



THE DIE-HARDS

The Journal of

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)

March 1945

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THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

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VOL. VII No. 3

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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," "Serinapatnam," "Albuquerque," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Pyrenes," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsular,"
 "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," "La Bassée, 1914,"
 "Messines, 1914," "17, 18," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "17, 18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Fresenberg,"
 "Bellevue," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "18," "Albert, 1916," "18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood,"
 "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Fiers-Courcellette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "18," "Bapaume,"
 "1917, 18," "Arras, 1917, 18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917, 18," "Arleux," "Ploeghem," "Langemark, 1917," "Menin Road,"
 "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Focleappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917, 18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Aves,"
 "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrück," "Baillieu," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal du Nord,"
 "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Dorian, 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."

Regular and Militia Battalions.

1st Bn. (57th Foot). 2nd Bn. (77th Foot).
 5th Bn. (Royal Elthorne Militia).
 6th Bn. (Royal East Middlesex Militia).
 Depot—Mill Hill. Records Office, Ashford, Middx.
 Pay Office—Kensington.

Territorial Army Battalions

1/7th Bn. 2/7th Bn. 8th Bn. 30th Bn.
 9th Bn. (—L.A.A. R.A.)
 1st and 2nd Bns. Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment.
 1st, 2nd and 3rd Independent Coys.
 No. 1 Heavy Support Coy.

Affiliated A/A Units of the Territorial Army

—(7th City of London) Searchlight Regiment R.A.
 —(St. Pancras) Searchlight Regiment R.A.

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

Allied Regiments of Canadian Militia.

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

Allied Battalion of Australian Infantry.

57th Bn. Preston.

Allied Regiment of New Zealand Military Forces

The Taranaki Regiment New Plymouth.

Colonel of the Regiment:

Colonel M. Browne, M.C., D.L.

Officer Commanding Depot:

Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E.

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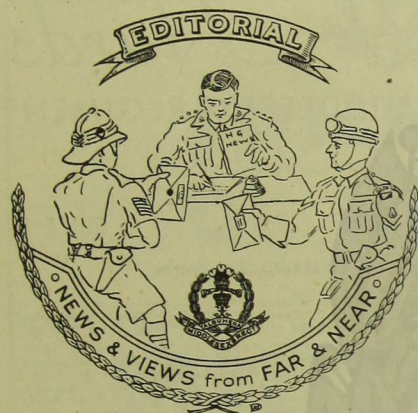
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NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

"The Die-Hards" is published in March, June, September and December, and copies may be obtained by application to the Editor, enclosing 1/- for each copy, plus 2d. postage.
 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 IN TRIPPLICATE (FOR PURPOSES OF CENSORSHIP) AND BE ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY, and signed, stating whether it is desired to publish the 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 reserves to himself the right of publication. All communications concerning the paper, including Advertisements, should be addressed to the Editor, "The Die-Hards" Journal, Blenheim Works, Honeyput Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex. Telephone: WORMSWORTH 4321.
 Subscriptions should be forwarded to the Editor, "The Die-Hards" Journal, to whom all Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable, and crossed "— & Co."

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 5/- (Post Free)



Editor: Capt. G. E. Moore, 24th Middlesex Bn. H.G.

This month we have to thank many friends of the Regiment for their help: Lieut.-Col. N. M. McKay, New Zealand Military H.Q.; Major A. B. MacLaren, Canadian Military H.Q.; Capt. Connor, Australian Military H.Q.; Major Horton, of the Army Photographic Library, and Mrs. Leonard, of the M.O.I. Photographic Section, for our centre page spread; the following national, county and local papers: "The Times," "The Daily Sketch," "The Evening News," "The Evening Standard," "The Tatler," "The Berwick Journal," "The Leicester Mail," "The Oldham Evening Chronicle," "The Essex Newsmen," "The North-East Kent Times," "The Barrow News," "The Sheffield Telegraph," "The Thames Valley Times," "The Surrey Comet," "The West London Observer," "The Middlesex Independent," "The Barnet Press," "The Harrow Observer," "The Hendon Times," and "The Palmers Green Gazette"; and the Editors of the following Service journals, the receipt of whose magazines are gratefully acknowledged: "The Tank," "The Covenanter," "The Royal Army Ordnance Corps Gazette," "The Gunner," "The Queen's Own Gazette," "The Sapper," "The H.L.I. Chronicle," "The Lion and The Rose," "The Oak Tree," "The China Dragon," "The Sprig of Shillelagh," "The Suffolk Regimental Gazette," "Artifex," "The Fisdarg Magazine," "The Journal of the South Wales Borderers," "The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry Journal," "The Borderers Chronicle," "The Robot," "The Dragon," "The Snapper," "The Iron Duke," and "The London Scottish Regimental Gazette," and "The Journal of the Honourable Artillery Company."

We must quote an extract from letters received from the Editors of the two last-named Journals: "When I joined the London Scottish 47 years ago our official title was '7th Middlesex (London Scottish) Volunteer Rifle Corps,' so you see that we have an indirect association with the Die-Hards." And from the H.A.C.: "Seeing the name of a member of this Company in your casualty list, I thought it might be of interest to you to have a list of members of the H.A.C. who have served or are serving in the present war with your Regiment."

I enclose some notes in case they should be of use."
"Capt. J. R. Asling (killed in action), late Middlesex Regiment, was a former member of the H.A.C., which he joined in 1936 and from which he took his commission in June, 1939."

"Other members of the H.A.C. serving in the Die-Hards are: Majors R. G. Beloe (P.L. Kens.), J. J. Evans, P. A. V. King-Farlow, E. W. Holding, H. A. C. Page, E. F. Thompson, M. P. Whitlock and S. J. Wills (P.L. Kens.); Capt. D. G. Asling, W. A. Ballard, R. A. J. Cheffins, M.C., C. P. Glanville, J. M. Pratt, R. P. Rhodes, W. N. Vare, C. G. Webber (P.O.W., Hong Kong), D. W. Bushby and P. W. Lowman; and Lieuts. F. B. Buckbarrow, H. J. Lavington (P.L. Kens., P.O.W.), T. H. Tye, K. E. Young (P.O.W., Hong Kong), W. F. Warner and A. H. Bartley."

"The following members of the H.A.C. have served with the Middlesex during the present war: Capt. W. E. H. Grayburn (Trs. R.A.), R. S. Lea (Trs. R. Signals), and H. W. G. Preller; and Lieuts. R. A. D. Butler (Trs. R.A.), J. E. Hosking (Trs. R.A.F.), R. L. Johnson (Trs. R.A.), H. E. G. Kettle, (Trs. Army Air Corps), W. A. Lavers (Trs. R.A.), L. G. Leatham (Trs. R.A.F.), R. H. H. Pawsey (Trs. R.A.F.), H. C. Pyne (P.L. Kens., Trs. R.A.F.), K. O. Sayers (Trs. R.A.), and P. F. Smyth (Trs. 14 Punjab Regiment)."

"The following have been killed in action: Capt. D. West, Hong Kong (H.A.C., 1925), Lieut. C. Cheeswright, Hong Kong (H.A.C., 1939), and Lieut. K. D. Tarr, France, 1940 (H.A.C., 1936)."

We have been making strong endeavours to trace the whereabouts of any of the members of our Allied Dominion Regiments and have been lucky enough to find out the following information:

The Prince of Wales Rangers (Peterborough Regiment). We have traced a Major Morley, who was lately 2/i/c of the P.O.W. Rangers and is now attached to an English Regiment.

The Wentworth Regiment. We have written to Major Piggott, who was 2/i/c of the Wentworth Regiment.

A Capt. S. Fidler, of the Middlesex and Huron Regiment, is in England, and we are awaiting a reply from him.

The 57th Australian Infantry Battalion (The Merri Regiment). Our letter to their H.Q. in Australia should bring news.

Our latest information of the Taranaki Regiment is that it has H.Q. at New Plymouth, New Zealand. There are two Cadet Battalions, one with H.Q., New Plymouth, and one with H.Q. at Hawera. A Major W. E. Alexander, who was a member of the Taranaki Regiment, has been located in this country, but so far we have had no reply from him.

As soon as any later information comes to hand it will be published in the Journal.

Our mail bag has been most interesting this quarter, for as well as the tributes to the Regiment from Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, Lieut.-General F. A. M. Browning and Lieut.-General B. G. Horrocks, we have had the following letter from Lieut.-Col. W. M. Cunningham, M.V.O., O.B.E., M.C., Military Advisor to Field-Marshal Alexander, which speaks for itself:

"DEAR CAPT. MOORE,

"I am afraid you will feel that we have rather let you down over the Field-Marshal's message for your Journal, but, unfortunately, your airgraph arrived here the day after we had left to go to the Crimea Conference, and as we did not return from that for over a month, it was not possible to get a message to you in time for inclusion in the March issue. But if you will let me know the date of your next issue, I am sure the Field-Marshal will be very glad to let you have something in time for inclusion."

"Yours sincerely,

"(Signed) W. M. CUNNINGHAM, Lt.-Col."

From the Hon. Lady Fortescue (widow of the famous historian of the British Army) we received the following:

"DEAR CAPT. MOORE,

"I have all the 'rights' of my husband's (John Fortescue) books, and I am delighted to give you permission to quote from his 'County Lieutenancies.' He would love to know that his books are still of use to his beloved Army. Good luck to your Regimental Journal!"

"Yours sincerely,

"(Signed) WINIFRED FORTESCUE."

In the book referred to, Sir John has written an account of the formation of the Militias, from two of which our Regiment sprang, and in future issues we intend to publish extracts which have a bearing on Middlesex.

MESSAGE FROM ADMIRAL THE LORD LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN, G.C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C., SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER, SOUTH EAST ASIA

I have been asked to send a message to "THE DIE-HARDS," and I am very glad to do so. So far we have only had individuals from the Middlesex Regiment serving in the South East Asia Theatre. The war in Europe is now drawing to a close; I do not know whether any Units from your Regiment will be coming to join us in this distant Theatre or not, but if they do they can be assured of a very warm welcome from all of us who are already out here.

MESSAGE FROM LIEUT.-GENERAL F. A. M. BROWNING, C.B., D.S.O., CHIEF OF STAFF, SOUTH EAST ASIA COMMAND

For the three years that I commanded Airborne Forces I was privileged to have many officers and men of the Middlesex Regiment serving with me.

Some were among the pioneers of parachute and glider troops. They fought with Airborne Forces in every action—in North Africa, Sicily and Italy, in Normandy and Holland.

I am glad to take this opportunity of expressing my admiration for the leadership and fighting spirit which the "DIE-HARDS" under my command invariably displayed.

MESSAGE FROM LIEUT.-GENERAL B. G. HORROCKS, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., CORPS COMMANDER, 30th CORPS

DEAR MOORE,

I am writing to say how pleased I am that our Regimental Magazine has started again.

With each new copy of "THE DIE-HARD," I realise afresh what an important function it performs in keeping those members of the Regiment, like

myself, who are away, up to date with the life of the Battalions serving in other theatres of operations. In a war of great distances such as this, it is essential that a link be maintained between Battalions, and I always look upon the Magazine as the "clearing-house" for Regimental news. It is also gratifying to see that at last, we have a link with the County of Middlesex.

The Regiment is represented on all the fronts, and I am sure that the ghosts of all those who have worn our badge in countless battles of past campaigns, must be very satisfied with the show the Regiment is putting up in this war. When, with God's help, we bring this war to its victorious conclusion, we shall be able to look back with pride and our consciences will be clear. We shall have been represented in AFRICA, ITALY, FRANCE and the FAR EAST, and in all those countries the enemy will have had good cause to realise the presence of the "DIE-HARDS."

I think that never before, in the previous wars of our country, can there have been such a clear conception of the things and principles for which we are fighting. One has but to see the results of the GERMAN presence in the occupied countries, and to appreciate the NAZI doctrines, to realise there can be no peace for ourselves or our children, so long as people exist who think on the lines of the S.S. and GESTAPO.

I find myself at the present moment, with MIDDLESEX Battalions under my command—a great privilege to one who has spent a large part of his life in the Regiment.

Good luck to the "DIE-HARDS," and may your subsequent numbers maintain the high standard of the first two.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) B. G. HORROCKS.

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION NOTES

During the past three months some 37 cases have been assisted for an expenditure of approximately £234 4s. 2d.

Eighty-nine parcels have been despatched to P.O.W. as from their next of kin, at an average cost of £2 per parcel, and 200 cigarettes have been sent to 174 P.O.W.s in Europe at a cost of £47 17s.

The Regiment has approximately 86 P.O.W., included in the camps over-run by the Russian Armies. We do not know yet whether all our men have escaped and are now in the hands of the Allies, but we are daily expecting to hear.

Some of the moneys received during the quarter are detailed below:

Source	P.O.W. Fund	Regimental Association Fund
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Various Battalions	257 7 0	100 0 0
Col. Garner	..	2 0 0
Enfield Comforts Fund	69 11 9	..
Capt. H. Farrow, M.B.E.	5 5 0	..
Lieut. Nightingale	..	5 5 0
Col. Walters, 7th Battalion Middlesex H.G.	..	3 0 0
Pte. J. Mendoza	2 0 0	..
27th Middlesex H.G.	..	5 13 0
28th Middlesex H.G.	15 7 0	..
	£349 10 9	£115 18 0

OBITUARY

The Colonel of the Regiment deeply regrets to announce the death of the Right Honourable The Lord Rochdale of Rochdale, C.B., on Saturday, 24th March, 1945, at Lingholme, Keswick, in Cumberland. Lord Rochdale throughout the long period of his Lord Lieutenancy of Middlesex has taken the greatest interest in his County Regiment. The Colonel remembers with the deepest gratitude the personal co-operation he gave to him when he was attempting during the past years to improve the relations of the Regiment with the various Boroughs and Local Councils of Middlesex. Without Lord Rochdale's support his efforts would have been in vain. The Regiment remembers with pride the cheerful spirit and untiring energy he displayed throughout the long years of his painful illness, which few could have borne and yet continued to carry out such exacting public and county tasks. Lord Rochdale had a distinguished military career up to the conclusion of the Great War, and was also, as a young man, a brilliant leader in all sporting activities, in many of which he himself excelled. Many Old Comrades will remember how before the war he carried out an inspection of thousands of the Regiment parading on the Horse Guards Square, prior to marching past the Cenotaph. He was then less severely crippled than recently, but insisted on inspecting every rank, which entailed a long and painful progress until its completion. He had in full measure the traditional Die-Hard spirit, and the Regiment will always remember him with honour and humble respect as a very brilliant and courageous soldier.

NOTHING TO DO WITH THE WAR

In Mr. Radcliffe's current article on Ancient Middlesex he mentions, on page 49, that at the Guildhall, Westminster, there is a very extensive and complete collection of the Records of the Quarter Sessions of Middlesex County from 1549.

From these I have taken the following as an example, which, I think, you will agree, are most enlightening and interesting.

INDICTMENT OF JOAN EYER AND MARY HARRIS FOR SETTING FIRE TO THE PALING ROUND THE DEER-PARK OF SIR THOMAS GRESHAM, KNIGHT, AT OSTERLEY PARK, WHEN QUEEN ELIZABETH AND HER COURT WERE STAYING THERE.

Entry in Sessions Roll No. 199/4

7 MAY, 18 ELIZABETH (A.D. 1576)

The jurors present for the lady the Queen that Joan Eyer, wife of Nicholas Eyer of Heston in the county of Middlesex, husbandman, and Mary Harrys of Heston aforesaid in the county aforesaid, spinster, on the 6th day of May in the eighteenth year of the reign of the lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England France and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith etc., about the hour of ten p.m. on the same day, with force and arms etc., at Osterley within the parish of Heston in the county aforesaid, broke into and entered a certain park, enclosed and impaled with pales and posts for the keeping, feeding and preservation of deer and other wild animals, of a certain Thomas Gresham, knight, (the said lady Elizabeth the now Queen of England with divers magnates and

honourable men of the Privy Council of the same lady the Queen and with many other worthy men and servants of the same lady the Queen attending upon the same lady the Queen being in the mansion-house of the same Thomas Gresham, knight, called "Osterley parke house" within the park aforesaid in Heston aforesaid; and with force and arms aforesaid and with spades, shovels, staves and hatchets then and there maliciously, diabolically and illegally tore up, pulled out and threw down and laid on the ground four rods of posts and pales of the same Thomas Gresham then and there being and standing; which certain posts and pales so being by them in form aforesaid torn up, pulled out and thrown down and laid on the ground, afterwards to wit on the seventh day of May in the eighteenth year above said, about the hour of two and three early in the morning before noon of the same day, the aforesaid Joan and Mary maliciously, diabolically and wickedly burnt and consumed with fire at Osterley aforesaid within the parish of Heston aforesaid, not only to the great disquiet and disturbance of the said lady the Queen aforesaid being in the house aforesaid, but indeed in manifest contempt of the same lady the Queen and her laws, and to the no small damage of the same Thomas Gresham, and greatly to the evil and pernicious example of all others delinquents in like cases, also contrary to the peace of the same lady the now Queen her crown and dignity etc.

(At head, above the names of Joan Eyer and Mary Harrys) Acknowledge the indictment.

NOTE.—No punishment is recorded, but many documents relating to this Sessions are missing.

INDICTMENT OF JANE BAYLIE FOR STEALING GOODS OF A TOTAL VALUE OF 56s. 3d. THE JUSTICES, BY REDUCING THE VALUE OF THE GOODS TO 4½d., ALTERED THE CHARGE FROM ONE OF GRAND LARCENY TO THAT OF PETTY LARCENY FOR WHICH THE DEFENDANT WAS SENTENCED TO BE WHIPPED. Note:—HAD THE ACCUSED BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF GRAND LARCENY SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO BE HANGED.

Entry in Sessions Roll No. 523/52

5 JULY, 11 JAMES I (A.D. 1613).

The jurors for the lord the king present upon their oath that Jane Baylie late of Golding Lane in the county of Middlesex, spinster, on the fifth day of July in the eleventh year of the reign of our lord James, by the grace of God of England France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith etc., and the forty-sixth of Scotland, by force and arms etc. at Aldersgate streete in the parish of St. Botolph without Aldersgate, London, in the county aforesaid, then and there feloniously stole, took and carried away one towel called in English "a towell" to the value of 8s., one handkerchief in English "a Handkercheif" to the value of 11d., two squares called "squares" to the value of 12d., two yards of lace in English "bone lace" to the value of 2s., one girdle and one pincushion, in English "one girdle and pinpillowe" to the value 10d., one coif in English "one blacke wroughte quoife" to the value of 18d., one napkin in English "one napkin" to the value of 12d., five bands in English "five ruffe bandes" to the value of 10s. 8d., one band and one pair of cuffs in English "one laced band

and cuffs" to the value of 10s., one ell and one quarter of an ell of linen in English "one elle and a quarter of flaxen cloathe" to the value of 4s., two pieces of linen called "tyffenye and lawne" to the value of 10d., one pair of cuffs in English "needle worke cuffs" to the value of 12d., one jewelled and gold button in English "one pearle and golde button" to the value of 6s., and one silver handle in English "one sylver handle for a fanne" to the value of 8s. 6d., of the goods and chattels of William Welche, knight, being then and there found; contrary to the peace of the said lord the now King his crown and dignity.

FRANCIS SAVADGE, prosecutor.

(At head, above the name of Jane Baylie) Puts herself (upon the country and is found) guilty to the value of 4½d., (has) no goods, to be whipped.

SENTENCE OF TRANSPORTATION PASSED ON A BOY AGED THIRTEEN

13 APRIL, A.D. 1822.

Conviction of John Fish of St. Margaret's, Westminster, aged thirteen. He was sentenced to be transported beyond the seas for the term of his natural life, for having stolen a handkerchief of the value of 10d.

THE HONOURS ON THE COLOURS—PART I

On the first page of the coloured supplement in the last issue of "The Die-Hards" there was shown the Colours of the Regiment and, underneath, were listed our Battle Honours.

While, to many members of the Regiment, what follows will not be news, there must be hundreds of present-day Die-Hards who have heard nothing, or, what is worse, have heard only a garbled account, of the battles at which our Regiment so distinguished itself that it earned the right to have those historic names emblazoned on its King's and Regimental Colours.

So let us for a while live in the past glories of the 57th and 77th Foot, our present 1st and 2nd Bns.

For much of what follows I am indebted to two books: "The Life of Arthur, Duke of Wellington," by William Hamilton Maxwell, published by Hutchinson & Co., and "Our County Regiment—THE DIEHARDS—Its history 1755-1915," by Col. Sir Reginald Hennell, C.V.O., D.S.O., published in 1915 by Cadet Publications Ltd.

The first named book was first published in 3 vols. between 1839 and 1841, and the author died in 1850, so the question of copyright does not arise. Of the second book I have only been able to find one copy and that is through the courtesy of the Librarian of the Middlesex Guildhall Library, but as the book was published by the Middlesex Regimental County Committee, I trust that this acknowledgement of indebtedness will suffice.

Before dealing, albeit briefly, with how our Battle Honours were won, it may be of interest to learn a little regarding the origin of Military Colours. In the earliest records of the world's history we shall find that the rallying point for all bodies of armed men has always been a flag of some description. Every King, Prince, Noble or Chief preparing for or marching to war has first raised his Flag—or, as it has been called, his "Standard"—round which his followers and soldiers gathered to fight for him. As organised bodies of professional soldiers began to be formed they were granted flags which were given the name of "Colours" to

distinguish them from "Standards," and nearly every Battalion of the Regular Army carries a set of "Colours"—the King's Colour and the "Regimental Colour." The King's Colour is carried on the right of the Regimental Colour on parade. The former consists of the national flag, in the centre of which is a circle containing the number of the Battalion and the title of the Regiment, and is a symbol of loyalty to Country and Throne; the latter symbolises the pledge of duty to uphold to the last the honour and glorious traditions of the Regiment and has in its centre, within a circular Band, the title of the Regiment and the number of the Battalion, surmounted by the Imperial Crown.

Our own Colour has, in addition, the crest of the Prince of Wales. This honourable distinction was conferred on the 77th Foot by King George III in 1810, as mentioned in our last issue. Surrounding the central device is a wreath composed of the Rose, Thistle, and Shamrock, and around this again is a wreath of laurel emblazoned with scrolls, on which are inscribed the Battle Honours won by our Regiment during its long and honourable history. In the four corners are the late Duke of Cambridge's Coronet and Cypher, a badge granted to the 77th in 1876.

In "*the good old days*" (the italics are mine) when armies went into action in close order, dressed in full uniform, with colours flying and drums beating, the Colours were borne in the centre of the line, and it was considered the post of the greatest honour to carry them, as it was also the position of the greatest danger. The honour of the Regiment was bound up in the Colours, and Officers and men willingly laid down their lives in their defence. At ALBUHERA the Regimental Colour of the 57th was pierced by twenty-one bullets, while the King's Colour bore the marks of seventeen and also had its staff broken. The Ensign who carried it was wounded in three places and was relieved by another Officer, who was, shortly after, severely wounded himself. He, however, refused to give up the Colour to the former when he returned after having his wounds dressed. And what can compare with the heroism of Lieut. Matthew Latham, of the Buffs, at the same battle? Ensign Walsh, who carried the King's Colour, was surrounded by eight or ten Polish Lancers, and was wounded and knocked down. Before the Colour could be captured, Latham, although already severely wounded, seized it and attempted with his sword to keep his assailants off. He was shouted at to drop the flag and surrender, but he replied that he would give it up only with his life. He received a cut from a sabre which sheared away one side of his face and nose, and immediately afterwards another, which took his left arm and the hand in which he held the Colour clean off. He then fell to the ground, covering the flag with his body and was trampled on and pierced by several lance thrusts. At that moment, however, half a dozen British Dragoons came galloping to the rescue, and the troopers made off. Strange though it may seem, he lived, and the Officers of the Buffs afterwards subscribed 100 guineas, and presented Latham with a gold medal, bearing in relief a representation of the saving of the Colour, with the inscription: "I will surrender it only with my life," while the Prince Regent made himself responsible for the cost of an expensive operation by a leading surgeon of the day.

The Colours we carry now are the direct descendants of those which have shared the fortunes of the Regiment on many a battle-field. The Crimean Colours of both the 57th and 77th now hang in St. Paul's Cathedral.

The first two honours on the Regimental Colour, **MYSOORE** and **SERINGAPATAM**, commemorate the wars in the south of India against Tippoo Sahib, Sultan of Mysore, from 1790 to 1799, in which the 77th took a distinguished part. "Mysore" covers the many actions fought during that period, including the battle of Seedaseer; and Seringapatam was the great fortress and capital of Tippoo, taken by storm on the 4th May, 1799.

Col. Arthur Wellesley (later Duke of Wellington) was ordered to direct the whole attack, and proper dispositions were accordingly made to storm the fortress.

The troops ordered for the assault moved forward in two columns. The attack had been arranged with excellent judgment and was most gallantly executed. The entrenchments were stormed, occupied by the assailants, and, before daylight, tolerably secured from the fire of the place. The siege operations nearly reached completion, Major-General Baird volunteered to command the storming party.

Col. Dunlop, of the 77th, was in command of the left column of assault, and a portion of the 77th formed part of the forlorn hope which was to storm the breach.

The stormers, who, on leaving the trenches, were met with a heavy fire, had stopped to return it, when Lieut. Lawrence, of the 77th, who commanded the support, called out, "Now is the time for the breach." Col. Dunlop himself fell and Lawrence was severely wounded. He was the only survivor of the four Subalterns who had volunteered to accompany the forlorn hope, and he lived to become the father of those two famous men, John and Henry Lawrence, who did so much for Britain in India.

To those looking on, and who neither shared in the glory nor the danger of the assault, the period of suspense, though brief, was most distressing. An Officer thus describes the feelings of the troops who were watching the result of the storming of the breach:

"About a quarter past one p.m., as we were anxiously peering, telescope in hand, at the ford, and the intermediate ground, between our Batteries and the breach, a sharp and sudden discharge of musquetry and rockets, along the western face of the fort, announced to us that General Baird and the column of assault were crossing the ford; and immediately afterwards we perceived our soldiers, in rather loose array, rushing towards the breach. The moment was one of agony; and we continued, with aching eyes, to watch the result, until after a short and appalling interval, we saw the acclivity of the breach covered with a cloud of crimson—and in a very few minutes afterwards observing the files passing rapidly to the right and left at the summit of the breach, I could not help exclaiming, 'Thank God! the business is done.'

"The firing continued in different parts of the place until about two o'clock, or a little afterwards; when, the whole of the works being in the possession of our troops, and the St. George's ensign floating proudly from the flagstaff announced to us that the triumph was completed."

G. E. M.

(To be continued)

OUR BAND AT THE FRONT

From time immemorial there has been something about a military band that attracts the crowds, and it has always held a popular appeal to the Service man himself. The musical taste in an army is wide and varied and the bands realise this and are capable of catering for all, whether it be the lover of dance music or the devotee of classical compositions.

Recently a Division on the Western Front has been regaled with performances by the band of our Regiment which, not so very long ago, joined forces with the band of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, for a highly successful concert broadcast from Eindhoven (Holland).

Although the present Middlesex combination must be regarded as new, having been formed after Dunkirk, it has its roots steeped in the distant past and well maintains the connection and reputation of other Middlesex Regiment bands. The first of these was formed after the historic battle of Albuhera. That was in 1811, when British troops were overcoming another, would-be world dictator in the person of Napoleon.

Each member of the band is a trained stretcher-bearer. Some, too, know all the intricacies of a machine-gun and, if the occasion arose, they could all put down their instruments and take up the more serious weapons of war, or the stretchers of rescue work and life-saving.

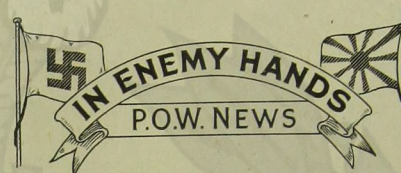
The Band played a series of most successful concerts; at the end of one the audience, having demanded several encores, clamoured for three further tunes, and the C.O. says he never saw troops so pleased over an entertainment before, and as he has over twenty years' regular service, he has seen a good many concerts, etc., all over the world.

Several men with long years of association with earlier bands of the Regiment were good material round which to build the present combination. The oldest member is Band-Sergt. A. Stenning, whose home is now in Norwich. He went into the Hussars as a boy, later joining our Regiment, and he has been connected with our bands for 35 years. Although the members are not strictly confined to the County—few, if any, Regiments are purely "county"—these days—the majority do hail from within Middlesex. One of those with long service is Bandsman D. Walker, of North Hendon, who plays the cornet. He joined the Army as a boy just before the close of the last war, and first played in a Middlesex band in 1926. Bandsman Salisbury, of Colchester, has been with them for 26 years.

OUR REGIMENT IN GERMANY

Men of our Regiment, among the first machine-gunners to enter Germany, were in support of the recent British attack east of SITTARD in Holland. Firing thousands of rounds of ammunition we helped to drive the Germans back across the ROER river with heavy losses.

Our Regiment first went into action on German soil in mid-November last in the same area as that covered by the recent attack. Our heavy mortars put down a great weight of bombs on the village of BAUCHEM, on the main road leading into GEILENKIRCHEN. When the Infantry moved in they took nearly 200 prisoners, many of whom were still "bomb happy" as a result of the all-night plastering by our Mortar-men.



With the great drives from East and West converging on the heart of Germany, and the giant strides of the men under General MacArthur in the Far East, every week more Prison Camps are being over-run and the long-suffering P.O.W.s liberated.

It is easy to imagine and appreciate the joy and thankfulness which must flood the hearts of the next-of-kin of those prisoners and internees who have been released in this manner and of their gratitude to the Commanding Officers and men of the relieving forces. At the moment of writing we have not been notified of any of our own men having been relieved, but according to our records some 80 men are in camps directly in the path of the Russian armies and our Records Office have most kindly promised to let us know immediately they have any news of the release of the men.

Meanwhile, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Smith, of 66, Welbeck Road, East Barnet, who nearly two years ago were informed that their third son Pte. Sydney Smith, who joined our Regiment in 1938, had died from dysentery in a Japanese P.O.W. camp, received a letter from him. Pte Smith was captured at Hong Kong on Christmas Day, 1941, and in August, 1943 his parents were told that he had died in a prison camp.

In his letter, written last April, he states that he is well, and refers to the receipt of an American Red Cross parcel for Christmas, 1943, and sends his congratulations to his two brothers, one in the Royal Navy and one in the R.A.S.C., who had married.

The British Red Cross Society are endeavouring to trace the source of the rumour that he had died. Mr. Leonard, of 60, Westgate Road, South Norwood, received a letter and a card at Christmas from his brother, Bandsman E. G. Leonard, who is a prisoner in Japanese hands. Members of the family have been in the habit of writing to him each week in turn, and in his letter, Bandsman Leonard says he has heard from all members of his family and has also received a Red Cross parcel.

The following extract from a report from the International Red Cross on conditions at Hong Kong P.O.W. Camps in August, 1944, may be news to some readers and of interest to many.

"A large number of prisoners have been moved to camps in Japan. Argyle Street officers' camp has been closed and the officers transferred to SHAMSHUIPO, where they are in separate quarters. Camp S at Shamshui is mainly other ranks, and Camp N at Shamshui is mainly for officers and their orderlies. There are a total of approximately 1,700 prisoners in Hong Kong, of whom 200 sick, with some medical officers and orderlies are in Bowen Road Military Hospital. Both the camp and the hospital are described as being clean, tidy and well organised. The treatment is described as good and morale is fair. There is a sufficient number of doctors and male orderlies at Bowen Road Military Hospital and at the two camp hospitals in Shamshui."

Clothing is described as adequate, but footwear poor. There are workshops for the repair of clothing and footwear at Shamshui and Bowen Road. The Japanese provide essential medicines and dental supplies, one bar of toilet soap and one of washing soap and one piece of underwear to every man each month. Towels, tooth brushes, powder and toilet paper are issued regularly. The prisoners are allowed to write one letter or postcard, limited to 50 words each month.

The camp libraries are well stocked and have been recently augmented by about eight hundred technical and educational books, obtained locally. Sports and recreational facilities remain adequate, but are less used than formerly. There are regular church services for the different denominations.

Canteens supply cigarettes, syrup, soya bean, milk powder, etc. Local residents are still sending in parcels fortnightly and the International Red Cross Delegate purchases some relief locally. At the time of the inspection the relief supplies from the "Gripsholm" had arrived, but had not been distributed. (The distribution took place shortly after this report.—Ed.)

There are large vegetable gardens in the camp, also medium-sized pig and poultry farms. The scale of rations was not given to the Delegate.

The health of the prisoners is unsatisfactory. There were, at the time of the inspection, 300 sick in the men's camp, 40 in the officers' camp and 200 at the Bowen Road Military Hospital. The principal diseases were enteritis and avitaminosis, showing a lack of suitable food. Also some malaria and tuberculosis. No diphtheria and no epidemics. The Delegate states that the number of sick is due to (a) long confinement, (b) recent bad weather, (c) difficulties in supplying adequate supplementary food. The mortality rate is low.

The report states that conditions are "generally satisfactory," owing to the goodwill and efforts of the camp authorities in difficult local conditions, but stresses the need for more suitable food.

We have just been notified that the under-mentioned members of the Regiment have been repatriated and reached this country last month:

6203696 Pte. C. Balding, 120, Bridport Road, Edmonton, N.18.

6206225 Pte W. Moreton, 6, Porten Houses, West Kensington, W.14.

6209905 Pte. C. Watson, 201, Wolfstan Street, Shepherds Bush, W.12.

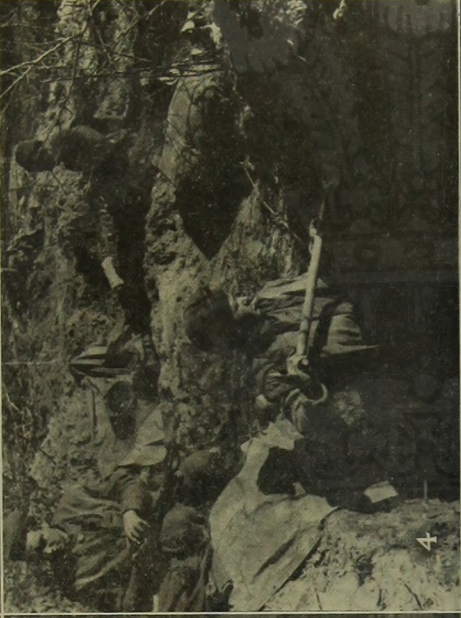
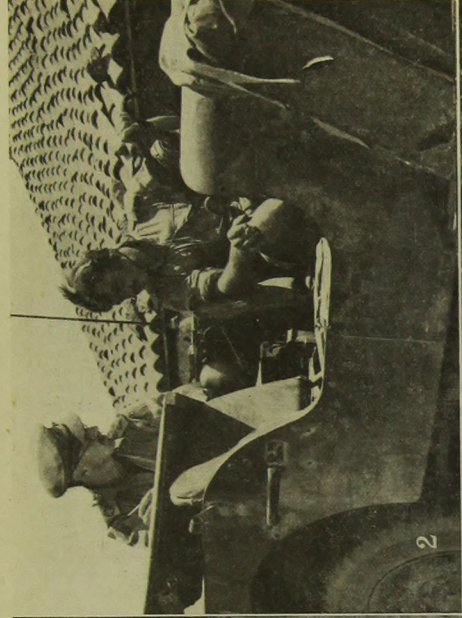
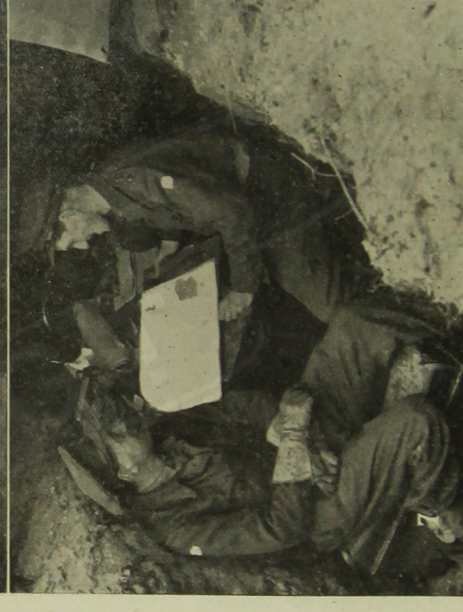
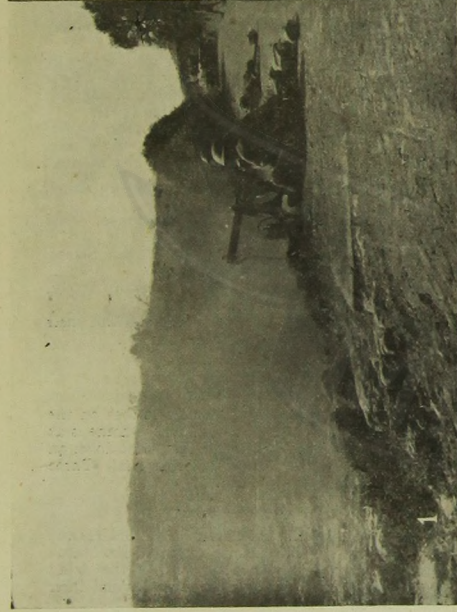
6849250 Pte. V. Braysher, 32, Derbyshire Street, Bethnal Green, E.2.

We hope to be able to give some details of their experiences as P.O.W.s in a later issue.

INITIATIVE

While serving with one of our Battalions on the Western Front, C.S.M. Marshal, whose home is at Howard Road, Bramley, Rotherham, shot down an enemy bomber with a light machine-gun. Three witnesses supported his claim.

The Editor and the Printers of THE DIE-HARDS JOURNAL apologise for the late arrival of the March issue but they assure subscribers that the delay was occasioned only by circumstances beyond their joint control.



1. SICILY. Ptes. J. Crowhurst and E. Dickson. During the fighting for Francoforte 2 M.G.s of our Regiment, Ptes. J. C. and E. D., with a section of the Seaford's ran into a strong party of parachutists, who had been dropped by the Germans in an effort to stem our advance. The Seaford's held off the parachutists for three hours, the enemy being at no time more than 200 yds. away.
2. SICILY. The Intelligence Officer, Lieut. F. M. Massey, and the Signals Officer, Lieut. H. M. Tempany, of the Battalion to whom Crowhurst and Dickson belong.
3. ANZIO. A friendly "brew-up." Pte. S. Lish, Woolmer Road, Edmonton, London, shares his tea with an American Infantryman, Pte. Burke McKinney of Va.
4. ANZIO. Still keeping his hand in, Pte. H. Carposciama, of 125, Duke Road, Chiswick, digging a slit trench for protection. In peace-time he was a navy.

5. ANZIO. Officers and men mess together on the Anzio Beachhead.
6. ANZIO. Left: Pte. E. Hargreaves, 3, Rockliff, Road, nr. Flint, North Wales; and right: Pte. G. Taylor, 18, Witham Street, London, W.1, reading mail from home.
7. ANZIO. Officers at work in the Company H.Q. dug-out office. Left: Capt. G. Weatherhead, 33, G.ville Road, St. Albans, Herts; and right: Capt. W. Courage, "The Croft," Penselwood, Wincanton, Somerset.
8. FRANCE. Across the river Saige our troops found civilians who had been sheltering in caves. With the cave-dwellers here are two members of the F.F.I. who rounded up from German snipers. British soldiers in the picture are: (i) Pte. Slack, of Bognor, Sussex, and (ii) Pte. Ratow, of Burnt Oak, Edgware, Middlesex.

THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF MIDDLESEX

By C. W. RADCLIFFE, C.B.E., D.L., Clerk of the Peace and Clerk and Solicitor to the County Council.

Part Two Norman and Mediæval Middlesex (continued)

A study of the Domesday Book shows that the majority of the County was arable land or pasture, with large areas of wood along its western and northern boundaries. Isolated wooded areas were also found at ISLEWORTH, NORTHOLT, and HANWELL, while vineyards are mentioned at COLHAM, HILLINGDON, HARMONDSWORTH, KEMPTON and STAINES.

Except for the Domesday survey very little is recorded in regard to the County during the reign of the early Norman kings. An important meeting of the bishops took place at HAYES in the house of Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, as a result of which the Archbishop refused to give way to William II in regard to the recognition of Urban II as Pope and compelled the King to make his peace with the Church.

Many of the parish churches which are now standing still show evidence of Norman work, notably at EAST BEDFONT, COWLEY, HAREFIELD, HARLINGTON, HARMONDSWORTH, HARROW, KINGSBURY, LALEHAM, NORWOOD and SOUTH MIMMS, but other churches which undoubtedly were in existence then have since been rebuilt.

Whilst there are now no traces left of early domestic architecture, it is known that the Archbishop had a house at HARROW in addition to his HAYES residence, and that the Bishop of London had a house at HORNSEY. Lands in RUISLIP, HILLINGDON, CRANFORD, SUNBURY, FELTHAM, HAMPTON and STANMORE were granted to various religious houses early in the twelfth century.

The only known fortified house in Middlesex was at ENFIELD and was owned by members of the de Bohun family, who had inherited the Mandeville estates on the marriage of the Mandeville heiress, Maud, with Humphrey de Bohun.

Some of the Norman landowners who are mentioned in Domesday gave up their English possessions and returned to France, some died without heirs so that their estates returned to the ownership of the King, and others sold off parts of their estates. Consequently by the end of the twelfth century we may visualise the County with its village communities well established; the church, the manor house, the rectory or vicarage, and a few cottages scattered about to house those tenants who did not live within the Hall.

The peaceful development of the land received a setback in 1135, when the accession of Stephen was hotly disputed by the daughter of Henry I, the Empress Maud. Civil wars raged throughout the majority of the reign, and whilst no actual battle is recorded as having taken place within the County, it suffered much from constant devastation as the opposing armies marched through on their way to the citadel of London.

One of the principal actors in this grim drama was Geoffrey de Mandeville, grandson of the great Norman landowner mentioned in Domesday Book. He was Constable of the Tower and endowed Walden Abbey in Hertfordshire with the churches of ENFIELD, EDMONTON, SOUTH MIMMS

and NORTHOLT. The treacherous support which he gave to both sides resulted in his ultimate downfall, and in 1144 he was slain at the siege of Burwell Castle in Cambridgeshire.

Shortly after King John was forced by his barons to accept the terms of the Great Charter at Runnymede, it is recorded that a tournament was held on HOUNSLOW HEATH. Two years later, also at HOUNSLOW, the Dauphin of France presided over the conference between Henry III and his barons, which led to the Treaty of Lambeth. During the later troubles Simon de Montfort stayed with the King's brother, Richard, at his palace at ISLEWORTH, while his adherents encamped in the Park, though shortly afterwards Richard went over to the King's side and a large party of Londoners, led by Hugh Despenser, laid waste the whole of the Manor of ISLEWORTH and burnt the Palace, for which they were subsequently fined 1,000 marks. The faint-hearted Earl of Gloucester shortly afterwards brought his forces to HOUNSLOW HEATH, but on the arrival of the King's army its opponents mysteriously disappeared.



Norman Doorway, Harlington Church

Middlesex witnessed the climax of the Peasants' Revolt, for on the morning of 13th June, 1381, Jack Straw marched on HIGHBURY with his army and set fire to the Hospital of St. John at CLERKENWELL. Two days later the insurgents at MILE END demanded an interview with young Richard II, who, with his mother, rode out and granted their requests. This was not sufficient for the other party of the insurgents at St. Bartholomew's Church, who demanded that the King should meet them also. As the King approached, Wat Tyler rode forward to press the grievances of his followers, but after a short altercation he was struck down with a dagger by William Walworth, Mayor of London. The luckless Richard of Bordeaux during the last days of his reign rode out to HORNSEY to meet the Duke of Gloucester in battle, but when he had come within range his army deserted him.

Henry IV married the de Bohun heiress, and consequently became possessed of the original Mandeville estates, which had passed into the de Bohun family as previously mentioned. Part of these estates, consisting mainly of forest lands, became the favourite hunting ground of successive kings of England.

No actual battle was fought within the confines of the County during the Wars of the Roses, though Middlesex must have suffered considerably by the passage of troops, especially before and after the battles of St. Albans and of Barnet, and it may be supposed that many of her sons took part in the contests.

The County witnessed the tragic passage of the boy King Edward V, when he was brought by his uncle Richard ostensibly to join his mother, but actually to meet his death by murder in the Tower. On that occasion the Mayor and many citizens of London came out and greeted him at HORNSEY.

After the short reign of Richard III, Henry Tudor (the direct descendant of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, third son of Edward III) acceded to the throne as the first monarch of the House of Tudor.

Middlesex under the Tudors and Stuarts

The peaceful reign of Henry VII encouraged the development of domestic life in England which the troublous times of previous reigns had scarcely permitted, and Middlesex gradually took upon itself an appearance not unlike that known to its inhabitants of a century ago.

The greatly increased trade of London was having its effect on the population, and the City became so overcrowded and unhealthy that merchants who could afford the luxury of county residences within easy reach of their place of business looked to Middlesex to supply these amenities.

Such circumstances encouraged domestic architecture, which during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries attained a standard which has perhaps never been surpassed. The recently published report (1938) on historical monuments in Middlesex, with its beautiful photographic illustrations, provides ample evidence of those specimens of the builder's craft which may still be found in the County in spite of modern building developments.

Many of the interesting churches that we know today had been altered or rebuilt before the beginning of the sixteenth century, and in spite of modern restoration their outward appearance today is not unlike that presented to the Tudor inhabitants. In many cases the interiors were adorned with those large artistic monuments which became so fashionable during the next two centuries.

The Royal Palace of Westminster and other royal residences in the County and its surrounding districts attracted the passage of courtiers, politicians and lawyers through Middlesex, which resulted in the development of the village inns, of which many interesting examples are still to be found.

In writing this short account of Middlesex, it has been necessary to extract such items as relate to the County, up to the middle of the sixteenth century, from the general history of England, but from the year 1549 the records of the Quarter Sessions have been preserved by the County Authorities, and from these a very human picture of the life in the County can be obtained.

The largely increased population of London provided the inhabitants of Middlesex with a ready market for their produce, and it may truly be said that by the end of the seventeenth century the whole County was being cultivated for market-gardening and agricultural or dairy produce. The roads were exceedingly bad, and consequently transport became difficult and expensive, and large teams of horses and oxen were required for even the lightest of loads. The highways were infested with robbers, and travelling was not only uncomfortable but highly dangerous, while the highway taverns were the haunt of card-sharpers or pickpockets.

To tell of the historical events during the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth would be to write the history of England, and only a few events peculiar to Middlesex can be mentioned.

The rebellious army of Sir Thomas Wyatt, in an endeavour to oust Mary from the throne after her intended marriage to Philip of Spain had been announced, crossed the river at BRENTFORD and began a march to Hyde Park. The Lord Mayor, however, got news of it and dispatched an army which routed Wyatt's forces.

On her visits to her sister, Elizabeth once stayed the night at the house of the founder of Highgate School, and on another occasion at the George Inn at COLNBROOK.

In 1586, Anthony Babbington, a Jesuit who had conspired to murder Elizabeth, took refuge at UXENDON near HARROW, but was discovered there, arrested and afterwards beheaded. It was found that Mary Queen of Scots was implicated in this plot, and this discovery led to her execution a short time later.

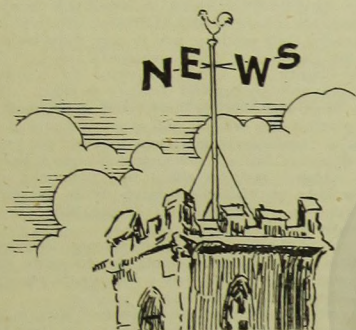
In 1588 the whole country was haunted by the dread of an invasion by the Spanish Armada, and the trained bands of Middlesex, together with those of Warwickshire and Leicestershire, had the honour of supplying a bodyguard to the Queen. The beacon on HAMPSTEAD HEATH was one of the chain of flares which was lighted throughout the length and breadth of the country, after the Armada had been sighted.

On his journey to London, James I of England and VI of Scotland passed through Middlesex, and later in his career, when THEOBALDS PARK became his favourite place of residence, his passages through the County must have been numerous. James had destroyed the Palace at ENFIELD and used the materials for beautifying Theobalds.

ENFIELD played an important part in the Gunpowder Plot, for 'Garnett, one of the conspirators, had his lodgings there, and a few days before Parliament was due to assemble Guy Fawkes visited White Webbs, a house in ENFIELD CHASE, to make the final arrangements. The Earl of Northumberland was fined £30,000 for the part he played in the plot and tried to compound by offering ISLEWORTH MANOR to the Crown, but the King would not accept it.

Middlesex probably followed the example of the City of London in opposing the demands of Charles I for ship money and other levies, and these led to disorders which occasionally necessitated the calling out of the trained bands. Apart from these incidents, Middlesex saw no actual fighting, but HOUNSLOW HEATH, COLNBROOK and UXBRIDGE were favoured camping grounds for the Parliamentary Army, and the Earl of Essex reviewed his forces in FINSBURY FIELDS in 1643.

(Please turn to page 53)



FROM SOME OF THE BATTALIONS

Cooks, batmen and drivers all took their turn at the guns when a Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment, given its first big opportunity in NORMANDY, poured 875,000 rounds into the enemy positions in 24 hours, wrote a Military Observer with the 43rd (Wessex) Division.

The machine-gunners were given the task of putting down harassing fire to prevent the Germans interfering with large-scale movement of our forces along an important stretch of road. Firing continuously, they succeeded in keeping the road open to our troops and armour, forcing the Germans to keep their heads down throughout the vital period.

So intense was the fire that the machine-guns became red hot time after time and ammunition replenishments were being used up as fast as they could be got to the gun positions.

"We were lucky enough to find gun pits already dug when we took up positions for this shoot," said Sergt. R. Stammers. "That saved us quite a lot of work—it was a cushy position. It was an indirect shoot; we couldn't see the Germans on the ground we were firing over. There were a few snipers around our positions, but they soon beat it when we started firing. Our guns stood up to the job very well; my own gun fired 79 belts of ammunition during the 24 hours. Put in a note to the war-workers! They're making plenty of ammunition—but they can still make plenty more yet!"

These men of our Regiment know all about the battle for Hill 112. There they were close up supporting the infantry in the bitter fighting. "I shall not forget that Tiger tank, it was a near thing for us," said Pte. E. Didcock, of 8 Sunbury Crescent Feltham. "It came up only a few yards away from us and stopped. We lay down in the bottom of our trench! If he had crossed the road he could have had the lot of us. Then one of our carriers caught fire only a dozen yards away from our trench. We had to crawl out of the trench to put the fire out with sandbags. It took three of us a couple of journeys to do that."

Pte. N. Shruball saw one of our own Churchill tanks drive right over his Platoon H.Q.'s trench in the darkness. "There were three of our chaps in the trench," he explained. "The tank nearly buried them; but we got them out the next morning—they were all right! The tank also drove right over our beer supply and properly finished it off."

A French family helped Lieut. R. H. Lake to locate German 88 millimetre gun positions. "When the Germans left the village the family proceeded to produce flags of the Allied nations," said Lieut. Lake. "The Frenchwoman slit a divan and armchairs with a knife and produced French, English and American flags of all sorts and sizes from inside them! They also produced a bottle of English whisky! It was the Frenchman in this house who showed me the German gun positions. I reported the position back and our Artillery was brought down on them. I believe they were all knocked out."

Out on reconnaissance for the Mortar Company which he was commanding in Normandy, a Major was being driven back to his lines to report on the situation, when suddenly the Bren carrier ran right into three German tanks, which, in the words of the Major, "were milling around trying to sound like 30 in order to create the impression that they had surrounded us."

One was right in front of the carrier.

Quickly he instructed his driver Pte. J. Phillips, of 64, Mowbray Road, Cambridge, to close the range so that the tank could not open fire. Phillips did so and then made a dash for it.

Its occupants came within an ace of being pitched into the road, when the carrier hurtled down a 4ft. bank. But Phillips kept the vehicle steady, and what subsequently happened was afterwards related to a Military Observer by the Major. "The tanks fired Very lights to illuminate the battle," he said, "but we were 500 yards away by the time the next one was fired. My driver was first-class. But we got lost—it was a pitch-black night—and mistook the German lines for our own. By the time we did get back to H.Q. we were quite prepared to join up with any Brigade."

This Mortar Company has proved its weapons to be so effective against the enemy that it is now in constant demand to support our infantry attacks, comments the writer.

With his observation post in flames over his head an Officer in a Mortar Platoon of the Regiment carried on his work of directing the fire of the Mortars until a fresh O.P. could be discovered.

"It was the liveliest time I have ever had," said the Officer, Capt. John Livemore, M.C., of 143 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, telling the story to a Military Observer.

"My Platoon was covering the crossing of the ESCAUT CANAL and it was impossible for us to get a carrier over the canal so we had to carry our wireless set with us. We actually crossed in the fourth boat and we immediately set up our O.P. in a granary, which proved an excellent place. The trouble was the building was too prominent."

"No sooner had we occupied it than we found ourselves repelling a counter attack with rifles and, between the four of us in the post we accounted for nine Germans—not a bad achievement when you remember that it is not our real job to fight as infantry."

"Then we got going on our main task and we had some excellent shoots. We could see the mortar bombs exploding right on the targets that we were indicating over our wireless. It gave us considerable satisfaction, too, that almost every time we beat the Artillery to the target."

"It was that first evening that the enemy registered on our O.P. They riddled the upper

stories with armour-piercing shells and we had to beat a hasty retreat, leaving our wireless behind us. Then the upper part of the building caught fire. I carried on as well as I could from the lower part of the building until we had found a new O.P. The church was blasted before we even reached it, but we managed quite well, using several houses."

"Later, when the fire had abated, I managed to recover our wireless. By a miracle it was undamaged, except for a couple of bullet holes, and it still worked. I was with my team in that O.P. for five days before we were relieved, and I am very proud of the way the boys stood the test."

The team included Lieut. O. K. Cross, of "Rookwood," 92 Torrington Park, North Finchley.



ANZIO. Censoring the mail in an open-air office.

How a combined operation between a Platoon of the Seaforth Highlanders and a section of our Regiment led to eight German armoured vehicles being routed was related by a Sergeant of the Seaforths.

The man who told the tale was Sergt. Atkinson, of New Hartley, Northumberland, and the principal actor in the drama was Corporal W. Tarrant, of Wilsham Street, Notting Hill, London, W.2.

"It happened before we broke through into BELGIUM," Sergt. Atkinson said. "Cpl. Tarrant was commanding the forward section in a small orchard by a road. We were so short of men, he had to act as his own runner, and he came scrambling back to tell me that a German tank had come up the road and stopped about 30 yards from his position. I told him I would take steps to deal with it, but a minute later he was back again to tell me a second one had come up."

"After this it became quite ridiculous. In all, six tanks and two armoured cars drew up on that section of the road. Each one came up singly and each time Cpl. Tarrant came dashing back to report it to me. I was acting Platoon Commander at the time and I reported the concentration to the Company. Within a very few minutes they passed the target to the Middlesex, who opened up with heavy mortars. They placed their bombs with wonderful accuracy and the whole column was routed."

"It only lasted a few minutes, but afterwards we counted 35 German dead. There were between 15 and 20 wounded and we took 25 prisoners. Our stretcher bearers were busy until after midnight collecting the casualties."

Running into a strong German position with flak guns firing at point-blank range, men of our Regiment on the Western Front had to fight hand-to-hand with the Nazis. They managed to get into a farmhouse in the rear of the enemy. Firing from the windows they put up a stubborn resistance, knocked out one Flak gun and forced the Germans to withdraw. For 24 hours the beleaguered garrison were attacked by snipers, who tried to fire through the window of the farmhouse and were under constant mortar and machine-gun fire. Among those engaged in this action were Cpl. A. Tait, Benjamin Road, Walsend, and Pte. J. Teasdale, formerly of Ford Lodge, South Hylton, Sunderland.

Pte. Jack Harris, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harris, of 69 Kingsbury Road, who is married and lived before enlistment at 3 Wilberforce Road, West Hendon, is well known in the district generally by the name of "Ginger." He joined the Middlesex Regiment but has been attached to another unit in ITALY. His brother, Mr. W. Harris, of 67 Goldsmith Avenue, has received an air-letter, from which the following extracts make interesting reading:

"I suppose you will be wondering who I am? Well, I happen to be in the same Platoon as your brother Ginger, and the following is just a little story of what he did the other day and which you would never hear from Ginger himself. I am writing this on behalf of my comrades to let you know the kind of fellow he really is. The event took place in the region of the GOTHIC LINE, the scene of much bitter fighting. Your brother and Reg. Whittam, of Moreton, Cheshire, were told off to keep their station supplied with ammunition. On one return journey they noticed movement in a nearby vineyard. On further investigation they found they had stumbled on a platoon of Jerries. On the spur of the moment Ginger picked up a stone and held it in pretence of a hand grenade and shouted—as you know he can shout. Seeing the grim look on his face, the Jerry officer shouted to his men, who instantly put up their hands, and while Ginger stood in a threatening attitude, Whittam disarmed them. It was found that they had captured two spandau nests complete with guns."

THE MIDDLESEX WERE THERE 17MX

Capt. James Borthwick, Officer-Observer, 51st Highland Division, was a well-known Scottish journalist before the war, associated with the "Southern Reporter" and later the Thomson Press. He joined the Black Watch as a private in 1940, and was one of the original members of the re-constituted Highland Division. He went out to Egypt with the Division in August, 1942, as a Platoon Commander. Just before ALAMEIN he was seconded to Public Relations as Officer-Observer to his own Division. He has recently written a booklet called "51st Highland Division in North Africa and Sicily," and on the second page of his first chapter we find this tribute: "..."

Tripoli was the goal, and on 14th January the Gordons had broken the line at BUERAT, and the Division had started on the 300-mile chase to the Libyan capital. In the green hills of HOMS Rommel's crack troops were entrenched, knowing if they could hold us there for long supplies would fail and we would have to retreat to BENGHAZI. So Black Watch and Seaforth's marched eighteen miles along the shore to take enemy positions in the rear, while more Seaforth Highlanders attacked frontally. But at CORRADINE the Germans were in strength, the Highlanders short of food and ammunition, were pinned down. It was a situation that looked desperate, although bayonet attacks had driven off the first German counter-attacks. But the odds were heavily weighted till a burst of machine-gun bullets hit the road. 'The Middies. The good old Middies. They've saved the day,' shouted a Black Watch soldier. It was indeed the Middlesex—the Die-Hards, only English Regiment in the Highland Division. Manhandling their heavy machine-guns over wadis and hills, they arrived just in time. The Germans packed into their trucks and fled."



MARETH LINE. "Bonzo," the Company pet, interested in the cleaning of a Vickers M.G.

Later in his book there is a chapter devoted to our Regiment, The R.A.S.C., the R.E.M.E. and the R.C.O.S. Our share of that chapter follows: "It was the red hair that first attracted my attention. 'You're not a Scot, are you?' I asked. The young officer looked up and grinned. 'Why not?' he replied. He was Lieut. Roderick McPherson, from Dron, Bridge of Earn, the only Scot in the Middlesex Regiment, the only English Regiment in the 51st Highland Division. But there was a reason for it. Roderick McPherson had been trained as a machine-gunner with the Malay Volunteer Force, and at the outbreak of war had returned to Britain to join up. Being a machine-gunner, he was commissioned into the Middlesex. For the Middlesex are all Cockneys. They wear the side hat, they have a brass band, they lay no claim to the kilt. But they are as proud of the H.D. as any of the kilted regiments.

'The Middies—they're the wee boys wi' the guts,' say the Jocks of the kilted regiments, and well they have proved it. I never forget my first sight of them at EL ALAMEIN trudging on behind the infantry carrying eighty pounds of machine-gun equipment on their backs. And on the way to TRIPOLI when the Black Watch were in parlous plight in the HILLS of HOMS it was the Middlesex machine-guns who hiked their way over wadis and hills, manhandling their heavy machine-guns to open up in time to save the day. For the Middlesex have a reputation second to none as infantry in the last war; and even in this, when put to it, they have shown that they have lost none of their old skill. It was in the closing stages of the SICILIAN battle. The Middlesex had gone forward to occupy a hill they had been assured was clear of the enemy. Lieut. Rampling walked over the crest to find himself face to face with two Germans! He fired his revolver at them and got back. There were Germans all around. One band was only twenty-five yards from a Middlesex post. The Middies couldn't fire on them for the ridge. 'Cover me,' said Cpl. Fred Dean, and crawled forward. L/Cpl. Sidney Mundy kept his eye and his rifle on the Germans. Cpl. Dean got within twenty yards and jumped to his feet and rushed into the post. Then discovered to his horror that his Tommy-gun had jammed. Nothing daunted, he used it as a club, and the Germans were dealt with. Eighty prisoners were taken in a few hours by such forays. And then the Middlesex settled down to their machine-guns again!"

MIDDLESEX COLD STEEL DID THE TRICK Machine-guns Smash Ambush

Under these headings, on the 5th April, 1945, the "Evening News" printed the following story:—"Machine-guns of the Middlesex Regiment fulfilled an unusual role during the bridgehead fighting across the Rhine, when they made a successful bayonet charge on a party of Germans. A platoon, commanded by Lieut. L. C. Chamberlain, of Sunderland, was in support of the Highland Light Infantry. After landing with the first wave of troops, the Middlesex men dug in to the sides of the 'bund'."

"At first light a party of 40 German prisoners were being brought in when an enemy officer, with 12 soldiers, suddenly appeared on top of the 'bund' firing automatics and shouting to the prisoners to join them."

"The Germans broke away from their guards, and, seizing Spandaus and rifles provided by the officer, opened fire on the Middlesex men. At the same moment other Spandaus started firing from the flank."

"Lieut. Chamberlain, despite intense point-blank fire, immediately got one section into action and raked the advancing enemy with fire. Completely exposed to the enemy fire, he continued to direct his section until the Germans had been driven to cover."

"Then he gave the order to fix bayonets, and personally led the charge on the German positions. It was all over in a matter of minutes, and the surviving Germans were quickly rounded up. The officer and 12 other ranks were killed and 32 prisoners were taken."

THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF MIDDLESEX

(Continued from page 49).

THE CIVIL WAR

The Civil War hovered round the borders of Middlesex but the County suffered little more than the burden of the passage of troops through its area. BRENTFORD was the scene of one of Prince Rupert's most brilliant cavalry charges, but owing to the time wasted by his troops in pillaging, his opponent Essex managed to collect all his forces in and around London, and by sending Hampden to attack the enemy's flank at ACTON succeeded in turning what was at first a serious defeat of the Parliamentarian forces into a victory. It is thought by many that if Charles had followed up the initial success of Prince Rupert, it would have had a considerable effect on the whole war.

In April, 1646, Charles I made good his escape from Oxford in disguise and reached HARROW, but made off again to Southwell in Nottinghamshire. Later when he was held prisoner at HAMPTON COURT he was allowed to receive visits from his children who had been put in charge of the Earl of Northumberland at SYON HOUSE, and during this time Cromwell, who was living at Putney, also visited the King at HAMPTON. In October, 1647, he was persuaded to make his escape, but was recaptured after a short period of freedom. In July, 1647, Fairfax's army reached UXBRIDGE, and after a conference had taken place at SYON HOUSE the famous Cromwellian general, together with about a hundred members of Parliament, reviewed the Parliamentarian army.

Many of the more influential inhabitants of the County sided with the King, among them Sir Francis Rouse of HEADSTONE MANOR in HARROW, Sir Henry Wroth of DURANTS, Sir Henry Spiller of LALEHAM, Sir Robert Fenn and his son, and Sir John Page. As a result of their Royalist tendencies these wealthy land-owners suffered considerably from the financial demands afterwards made on them by the Commonwealth and their tenants suffered also by the breaking up of their estates.

Almost before the death of the King the opinions of the inhabitants of Middlesex seem to have veered towards the Royalist cause, and these feelings may have been intensified when Parliament tried to break up ENFIELD CHASE and distribute it to Parliamentarian soldiers who had fought in the war.

The arrival of the Scottish Army at BARNET, in August, 1651, caused some consternation in the County and the militia was called up, but the timely victory of Cromwell at Worcester soon restored normal conditions.

In February, 1660, General Monk marched with his army from BARNET to the City on his way to open up negotiations for the restoration of Charles II.

THE END OF THE STUARTS

Mainly with the idea of overawing the country, James II established a large camp on HOUNSLOW HEATH and there reviewed 15,000 men in 1686. His repeated visits to this camp and the attendant gaieties caused Hounslow Heath to be looked upon as a sort of pleasure resort, but the waning support of the King caused the gradual disaffection of the

troops, with the result that this camp became a menace rather than a security.

The rebellion of the Duke of Monmouth left the County unscathed, as did the bloodless revolution on the arrival of William of Orange and his Queen, Mary, daughter of James II, and actually the inhabitants of London and Middlesex welcomed their new King and Queen with a glad heart. Both these monarchs, as we shall subsequently see, became much attached to HAMPTON COURT and undertook the building of the famous Wren wing.

The Dutch friends of the King formed a colony in Middlesex and when the Duke of Schomberg was given an English title he chose that of Earl of Brentford.

When a breach occurred in the friendship between Queen Mary and her sister Anne, the Princess of Denmark was forced to leave HAMPTON COURT and to take up her residence at SYON HOUSE. On her accession, however, she returned and made Hampton Court her residence during the majority of her reign.

An attempt on the life of William III by Sir George Barclay was hatched at TURNHAM GREEN and was to have been made whilst the King was crossing the ferry at BRENTFORD on his way to hunt at Richmond. The conspiracy became known before it could be put into execution, and Barclay escaped to France.

LIFE IN TUDOR AND STUART TIMES

The Middlesex records throw much light on the local administration of the County during the period of the Tudor and Stuart kings. The justices, who were, of course, selected by the King, had in some instances much wider powers than those of other counties, as many of them held commissions similar to those now given to assize judges, and consequently had the power of life or death over the prisoners who were brought before them. They sat more often than those in other counties and besides administering justice they made orders for the well-being of the community.

Every parish elected its own constables, and each hundred had one or more high constables. These officers were given very wide powers, and beside their responsibility for keeping order in the streets and open spaces, had the right to enter any house where irregularities were suspected. They would then obtain a warrant from one of the justices, arrest the culprits, and take them to the county gaol or nearest "house of correction."

The streets, as we have learned, were in a deplorable condition, and such maintenance as existed was undertaken by the freeholders within each parish, who were bound to supply so many men and so many carts, according to the rateable value of their properties.

Rates were collected as and when the money was needed, and were raised for a particular object; as, for instance, to support a poor family which had become chargeable to a parish, or to build a bridge for which the parish was responsible. The more important bridges were a county charge, and a rate for their repair was raised upon the whole County.

A scale of wages payable throughout the County in the case of each trade was drawn up by the justices, and any person paying more or less than the rate was liable to a heavy fine. Unemployment was illegal and the justices arranged that every

man should have a master. If a man refused employment he became a vagabond and was dealt with accordingly.

The dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII probably affected Middlesex less than some other counties, for such monastic buildings as existed within it were of minor importance, but the subsequent rules laid down by law for the observance of religion as established by the Church of England brought hardships and inconvenience to those whose conscience dictated otherwise. If any inhabitant refused or neglected to attend his parish church he was brought before the Court and was condemned as a "recusant."

(To be continued)

BATTLEFIELD BOXING!

Twenty excellent fights, mainly between novices, were seen when a battalion of the Regiment in the Middle East held its boxing championships recently. They took place in an open ring under a brilliant sky and provided one of the most successful sporting events ever held by the Unit. The boxing was of a high standard and the fitness of the boxers led to keen, hard-hitting contests.

The best match of the day was between Ptes. J. Welch (South Shields) and R. Leeson (HILLINGDON) in the final of the open lightweight competition. Both experienced boxers, they were evenly matched and it was only after a close fight that Welch won, also gaining the medal awarded to the best boxer of the afternoon. In another excellent fight, Pte. L. Baynard (Wanstead) won the open featherweight award from Pte. A. Fitch (PALMERS GREEN). It was a fast bout and the decision was a narrow one.

Best of the novices' fights was the semi-final of the light-heavyweights between Ptes. J. Davidson (LANCS) and F. Manze (TOTTENHAM). Davidson won and went on to beat Sergt. W. Laver (St. Andrew's) in the final, while Manze earned the medal for the best loser.

Other results were:

Open Middleweight Final: Sergt. F. Saunders (Eltham) beat Cpl. S. Sullivan (Wolverhampton).

Open Light Heavyweight Final: L/Cpl. W. Davies (SOUTHALL) beat Lt. J. A. Hill.

Open Welterweight Final: Pte. C. Sweating (CHISWICK) beat Pte. A. Judge (Wimborne).

Novices Lightweight Semi-final: Pte. C. Langley (Folkstone) beat L/Sergt. L. Harman (EAST BARNET). Final: Langley beat Pte. J. Wilson (Battersea).

Welterweight. First round: Pte. L. Bayfield (Welwyn) beat Pte. L. Chapman (Ilford); Cpl. F. Wilson (WILLESDEN GREEN) beat Pte. J. Hall (Newcastle). Semi-final: Bayfield beat Pte. B. Sculpher (Herne Hill); Wilson beat Pte. A. Lees (Chester). Final: Wilson beat Bayfield.

Middleweight. First round: Pte. B. Borley (Stratham, Lincs) beat Pte. N. Jacob (HAYES); Pte. A. Berryman (HAYES) beat Cpl. D. Allen (TOTTENHAM); Pte. K. Bales (EDMONTON) beat Pte. J. Hillesley (Battersea); Pte. L. Harris (HACKNEY) beat Pte. B. Hunt (WEMBLEY). Semi-final: Berryman beat Borley; Harris beat Bales. Final: Berryman beat Harris.

Ack Ack



notes

HOME GUARD IN A.A.

Owing to the need for Regular Personnel for other duties and for other branches of the Services and to the policy of reinforcing the A.A. defences, especially of London, the decision was taken in the summer of 1942 to employ HOME GUARD IN A.A.

H.G. were first posted to "Z," later known as Rocket Batteries, and the personnel, in the first place, with the exception of some volunteers, was directed thereto direct from the Labour Exchanges.

A few months later in the same year it was decided to employ H.G. on the heavy A.A. Batteries, and, as the practice of directing straight from the Labour Exchanges had not proved altogether successful, another policy was adopted for H.A.A. of calling for volunteers and later directing men from those existing G.S. Battalions as near as possible to the site to be manned.

The first H.G. H.A.A. Battery to be formed in the London Area was on the 5th November, 1942, when the 71 Middlesex H.G. H.A.A. Battery, under the command of Major L. H. Cooper, M.B.E., established its H.Q. at 42, Hampstead Grove, N.W.3.

In addition to those in the Middlesex County area, this Battery also manned sites in other Counties, but shortly after these were placed under the command of another Battery.

The personnel was drawn, in the first place, largely from volunteers from the 2, 6, 7, 10, 14, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 30 Middlesex H.G. Battalions, and it can readily be understood that only ready and loyal co-operation between Sector Command, Battalion Commands and Battery Command and a real attempt to understand each others difficulties could have resulted, as it did, in the formation and maintenance of the A.A. Batteries at the required strength.

Unlike the G.S. Battalions, who were organised under a H.G. Sector Command, the H.G. H.A.A. Batteries were under the direct command of the A.A. Brigade, to which they were attached; in this case the 26 A.A. Brigade commanded by Brigadier Thorburn, O.B.E., M.C., R.A., and, from March, 1943, by Brigadier Holmes Tarn, C.B.E., R.A. In order, however, to maintain liaison between Brigade and H.G. an Officer was appointed to each Brigade as Adviser, and Col.

S. A. Wise, O.B.E., M.C. (late R.A.), late Commanding Officer of the 22nd Middlesex H.G. Battalion, was appointed as Adviser to 26 A.A. Brigade.

With the constant growth of the 71 Middlesex H.G. H.A.A. Battery and with the increasing efficiency of the personnel, it was decided to split the Battery, and on 26th April, 1944, the 72 Middlesex H.G. H.A.A. Battery was formed under the command of Major R. E. T. Windover, and established its H.Q. at Bolton House, Windmill Lane, N.W.3.

It is interesting to note that all the H.G. H.A.A. Batteries attached to 26 A.A. Brigade operating in the Counties of London and Essex, as well as those in the County of Middlesex, have grown out of the formation of 71 Middlesex H.G. H.A.A. Battery.

It had long been felt that a further step in the organisation of the H.G. A.A. Batteries was desirable, and in March, 1944, authority was given for the formation of H.G. A.A. Regiments. The 15 H.G. A.A. Regiment was formed in March, 1944, under the command of Col. S. A. Wise, O.B.E., M.C. (late R.A.) and established its H.Q. at Bolton House, Windmill Lane, N.W.3.

It was attached to 26 A.A. Brigade and commanded not only the two Middlesex H.G. H.A.A. Batteries, but others operating on sites commanded by 26 A.A. Brigade.

The early training of this great influx of men was undertaken on the sites by the Regular Officers and N.C.O.s, who put in many long hours after their normal work was done, but such was the enthusiasm of the H.G. in their new duties that it was not long before numbers of them, both Officers and N.C.O.s, were themselves able to carry out the training of their own men; and H.G. Detachments under their own N.C.O.s were entirely responsible for the operation of their guns in action.

Side by side with their Regular Comrades, many of them worked long hours, far beyond the statutory number, in building the gun emplacements and erecting their own sleeping huts. A splendid comradeship rapidly grew between H.G. and Regular soldiers, and the Home Guard will never forget the welcome and help he received from his Regular brother.

The H.G. on his manning night slept and had his supper and breakfast on the site, and those hours together with the hours spent in training made it impossible to have a man on manning duty more than one night in eight. It will be understood, therefore, that a very large number of men was required, especially in Rocket Batteries, in order to fulfil these duties as eight detachments had to be trained and ready for duty on each gun.

On 10th September, 1944, H.G. was placed on a voluntary basis instead of on a compulsory basis as heretofore, but, at the request of the G.O.C., A.A. Command, the H.G. in A.A. continued their duties 100 per cent. for a short period, and after that on a voluntary basis of about 50 per cent. until they were finally "Stood Down" on 3rd December, 1944.

During their existence the 71 and 72 Middlesex H.G. H.A.A. Batteries have been in action on 112 occasions and have fired 8,275 rounds.

The following awards have been made:

- 1 M.B.E.
- 1 B.E.M.
- 14 Meritorious Service Certificates.

The Home Guard is now "Stood Down," but not disbanded, and, should the need arise, the organisation is ready to re-call the men to their duties.

In the meantime every endeavour is made to keep contact with one another by various means—social evenings dances, etc.

The Commander, 26 A.A. Brigade, has very kindly invited all H.G. to visit their old sites whenever they care to do so and to join in the social functions of the Regulars. For this thoughtful and far-sighted action we are very grateful.

In this respect the H.G. in A.A. is at some disadvantage because, owing to the one night in eight arrangement, the various Detachments rarely see each other, except during the initial training period.

Battery, Troop and Section Commanders, however, are all doing their best to keep the Home Guard spirit alive, and there is little doubt of a ready response should the occasion arise.

A.A. Milkman's Round is 3.7

Milkmen from North London who changed their rounds from streets to 3.7 heavy A.A. ammunition took part in the Battle of NIJMEGEN.

The milkmen, all from a combine, worked in WINCHMORE HILL, PALMER'S GREEN, WOOD GREEN, HORNSEY, MUSWELL HILL and HIGHGATE, and make up a detachment of the 60th (Middlesex) Heavy A.A. Regiment, R.A.

They are known as the "Milko Reveille" gunners, to whom the 4.30 a.m. "Rise and Shine" bugle call is no trouble.

The Regiment, a Battle of Britain Unit, which was stationed longer than any other in Hell Fire Corner, is now in N.W. Europe with the B.L.A.

Now it is more than anti-aircraft. Its men have been trained for a field role and share in fire tasks, which were given previously mainly to 25-pounders.

A County cricketer and two First Division footballers are serving with them. The cricketer is Major J. K. Collins, who skipped Sussex and played for the Corinthians at outside-left. The footballers are Gunner Robert Bruce, who was inside forward for Newcastle, and Bombardier Cyril Darch, who played in goal for the Spurs. The 60th has a strong sports element in its personnel. One of its Batteries drew a number of members from the Saracens Rugby Club, Palmers Green, and another had recruits from the Northampton Polytechnic Cricket and Football Club. Broomfield Park Swimming Club is also well represented in the Regiment.

Since the 60th joined the B.L.A. on 6th July last, it has fired 100,000 rounds, most of which have been against field targets and tank and troop concentrations.

INCOME TAX FOR H.M. FORCES AND DEMOBILISED PERSONNEL

We have received for review a copy of the above-named book from the publishers, Messrs. Jordan and Sons, Ltd., Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2. It is by Capt. G. B. Burr and costs 2s. We know as little (if not less) than the average person about the intricacies of Income Tax Law and its application, but from what we have read of this book it is written with the utmost clarity and quite understandable. Chapter II which sets out assessable and non-assessable income in detail will be especially appreciated by all Services.

ISSAHS—OR 96,919 OTHER RANKS HELPED IN ONE YEAR!

This is a great record, but to really appreciate what is behind these figures let us look a little closer.

On investigation of the Annual Report for 1943 (the latest year for which full figures are available) I find that ISSAHS, now in its 47th year of existence, is a nation-wide organisation solely devoted to doing good to any needy non-commissioned member of H.M. Forces, nor do they turn away men and women of the Allied Forces.

ISSAHS is a voluntary organisation which exists to help serving and ex-Service men and women whose needs and troubles concern such things as debts for rates, rent, house repairs, furniture, hire-purchase, doctor's and dentist's bills and personal debts incurred through the interruption of their normal lives by service to our country.

It is the only Society which cares for Service and ex-Service women, and calls upon their funds in respect of this branch of their work are increasing enormously. Of the cases dealt with in 1943, over 10,000 concerned women: W.R.N.S. 365, A.T.S. 5,896, W.A.A.F. 3,906, and Allied Forces (Women) 13, and the six headings under which most help was asked for were: Help with advice, finance and clothing between discharge and the commencement of civilian employment; accommodation during this transition period; help with grants for furniture and bedding for the setting-up of new homes; accommodation in homes for those discharged for "family reasons"; the placing of children in residential nurseries; convalescence and pensions queries.

What has ISSAHS done for Middlesex? Yes, I asked myself that question. Here is the answer in two parts, firstly from the Regimental and, secondly, from the County point of view.

In 1943 under the heading of	Middlesex Regiment	Middlesex County Branch
(1) Number helped with employment ..	13	1
(2) Number helped with money or clothing ..	228	686
(3) Number sent to Convalescent Homes ..	—	1
(4) Number otherwise dealt with ..	201	263
	442	951

Perhaps the most outstandingly valuable work of ISSAHS is the reinstatement and rehabilitation of disabled men. Many years ago ISSAHS established the Lord Roberts Memorial Workshops, and they now have seven of these factories in various parts of the country, working full time on Government contracts and staffed entirely by disabled ex-Service men.

I must finish this all too brief account. The Society needs help, so will YOU ring up Miss Carter, the Hon. Secretary of the County of Middlesex Branch at SLOane 8127 and she will be delighted to tell you in what way you can give the most needed assistance.

What does ISSAHS stand for? Well, from the recipients' point of view it means, Immediate Service Speedily And Happily Secured! but it also means the INCORPORATED SOLDIERS', SAILORS' AND AIRMEN'S HELP SOCIETY, and their address is 20, Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1.

G. E. M.

CASUALTIES

The Colonel of the Regiment regrets to announce the following casualties:

OFFICERS

Killed

Lieut.-Col. J. P. Hall, Lieuts. S. D. J. Grimsdale, F. Dawson.

Died of Wounds

Lieut. S. E. Bray.

Died of Fever in East Africa

Lieut. L. A. Moore.

Wounded

Lieut.-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O., Major J. D. Robins, T/Majors R. G. Bare and M. F. Pearson, Capt. J. H. G. Clayden, T/Capt. R. P. Archer and J. R. P. Friar, Lieuts. J. J. Ryan, D. S. Fulton, V. G. Fuller, J. E. J. Gallop, J. D. Hiller, M. E. W. Morton, J. F. Riley, D. C. Rowberry and K. S. Simpson.

N.C.O.s AND OTHER RANKS

Killed

Sergts. C. V. Allen, C. W. Bennett, A. F. Charles, W. Ellison, F. R. Godfrey, M. R. Hübner and — Rowe; L/Sergts. W. J. Beech and D. Brown; Cpls. J. E. Clowes, C. Nash, J. W. Slater and F. W. Wright; A/Cpl. W. F. Cheesman; L/Cpls. J. T. Brookman and J. J. Robinson; and Ptes. A. S. Baker, A. J. Barlow, S. M. Blackwell, H. Boothroyd, S. Crabb, W. F. Edwards, F. Faircloth, N. Faulkner, W. Forwood, A. S. Gleave, L. F. Glendinning, R. A. Green, W. F. G. Harewell, F. C. Harper, F. H. Hicks, P. D. James, T. Norris, J. Packham, T. W. Pinkney, M. Philbin, K. C. Seaman, H. Warner, C. A. West, A. W. T. Wood and R. Wright.

Killed at Sea Whilst P.O.W.

L/Sergt. T. Simpson.

Accidentally Killed

Cpl. Douglas, 6203583.

Died of Wounds

L/Sergt. E. G. Wilson; Cpl. J. D. Butler; U/A/Cpl. R. Fredman; L/Cpls. F. Berry, A. G. Gepp and R. D. Morgan; A/L/Cpl. J. R. Mills; and Ptes. E. C. Aldridge, G. F. Bell, S. H. Cogan, L. Cooke, E. Fromont, A. C. Godman, T. R. Green, N. A. Meakin, C. T. Minns, D. J. Pipe, J. L. Price, D. W. Tealyard and E. W. Turner.

Died of Wounds as P.O.W.

Cpl. J. A. Owens.

Died

L/Cpl. F. C. Shepherd and Pte. F. S. Harmer.

Wounded

Sergts. A. Bridges, A. W. Carter, R. W. Donson, G. A. Hofert, R. H. T. Martin, V. D. G. Pearce, C. A. Peggrem, B. Slater and D. F. Stockman; A/Sergt. H. E. Cadle; L/Sergts. J. H. B. Bird, A. D. Monks and F. A. Mullings; Cpls. J. E. R. Brown, L. K. Clarke, M. Conroy, E. Cook, C. J. Crook, N. Klein, D. T. Linney, R. C. S. Mace, H. T. Norfield, G. G. Poole, W. J. Raworth, A. H. Rosser, G. W. Rowley, D. J. Swallow and G. H. Voysey; A/Cpls. C. A. Brand, J. W. Dawkins, W. N. L. Smith; L/Cpls. A. W. Bennett, G. H. Bettis, J. H. F. Framp, D. J. Greer, E. C. Hussey, W. H.



CADET FORCE NOTES

Instead of the Concert arranged for the 10th December, 1944, at His Majesty's Theatre, as mentioned in our December Notes, a special gala performance of Jack Hylton's pantomime "Babes in the Wood", was organised by Majors L. J. Matchan and A. J. Klein, the respective Brigade Welfare Officers of Surrey and Middlesex.

Among the personalities present were: Field-Marshal Lord and Lady Milne, General Sir W. Kirke, Lieut.-General Sir Ronald Weekes, General Sir Guy Williams, Lord Romney, Viscount Bridgeman and Brigadier Baker. (Our illustration shows General Sir Guy Williams arriving.)

During the evening Bud Flanagan auctioned some tennis racquets, a squash racket, some boxing gloves, a Ronson lighter, a bottle of gin and a presentation box of Max Factor cosmetics.



The final total of the money raised from this performance is not yet available, but it proved a very successful show.

At Christ's College, Finchley, early in February, the Cadets of "F" Company, 1st Cadet Battalion Middlesex Regiment, were inspected by the County Commandant, General Sir Guy Williams, K.C.B. He expressed himself very satisfied with the high degree of attainment and smartness in training. The full Company roll is now 110.

Newton, A. E. Tatt and T. Thomas; and Ptes. E. Adams, C. J. M. Algar, L. Amelan, L. B. Armitage, R. H. Arthur, R. Atkins, R. Beardshall, K. H. Bell, M. Bennett, R. J. Bland, W. H. Bowden, J. Boyle, F. G. W. Carter, L. A. Chown, J. G. Clapperton, P. T. Collins, E. R. Cox, A. O. Crowther, F. Dewick, S. Dunger, W. E. Edgecombe, D. E. Edwards, J. W. Edwards, J. F. Ellis, W. N. Fair, C. H. Fewings, J. W. Floyd, P. F. S. Francia, R. J. Graham, T. Graham, C. Griffin, J. Hamill, E. R. Harding, A. L. Harvey, E. G. Hatchett, W. Hogg, D. Holdsworth, A. H. Hurdle, H. M. King, T. Knott, — Ligo, T. Lines, J. H. Lloyd, G. Ludlow, C. H. Lyon, D. Minty, A. J. Moore, C. Musicka, A. E. Mutter, D. R. Nelson, A. G. Oram, J. A. Paxton, F. S. Peachey, H. J. Penn, S. D. Penny, A. T. Petch, T. G. Pope, W. H. Ray, J. M. Ready, I. J. Rees, E. Reid, J. Richards, E. L. Roach, G. Shimell, D. Simons, C. Slesenger, A. J. Sorenti, R. G. Spence, R. E. Spenser, W. H. Stephens, G. H. Upton, M. J. Walsh, L. Walters, F. G. Welch, W. S. J. Willard, F. H. Williams, W. Wilson and A. L. Young.

RECEIVED LETTER OF SYMPATHY FROM H.M. THE KING

Mrs. H. Warner, 27, Magdalene Drive, Berwick, has received the following letter from H.M. the King, following the death in action of her husband, Pte. Warner, of our Regiment: "The Queen and I offer you our heartfelt sympathy in your great sorrow. We pray that your country's gratitude for a life so nobly given in its service may bring you some measure of consolation.—GEORGE R.I."

AWARDS and DECORATIONS

We are proud to announce the details of the following Awards and Decorations made to members and former members of the Regiment up to 12th March, 1945:

Order of the British Empire

T/Major E. T. Moody.

Military Cross

Major M. C. D. King; Cpts. J. H. Gerrard and P. J. Livermore; Lieuts. R. W. B. Lloyd, W. H. Scott and S. Seggie.

Military Medal

Sergts. D. A. Batchelor, — Ganley and D. Reed; Cpl. A. Stewart; L/Cpl. A. James; and Pte. E. Haggerty.

Mentioned in Despatches

Capt. H. C. Bolt, Sergt. J. Colman, R.E.M.E.; and L/Sergt. R. Bowden, A.C.C. (both formerly of our Regiment); and L/Cpl. B. Freeman.

C-in-C.'s Certificate for Consistent Good Work

Sergt. Chalk.

Certificate of Commendation

Sergt. du Heaume.

Certificate of Good Service

C.Q.M.S. G. Hatfield.

Acts of Gallantry

The Divisional Commander desires to place on record Acts of Gallantry performed by the U/M.O.R.s, Cpl. E. Rose and Pte. E. Andrews, and directs that entries be made on their conduct sheets in accordance with paras 1713 and 1718 (b) (XVII) K.R.s, 1940.

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