in the 3rd Battalion during the Great War. He says: "The incident related still stands out in my memory, possibly because it was the oddest job I had to perform during my two years as a Subaltern with the 3rd Battalion. I have often wondered whether Mr. 'A' was so important a personage as I have come, during the last 20 years, to make myself believe.

"Maybe you do not know it, but we led a very drab existence down in that part of the world, so that evening to me was quite an event. The actual incident, as related, is quite true."—EDITOR.]

IT was a hot morning in the last half of August, 1918. "B" Company of the 3rd Battalion was in support—the other three Companies holding a line of outposts on the top of the western end of the Krusha Balkan Range of Mountains in Macedonia. The centre of the Battalion front was about 1,000 feet above the old dismantled Greek Fort "Dova Tepe." The British Army at this section of the front had withdrawn to their summer line and the Bulgars to the foothills of the Belashitza Mountains, leaving the swampy plains below to be patrolled by either side.

Things had been very quiet during the last two months. Rumours of a contemplated allied push up the Vardar Valley were coming up with the rations and all leave to England had been stopped. Malaria Fever had again this summer taken its toll and all "B" Company could at this time muster was about 125 men and one Officer. We had just come in from the morning's work on the roads leading up to one of the Company's positions, when a signaller came up with a message to say that I was to meet the C.O. at Brigade Headquarters at 10.00 hours.

On arrival at Brigade Headquarters I found everything was in a great state of excitement. News had come through from Army Headquarters that they were sending by motor-car sometime around noon, a Bulgarian Socialist Minister, a Mr. "A" we will have to call him, as I do not remember his name, and arrangements were to be made that Mr. "A" be placed well inside the area patrolled by Bulgarian patrols sometime near dawn next day. The job had been allotted to our Battalion and "B" Company was to have the doubtful honour of escorting this blighter on his way back to Sofia. It was duly impressed on me that under no circumstances were we to allow any harm to come to Mr. "A" and that in event of contact with a Bulgarian Patrol, we were to hold our ground so as to allow Mr. "A" to get back within our own lines.

On return to Company Headquarters, I called together the senior N.C.O.s and explained the object of our evening's outing. We evolved a plan of march which was like an inverted "U"—strong long flanks, strong advance party, with no main body other than an N.C.O. and a couple of men I could trust as an escort for Mr. "A"—making a patrol of about 60 men in all. With this method of march, if we bumped into anything



of consequence, Mr. "A" and his escort could quite easily beat a hasty retreat back to our own lines and an attempt to accomplish the end in view would be made next evening.

Round about 19.00 hours, our Adjutant, a Staff Major from Army Headquarters and Mr. "A" turned up at "B" Company Headquarters. As it still was too early to call the patrol together, I was given the opportunity of a few words with our special guest of the evening. He struck me as being an extremely intelligent individual, speaking English very fluently. I could not then figure out just what he would do for the Allies if he eventually reached his own capital, but I gathered he had arrived at some special bargain with the British Government. He apparently had, about two months before, slipped out of his own country into Holland and from there was taken over to England. From England he had been rushed by train across France and Italy, and from Italy brought by a destroyer to Salonika in record time. We went over the course of the patrol together and I explained to him that if we could get him safely as far as the railway embankment near Poroj station of the Salonika-Seres railway line, we should have him inside the area patrolled by his own army patrols. There he could await daybreak to proceed up the main road to Upper Poroj, situated on the foothills of the Belashitza Mountains, and occupied by the Bulgars. Mr. "A," I found, was very worried that if he got into the hands of a Bulgarian private he might kill him, but if he was brought before an Officer of his own army, he would soon be on his way to Sofia.

Time came to move off and the patrol was assembled. Well do I remember the sarcastic remarks made by the men when they learned the object of the patrol and saw the Bulgarian civilian with me. The first surprise I got was when the Staff Major told me he was coming along with us to see that the gentleman committed to "B" Company's care was well looked after. I suppose Army Headquarters thought the men in the darkness might very easily bump off my charge. As I left our lines I further realised the importance Army Headquarters placed on Mr. "A's" welfare, as special orders had been issued to the Company in that part of the line as to the nature of the patrol, and that if some men came running back at the double under all circumstances fire was to be withheld.

The advance party of the patrol about 2.30

hours arrived at the railway embankment after an uneventful march of about eight miles down-hill from our outpost, not having brushed any Bulgarian Patrol. The men were halted and I went back to the main body to get Mr. "A" to take him forward and wish him God-speed, and then I got the second surprise of the evening when I found the Staff Major would not trust me with the blighter. So, I led them up to the railway embankment, where the advance party was, and the Staff Major went forward about another 50 yards and left Mr. "A" to his own resources. The evening's job of work now being over we went back to our own lines, arriving there in broad daylight.

And now for 20 years I have often tried to figure out—Who was Mr. "A"?—Did he ever arrive safely in Sofia?—And was his mission of any value to the Allied cause?

8th BATTALION NOTES

FOLLOWING the intense activities associated with the Crisis period, the past few months have been full of incident. It is now general knowledge that the 8th Battalion has been selected to fill the role of a M.G. Battalion in the new Territorial Army organisation. In one way it means that we are in a sense parted from our old comrades of the 7th and 9th Battalions, but we all hope that there will be many occasions when we shall meet, either in training or at social and sporting events.

We believe that all ranks of the 8th Battalion will have a proper sense of their responsibility in their new role and will strive really hard to fit themselves as soon as possible to undertake efficiently their new duties.

It is a big task; there is no point in minimising the work ahead of us, but already the Officers and a good portion of our N.C.O.s have been attending special courses of instruction with tangible results. In this initial work, whilst many have put their shoulders to the wheel, we should like to make special mention of our P.S.I.s, C.S.M. Jones and C.S.M. Nash, who have had to bear the "heat and burden of the day" and have given us a fine example of devotion to the interests of their Territorial Battalions.

To all ranks of the 8th Battalion, we send this message:—There is no time now for pas-



sengers, play your part and determine that in 1939 you will attend at your Drill Hall at least once every week. Your training will then be consistent and progressive and we may hope that in its role as a M.G. Battalion, the 8th Battalion will maintain its past traditions of efficiency.

We have just heard that in the competition for the "De Salis" Trophy, which is associated with Annual Training, the 8th Battalion secured fifth place, which gave us the first position among the Units of the 162nd Brigade.

In November, the Battalion held both the novices' boxing competitions and the inter-Company boxing meeting.

It was good to see so much new and promising material at the novices' meeting. Can we hope that at last we are going to see a revival of boxing interest in the Battalion?

The inter-Company event proved to be a fairly comfortable win for "D" Company who have got some really good, new talent. Our congratulations to Capt. Hartley and his men, but we hope that next year some other Companies will make the pace.

The Brigade boxing competition was held this year at Hounslow, on 3rd December, and proved to be a very keenly-contested meeting; indeed, the result was in the balance right until the last fight of the evening. And what a fine fight that was; the heavy-weights, L/Cpl. Weaterton (9th Middlesex) v. Pte. Bonner (8th Middlesex), old opponents who put up a fine exhibition of courage and determination. Well, Weaterton won, but it could have been only by the nearest fraction of a point.

The 8th Battalion were unfortunate to have one competitor, a finalist in his weight, disqualified for holding in the second round—had that not been so, all three Battalions would have tied with eight points, and judged upon the old-established rule the 8th Battalion would have won the Brigade trophy.

How close the contest was, may be judged from the fact that the 7th Battalion had one winner of his weight, the 8th Battalion had three, and the 9th Battalion four, and the final points were: 7th Battalion, 8; 8th Battalion, 7; 9th Battalion, 8.

A very representative and enthusiastic audience attended and, at the end of the meeting, the Brigade Commander, Brig. Muirhead, presented the prizes.

The Battalion annual prize distribution was held on 16th December, when Lord

Bradbury, of Winslade, attended to present the various trophies and prizes.

Among a large and distinguished audience we were very pleased to welcome Lady Bradbury, Lieut.-Gen. G. C. Williams (G.O.C. Eastern Command) and Mrs. Williams, Brig. Muirhead, Col. and Miss Passingham, Sir Montague and Lady Sharpe, the Mayor and Mayoress of Acton, and Wing-Commander and Miss Dore. The Commanding Officer and Mrs. Fane de Salis were supported by all the Officers and their ladies, and we were delighted to have so many past Officers with us, including Col. and Mrs. Dams, and Col. and Mrs. Baker.

We must extend our warm congratulations to Major Ellis and "H.Q." Company, Capt. Hartley and "D" Company, who seemed to have arranged very nicely to share most of the trophies between them.

The evening closed on a riotous note with a very enjoyable all ranks' dance.

In these notes we have to say *au revoir* to C.S.M. Trestain who has returned to the 2nd Battalion, and would like to record our real appreciation of his untiring efforts to further the interests of "B" Company. In his place we welcome C.S.M. F. Nash, who returns to find many old friends in the Battalion. We wish him and Mrs. Nash a very happy tour of duty with us.

To 2/Lieut. R. A. Booth, a newly-gazetted Officer, we extend our congratulations upon his commission—he has been posted to "D" Company, Uxbridge.

In closing, may we send to all members of The Middlesex Regiment, our hearty good wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year?

"H.Q." COMPANY

We open our contribution to this number with apologies for lack of news, but, just at this time when the postal authorities are in possession of the Drill Hall, we are forced to cease our activities until after Christmas.

C.S.M. Handman, who has recently been on a course, is instructing our A/A personnel in the use of the Bren gun. Our A/T rifles have arrived and, incidentally, these form an excellent barricade against entry of unauthorised persons to the Orderly Room.

L/Sergt. Jones and Cpl. James are attending an Anti-gas Course at Colchester in the new year.

It was unfortunate for us that four of our first strings were unable to fight at the Battalion

boxing competition owing to illness and injuries and we, therefore, only had one representative in the Battalion team at the Brigade contest, L/Sergt. Jones, who did well to win the welter-weight series.

At the Battalion prize distribution, on 16th December, we were presented with five of the Battalion trophies, and all ranks are to be congratulated upon so excellent a result achieved by keenness and co-operation during the year. In addition, we shared the boxing cup with "D" Company and secured two of the individual cups. The Commanding Officer remarked that the Battalion was now over strength and this may, of course, be chiefly due to the charming feminine element prevailing now at Drill Halls, and we cannot bring these notes to finality without first referring to our sisters, the A.T.A.

We extend a cordial welcome to Mrs. Cookson and her assistant, Miss Mercy, and the members of their newly-formed Company. With the assistance of our P.S.I. and C.S.M. they are already making good progress and showing great enthusiasm, and on their parade night the Drill Hall is no place for mere man. Our official reporter had the opportunity of witnessing one of their P.T. classes and there is no doubt that they all intend to keep fit and some of them, perhaps, to slim a bit. The yellow polo-jumper of the instructor was apparently much admired, and there was no necessity for the command, "Round me—double."

Well, we must not keep the Editor waiting, so we will close by wishing him and all our readers all the best for 1939.

"A" COMPANY

We are sorry to say good-bye to Capt. King, our Company Commander. During the time he has been with "A" Company he has interested himself in all our activities. We wish him well on the Staff Course that he has undertaken. Lieut. T. H. Reddy has assumed command.

Now to discuss the happenings of the last quarter. Little did we think that when we left Arundel, in August last (to the tune of "Sussex by the Sea"), that we might be called upon to do our stuff. How we bought the papers, and what head-lines! "Territorials called up," etc. Some of us called at the Drill Hall expecting to find Sergt.-Major Atkins ready to issue our identity discs and Field Service cards, but it was not "A" Company

that had been called up, only our Aircraft brothers. However, we were ready. Some of us volunteered for special work and were soon filling sand-bags. Some of the Boys say that they never knew sand-bags were so heavy. At last the "All clear" was sounded and back to normal we went.

During the winter the time has been occupied with lectures on the Vickers gun and A.R.P. work. By the way, I heard a rumour that one member of the Company wanted to test the weight of Fuzee spring and placed his finger in the gun. He has asked the Sergeant-Major to take two lbs. off the spring. He expects his nail to fall off any day now. He now knows what works a M.G.

Now for a bit of sport. We did not win the boxing cup. Here is a hint to other Companies—"Look out next year, we are training now on raw meat; we are after the boxing cup." We were very pleased to welcome our old friends of "D" Company, who paid us a visit. A most enjoyable evening was spent. Billiards and darts seemed to occupy the time, and one or two seemed to be taking the "Waters"; now then, no names. A game of football has been arranged with our visitors to be played at Uxbridge, in February. Do not forget to mark it on your coupon—an away win (2). To all past members of the old Company, greetings for 1939. Form a New Year resolution—"Pay us a visit." To all the Companies, we send New Year greetings. Our resolution for 1939—We will recruit up to our allowed strength, 100 per cent. for camp, and double our bar takings.

"B" (S.) COMPANY

On Friday, 28th October, Mr. Blair and the majority of our N.C.O.s held a dinner at the Queen's Hotel, Ealing. The primary reason for this beano was to bring together the N.C.O.s, who, since the beginning of the training year, have been initiating the other Companies into the mysteries of what formerly was our own private domain, the Vickers gun.

The occasion offered also an excellent opportunity to say good-bye and good luck to C.S.M. Trestain, who has finished his period of duty as our P.S.I. and has since returned to the 2nd Battalion as W.O. III.

We welcome, in his place, C.S.M. Nash, already well known to us, as this is his second tour as P.S.I. Mrs. Nash and the "Nipper"

are installed in their old quarters and one sometimes wonders whether time has slipped back, so familiar does it all seem.

By the time these notes appear, all Companies will have their own gun stores and those P.S.I.s not already qualified in M.G. will have attended, or will be attending, courses.

It is clear, then, that our instructors have a busy time ahead, as, in addition to instruction at other Companies, our own Company training must go on.

The Battalion will look to "B" Company to set an example; to set a standard of training in keeping with our previous experience and attainments. Well, boys, it is up to us. We will show them!

Our training this year has consisted, to date, of A.R.P. Lectures, Officers' M.G. Course, and junior N.C.O.s' Cadre Course.

GOOD NEWS

A Christmas shoot was held. Bulls won turkeys to fill the inner.

Company prize-giving, 10th February.

Saturday dances doing well.

New dart board. Good beer. All is well.

"C" COMPANY

First, we must apologise to our readers for our notes for the last quarter not appearing. We do not want to disappoint our public in our efforts as we actually wrote them during the Crisis with a full account of all our activities during that period. Unfortunately, it would appear that they were deposited in the "Emergency Ops. file," and so that is that.

There is no need to say how "bucked" we are that we have been reorganised as a M.G. Battalion and our Officers and N.C.O.s have taken to the training like ducks to water. M.G. Cadre Courses are in full swing, and we should like to take this opportunity of thanking Sergrts. Smith and Castle, L/Sergt. Mills, and L/Cpl. Bray of "B" Company for their keenness in coming from Ealing to Hounslow and Staines, respectively, and helping in the training of our N.C.O.s.

During the period under review a P.A.D. Course has been run at Staines under the able direction of Mr. Dowling, the local Assistant A.R.P. Instructor, whom we sincerely thank for his very instructional lectures.

The Crisis had a remarkable effect on our Company Commander. He has "been and gorn and done it," i.e., he has got married.

It rather tamed him and we fear that he will have to take a firm stand, otherwise the feminine influence may become serious. However, we do wish both Capt. and Mrs. Marks a very happy married life together.

The strength of the Company has gone up by leaps and bounds during the last three months and at the present time we are over strength. This is an unusual occurrence for "C" Company, and we hope that it will continue to be so for some time to come.

Lieut. J. C. Holcombe has recently joined us from the 6th Devons, and we hope that his stay with us will be long and prosperous.

The Company is beginning to look up in the realm of sport at last. Quite a large number of the Company took part in the Battalion novices' boxing competition held at Battalion "H.Q.," in November, and all acquitted themselves very well.

The following entered for the weights, as stated, with the results as shown.

Middle-weights: Ptes. McArdle, Prior, and E. Burt. This was won by Prior who appears to be a very useful man with his hands. Pte. Burt had to retire with a bad cut on his face.

Welter-weights: Ptes. Gill, Drury, and Blewett. Pte. Drury was runner-up in this weight. Pte. Blewett was, unfortunately, unable to fight after the first series owing to an injury to his hand, otherwise we feel certain that he would have stood a very good chance of winning this weight.

Light-weights: Pte. Andrews. He put up a plucky fight, but was beaten.

Feather-weights: L/Cpl. Pearce, Ptes. Giles and Jackson. All put up very good fights, but were unable to make headway against better men.

Special contests were provided by Pte. Winslade (who has improved enormously, and we feel sure he will go a long way), and by Pte. Sims who was a surprise packet to us and to his opponent, Boy Cook, also a member of "C" Company. Several other members of the Company wanted to enter but fights could not be fixed up for them. All are to be congratulated on turning out for the Company and we hope that this marks a return to the old sporting activities of the Company.

In the open competition we also did very well, too. At first we thought that we had won the "Fenton" Boxing Cup, but it does not appear to be so now. However, we have not lost heart and will try again next year.

In this competition Pte. Winslade succeeded in winning his weight and Ptes. Bird, Gill, Prior, and Storey were runners-up in their respective weights. We consider this to be a very good effort on the part of those men, as the majority of them are novices. It does give us hope that we shall have a good team for the next season, and we hope that they will concentrate and maintain their training throughout the year.

"D" COMPANY

Our training during the past three months has been mainly concerned, as with other Companies of the Battalion, with an intensive programme of machine gun instruction, both for Officers and men. The machine gun is an entirely new weapon to us of "D" Company and we are all doing our best to do it justice, and we have no doubt that before long we shall be as familiar with its movement as we were with the previous weapons.

The inter-Company boxing competitions have again proved our worth in this sphere of our training as men and soldiers. Our wins in the novices' competition were particularly satisfactory and we would like to congratulate these men who all put up such splendid exhibitions, and the following also, who, by winning their fights in the open inter-Company competitions, made the final result so satisfactory: Pte. J. Ford, fly-weight; Pte. T. Ford, bantam-weight; Pte. Boot, middle-weight; Pte. Birch, light-heavy-weight; and Pte. Bonner, Heavy-weight.

In the Brigade boxing championships, Pte. T. Ford, of this Company, won his weight—bantam-weight, thus winning all three competitions—a particularly creditable performance; and to Pte. Bonner, we say, "Better luck next time," for he only just failed to beat his man in the heavy-weight contest, thus being runner-up for the third time.

As in previous years we are running very enjoyable dances in the Drill Hall, and although at times we almost fill our floor, we shall always be pleased to see representatives from other Companies. We will guarantee their pleasure.

In football, too, we seem to have formed into a formidable team, not sufficiently strong to beat some of the well-trained teams we came up against, but better than most of our own class; may we here suggest that other Companies get a team out one Saturday and give us an opportunity of showing how the T.A. can play football?

We would like to express our grateful thanks to C.S.M. Woodhouse who has left us after 17 years' exemplary service. C.S.M. Woodhouse was one of the most popular W.O.s the Company has ever had, he missed very few drills during the whole of his time with us, and his method of training those under him proved the fallacy of the pre-War method of instruction.

At the same time we would like to offer our congratulations to the following, and wish them every success in their promotions: Sergt. Doyle, to C.S.M.; L/Sergt. Chappell, to Sergeant; Cpl. Bowden, to L/Sergeant; L/Cpl. Graham, to Corporal; Pte. Dell, to L/Corporal.

We, at Uxbridge, have now finished our P.A.D. Course, one which we all of us found of the greatest interest, well stimulated by an excellent lecturer who amplified his talks with very popular demonstrations, the final one being the construction of a First-Aid Station on the marked-out badminton court in the hall. The sight of half the Squad dressing and undressing the remainder showed the interest that was taken in this course by all ranks.

9th BATTALION NOTES

WHEN we last took pen to record our doings it was very late at night during the emergency, and we rather rashly promised a long story to be continued in our next.

Obviously, the outstanding event since then is the emergency itself when we were mobilised in rather exceptional circumstances, for at the time we were still an Infantry Battalion, and yet mobilised as an Anti-Aircraft Unit with an improvised role. That a certain amount of chaos ensued was only to be expected, as we received orders from the 1st and 2nd Anti-Aircraft Divisions, not to mention the 54th East Anglian Division, and The London District.

However, we managed to survive this ordeal and carry out the task allotted to us, which consisted of manning 125 Lewis Guns with Anti-Aircraft mountings extended over a very large area, roughly from Southend to Slough. The fact that we only had two Anti-Aircraft mountings and had to produce the balance rather like rabbits out of a hat, is almost a story in itself, but thanks to the ingenuity of certain Officers, and with the help of their

firms, we produced mountings which were not only ready in time, but were most serviceable, and it was possible to discard the "Heath Robinson" blue print which was sent as a guide.

Some Detachments lived and had their being in the lap of luxury, at such places as Heinz Pickles, all among the 57 varieties (a most appropriate home for representatives of the Regiment), whilst others were on the muddy banks of the Thames, in the vicinity of Stanford-le-Hope, but wherever they were, let it be said that all ranks answered the call with the utmost enthusiasm, and we were ready to function as soon as most Units, if not sooner.

Since these days, which now seem ages ago, we have officially changed our role, and are now part of the 2nd Anti-Aircraft Division. We are beginning to learn the Anti-Aircraft language, and talk of breaking arc, dowsing, etc., not to mention learning the habits also of many new and weird-looking instruments.

Early in December we said good-bye to Major Clayden at the end of his tour of duty with the Battalion, and would take this opportunity of thanking him for all the good work he did for us. It seems rather invidious to mention any one of his activities, as he identified himself so much with the Battalion and was verily one of us, but we feel we must say "Thank you" to him for the great assistance he gave to the boxing, which, during his four years, attained, perhaps, the highest standard during the history of the Battalion.

We gave his successor, Major Crawford, a very warm welcome, and hope he will enjoy his tour of duty with us. He is faced with no easy task, arriving just as we are in the process of being re-equipped, but we are confident that in him we shall find a most wise counsellor and friend.

Officers and N.C.O.s have started taking courses at Blackdown, Biggin Hill, and Edgware. Major Hardcastle is the first to register a "D," and we offer him our congratulations and hope that we shall have a goodly number following his example.

No. 1 *alias* No. 429 COMPANY

Many of us when we left Arundel felt sad to think that we had done our last parade as Infantry, and did not relish the prospect of becoming "lighters." Our sorrow has, at any rate, temporarily diminished as the result

of our being embodied during the Crisis—it was an experience which all of us would have been sorry to miss and its value to us in training and gaining an insight into ourselves cannot be measured.

We had our difficulties. Who didn't? We were short of equipment—we were not expected by the firms whose roofs we were to occupy—we had regarded the Lewis gun as an obsolete weapon—many of us thought that we had reached that age when we could regard climbing on to roofs by means of shaky ladders as a thing of the past—yet we improvised the equipment—most of us lived in reasonable comfort—we remembered our long-forgotten Lewis Gun Training—and the oldest of us belied our age, and, shall we say, our contours, and climbed the ladders like two-year-olds.

There are many things we like to remember—perhaps the chief being the help we received from most of the firms whose roofs we occupied—help indicative of their appreciation of our difficulties. One example of this help was the making by the Wesley Paper Works of improvised mountings for our guns out of fly-wheels and shafts—they were excellent; another example was the wholehearted co-operation of H. J. Heinz Co., Ltd., in our activities—they gave us their conference room for quarters and fed us royally in their canteen.

On the other side of the picture was a firm—two firms, to be accurate—who were awkward and considered that the lining of their pockets was of more importance than the safety or comfort of our men—needless to relate, we used the timber for which they wanted payment and no one knew how it got on to the roof!!!

The first three or four days were hectic—we all worked hard to get ready, and enjoyed it. After the tension relaxed, we thought of cleanliness—washing in bowls in the lavatories of the factories, good though they were, was not conducive to cleanliness—thanks to the help of the Mayor of Willesden and the Public Bath officials we all had a free bath on the Thursday, which was much appreciated.

Cpl. Richardson was an excellent chief of baths and rumour has it that his courtesy to the civilian official of the baths—who, ultimately, turned out to be a private soldier in the Company—was admirable!

A special word of praise is due to the Band—many of them are no longer young and agile, but the way in which they clambered on to roofs and worked like niggers was admirable. Many of them had concrete to

sleep on—they never grumbled, and we take off our hats to them.

We are now in the toils of learning our new job—which, we can honestly say, is an interesting one. To learn it is not easy at the best of times, but our difficulties are not diminished by lack of equipment and inadequate space—we are determined, however, to surmount our difficulties, even though it may entail ordering equipment for training purposes ourselves from private firms.

We are just in time to report the first dinner of No. 429 Company—it was a great success, over 150 sat down to dinner and had the pleasure of hearing an excellent speech from our Group Commander, Brig. Nicholson. After dinner the ladies arrived, including some of our friends from H. J. Heinz, and we danced till the small hours. Rumours from time to time arrived of fog outside—we treated them with contempt—probably because we were so busy trying to find an inch of room upon the floor in which to indulge in our particular version of the Lambeth Walk (or maybe it was the Willesden Wobble). No S O S messages were heard on the wireless, so it is assumed that, despite the fog, everyone returned home safely after a most enjoyable evening.

No. 430 COMPANY

Since the advent of our new role, innovations have occurred with a rapidity almost bewildering.

The designation of the Company, originally "B" (S.), was changed to No. 2 Company; this has since been altered to No. 430 Company, where, we hope, it will stop.

We are thankful that we did not spend any Company funds on printed stationery during the transitional period.

The Company Office has assumed the proportions of a Battalion Orderly Room, and efforts are being made to staff it with competent clerks to deal with the increased administration and the influx of "bumph" that threatens to snow us under.

The coming of the emergency did not improve the state of affairs, as we had ceased to function as Infantry and had not had time to train and equip for our new job. A case of being between the "devil and the deep blue sea."

Being an A.A. Unit on paper, however, meant our being embodied with the remainder. We were not to remain idle though, and were

pushed out to the surrounding districts with Lewis Machine Guns and improvised A.A. stands for the purpose of dealing with low-flying hostile aircraft. The personnel of the Company mainly Vickers Machine Gunners, were somewhat out of their depth with these weapons, but with the aid of the imported Lewis Gunners and willing hearts this deficiency was made good.

The strength of the Company has passed the 200 mark and recruits of the right type continue to come forward.

The Company has just completed its first S/L Cadre Course, and the N.C.O.s and men who attended it showed considerable interest and keenness for this new method of training and equipment. The second Cadre Course is due to start a week from the time of writing these notes.

The remainder of the Company have been split up into classes for the purpose of training, each class specialising in one of the varied duties that go to make up a S/L Detachment.

We understand that new equipment is on the way to supplement our present lean issue, and by the time these notes are next called for, we hope to report considerable progress and to be ready to take our place in the field.

We welcome to the Company our new P.S.I., C.S.M. Joiner, of the Royal Engineers.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to our Company dinner on 25th January, but, by the time these notes appear, we hope to have got over any ill-effects and hope that we shall be looking back with pleasure on a really successful evening. In conclusion, we send our best wishes to Nos. 429 and 431 Companies. Nowadays we see but little of them, but trust that we will all meet again at camp at Weybourne.

No. 431 COMPANY

No. 431 is the new number of the old "C" and "D" Companies, with Drill Halls at Hendon and Wealdstone.

Since 1st November, we have been endeavouring to train in our new Searchlight role. Great difficulties are being experienced as, of course, the Drill Halls are quite unsuitable for such training. It is greatly to be hoped that all ranks will appreciate these difficulties and if they feel they are progressing slowly, nevertheless, they will maintain their keenness and enthusiasm.

One Crisis is past; how soon we shall be faced with another is for the future to decide. It is essential that we should be as prepared as is possible under the present conditions, conditions which are unsatisfactory on account of the inadequacy of the Drill Halls and lack of equipment.

Two dinners were held this year, one at Hendon, and one at Wealdstone. Over 340 attended on the two occasions.

Annual training this year is at Weybourne, in Norfolk, and this should prove in every way a popular camp-site.

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION NOTES

PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE HEADQUARTERS, CENTRAL LONDON
RECRUITING ZONE, WHITEHALL
ON 26TH OCTOBER, 1938

Present. Col. M. Browne, M.C. (in the chair), Col. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Lieut.-Col. W. W. Jefferd, Lieut.-Col. E. W. Fane de Salis, M.C., Lieut.-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O., Lieut.-Col. W. H. Samuel, Major H. Phillips, M.C., Major S. J. Clark, Major J. B. Worton, Major N. H. B. Lyon, M.C., Major H. K. Hardcastle, Capt. H. E. Foster, Capt. F. A. L. Lawrence, R.S.M. P. Newman, R.S.M. R. Parsler, R.Q.M.S. C. Goodall, Mr. E. Crouch.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Col. A. H. O. Anwyl Passingham, O.B.E., D.L., and Col. G. L. Brown.

1. *Minutes.* The minutes of the last meeting were read and passed.

2. *Secretary's Report.* The Secretary's report for the quarter ended 30th September, 1938 was read and passed, and it was proposed by Col. Jefferd, and seconded by Col. Samuel, that the sum of £150 be allocated for the relief of necessitous cases during the quarter ending 31st December, 1938. (Carried.)

3. *Payment of Clerk.* It was proposed by Major Lyon, and seconded by Capt. Lawrence, that the amount of £34 per annum be paid for the services of a part-time clerk for the Regimental Association and that it should be divided among the sub-accounts as follows: Regimental Association, £16; Journal, £16; Cottage Homes, £2.

4. *Removal.* It was proposed by Col. Rooke, and seconded by R.S.M. Newman, that the cost of removal of furniture, the property of the widow of the late Mr. H. Bird, from one of the Memorial Cottage Homes, should be borne by the funds of the Association, and that the Secretary be permitted to spend up to £10 for the purpose. (Carried.)

5. *Douai Club, Hon. Members.* It was proposed by Col. Baker, and seconded by Major Lyon, that the members of the British Club at Douai be asked to become Honorary Members of the Association and be given Association Badges. (Carried.)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting for 1938 was held at the Headquarters of the 8th (1st City of London) Battalion Royal Fusiliers, Bloomsbury, on 12th November, at 7 p.m. Brig.-General R. M. Heath, C.M.G., D.S.O., presided.

In the absence of the Chairman, through illness, the vice-chairman, Major H. Phillips, M.C., presented the annual report as below written.

Brig.-General Heath proposed that the report should be adopted. This motion was seconded by Capt. H. E. Foster, and carried.

ANNUAL REPORT

The total subscriptions to the Association Fund for 1937 was £588 os. 7d. Total grants made, £494 10s. 3d. £100 was subscribed to the Regular Forces Employment Association, and donations were made to the usual charities approved by the Committee, amounting to £24 5s. od. These are all Charities, Associations, and Institutions which benefit our ex-soldiers and help us in the investigation of cases of distress.

Branches. No new branches of the Association have been formed during the period under review, namely, 30th September, 1937, to 30th September, 1938, but the existing ones are doing useful work, and close liaison is maintained with them.

Activities. Amount of grants made, £472 19s. 11d.; Number of cases assisted, 317; Number of men registered for employment, 46; Number of men found permanent employment, 219 (includes National Association); Number of men found temporary employment, 64; Number of parcels sent out by the Ladies' Guild, 30.

Employment. The various branches of the National Association for the Employment of

Regular Sailors, Soldiers, and Airmen, to whom we subscribe £100 annually, continue to find permanent and temporary employment for many of our ex-soldiers. During 1937, they found 237 jobs for our men in the London area, and 274 in the whole of the United Kingdom. These numbers appear to have been fully maintained in 1938.

Cottage Homes. There has been a vacancy in the Cottage Homes owing to the death of the occupant of one of the new Homes (Mr. H. Bird). This vacancy has been allotted to Mr. J. E. Whalley, an ex-Regular Soldier who had 20 years' service in the Regiment.

A total sum of £700 has been received from donations from the County of Middlesex towards the expense of erecting the two new Homes.

The Journal. The Regimental Journal continues to thrive and our thanks are due to Sub-Editors of Battalions, and other contributors, who forward copy each quarter.

We have lost one or two of our regular contributors lately and find it difficult to replace them. It is hoped that members who have items of interest to submit will let the Editor have them.

It is felt, too, that the number of individual subscribers could be improved upon if those who already subscribe would help to get others to do so.

The balance credit of this account, after the sale of the August issue, was £352 13s. od., which is an increase of about £30 on the figure at the corresponding date in 1937.

Regimental Diary. A Regimental Diary was produced for 1938, and one is on order for 1939, from the Army Sport Control Board. A limited number of these may be obtained from the Secretary on application, over and above those already ordered by members.

Ladies' Guild. The Committee thank those who have generously supported the Guild with gifts of clothing and money. Clothing is badly needed, especially at this time of the year with the cold weather approaching.

Thirty parcels were sent out during the year, but more could have been sent out had the stock of clothing been greater. In many cases the applicants could not be fitted and money grants were made in lieu of clothing to the extent of £36 5s. od.

Parcels have been received from the following since 1st January, 1938:

Mrs. Ash (2), Mrs. Barnardiston, Mrs. G. L. Brown (3), Major S. J. Clark (4), Mrs. Claydon,

Mrs. Clowes (2), Mrs. Arthur Cooper, Mrs. C. Drew, Mrs. H. C. Ellis, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Glover, Capt. A. E. Green, Mrs. Heape (3), Mrs. W. Hewett, Mr. E. F. James, Mrs. M. G. Jones, Mrs. J. E. Knowles, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. G. L. Oliver (3), Mrs. L. G. Oliver, Major Owen, Mrs. V. Pearson (2), Mrs. F. G. Poole (2), Mrs. Ross (2), Mrs. Samuel (3), Mrs. Sapte, Mrs. A. Savile (3), Rev. F. R. Sheehan, Mrs. Steed (2), Mrs. Tidbury, Mrs. E. V. Thompson (2), Mrs. Wollocombe (3), Mrs. Worton (3), Mrs. Grove White, Anonymous (1).

The followings sent donations:

Mrs. Whiteman (£10), Mrs. Foster (£2).

Conclusion. In conclusion the Committee desire gratefully to acknowledge the valuable assistance rendered by the Hon. Solicitors and Architects.

The Committee's grateful thanks are also due to the various branches of the Charity Organisation Society; The Soldiers and Sailors' Help Society; The Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Families' Association; The British Red Cross Society; The British Legion, and The Invalid Children's Aid Association, for their work in investigating cases and for administering grants which the Committee have made on behalf of the Association.

THE OLD COMRADES' DINNER

The Old Comrades' Dinner was held at the Drill Hall of the 8th (1st City of London) Battalion Royal Fusiliers, on 12th November.

The guest of the evening was Commander J. H. Young, R.N., Deputy General Secretary of the Regular Forces Employment Association, representing the General Secretary, who had accepted an invitation to dine, but was unavoidably prevented from attending.

The Colonel of the Regiment made mention of the fact that since the last annual dinner the Regular Forces Employment Association had found 274 jobs for our ex-soldiers, which, as he said, speaks for itself.

In response to our usual loyal telegram, the following reply was received: "The King sincerely thanks the Old Comrades of The Middlesex Regiment, assembled this evening, for their kind and loyal message which His Majesty much appreciates.—Private Secretary."

Telegraphic greetings were also received from the Old Comrades' Associations of The Royal Fusiliers and The East Surrey Regiment.

The Colonel of the Regiment proposed the Toast of the Regiment, and the Toast of "The Colonel and the Officers of the Regiment" was proposed by Mr. J. Lambourne.

There was again a falling off in attendance this year, 247 being present as against 280 in 1937. The following were present:

Brig-General R. M. Heath, presiding.
Guest: Commander J. H. Young, R.N.

Brig-General F. G. M. Rowley.

Colonels A. M. O. Anwyl, Passingham, E. E. F. Baker.

Lieutenant-Colonels W. H. C. Davy, C. D. Drew, W. Jefferd, W. Y. Miller, N. P. Procter, W. H. Samuel, T. S. Wollocombe.

Majors G. B. Anderson, S. J. Clark, H. K. Hardcastle, E. L. Heywood, A. R. Joyce, E. E. F. Lyons, S. Maddex, C. C. Musselwhite, H. Phillips, J. G. E. Reid, P. E. C. Tuckey, J. R. B. Worton.

Captains C. M. Baldwin, A. W. Clark, J. H. Clowes, M. Crawford, H. E. Foster, A. E. Green, G. Johnson, A. M. Man, C. H. Perkins, P. D. ff. Powell, A. F. E. Robinson, J. W. A. Stephenson, A. F. Vingoe.

Lieutenants W. P. M. Allen, L. Clark, A. S. J. de S. Clayton, C. F. Denton, P. A. Fishbourne, J. A. Hamilton, D. G. Johnson, W. Pilley, G. O. Porter, T. G. Symes, E. J. Unwin, W. Ward, J. E. F. Willoughby, R. W. H. Willoughby.

2/Lieutenants R. K. B. Allott, I. F. Campbell, P. M. Lyon, P. D. H. Marshall, E. L. G. Passy.

Messrs. A. W. Akers, J. Arnold, J. Austin, C. C. Baldry, W. C. Barnes, F. Barter, L. H. Bevan, G. Bird, S. Bishop, W. Blackwood, G. Blake, A. Blinco, J. Boen, J. Boothby, J. F. Boothby, A. Boules, B. Brooks, C. Bumpus, E. Burt, D. Butterfield, E. F. Bye, T. A. Capel, J. R. Carter, T. R. Carter, S. Chasney, A. C. Chidley, M. R. Christie, E. R. Clayden, A. T. Cooper, S. A. Copelin, W. Coussins, C. W. Cox, J. Cox, E. Crouch, C. Davis, G. P. Denton, W. G. Denton, A. Dixey, H. Duncan, W. Dunn, A. Eckett, G. Edwards, R. E. Evans, A. T. H. Fergusson, E. V. A. Fergusson, N. Field, A. Finch, W. Fletcher, P. Foley, G. E. Ford, W. Foxwell, F. Franklin, A. E. Frost, E. R. Furniss, A. E. Gardner, C. W. Gibson, F. Gilbert, R. W. Glover, C. Goodall, G. F. Goodall, E. W. Gould, J. W. Grainger, A. T. Green, W. Green, R. Hadley, W. J. Hall, G. Hanks, E. J. Hardy, J. Harrison, J. Hart, W. Hayes, E. Hazeldene, G. J. Herbert, T. Hewitt, C. T. Hill, W. Hollingsworth, J. Holmes, H. Horscroft, F. Housden, C. Hudson, J. Hunter, W. S. Huntley, T. Ingles, C. Inman, E. F. James, J. Jolly, C. Kennett, G. W. Kerswill, G. Kew, W. H. King, H. Kirk, G. E. Knock, J. Ladd, H. J. Lambourne, T. G. Lewis, G. J. Liddington, F. Livens, L. Long, A. Louch, J. Lowe, J. Ludlow, A. Mason, A. Mason (Sergt.), W. McEnery, E. McLernon, H. E. Meadley, W. Mealyer, T. Mitchell, J. Muleahy, G. F. Murray, J. Myers, P. Newman, E. N. Nugent, G. Palmer, R. Parsler, G. Pearson, W. Phipps, A. R. Porter, C. Pratt, F. G. Price, G. Prizeman, A. Richardson, V. A. Riddle, V. Robb, W. J. Rogers, D. B. Sanders, G. Shaw, G. Sherriff, W. Simpson, G. T. Skinner, R. Smallridge, F. S. Smith, J. Smith, J. B. Smith, R. Smith, R. Smith (Sergt.), F. Stevenson, C. Stewart, W. J. Stafford, G. Sullivan, C. R. Thomas, H. G. Thomas, V. Thomas, T. Tiller, A. E. Tree, E. G. Tulley, J. Turnbull, S. Turton, H. W. Wallis-Grain, W. J. West, A. Weston, J. E. G. Whalley, G. E. White, J. Wilcockson, A. J. Wilson, R. Wilson, A. Wright.

There were 33 other members present whose ticket counterfoils were not received.

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.O.s 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



EXTRACT FROM A SPEECH MADE AT THE 53rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

I HOPE that it may help those still serving if I give a short account of my own experience and certain points to observe which may be helpful.

It is, of course, impossible to make fixed plans for everyone, because both the jobs and the men to fill them vary considerably.

No one is in a better position to place ex-Service men than the Association, because those responsible for its working understand the ranks and ratings and the work which the men have been used to while serving. The Association has built up, to my mind, a very sound system, but it requires support from both the Service men and the employers if its success is to be maintained.

I was a member of the Electrical Artificer Branch of the Royal Navy. Twelve months before my retirement I read the notices and the Annual Report issued to the Service and followed the lines suggested by the Association.

Here I think that Vocational and other Training Courses taken while serving should be mentioned. These courses can knit together, as it were, the several subjects already at the disposal of the individual, and the certificates earned through success in an examination provide some guarantee for an employer.

Within a few weeks of leaving the Service I got into touch with the London Employment Manager as I wanted employment in the London area. From that date he was in a position to place me in suitable work. Soon that work was found for me, and I was employed under the Government as an examiner. After a few months I had to leave for family reasons. I was allowed to re-register with the Association, and in due time I was sent to the Royal Veterinary College, where an engineer was required. This post, which I still hold, I secured through the National

Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers, and Airmen.

From the *General Secretary, National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers, and Airmen*, 14, Howick Place, London, S.W.1.

10th MIDDLESEX OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION

THE tenth reunion was an enjoyable evening, there being a good muster, with Cecil E. Irving in the chair, supported by Col. M. Browne, M.C., Lieut.-Col. Hosken, Lieut. B. K. Cattell, and other Officers.

After the loyal Toast of "The King" had been duly honoured, and also that of "Absent Comrades," the Chairman, in welcoming all present, said there was nothing so encouraging as the knowledge that a man had the goodwill of his comrades. That goodwill had found expression in a number of kindly notes he had received before that pleasant gathering. The past year had been a triumph in many ways, and he desired to pay a tribute to the work of the committee. After sympathetic references to the recent indisposition of Col. Dimond, and the passing of Capt. Munford—who did much quiet service behind the scenes—and their comrades, Rice and Taylor, the Chairman congratulated the hon. treasurer (C.S.M. Chidley) on his excellent work throughout the year.

Capt. B. Bramall proposed the Toast of "The Middlesex Regimental Association," and said it might have passed through the minds of some of them that it was not a very long-sighted policy, in view of recent events, to have lost such a Unit of the Territorial Army as their old Battalion. But the spirit of the Battalion could not be destroyed, or even damaged; that it was unimpaired was proved by that gathering. There was even a larger spirit, and that was given expression by The Middlesex Regimental Association, which did such admirable work for the men who had temporarily fallen by the wayside. He coupled with the toast the name of Col. Browne, the chairman of the committee of the Association.

Col. Browne, in acknowledgment, said the calls made on the Association were very great, but they would be interested to learn that some £500 had been used during the past

year in giving assistance to members. All were treated alike, no distinction being made between the professional and the territorial soldier. No less than 320 men had been assisted in the form of grants, and 228 had been found permanent employment. Temporary work had also been found for 65 men. In addition, there was a Ladies' Guild, which assisted the families of the men by sending out articles of clothing, and in some cases cash grants. He appealed to all old members of The Middlesex Regiment to do their best for the Association, which had their best interests at heart.

Lieut.-Col. Hosken made the cheering announcement that Col. Dimond was recovering from a serious eye affliction, and proceeded to read a number of letters from Old Comrades in various parts of the country. Then he aptly referred to the present situation, which he described as lamentable, and said it behoved every patriotic citizen to do his best in some way or other for his country.

Lieut. B. K. Cattell followed with some interesting and humorous reminiscences of his early days with the Battalion, and the remaining toast of "The Chairman" was received enthusiastically and acknowledged in a word.

Officers and committee for the ensuing year were then elected and the pleasant proceedings, which had been interspersed with glees and songs from the more talented of the men, were brought to a close.

A MONS DIARY

EIGHTH INSTALMENT

THE BATTLE OF MONS

ALL the news we had of the enemy was contained in two messages which we had received earlier in the morning, one from each of the outpost Companies as follows:

1. From "B" Company.

"Herewith message from Lieut. Thorp. Have replied asking him to verify the 'reported' 40 of the enemy.

"(sd) W. H. C. Davy, Major.

"9.10 a.m."

Message received was as follows:

"A party of 40 of enemy's Cavalry reported to be occupying village in front of my position. Have opened fire on patrol (2 wounded).

Patrol chased from MONS (6 riderless horses and 2 killed opposite position).

"O.C. No. 8 Platoon."

This was received at about 9.30 a.m.

2. From O.C. "D" Company.

"Inhabitants report about 200 Cavalry in a wood about a mile to my left flank across the canal.

"(sd) H. E. L. Glass, Capt.

"7.30 a.m."

This was received about 8 a.m. when he sent up the soldier's small book.

We were very soon subjected to very heavy shell fire, but nothing was heard of the enemy's Infantry for about 2 or 2½ hours. I went back to the Transport Officer to see if the Transport were closed up under cover, and found him in difficulty with some of the horses. They were all hired civilian horses and not accustomed to the sound of guns. I found two wounded but only slightly, one was bleeding very freely from the nose, but did not seem to realise that anything was wrong. The C.O. on my return sent for the Sergeant-Major and gave me orders to give him about the ammunition. They were as follows. Two boxes were to be taken down the road to "B" Company, 10 boxes were to be taken out and 5 each given to "A" and "C" Companies. The cart with the remainder was to be sent to "D" Company, who were to return it immediately. This cart was then to be sent back to the Brigade to join the Brigade Ammunition Reserve.

We got our next message from the Brigade at about 11 a.m., which was as follows: "If and when defensive positions are occupied O.C. Gordon Highlanders will immediately send his Transport Officer, or some other Mounted Officer, to Bde HQ at HYON to take charge of the Brigade Reserve of Ammunition. Battalions will retain all their S.A.A. carts so long as they are full. Empty carts will be sent to Bde HQ at HYON for refilling at Bde Reserve of S.A.A. which will be established there."

The next information we got was again from "D" Company. Capt. Glass's groom came galloping up, saying that "D" Company was very hard pressed and required reinforcements urgently.

We could not reinforce as "A" Company had gone up into position in front of the houses (clear of them as they were being shelled) and we had no one left to send. The groom also said Glass was wounded. The

C.O. dictated a message for the Brigade for me to write and take there, and while we were doing it another message was received from "B" Company. It ran as follows:

"The following seen to pass behind the woods and leading towards NIMY.

"One Bde Artillery

"One Regiment of Cavalry

"Seen by Platoon Commander at Lock No. 5.

"(sd) W. H. C. DAVY, Major.

"11.15 a.m."

This was also included in the message to the Brigade and just as I was finishing it another message was received from Major Davy. A Brigade of Infantry was included in this message. The C.O. could not wait to add this to his message to the Brigade so he told me to take the new message as it was and give it to the General.

Just as I was starting off the C.O. stopped me as Major Davy's groom came up on his (Major Davy's) charger breathless with excitement, so much so that he practically fell off the horse and could not speak.

The C.O. told me to go on and the groom to sit down and say what he had to say. I, of course, never heard it. I galloped away to the Brigade and the General was not there.

I, therefore, decided to go back by our right flank rather than give the message to a clerk, thinking that the General would probably have heard what was going on there and sure enough I found him. He told me to tell the C.O. that the Royal Irish Regiment would support us there. One double Company of that Regiment had already gone off in that direction. When I got back I found that the C.O. had gone down to Major Davy, who had made the cross-roads in front of Battalion "H.Q." his new Headquarters. This indicated that his picquets had fallen back on the rest of the Company in their trenches.

Major Finch and I walked across the open space about 50 yards to Battalion "H.Q." and a shell came whizzing over our heads which seemed to have only just missed us, but it stuck in the ground about 20 yards away with a terrific thud, so it could not have been very close to us really. We both turned to each other at the same moment and said, "That was close."

By this time there were splinters and shrapnel bullets in the air and the men were all digging little holes for themselves to sit in. We all of us got more or less used to it soon, that is

after about two hours of it, though it was a pretty heavy shelling the whole time and a lot of men were hit by splinters.

When the Infantry came along we forgot all about the shells until the retirement, when we were out of the way of rifle bullets and subjected to artillery fire only again, and then to us, tired as we were by the hard day's work, shells seemed worse than ever.

Our next message from the Brigade was as follows: "You will decide when the bridges and boats within your zones should be destroyed aaa Acknowledge." (Timed 12.30 p.m.) It was too late, the enemy were across or crossing. It was now about 1 p.m. and we saw a Platoon of "A" Company retiring under a Sergeant. I think they must have seen their Company Commander and 2nd in Command killed and got jumpy. Anyhow, the C.O. asked me who was in charge of the party and, looking through my glasses, I was able to see that it was Sergt. XXXXXX. The C.O. told me not to forget about it as he wished to enquire into the matter after the battle was over and if there had been no order from an Officer to retire it would be the worse for the said Sergeant. We then went over to the track just west of the mound which we had made our new Headquarters and caught all these fellows as they were getting on to the main road, which was the Battalion's right boundary, and got them back to line the track in front of us. They did not seem to mind coming back in the least, and they did so in quick time. The C.O. asked no questions then, but this Sergeant was left missing after the action so nothing more was said about it. He caused all the rest of his Company to retire earlier than they would otherwise have done and we had to stop them on the line of this track to prevent the enemy from coming up too far in the centre and so cutting off the retirement of "B" and "D" Companies who were slowly retiring. "C" Company stood firm in their trenches all the time and did excellent practice with their rifles. Their fire was chiefly directed against a vast crowd of the enemy who, as a matter of fact, really did do the cutting off of "D" Company by crossing the canal outside the Battalion frontage on the right of "D" Company.

The Royal Irish had just before sent up two Companies to support us in the centre, and the C.O. sent about a half Company up to support the remainder of "A" Company and to cover the retirement of "B" Company.

It was with this lot that I saw Capt. XXXXXX of the Royal Irish killed. I was by his side talking to him about the position when a shell exploded close above our heads and a splinter went right through his head. This alarmed his men very much I know, for when I went back to the C.O. to tell him what had happened I heard the men at the other end of his Company talking about the Captain being killed.

The C.O. massed the other half of this Company with the second Company under cover in the Western end of the quarry for a counter-attack if necessary. Col. Cox of the Royal Irish now came over to the mound with his Adjutant, who was with me in the same Company at Sandhurst.

They talked over the situation and soon Col. Cox left us. Where he went, I do not know.

At about 1 p.m. the following message came from the Brigade:

"O.C. Royal Irish reports aaa My scouts report a large force of Infantry in close order moving west along the Binche-St. Ghislain road. I am going to obtain further details aaa."

This was timed to have left the Brigade at 12.38 p.m., but must have been delayed in transmission to them somewhere as it must have been reported before three Companies of the Royal Irish had supported us. They must have left their "H.Q." at about 11.30 a.m. and the O.C. Royal Irish was up with us at about 1 p.m.

Next we heard the machine guns blazing away and pretty heavy firing from "C" Company's trench, so we concluded that the enemy must be getting very close as "C" Company's field of fire was limited to quite close range. They must have done tremendous execution as they were firing for a very long time and judging from the remarkably few casualties that they had at the end of the day (except for one Platoon under Lieut. Wilkinson which was not heard of again) they cannot have had much reply to disturb their aim. This was probably due chiefly to the fact that the enemy used to fire from the hip as they advanced and consequently his aim was not accurate and most of his bullets went over our heads. It was also due, no doubt, to the fact that our men knew how to shoot and when they got a mass of Germans as a target they could not fail to take a heavy toll of them.

The C.O. sent me to see about getting some more ammunition up to "C" Company and the machine guns, and to get the S.A.A.

carts. I knew that these were at the end of the brick wall south of the road junction on our right boundary and to get there I had to go across some open ground from where I could see "C" Company with their heads up over the parapet peppering away for all they were worth as if they were on manoeuvres. I sent up the ammunition, the machine gun cart for the Machine Gun Section, and some boxes to "C" Company.

The machine gun cart was hit by a shell and was blown to bits, and so were its unfortunate driver and its two horses, but "C" Company's got up all right.

We got a message from Brigade Headquarters at about 2.15 p.m. as follows: "Did you get my 46 re destroying bridges aaa Please inform me if they have been destroyed or not."

The C.O. dictated the answer which was to the effect that the order had arrived too late and the Germans were already across and in possession of them.

I can remember having a good pull at my waterbottle after this message had gone off. It was about the first time in the day that my thoughts had been off the day's work and I remember how the sun was shining and how hot I was and I even had time to think what an exciting thing a battle was when it was in progress.

I was not left long to my thoughts for the C.O. sent Major Finch off to the General to give him the situation and he sent me off to the old cross-roads again to stop a Platoon of "D" Company there, and not to let them retire any further for a bit.

This we supposed to be Lieut. Druce's Platoon and I thought I recognised Druce's figure amongst them, but I was mistaken, for I learnt afterwards that he had been left wounded at Obourg. It was not his Platoon at all, but a Royal Irish one. As I walked along the brick wall bullets were hitting it like hail on a window, but mostly high up. Lieut. Sloane Stanley had sent back a man for ammunition and when this man got back to the Section again he found they were all done for, at least that was what he said, though I do not think it was really the case. Of course, none of us had seen or heard of the explosion of the other cart, or another one would have been sent up then. How "C" Company got back from their position I do not know, as I saw no more of them for about another hour.

I saw, however, another Platoon, or rather a group of men under an Officer a little way down the road just disappearing round the corner, so I dashed back after them hoping to find that they were Druce's.

When I caught them up I found them to be the remnants of another Platoon of the Royal Irish under Lieut. Fraser, who was afterwards reported missing. He told me that he had seen two lots of ours retiring southwards under Lieuts. Wilkinson and Cartwright; neither of these parties was heard of again, though Wilkinson was afterwards known to have been killed and Cartwright was reported as a prisoner in Germany and after several attempts managed to escape from captivity.

Leaving Fraser I started on my way back to "H.Q." and found a string of the Royal Irish coming down in single file from the quarry. They came down in such a long stream that I guessed that a retirement must have been ordered, especially as so many of them were slightly wounded and struggling to keep up. I asked several of them at different places along the line if the Middlesex Regiment had retired, and they said, "Yes," so I thought that the Germans were probably at our "H.Q." by that time and I went back to the village behind our position which was still being violently shelled. Here I found the C.O. trying to collect the remnants of the Regiment. He had just sent off one party and told them where to go under 2/Lieut. Willis, the only Officer of "A" Company who got away. We found plenty of Royal Irish, but not many Middlesex men. With the remaining few we went on across a ploughed field and up a hill, the top of which was lined by the Royal Irish, and we went on through them on to the main road behind.

The C.O. collected another party there and sent them on up the hill about 200 yards. We went back to the Royal Irish lines to try to find some more men. When I had finished searching my part of the line I went towards the road and just as I reached it a shell fell almost at my feet and the explosion knocked me down, but for some unknown reason I was not touched. I then went on, and on reaching the road, or rather the bottom of the embankment along which the road ran, I met a stray Sergeant of ours, who had got back by himself from Obourg Station. "Don't go up there, sir," he shouted to me as I started to climb the embankment. I asked him why not, and he told me that there was

a machine gun behind the road barrier about 150 yards up the road, and so there was.

We went along together below the embankment and round a slight curve where a Battery of ours was in action making an awful row, with a brick wall behind the guns which, I suppose, made the noise worse. I told the Gunners about the machine gun, but they did not seem to mind, they simply went on firing. I thought they would get put out of action by this deadly weapon, but it was round the curve and could not reach them at present. We got to the cross-roads where "C" Company had been collected from somewhere or other by the C.O. I got up to 2/Lieut. Tagg's Platoon when another shell landed on the road and knocked us all over the place. I believe there was only one casualty this time, and that was a drummer who was wounded. Tagg and I congratulated one another on getting so far through it and began to talk over various items of excitement and interest. Amongst other things he told me that, once during the German attack, he saw a German Officer come on to the road on the east of "C" Company's trench and only about 200 yards away and beckon to his men to follow him. They would not come, so he went back and drove them on, about 50 of them, across the road and into the wood on the other side, following behind them himself. A great number of them were shot crossing the road by a murderous fire from the trench, but I am glad to say that the Officer got across safely. He did his job well and deserved to escape.

Another thing I can remember him saying was that the shelling we had had during the early part of the day had taken 10 years off his life, but he had enjoyed the Infantry part of the fighting; it was so very exciting. He said he did not mind anything after that had started and quite forgot all about the bullets. He showed me also a piece of shell which, by bursting in front of the trench, had hit the men on each side of him.

Just before we started off again another party was seen at the cross-roads about 150 yards further down the road. The C.O. signalled them to join us and we went back to the third party up the road which was under Capt. Oliver. Just as we were starting Major Finch came up, leading his horse. The horse was hit by a shell splinter and killed. We waited at our new rendezvous for the other party, but they did not come, so the C.O. gave me his second charger and told me to

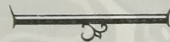
ride back to the cross-roads to see if they were coming. They had left their last place, but were not coming in our direction. They must have gone across country where they were much better off than we were, for the Germans had our road well sprinkled with shells all the way. This party joined us again later, but I cannot remember where. Our faithful Gunners stuck to their guns magnificently. I saw the limbers going up to take the Battery on the road out of action. I don't know how they got away, but they did, and were soon on a hill on the left of the road as we retired and hard at it again. It was quite a treat to hear our own guns firing. We retired along this road where the ambulance wagons were gradually filled up and the doctors were very hard at work with shells still bursting all round them.

We continued to retire to Hyon, the place we had left the night before. There was a large crowd here and I thought we should all be blocked in a death trap, but the Royal

Irish went out one way, the Gunners another, and we went a third way. Our way passed through the village, the way we had come the day before. In the village I came across the Sergeant-Major of the Royal Irish, who said to me, "Your Confrere has gone, sir," meaning the Adjutant of the Royal Irish. I asked him what had happened to him and he said he had been killed a few moments before. I heard shortly afterwards that he had been wounded only. It was about this time that I saw a shell pitch in front of the front door of the house where I had eaten the day before.

We went to the cross-roads at the end of the village and there halted and counted the remnants—8 Officers and about 250 men. This was out of 27 Officers and 970 men, including about 50 who were away with the transport, goodness knows where, under the Quartermaster and Transport Officer.

(To be continued)



MIDDLESEX

CORRESPONDENCE

[The group that appeared in the Officers' Club Notes in the August, 1937, issue, page 7, had no names printed under it and enquiries were made of Lieut.-Col. J. A. Dewart to obtain them. His answer is given below. The gentleman on the left was a Padre with the Canadian Forces.—Ed.]

THE PRINCE OF WALES RANGERS
(PETERBOROUGH REGIMENT) (M.G.)
15th December, 1938.

Lieut.-Col. Wollocombe, M.C.,
Secretary, Officers' Club,
Middlesex Regiment,
Mill Hill, N.W.7,
England.

DEAR COL. WOLLOCOMBE,

I was very glad to receive a line from you, and to know that you are still carrying on as usual.

You may be interested to know that I am relinquishing command of The Prince of Wales Rangers to Major R. T. E. Hicks-Lyne and taking command of The 9th Infantry Brigade. At present, I am on leave, pending the change being made.

I have asked the Adjutant of the Regiment to prepare a short history of the activities of the Regiment during the last year and forward it to you, together with some pictures, which I think will be of interest to you. I hope that this will be forwarded very shortly.

In regard to the names of the Officers who appear in the snapshot enclosed on page seven, they are as follows—from left to right:

Lieut.-Col. A. P. Malone, O.C. Middlesex and Huron Regiment; myself; Col. L. T. McLaughlin, C.M.G., D.S.O., who was Honorary Colonel of the Peterborough Rangers before reorganisation; General Heath, C.M.G., D.S.O.; the tall gentleman is Col. Lawless, who was, at that time, Honorary Colonel of The Middlesex and Huron Regiment, but who does not appear to be on our latest militia list, so I do not know his initials or decorations. I do not know the name of the gentleman on the extreme left. He does not appear to be connected with any of your affiliated Regiments.

We have seen very little of Col. Bucknall, who appears to be extremely busy and has not been able to come to any of the functions in our Mess for one reason or another. However, I might say that his work at the R.M.C.

seems to be very much appreciated, judging from the comments I have heard from students and others. We hope to have him visit us before his return to England. I was very interested in a Christmas Card from him, which shows your 2nd Battalion apparently completely mechanised.

I wish to take this opportunity of wishing you and the Officers of the Regiment a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

With kindest regards.

I remain,
Sincerely,
J. A. DEWART.

MICHAEL GILL, OF NEW ZEALAND,
VETERAN OF THE CRIMEA WAR

60, BEAUMONT ROAD,
BROADWATER,
WORTHING.

6th December, 1938.

To the Editor of "The Die-Hards"

DEAR SIR,

Your letter, 6th April, 1937, and previous letters *re* Mr. Gill, of whom (you will recollect) trace was lost.

Thanks to the *Evening Post* of Wellington, Gill has been traced. Sad to relate, however, he died, 18th February, 1934, at the Old People's Home at Palmerston North, aged 96.

He joined the 57th at 17 as a drummer-boy. After the Crimea he did Garrison duty at Malta and at Aden, and saw active service against the Arabs. Went to New Zealand at the time of the Maori War. He retired to Wanganui, and then to Clive.

Afterwards an extraordinary thing happened. He had entered the Parlie Island Home, near Napier, and was there when the big earthquake occurred in 1931. He was then 93 and he was buried for two days before he was discovered, practically unscathed. He was transferred to the Old People's Home at Palmerston North, as already told.

It is rather curious that he should for so long have escaped our enquiries for him.

I have made out nothing further about "Mr. Gibbs, of Australia," said to be 100 years old, a 57th man, and named in yours of 6th April, 1937.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. WATERFIELD.

6B, CASTLEDOWN AVENUE,
HASTINGS.

14th January, 1939.

To the Editor of "The Die-Hards"

DEAR SIR,

The accompanying cutting from to-day's *Daily Telegraph* has stirred my memory. I suggest that the K.R.R.C. should not claim all the honour. The 57th had, I believe, a Detachment in the ship on the lower troop deck under the command of one of our smart N.C.O.s, whose name I cannot recall, but he was Colour-Sergeant of the Company of which I was a subaltern at the time of the Queen's 1st Jubilee in 1887. I remember that he had been specially mentioned for the discipline he maintained over the men who stood knee deep in water until the order to emerge on deck was issued.

Now this, when in the bowels of a sinking ship, needs more courage than can be imagined.

A reference to the Regimental books will give you the name of the Colour-Sergeant. I think he afterwards received a commission. I now remember; Peiris is the name that I could not recall.

This may be of interest to the readers of our magazine.

Yours truly,

E. A. BENNETT, Major.
(Commd. 2/Lieut., 57th Foot, 1880).

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SHIPWRECK OFF REUNION

PROUD ANNIVERSARY FOR THE K.R.R.C.

To the Editor of "The Daily Telegraph and Morning Post"

SIR—To-morrow will be the 42nd anniversary of the wreck of the troopship *Warren Hastings*, and there are many to-day who will remember that early morning off Réunion when the transport struck a rock and foundered.

It happened about two a.m., and, owing to the presence of mind of the Officers and to the gallantry of the men on board—both seamen and soldiers—every man, woman, and child was safe on shore by four o'clock.

In the file of *The Daily Telegraph* one may read an excellent account and a descriptive article published about the time. May I give two brief extracts:

"... Many acts of gallantry in saving life occurred among the military and marine Officers and men."

"The French officials and inhabitants of Réunion behaved in the most kind and hospitable manner to the shipwrecked people, providing clothing and shelter, and warm sympathy and kindness."

As regards the clothing, it was a sight to see our soldiers—not to mention the ladies—marching south (where the British steamer *Lalpoora* took them off) in such a variety of attire that even Kitchener's Army in its early stages might have blushed or laughed.

Together with details of other troops on board there were four Companies of the 1st Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps. I had the honour of serving in "A" Company. I well remember the first anniversary of the shipwreck. We were in Mauritius still, and at two a.m. the band was waiting on the square, and at the exact moment the *Warren Hastings* struck the big drum sounded. Amidst cheers the band then went the round of quarters (including "married") to the march composed by Bandmaster Tyler, of the K.R.R.C., which had been christened "The Warren Hastings." Then the Canteen doors were thrown open and a free pint of beer was given to each man.

Simultaneously Officers and N.C.O.s in their respective Messes were toasting the Commanding Officer and the far-off Commander Holland (who had been in command of the troopship); cablegrams of greeting were interchanged between our Commanding Officer and Commander Holland, and I believe to this day this custom, or something like it, is kept up in the 1st Battalion—perhaps some of your readers may be able to say.

I believe that eight men of the K.R.R.C. were awarded life-saving medals, and one can always remember the pluck of the rifleman who volunteered to swim ashore with the life-line, and who, standing at the rail with the rope attached anchor-fashion, when asked his name by an Officer, shouted, "Macnamara!" Throwing his cap on the deck, he added, "There's my number, sir!" And over he went.

Memories such as these crowd in when such an anniversary occurs, and still make one feel proud to be

AN OLD RIFLEMAN.

London, S.E.1,

13th January.

The following letter has been received from Mrs. Pearson:

c/o LIEUT.-COL. SCOTT,
HAWTHORNE LODGE,
NR. BRACKNELL,
BERKS.
25th January, 1939.

DEAR MAJOR —,

Would you convey, through the Journal, my grateful thanks to all ranks and their wives of the Regiment for their deep sympathy with me in the loss of my beloved husband? I also wish to acknowledge with gratitude the beautiful wreaths sent by the 1st Battalion, The Depot, The Officers' Club, and The Regimental Association.

Yours very sincerely,
(Signed) LILIAN PEARSON.

OBITUARY

COL. J. GROVE WHITE, C.M.G., D.L.

WE regret to announce the death of Col. J. Grove White, C.M.G., D.L., on 1st November, 1938. He died at Kilbyrne, Doneraile, Co. Cork, and was buried on 4th November, at Doneraile Church. A wreath was sent to the funeral by all ranks of the 1st Battalion.

He entered the Army, 57th Regiment, 1872; passed Staff College, 1882; Colonel in the Army. Late A.Q.M.G., 2nd Division, 1st Army Corps; late Lieutenant-Colonel commanding 1st Battalion Duke of Cambridge's Own Middlesex Regiment; served Zulu War, 1870 (medal with clasp); commanded troops (Reserve Column, Imperial Contingent Matabeleland Relief Force) at Mafeking, S.A., during Matabele War. European War, 1914-1918; formed and commanded 13th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment and subsequently under its changes as 33rd Training Reserve Battalion and 206th Infantry Battalion; proceeded to France twice in 1916, for short periods for duty with British Army in the Field; in 1917, proceeded to France on special appointment and was first attached to Staff at St. Omer, and subsequently appointed Inspecting Officer for Discipline and Administration to Canadian Forestry Corps in France (C.M.G., British Victory Medals).

A wreath was sent to the funeral from all ranks of the 1st Battalion. We offer our deep sympathy to Major and Mrs. P. Grove White on their loss.

MRS. DELANO-OSBORNE

We regret to announce the death of Gertrude Alice Delano-Osborne, wife of Major-General O. H. Delano-Osborne, C.B., C.M.G., who died on 8th November, 1938, at the Old Palace, Bekesbourne, near Canterbury. She was buried at Bekesbourne, on 12th November. A wreath was sent to the funeral from the Officers' Club.

REVD. EDWARD CHARLES STORR

We regret to announce the death of the Reverend E. C. Storr, late Rector of Maldon, Essex, who was formerly an Officer in the Special Reserve Middlesex Regiment.

CAPT. H. E. FOSTER

We regret to announce the death of Capt. Hubert Edmund Foster, on 5th December, 1938, at 30, Kensington Square. The funeral took place at Golders Green Crematorium, on 8th December.

MRS. FOSTER

We also regret to announce the death of Janet Drury Foster, wife of the above, on 3rd December. The funeral was held with that of Capt. Foster.

CAPT. AND MRS. H. E. FOSTER

The funeral of Capt. and Mrs. H. E. Foster took place on 8th December, at the Golders Green Crematorium. The Rev. W. I. Bulman officiated. Among those present were:

Mr. Leonard Ald, Col. Anwyl Passingham, Miss Benison, Miss Marjorie Benison, Mrs. Bennett, Col. M. Brown, Mrs. Balton, Mrs. Hetty Baulk, Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. J. Bazley-White, Mr. F. W. Bundock, Capt. E. Berge, Major and Mrs. Bramwell, Lady (Herbert) Cooke, Mrs. G. Chichester, Mr. and Mrs. Neville Chichester, Miss June Chichester (representing Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Chichester), Major A. C. Dundas, Mrs. Deith, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Davie, Mr. Wilfred Evans, Mr. Herbert Evans, Miss Fleming, Miss E. Fry, Mrs. Fardell, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Geidt, Dr. and Mrs. W. S. A. Griffith, Miss Florence Harrison.

Brig.-General R. M. Heath (Colonel of the Middlesex Regiment), Mrs. Hatfield, Mr. Havilland, Dr. and Mrs. Wilfred Harris, Mrs. Edmund Horne, Mrs. B. W. Horne, Miss Heineman, Miss Horstford, Mr. Cholmeley Harrison, Mrs. Bertram Jones, Miss Jackson, the Rev. Noel Kemp-Welch, Miss Muriel Kemp-Welch, Col. E. J. King, Col. and Mrs. Leveson-Gower, Miss Leveson-Gower, Miss von Loesch, Mrs. von Loesch, Mrs. E. D. Lawson, Miss Marter, Major R. Ollivant, Miss Phyllis Parr, Miss Mildred Parr, Lady Perceval.

Major H. Phillips (representing the Depot and the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment), Capt. P. D. Powell (representing the 2nd Battalion The Middlesex Regiment), Miss F. Pullen, Miss Faudel-Phillips, Mrs. Robinson, Col. and Mrs. Archie Stewart, Mrs. Harold Sprott, Mr. Guy W. Stanley, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Samuel, Mrs. Robert Style, Miss Thurston, Mrs. Tindall, Lieut. J. E. Unwin (representing Brig.-General R. J. Ross), Mrs. Percival White (representing Miss E. White), Miss Sylvia White, Col. and Mrs. C. W. Whitaker, Mr. Andrew White, Lieut.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe, and Mr. F. Watmough.

CAPT. H. E. FOSTER

Hubert Edmund Foster was born of a well-known Cambridgeshire family. He was educated at St. Paul's School and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. From the latter he was gazetted to the Regiment in 1892. Posted to the 2nd Battalion he joined them in India and took part in the expedition to Kelat. In 1898, he returned to England with the Battalion, of which he had been made Assistant Adjutant. In 1899, he proceeded with the 77th on active service to South Africa, being present at the action of Spion Kop and the subsequent operations for the Relief of Ladysmith. Early in 1900, he was promoted Captain and appointed Adjutant of the newly-raised 4th Battalion, under the command of Lieut.-Col. (now Major-General) Simpson. In this capacity he did a great deal of useful work in forming the Battalion with which he served at Woolwich, The Tower of London, and Dublin.

In 1901, Capt. Foster married his first cousin, Janet Drury White. The cousins had been christened together and had seen much of one another as children and the romance which developed from these early days led to an unusually ideal wedded life.

Mrs. Foster's family had a deserved reputation in Essex for horsemanship—One of her cousins in the 60th Rifles was, until he was hopelessly injured in South Africa, a well-known point-to-point rider and Mrs. Foster was herself an accomplished horsewoman.

At the termination of his regular Adjutancy, Capt. Foster was appointed Adjutant of The 7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment and did much to develop the keenness and efficiency of this widely-distributed Unit. At the end of this appointment came tragedy. Capt. Foster was attacked by what seemed to threaten total blindness. He met this overwhelming misfortune with characteristic fortitude.

Obligated to surrender a career to which he was devoted and in which he seemed destined to advancement, he set himself to learn braille and typewriting for the blind. Fortunately, after losing totally the sight of one eye, the disease was arrested, but for the rest of his life Foster saw only, as it were, through a narrow shutter, and only objects immediately in front of him to a very narrow width. Even under this affliction he was not content to live an idle existence, but took up an appointment as advertisement editor of Whitaker's Almanack, in which his remarkable memory and very considerable learning must have been a great advantage.

At the outbreak of the Great War Foster hurried to offer his services and was posted to the 11th Battalion Middlesex Regiment. In spite of his disability he almost obtained his desire to proceed to France with this Unit, only being stopped by a final medical examination on the eve of departure. For the remainder of the War he was compelled to fill a useful but unexciting niche as a Record Officer in Scotland, where, however, with his usual sense of duty he earned a well-deserved reputation.

At the end of the War, the Fosters bought a delightful Queen Anne house in Holland Street, Kensington, subsequently exchanging this for an equally attractive one in Kensington Square, where his scholarly mind must have found itself in tune with the great ones who had lived their lives in the same quiet spot.

He was free now to devote much of his time to the welfare of the Regiment which had meant so much to him. Aided by his very devoted wife, who was always ready to be eyes to the almost-blind man, he served on almost every committee of the Officers' Club and Regimental Association, and hardly missed a Regimental function of any kind.

Generous always, his purse was at all times ready to assist any of the rank and file, who had served with him, who had met with misfortune. One of his last acts was to set the son of a former Corporal up in business.

Nor did he allow his blindness to interfere with his exercise. With his wife, or other friends, he took many walking tours, both abroad and at home. On returning from one of these in 1922, he spent a happy week with the 1st Battalion at Cologne.

As a young Officer he had been a keen polo player and in his later days he rarely missed an important match at Hurlingham, where Mrs. Foster, seated by his side, would explain any points of play which were beyond his narrow field of vision.

The Fosters delighted in hospitality and the giving of excellent small dinner parties. During the week of the Regimental Dinner they usually gave one of these, confined to their friends in the Regiment. Anyone who had the pleasure of being invited to one of these must have the pleasantest memory of a delightful party enlivened by the host's wit and usually followed by an hour's talk seated under the trees of the quiet garden of Kensington Square.

In November of this year (1938) Mrs. Foster, who had scarcely had a day's illness in her life, became ill. He was told that she had only a month to live. Actually the time

was less. Two days after her death came the heart attack which allowed the devoted pair to be reunited.

By Hubert Foster's death the Regiment loses a friend it can ill spare, and the world a very perfect gentleman.

W. A. S.

LIEUT. H. L. CHEVENS

We regret to announce the death of Lieut. H. L. Chevens, who was buried at Hampstead Cemetery, on Thursday, 12th January. A Bugler from the Depot attended the funeral. Lieut. Chevens served in the South African War and was in the Great War with the 2nd Battalion. He appeared in the illustration in Vol. VI, No. 6, on page 431, carrying the Douai Flag on the Battle-field Tour. Further details of his service will be given in the next issue.

(Compiled in accordance with King's Regulations, 1935, para. 274, et seq., and corrected to 12/12/38)

Rank and Name.	Date of present rank or appointment.	Rank and Name.	Date of present rank or appointment.
*R.S.M. H. Farrow, M.B.E.	2/12/36	*L/Sergt. J. Painter	Cpl. 8/5/34
*B.M. W. Kifford	10/8/38	L/Sergt.	18/12/34
*C.S.M. A. Russell (Supn. F.M.S.V.F.)	1/4/31	L/Sergt. T. Bayly	Cpl. 5/12/34
*R.Q.M.S. W. Raindle	C.S.M. 13/6/35	L/Sergt. A. Moore	Cpl. 16/12/36
.. . . .	R.Q.M.S. 2/11/37	.. . . .	Cpl. 15/2/35
*C.S.M. F. Stacey	4/7/30	.. . . .	L/Sergt. 16/12/36
*C.S.M. R. Challis	2/11/37	L/Sergt. H. Naylor (Officers' Mess Sergt.)	Cpl. 28/7/35
*C.S.M. W. Northcott, M.M.	8/11/37	.. . . .	L/Sergt. 20/4/36
*C.S.M. E. Green	* 13/12/37	.. . . .	Cpl. 31/8/35
*C.S.M. W. Tibble	2/2/38	L/Sergt. F. Hiscocks	L/Sergt. 16/12/36
C/Sergt. (C.Q.M.S.) W. Christie, M.M.	Sergt. 1/5/20	*Cpl. C. Keefe	28/11/35
.. . . .	C/Sergt. 7/7/36	Cpl. J. McGrady	6/12/35
*C/Sergt. (C.Q.M.S.) R. Colbourne	Sergt. 6/10/23	Cpl. F. Shaw	12/12/35
.. . . .	C/Sergt. 20/2/37	Cpl. P. Crowley	12/12/35
C/Sergt. (C.Q.M.S.) R. Bayles	Sergt. 10/12/31	Cpl. S. Clark (Supn. Sch. Sigs.)	30/4/36
.. . . .	C/Sergt. 8/11/37	Cpl. F. Hammond (40)	25/5/36
C/Sergt. (C.Q.M.S.) F. Donovan	Sergt. 4/2/32	*Cpl. R. Lomax	4/7/36
.. . . .	C/Sergt. 2/2/38	Cpl. G. Clark	13/1/37
*C/Sergt. (C.Q.M.S.) E. Paterson	Sergt. 18/2/32	Cpl. P. Cain	8/3/37
.. . . .	C/Sergt. 5/2/38	Cpl. W. Lane	23/4/37
*C/Sergt. (O.R.S.) P. Hale	Sergt. 19/10/33	Cpl. R. Burkitt	23/4/37
.. . . .	C/Sergt. 5/11/38	Cpl. F. Hammond (64)	23/4/37
*Sergt. A. Russell	16/2/30	Cpl. L. Savagar	9/5/37
*Sergt. C. Soper	17/12/30	Cpl. A. Borrow	2/6/37
Sergt. J. Quick (Pioneer)	23/4/31	Cpl. C. Freshwater	1/9/37
**Sergt. L. Priddy	18/9/31	Cpl. G. Watson	8/11/37
Sergt. J. Ramsey	23/6/32	Cpl. L. Sibley	30/11/37
Sergt. H. Kruck (Depot)	24/8/32	Cpl. A. Ellis	16/12/37
*Sergt. W. Bean	23/3/33	Cpl. A. Burrell	6/1/38
Sergt. E. Paterson	8/9/33	*Cpl. A. Bisset	14/1/38
Sergt. J. Little	19/10/33	Cpl. T. Baker	2/2/38
*Sergt. J. Bond	17/6/34	Cpl. S. Harvey	15/2/38
Sergt. P. Edwards (Band)	5/3/35	Cpl. R. White	16/2/38
*Sergt. V. Cooper (M.T.)	15/5/35	Cpl. A. Pace	16/2/38
Sergt. B. Bedward	24/8/35	Cpl. J. Ringe	16/2/38
*Sergt. (O.R.C.) R. Chaplin	27/11/35	*Cpl. T. McDevitt	16/2/38
Sergt. S. Bullock	1/7/36	Cpl. L. Graham	16/2/38
*Sergt. H. Ramsden	7/7/36	*Cpl. P. Sturdy	16/2/38
Sergt. L. Sheffield	3/8/36	*Cpl. J. Sheen	22/3/38
*Sergt. P. Maloney	17/12/36	Cpl. F. Ayres	24/4/38
*Sergt. G. Bayford (Sig. Sergt.)	27/2/37	Cpl. R. Powell	23/5/38
Drum-Major G. Jeffree	22/5/37	Cpl. C. Kiefer	24/5/38
*Sergt. R. Overy	16/10/37	Cpl. H. Kidby	7/8/38
Sergt. T. Castle	8/11/37	L/Cpl. W. Barnes	5/10/35
*Sergt. H. Parnell (Provost)	6/1/38	L/Cpl. E. Smith	16/12/35
Sergt. J. Riches	2/2/38	L/Cpl. C. Haynes	28/12/35
Sergt. W. Poulter (Cook Sergt.)	24/4/38	L/Cpl. A. Morris	28/12/35
Cpl. S. Phelan	15/9/31	L/Cpl. G. Tattam	1/4/36
L/Sergt. R. Blackman	Cpl. 26/7/32	L/Cpl. L. Du-Heaume	1/4/36
.. . . .	L/Sergt. 13/5/36	*L/Cpl. A. Moody	21/4/36
*L/Sergt. H. Marshall	Cpl. 14/1/33	L/Cpl. W. Finnis	19/5/36
.. . . .	L/Sergt. 9/5/37	L/Cpl. E. Rogers	19/5/36
L/Sergt. J. Burgess	Cpl. 3/2/33	*L/Cpl. A. Hoare	19/5/36
.. . . .	L/Sergt. 16/10/37	L/Cpl. T. Perry	19/5/36
Cpl. E. Soden	3/5/33	L/Cpl. H. Ellams	19/5/36
L/Sergt. F. Britton	Cpl. 25/12/33	L/Cpl. A. Ruddell	19/5/36
.. . . .	L/Sergt. 12/4/35	L/Cpl. G. Ravenscroft	29/5/36
*L/Sergt. P. Hopwood	Cpl. 20/4/34	*L/Cpl. G. Plummer	29/5/36
.. . . .	L/Sergt. 18/12/34	L/Cpl. C. Holford	29/5/36

** In possession of Army Special Certificate of Education

Rank and Name.	Date of present rank or appointment.	Rank and Name.	Date of present rank or appointment.
L/Cpl. W. Dowsett ..	15/6/36	*L/Cpl. G. Geary ..	15/3/38
L/Cpl. G. Hodgson ..	14/10/36	*L/Cpl. C. Thorley ..	17/3/38
L/Cpl. W. Ure ..	23/10/36	L/Cpl. A. Wraight ..	25/3/38
L/Cpl. R. Pointer ..	11/1/37	L/Cpl. V. Davis ..	26/3/38
L/Cpl. J. Tarnier ..	12/6/37	L/Cpl. A. Poole ..	29/3/38
L/Cpl. C. French ..	2/7/37	L/Cpl. F. Walker ..	31/3/38
L/Cpl. A. Keeler ..	29/1/38	L/Cpl. A. Hobson ..	31/3/38
*L/Cpl. A. Waldron ..	19/3/37	L/Cpl. P. Barron ..	15/4/38
L/Cpl. L. Staley ..	12/6/37	L/Cpl. J. Rich ..	21/4/38
L/Cpl. R. Langford ..	23/10/37	L/Cpl. J. Morgan ..	23/4/38
L/Cpl. F. Wilmer ..	23/11/37	L/Cpl. C. Matthews ..	27/4/38
L/Cpl. M. Beresford ..	10/12/37	L/Cpl. J. Dunsdon ..	3/5/38
L/Cpl. A. Payne ..	11/1/37	L/Cpl. E. Caslake ..	5/5/38
L/Cpl. C. Payne ..	11/1/37	L/Cpl. R. Humphreys ..	5/5/38
L/Cpl. R. Harris ..	12/6/37	L/Cpl. W. Bumpstead ..	5/5/38
L/Cpl. J. Casey ..	2/7/37	*L/Cpl. F. Jones ..	5/5/38
L/Cpl. J. Whitney ..	2/7/37	*L/Cpl. G. Adams ..	5/5/38
L/Cpl. D. Amos ..	30/7/37	*L/Cpl. H. Thorn ..	6/5/38
L/Cpl. W. Heath ..	7/8/37	L/Cpl. A. Thurland ..	21/5/38
*L/Cpl. A. Manning ..	7/8/37	L/Cpl. L. Bowker ..	24/5/38
L/Cpl. G. Chelu ..	7/10/37	L/Cpl. W. Fox ..	24/5/38
L/Cpl. J. Brooker ..	14/10/37	L/Cpl. J. Webster ..	26/5/38
L/Cpl. W. Puddifoot ..	23/10/37	L/Cpl. A. Seton ..	5/6/38
L/Cpl. A. Rasmussen ..	30/10/37	L/Cpl. W. Reeves ..	2/7/38
L/Cpl. R. Dyson ..	15/10/37	L/Cpl. W. Hills ..	2/7/38
L/Cpl. A. McGrady ..	6/11/37	L/Cpl. R. Shore ..	2/7/38
L/Cpl. E. Johnson ..	8/11/37	L/Cpl. H. Burnett ..	11/7/38
L/Cpl. E. Morrish ..	23/11/37	L/Cpl. F. Houghton ..	15/8/38
L/Cpl. W. Dee ..	23/11/37	*L/Cpl. A. Tait ..	30/9/38
L/Cpl. G. Soames ..	29/11/37	L/Cpl. J. Dawes ..	10/10/38
L/Cpl. E. Chapman ..	29/11/37	L/Cpl. G. Rawling ..	25/10/38
L/Cpl. A. Miller ..	6/12/37	L/Cpl. C. Noble ..	25/10/38
L/Cpl. S. Apps ..	6/12/37	L/Cpl. G. Vallance ..	31/10/38
L/Cpl. S. Cheal ..	10/12/37	L/Cpl. J. Robertson ..	31/10/38
L/Cpl. E. Williams ..	13/12/37	L/Cpl. W. Phillips ..	1/11/38
L/Cpl. W. Stone ..	13/12/37	L/Cpl. J. Crow ..	4/11/38
L/Cpl. H. Perrin ..	17/12/37	L/Cpl. F. Bindon ..	12/11/38
L/Cpl. F. Smith ..	20/12/37	L/Cpl. C. Wright ..	12/11/38
L/Cpl. A. Tyler ..	3/1/38	L/Cpl. W. Wood ..	14/11/38
L/Cpl. A. Moggridge ..	3/1/38	L/Cpl. A. Maton ..	3/12/38
L/Cpl. L. Burbidge ..	3/1/38	L/Cpl. D. Charles ..	3/12/38
L/Cpl. C. Betts ..	18/1/38	L/Cpl. S. Gilham ..	3/12/38
L/Cpl. W. Thompson ..	8/2/38	L/Cpl. G. Barkway ..	9/12/38
L/Cpl. E. Collier ..	1/3/38	L/Cpl. G. Merton ..	9/12/38

Dates against L/Cpls. are the dates of first appointment.

SENIORITY ROLL OF N.C.O.s (Home Establishment), December, 1938

Rank and Name.	Battalion.	Date of present promotion or appointment.	Rank and Name.	Battalion.	Date of present promotion or appointment.
*R.S.M. P. Newman ..	Depot	13/8/31	*C.S.M. C. Trestrain ..	2nd	12/10/38
*R.S.M. R. Parsler ..	2nd	1/5/38	*C.S.M. L. Johnson ..	2nd	2/11/38
*Bdmr. C. Dennis ..	2nd	25/3/33	*P.S.M. J. Chillery ..	2nd	1/10/38
*Q.M.S. (O.R.S.) A. Finch ..	Depot	13/6/28	*P.S.M. S. Day ..	2nd	1/10/38
*R.Q.M.S. W. Fletcher ..	2nd	31/1/39	**P.S.M. P. Davidson ..	2nd	1/10/38
*R.Q.M.S. C. Goodall ..	Depot	28/7/35	*P.S.M. R. Smith ..	2nd	12/10/38
	(C.S.M.)	28/4/29	*P.S.M. C. Gatehouse ..	2nd	2/11/38
*C.S.M. J. Hart ..	9th	20/1/26	*C.Q.M.S. F. Franklin ..	Depot	8/9/33
*C.S.M. H. Wright ..	8th	24/2/34		(Sergt.)	20/3/28
*C.S.M. A. Jones ..	8th	10/5/34	C.Q.M.S. W. Rogers ..	2nd	28/7/35
*C.S.M. C. Donaldson ..	9th	15/6/35		(Sergt.)	26/5/25
*C.S.M. E. Hazeldine ..	Depot	27/2/37	C.Q.M.S. S. Bishop ..	2nd	1/5/38
*C.S.M. H. Poulter ..	2nd	10/11/37		(Sergt.)	24/11/27
*C.S.M. G. Sherriff ..	2nd	1/5/38	*C.Q.M.S. L. Honeybun ..	2nd	15/6/38
*C.S.M. C. Kennett ..	2nd	15/6/38		(Sergt.)	13/8/31
*C.S.M. W. Kemp ..	7th	16/6/38			

*In possession of First Class Certificate of Education.

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Rank and Name.	Battalion.	Date of present promotion or appointment.	Rank and Name.	Battalion.	Date of present promotion or appointment.
*C.Q.M.S. S. Thompson ..	2nd	16/6/38	Cpl. W. Lovell ..	2nd	3/7/36
	(Sergt.)	30/9/31	L/Sergt. L. Delaney ..	2nd	25/8/38
*C.Q.M.S. W. Snell ..	2nd	22/11/38		(Cpl.)	5/7/36
	(Sergt.)	13/6/35	Cpl. W. Millichaip ..	Depot	3/8/36
Sergt. A. Boen ..	Depot	13/4/29	L/Sergt. M. Trotobas ..	2nd	1/10/38
Sergt. R. King ..	Supn., Fire Bde., Bordon	5/7/29		(Cpl.)	26/8/36
Sergt. F. Nash ..	8th	11/12/29	Cpl. R. Ellwood ..	Depot	28/10/36
*Sergt. L. West ..	2nd	10/12/31	Cpl. A. Read ..	2nd	30/10/36
Sergt. J. Harper ..	Depot	19/4/32	*L/Sergt. R. Cummins ..	2nd	1/10/38
*Sergt. S. Smith ..	2nd	30/7/32		(Cpl.)	17/12/36
Sergt. J. Scott ..	2nd	3/9/32	Cpl. V. Bint ..	Depot	20/2/37
Sergt. F. Housden ..	Depot	3/5/33	*L/Sergt. S. Parry ..	2nd	22/11/38
Sergt. A. Mason ..	Depot	22/6/33		(Cpl.)	8/6/37
Sergt. R. Wilson ..	Depot	8/7/33	*L/Sergt. (O.R.C.) W. O'Connor ..	2nd	9/12/38
*Sergt. H. Ison ..	2nd	10/5/34		(Cpl.)	12/7/37
*Sergt. E. Jennings ..	2nd	1/3/35	Cpl. J. West ..	2nd	31/7/37
Sergt. J. Smith ..	Depot	9/6/35	Cpl. C. Kenny ..	2nd	27/8/37
Sergt. A. Hows ..	2nd	15/6/35	*Cpl. J. Hinch ..	2nd	5/10/37
Sergt. A. Whitcombe ..	7th	10/6/35	*L/Sergt. H. Jennings ..	2nd	11/12/38
Sergt. A. Williams ..	Depot	28/7/35		(Cpl.)	16/10/37
*Sergt. R. Jenkins ..	9th	23/1/36	Cpl. L. Harris ..	2nd	13/12/37
*Sergt. E. Moir ..	2nd	28/10/36	Cpl. C. Peasley ..	2nd	21/1/38
Sergt. A. Brett ..	7th	20/2/37	Cpl. N. Rae ..	2nd	29/3/38
*Sergt. (O.R.S.) J. Wright ..	2nd	8/6/37	*Cpl. A. Bettell ..	2nd	8/4/38
Sergt. T. Sargent ..	2nd	8/6/37	*Cpl. A. Blan ..	2nd	1/5/38
Sergt. R. Etheridge ..	2nd	10/11/37	Cpl. R. Williams ..	2nd	19/5/38
Sergt. R. Smallridge ..	2nd	13/12/37	Cpl. G. Hockley ..	2nd	15/6/38
*Sergt. (S.I.M.) W. Day ..	2nd	1/5/38	*Cpl. W. Nicholls ..	2nd	16/6/38
Sergt. W. Makewell ..	2nd	16/6/38	Cpl. W. Fletcher ..	2nd	16/6/38
*Sergt. A. Wray ..	2nd	25/8/38	*Cpl. A. Rose ..	2nd	25/6/38
Sergt. H. Elcome ..	Depot	12/10/38	Cpl. G. Robins ..	2nd	18/7/38
Sergt. (S.M.C.) W. Claxton ..	2nd	23/10/38	Cpl. A. Bursill ..	2nd	28/7/38
Sergt. F. Knight ..	2nd	2/11/38	Cpl. R. Turner ..	2nd	7/8/38
*Sergt. W. Smith ..	2nd	22/11/38	*Cpl. F. Pryor ..	2nd	15/8/38
Cpl. J. Ceaton (Drum-Major) ..	2nd	8/12/38	Cpl. J. Jones ..	2nd	25/8/38
*Sergt. V. Thomas ..	2nd	11/12/38	Cpl. G. Palmer ..	Depot	1/10/38
L/Sergt. J. O'Neill ..	2nd	16/12/36	Cpl. C. Clenshaw ..	Depot	1/10/38
	(Cpl.)	13/8/31	Cpl. G. Rouse ..	2nd	1/10/38
L/Sergt. H. Buckland ..	2nd	28/10/36	Cpl. J. Rawlinson ..	2nd	12/10/38
	(Cpl.)	13/10/32	*Cpl. A. Lowe ..	2nd	2/11/38
*L/Sergt. E. Wadsworth ..	Depot	3/8/36	*Cpl. C. Jarvis ..	2nd	9/11/38
	(Cpl.)	15/11/32	Cpl. E. Stebbing ..	Depot	15/11/38
L/Sergt. G. Endersby ..	Depot	27/2/38	Cpl. J. Riseley ..	2nd	22/11/38
	(Cpl.)	2/6/33	*Cpl. H. Jennings ..	2nd	11/12/38
Cpl. C. Carpenter ..	2nd	5/5/34	Cpl. A. Morley ..	Depot	16/12/38
*L/Sergt. R. Selte ..	Depot	11/3/37			
	(Cpl.)	8/5/34			
L/Sergt. J. Stickley ..	2nd	15/6/38			
	(Cpl.)	10/6/34			
Cpl. R. Stretton ..	2nd	16/3/35			
Cpl. H. Tye ..	Supn., R.W.A.F.F.	4/5/35			
L/Sergt. L. McDowell ..	2nd	6/12/36			
	(Cpl.)	9/6/35			
Cpl. F. Keen ..	Depot	15/6/35			
*Cpl. H. Eastland ..	Depot	24/8/35			
*Cpl. B. Baldwin ..	2nd	18/10/35			
L/Sergt. A. Ball ..	Depot	12/10/38			
	(Cpl.)	5/1/36			
L/Sergt. G. Blackman ..	2nd	2/11/38			
	(Cpl.)	23/1/36			
L/Sergt. H. Griffiths ..	2nd	9/11/38			
	(Cpl.)	16/4/36			

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**In possession of Army Special Certificate of Education.

† Passed in one subject for First Class Certificate of Education.

‡ Passed in two subjects for First Class Certificate of Education.

Rank and Name.	Battalion.	Date of present promotion or appointment.	Rank and Name.	Battalion.	Date of present promotion or appointment.
L/Cpl. W. Humberstone	2nd	10/11/37	L/Cpl. A. Harvey	2nd	22/11/38
L/Cpl. E. Lindemann	2nd	24/11/37	L/Cpl. R. McNeill	2nd	6/12/38
L/Cpl. E. Avery	2nd	13/12/37	L/Cpl. E. Butler	2nd	8/12/38
*L/Cpl. A. Hastie	2nd	21/1/38	L/Cpl. C. Clarke	2nd	11/12/38
L/Cpl. R. Reeder	Depot	18/2/38	L/Cpl. L. Clarke	Depot	15/12/38
L/Cpl. R. Newton	2nd	20/3/38	*L/Cpl. V. Caney	2nd	15/12/38
L/Cpl. C. Farrington	2nd	22/3/38	L/Cpl. C. Monk	2nd	16/12/38
*L/Cpl. R. Taylor	2nd	1/5/38			
*L/Cpl. J. Pullen	2nd	18/5/38			
L/Cpl. H. Thomas	Depot	19/5/38			
L/Cpl. S. Llewellyn	2nd	31/5/38			
L/Cpl. R. White	2nd	15/6/38			
L/Cpl. P. Donovan	2nd	16/6/38			
†L/Cpl. F. Bird	2nd	25/6/38			
L/Cpl. H. Robinson	2nd	25/6/38			
L/Cpl. B. Duggan	2nd	16/7/38			
L/Cpl. S. Blacknell	2nd	18/7/38			
L/Cpl. A. Budd	2nd	28/7/38			
†L/Cpl. H. Thompson	2nd	30/7/38			
L/Cpl. J. Barter	2nd	18/8/38			
L/Cpl. C. King	2nd	25/8/38			
L/Cpl. E. Green	2nd	1/10/38			
*L/Cpl. W. Pratt	Depot	1/10/38			
L/Cpl. J. Harwood	2nd	1/10/38			
L/Cpl. L. Chapman	2nd	11/10/38			
L/Cpl. J. Papworth	2nd	8/10/38			
L/Cpl. R. Skinner	2nd	12/10/38			
L/Cpl. C. White	2nd	18/10/38			
L/Cpl. G. Parker	2nd	18/10/38			
L/Cpl. J. Murphy	2nd	2/11/38			
L/Cpl. W. Oakes	2nd	9/11/38			
L/Cpl. S. Maple	2nd	15/11/38			
L/Cpl. W. Berry	2nd	20/11/38			

UNPAID LANCE-CORPORALS :

L/Cpl. W. Wells	2nd	15/10/37
†L/Cpl. R. Addy	2nd	18/10/37
L/Cpl. P. Fegan	2nd	26/1/38
L/Cpl. G. Bailey	2nd	29/1/38
L/Cpl. W. Webb	2nd	1/3/38
L/Cpl. J. Firth	2nd	3/3/38
L/Cpl. A. Stanford	2nd	10/3/38
L/Cpl. W. Watkins	2nd	22/3/38
L/Cpl. A. Tarbuck	2nd	26/3/38
L/Cpl. H. Botchin	2nd	26/3/38
L/Cpl. B. Lemaitre	2nd	26/3/38
L/Cpl. S. Coleman	2nd	29/3/38
L/Cpl. A. Thomas	2nd	21/6/38
L/Cpl. J. Drury	2nd	11/7/38
*L/Cpl. J. Butterworth	2nd	11/7/38
*L/Cpl. A. Gillinder	2nd	31/7/38
L/Cpl. F. Parton-old	2nd	2/9/38
L/Cpl. W. Jacobson	2nd	11/10/38
L/Cpl. F. Griffiths	2nd	18/10/38
L/Cpl. E. Summerfield	2nd	4/11/38
L/Cpl. J. Reeve	2nd	3/12/38
†L/Cpl. D. Allingham	2nd	7/12/38
L/Cpl. W. Jackson	2nd	17/12/38

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‡ Passed in two subjects for First Class Certificate of Education.

