



THE  
**DIE-HARDS**

*The Journal of*

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

*(Duke of Cambridge's Own)*

**December 1945**

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# The Die Hards

## THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



VOL. VII. No. 6

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PRICE 1/-

### 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," "Serinapatam," "Albuhera," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsular," "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1900-02," "The Great War—36 Battalions—" Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "La Bassée, 1914," "Messines, 1914," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "17, 18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Bellewaarde," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "18," "Albert, 1916," "18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Fiers-Courcette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "18," "Bapaume, 1917," "18," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "18," "Arleux," "Pillckem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrouck," "Bailleul," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suvla," "Landing at Suvla," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18," "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murman, 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 Westworth 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., J.P.

#### Officer Commanding Depot:

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

## CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
EDITORIAL . . . . .	102	THE REMINISCENCES OF "JOHN" . . . . .	106
OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES . . . . .	102	1ST AND 8TH BNS. OFFICERS' DINNER CLUB . . . . .	106
LORD KITCHENER'S HOME . . . . .	102	SUPPORTING THE ANZIO BREAKOUT . . . . .	106
REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION NOTES . . . . .	103	2/7TH BN. NOTES . . . . .	108
REGIMENTAL NEWS IN BRIEF . . . . .	105	NEWS FROM THE BATTALIONS AND OTHER UNITS OF THE . . . . .	
CASUALTY LIST, DECORATIONS AND AWARDS . . . . .	106	REGIMENT . . . . .	110
A HISTORY OF THE 2ND BN. . . . .	106		

### NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

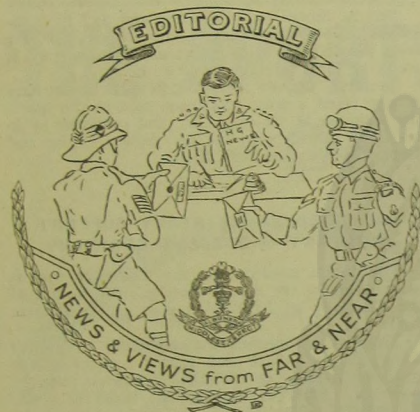
"The Die-Hards" is published in March, June, September and December, and copies may be obtained by application to the Editor, enclosing 1/- for each copy, plus 2d. postage.

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 necessarily reserves to himself the right of publication. All communications concerning the paper, including Advertisements, should be addressed to the Editor, "The Die-Hards" Journal, The Middlesex Regiment, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

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Editor: Bt.-Major G. W. Kempster.

The Editor is pleased to inform his readers that the circulation of this magazine has increased considerably, but regrets that the paper restriction still stands. In consequence he is unable to continue "The Honours on The Colours," and "The Historical development of Middlesex" series. If he did so he would have to omit a proportion of the Notes submitted by Units of the Regiment which would be grossly unfair to readers now released from service with the Colours, and to the Units themselves. For this and other reasons Lieut.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson's next instalment of "Machine Guns in the Desert" cannot appear in this number. The Editor is very sorry, but he must cut his coat according to his cloth the same as everyone else these hard times.

The attention of all readers is directed to the Regimental Association Notes in this number. All members of the Regiment are asked to co-operate in the "Social Scheme" details of which are enumerated therein. If this Scheme works, all concerned will have accomplished a grand job of work for the Regiment. It cannot, however, be properly put into operation without the assistance of all; so will you help. If you are in a position to assist please write to the Secretary of the Middlesex Regimental Association, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7, and remember that time is an important factor in the promotion of this Scheme, the furtherance of which will mean that many past members of the Regiment will be able to meet again and continue associations made when they served and maintain touch with us.

Acknowledgements this quarter are made to the Editor of the "Mid East Mail" for his courtesy in allowing us to print an account of the 2/7th Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment supporting the Anzio break out, to the Colonel of the Regiment for allowing us to quote so freely from his "news letters," and to the following contemporary regimental journals: The Suffolk Regimental Gazette, The London Scottish Regimental Gazette, The

Dragon, the Sapper, The Covenanter, The Gunner, The Tank, The R.A.O.C. Gazette, St. George Gazette, The Queen's Own Gazette, The Iron Duke, The Journal of the South Wales Borderers, The Oak Tree, The Sprig of Shillelagh, The China Dragon, The Faugh-a-Ballagh, The Journal of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, The Lion and Rose, The Borderers' Chronicle, The Eagle, and The Artificer.

#### OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES

Some progress has been made with the affairs of our Officers' Club in the past quarter.

Lieut.-Col. Sherbrooke Walker has been particularly busy in partnership with Lieut.-Col. Samuel, and it is now announced for the information of all members of the Officers' Club that the first post-war club dinner will be held in London on Friday, June 28th, 1946. Dress—uniform or lounge suit. The place, time, and further particulars will be given in the March number of this magazine, and units and past members will be circulated.

The object of this announcement is to enable those wishing to attend to book accommodation and make other necessary arrangements.

Lieut.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson, D.S.O., has agreed to take over the Cricket Week, which will be held at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, by kind permission of R.E.M.E., the present occupants. A good many cricketers have already signified their willingness to play, so we are hoping to have our "Week" in the last week in June, 1946. Further particulars will appear in the March number.

Mr. Greenshield, the Secretary of Hendon Golf Club, has just informed us that his club will be only too pleased to allow us to hold our "spring meeting" there. We are hoping to hold a two days' meeting, and again further particulars will appear in our next number.

In my last number I was apparently in error when I said that the "Serving" side had never won against the "Retired" in our annual golf battle. This is not so. Colonel Crawford pointed out that in 1938 the "Present" vanquished the "Past."

The last notes contained vague promises of better things to come, written in a spirit of optimism. These, I am glad to say, contain concrete proposals for the coming year.

#### LORD KITCHENER MEMORIAL HOLIDAY HOME

Readers are invited to subscribe to this Home, which is to give ex-Service men requiring it a free holiday. Subscriptions should be sent to the Secretary, 10, Kirkley Cliff, Lowestoft, and any further particulars can be obtained from the Editor, Die-Hards Magazine, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

#### REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION NOTES

You will recall that a committee was formed to consider the social side of our organisation. This resulted in a general meeting at which most Battalions of the Regiment were represented. From the minutes of the meeting you will see what is contemplated at present, and the co-operation of all members of the Regiment is earnestly sought in the furtherance of this scheme.

#### REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

##### MEMO. BY COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

1. I forward the minutes of the Regimental meeting held to formulate a scheme for re-opening the social activities of the Regiment inclusive of the Regimental Associations of our two Regiments.

2. You will all observe that it is most urgent to put this scheme as amended by units concerned into action as early as possible in order not to lose touch with our ranks leaving the colours (especially groups 25, 26, etc., which are very large).

3. The scheme will depend for its success on the co-operation and enthusiasm of units of the Regiments and any Old Comrades Associations connected therewith.

I sincerely trust units will not stand out or throw cold water on these proposals because they do not want anyone to enter their social gatherings who is not a present or former member of their Battalion. Such action will defeat our object to unite all our units with the parent Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).

4. So far as Regular Battalions are concerned (with Regular personnel at our war-time M.G.T.C.) the O.C.R.D.P. is prepared to set up a similar social organisation at our peace-time depot (Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7) where on one evening a week Regular personnel, both serving and retired, can meet at Inglis Barracks Regimental Institute, and the Regimental Association will provide refreshments, and there will be billiard tables, etc., for play, apart from the pleasure of meeting our men. I myself with our Association Secretary will attend such meetings, and Major Clark, our oldest serving soldier with 40 years regular service, will attend when able to do so.

5. Please send your remarks to the Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7, as early as possible so they can be considered at the future sub-committee meeting as proposed in the minutes.

For the sake of the Regiment treat this matter on broad lines, and do not be selfish and unit minded.

M. BROWNE,

Bt. Colonel,

Colonel, The Middlesex Regiment.

Inglis Barracks,  
Mill Hill, N.W.7.  
21st November, 1945.

#### MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a meeting convened under the authority of the Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P., with the object of discussing and launching a scheme for the welfare of all members of the Middlesex Regimental Association.

1. Present, as attached list.

2. Opening address: The Colonel of the Regiment opened the proceedings and announced that the Committee of the Regimental Association, having decided that the time had arrived to restart social activities on a Regimental basis, this meeting had been called to discuss and launch a scheme with that end in view.

He stressed the vital importance of the retention in civil life of that spirit of fellowship and goodwill which always exists amongst all ranks who have fought and served together in the Regiment, that facilities for its expression were essential, and that he considered that this could be best provided by the co-ordination and use of existing clubs and organisations of Territorial Army and other units; to these he appealed for all possible active assistance and co-operation, and hoped that eventually all would be co-ordinated in the Regimental Association.

The Colonel of the Regiment then vacated the chair, which was taken by Brigadier B. B. Rackham.

3. The Chairman, having again emphasised the points made by the Colonel of the Regiment, stressed the fact that returning soldiers were very anxious that club facilities should be available for them, but that, in his opinion, unless immediate advantage were taken of this spirit, the opportunity would be lost.

He then stated that he proposed to put a series of motions before the meeting which, he hoped, would not only be resolved, but fully discussed beforehand, as this meeting was definitely exploratory. He also pointed out that these motions were only put to this meeting and, of course, did not in any way commit the various organisations or units represented at the meeting. This, he hoped, would come later. The whole problem must be tackled carefully, even if this entailed some apparent delay. It was essential for everyone and every organisation concerned to come in wholeheartedly, and this could only be achieved by allowing time for everyone to be put fully into the picture and appreciate the object of the scheme.

4. The Chairman then proposed the first motion, which was unanimously agreed.

"That this meeting affirms the bond of fellowship and goodwill which exists among all members, past and present, of the Middlesex Regiment, considers that it is of the utmost importance that facilities should be made available throughout the county by means of which this bond of fellowship and goodwill may be given full and practical expression and pledge themselves to do everything in their power to further this object."

5. The Chairman then proposed the second motion:—

"That this meeting considers that, in the first place, the object given in the first resolution can most effectively be achieved by the formation and



co-ordination of clubs, open to all members of the Regiment, organised to cover the whole county, and taking every advantage of existing organisations, especially those clubs and organisations already flourishing under the auspices of Territorial Army battalions."

As was hoped, a full discussion ensued, the salient points of which were:—

(a) That an entirely new situation confronts the Regimental Association, and that new methods were required to deal with it.

(b) That the scheme should be based on existing T.A. clubs and organisations, or that where none existed they should be formed.

(c) That each Battalion of the Regiment should, therefore, be responsible for its pre-war area of the county.

(d) That the onus for action for the time being should belong to T.A. Battalions, past and present, who will launch the scheme as they consider best.

(e) That it will be advisable to start in a small way and build up the whole organisation. Activities of all sorts and on the very largest scale will, it is hoped, eventually be arranged.

(f) That uniformity is eventually desirable, and that the sooner guidance from the central organisation can be given the easier it will be to obtain.

(g) That facilities in certain drill halls can be made available, and application should be made direct to the Secretary, Middlesex T.A. and A.F. Association, 20, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1.

(h) That the special position of the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment is fully appreciated.

(i) That a man will join his local club initially, but may desire later to attend functions with other clubs in different areas.

The motion was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously.

Battalions are requested to keep the Regimental Association fully informed of progress and events.

6. The Chairman then proposed the third motion, which is a corollary of the second, and which was unanimously agreed:—

"That the officials of existing organisations present at this meeting will endeavour to obtain the authority of their respective organisations to join the scheme, and agree that all members of the Regiment are eligible to join their respective organisations."

7. The Chairman then proposed the fourth motion:—

"That the success of the scheme depends almost entirely on publicity, that existing units be urged to ensure that every single individual coming into the county is aware of the existence of the scheme, that the Regimental Association and all other organisations should arrange intensive publicity within their respective areas."

Discussion ensued, the salient points being:—

(a) That T.A. Battalion organisations at home should report to the Secretary of the Regimental Association immediately they have any definite information of value to members of the Regiment, especially those returning home from active service, and that these reports should continue periodically.

(b) That the Secretary of the Regimental Association should circulate all information received to all concerned, especially units both at home and overseas.

(c) That it is of the utmost importance that the very widest publicity is given to this information within each unit, and that no individual is allowed to leave a unit without being fully informed about the scheme and particularly of the nearest centre to his home. Units are particularly requested to ensure that this is done. The whole success or otherwise of the scheme depends on it.

(d) That all clubs and organisations should obtain publicity through the local Press, cinemas and any other means available. The scheme will be fully reported in "The Die-Hards."

(e) That liaison with the local Cadet Units should be obtained, especially by returning officers and N.C.O.s.

(f) That eventually functions be arranged on the largest possible scale and that some be made permanent, e.g., Albuhera Day, Armistice Day, etc.

(g) The Colonel of the Regiment agreed that reasonable publicity expenses would be met by Regimental Association funds, provided prior authority was obtained.

(h) The meeting stressed the point that, in their opinion, the development of this scheme should receive adequate, and therefore considerable financial support, from the Regimental Association.

The motion was then agreed unanimously.

8. The Chairman then proposed the fifth motion which, after discussion, was agreed unanimously:—

"That a small sub-committee be appointed to supervise and watch the scheme and its development in all aspects, and to consist of the Chairman of the Regimental Association and one ex-member from each Battalion or unit of the Regiment, including Regular units."

It was also decided:—

(a) That the Secretary of the Regimental Association should act as Secretary to this Committee.

(b) That each Battalion representative should be nominated by their Commanding Officer after consultation with the Hon. Colonel of T.A. Battalions and with senior ex-officers and serving officers of each Battalion.

(c) That the Chairman of the Regimental Association should convene the first meeting of the committee as and when he should decide necessary and profitable.

(d) That this committee will have power to arrange future functions, eventually on the largest possible scale.

9. The Chairman thanked all those present for their interest and attendance at the meeting, the results of which would, in his opinion, be of the utmost value to the Regiment and the county.

#### Present

Colonel M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P., Colonel the Middlesex Regt.; Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P.; Brigadier B. B. Rackham, M.C., C.B.E., Chairman, Social Sub-Committee; Colonel G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., 9th Bn.; Lieut.-Col. W. E. Pringle, M.C., T.D., J.P., 1/7th; Lieut.-Col. S. Mirams, M.C., 2/7th Bn.; Capt. R. J. P. Cummins, 1st Bn.; Capt. Page, 8th Bn.; Major King, 8th Bn.; Major Hughes 1/7th Bn.; Lieut.-Col. Sherbrooke Walker, Officers Club Dinner Committee; Lieut.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson, D.S.O., late 1/7th Bn.; A. G. Meayers, 1/8th Bn.; G. W. Blackman, R.Q.M.S.

26 M.G.T.C.; S. G. White, P.L. Kensington O.C.A.; W. Knight, 1/7th Bn.; F. Fenemore, 1/9th Bn.; W. A. Roberts, 1/8th Bn.; G. A. Lavers, 1st Kensingtons; B. A. Hardy, 1/8th Bn.; Sergt. E. Fletcher, R.D.P.

#### REGIMENTAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Below is an extract from a letter received by the Colonel of the Regiment from Major-General C. M. Maltby, who was G.O.C. Hong Kong during the siege.

It is a splendid tribute to the old 1st Battalion of the Regiment.

"Many thanks for sending me a copy of Boxer's report on the treatment and execution of Lance Newnham and his confederates [Editor: The General was referring to the late Col. Newnham.] Words fail me to express my feelings regarding those contemptuous little swine, but my admiration for Lance's bravery and steadfastness are unbounded. I can well picture him brave as he always was, and completely undaunted to the end. Without any doubt, I and quite a number of other senior officers owe our lives to his unequalled bravery under the most terrible physical suffering and mental strain.

With regard to your 1st Battalion, who were serving under me in our short and only too tragic siege of Hong Kong. They were just splendid throughout. Being Machine Gunners, they were distributed in small groups defending practically all the beaches and possible landing places of the island, and had to face enormous odds. On all occasions they fought with the utmost fortitude, taking great toll of the enemy, and practically every officer who came in contact with the N.C.O.s and men remarked on their cheerfulness and soldierly qualities. Should I ever again be in a tight corner I would ask for nothing better than to have the 1st Battalion of the Middlesex behind me. The casualties were, I am afraid, heavy. I think the Battalion must have had about 150 killed, more than that number wounded in action, while since they have been prisoners the toll through disease and drowning will, I fear, amount to another 150 or more.

A tragic total, but one thing I can say is that they contributed fully to the enemy's casualties, which I calculate to have been between 3,000 and 4,000 killed and 9,000 wounded (Chinese rumour has it that the enemy lost 10,000 killed, but that is too high a figure), and so helped to make a mess of two of their first line divisions. It is tragic to hear of "Monkey" Stewart's death. I have had no details and knew that he had survived the horrors of the "Lisbon Maru."

To mention names seems invidious, but I cannot help saying that Henry Marsh, Man, Weedon, Ewan and Graham were all splendid. It was a grand Battalion that went down with its colours flying, and may the bereaved have some comfort in the knowledge that they played their part, fully and nobly, in our vain effort to defend the furthest outpost of our Empire...

#### LIEUT.-COL. H. W. M. STEWART, O.B.E., M.C.

Lieut.-Col. Stewart, as the Senior Officer, commanding the draft of prisoners of war being transferred from Hong Kong to Japan in the

"Lisbon Maru" was in No. 2 hold of the ship at the time, the torpedo struck, i.e., at 0706 hrs. 1st October, 1942. From the moment of impact until the ship sank at 1000 hrs. on 2nd October, his behaviour and example was an inspiration to the eleven hundred men in the hold. By his calmness he was largely instrumental in preventing panic, both at the time the hold was battered down and when the ship lurched over to the port side. It was his order, timed perfectly, which resulted in the hold being forced open by Lieut. Howell, R.A.S.C., thereby saving the lives of a great many men. By his bearing and complete lack of thought for his own safety, and by his own unselfish behaviour throughout the whole episode, Colonel Stewart earned the respect and gratitude of all ranks. On arrival at Shanghai, and later in Japan, he persistently refused to think of his own personal condition, and worked continually for the wellbeing of his men at the expense of his own health, until he finally died, worn out physically by his devotion to duty. Colonel Stewart has earned the love and respect of his officers and men, and by his example has shown us how a true Die-Hard should behave in the face of danger and hardship. This tribute to their late Commanding Officer was signed by four of his officers who were with him throughout the period mentioned in their statement.

One hears the same account of his gallantry from everyone you meet who served under or with him during those tragic days. A full account of the sinking of the "Lisbon Maru" appears in Colonel Browne's News Letter, and only lack of space has prevented the Editor from including it in this number of the Journal.

#### LETTER RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR

24TH OCTOBER.

SIR,

I wish to thank everyone for the wonderful letters I have received since my return home; it's great to be here with white people, and I hope to meet you all in the near future.

My Army life is very near its end, but I can never forget the Middlesex, most of all (the old soldiers), the real Middlesex. They helped us, the younger men, in our imprisonment in hardship and sickness, never talking about their help to anyone. The Japanese could never understand after they gave us a working over for some silly mistake, when we came back into our barrack room and those who could stand would start a sing-song. The Japanese, I think, knew in the end they could never get us to give up. Maybe that is why they started gross cruelty.

I wonder when I return to civilian life if I can find men like those of the Middlesex.

Colonel Browne, I hope, is in great health. I will always remember him from my training days for his advice and help.

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

PTE. F. DYKE,

6213438, 1st Bn., Middlesex Regt.



## CASUALTY LIST

## OFFICERS

## Died

Captain H. O. C. Gudgeon, attached the Malay Regt.

Lieut. K. E. Young (1st Middlesex, Far East, missing at sea).

## Wounded

Major I. F. Campbell.  
Lieuts. D. B. Fraser, J. E. Gallop.

## OTHER RANKS

## Killed

L/Sergt. J. Shandley.  
Pte. W. G. Orlebar.

## Died as P.O.W.

Pte. L. J. Allaway.

## DECORATIONS and AWARDS

## OFFICERS

## M.C.

Majors J. W. Doyle and E. F. Thompson.  
Lieut. J. S. Mckay.

## Mention in Despatches

Cpts. M. K. Smith, C. Bromley.  
Lieuts. P. G. Baker, J. F. Hayward, G. Lea.  
Major, T/Lieut.-Col. R. T. D. Hicks.  
Major R. H. R. Hewson.

## A HISTORY OF THE 2nd BATTALION OF THE MIDDLESEX REGT. (D.C.O.)

A history of the Second Battalion during the War has been prepared, and should be a great success, and deserves to be widely read.

It is not a profit-making venture, and any profits will be given to the Middlesex Regimental Association.

The History gives details of places, photographs and plates, maps, and a complete list of the names of every man who served with the Battalion at any time between "D" Day and "V.E." Day. Your name is there if you served in the Battalion during that time.

For a copy please send a postal order or a cheque for six shillings to the Secretary, Battalion History, 2nd Bn. The Middlesex Regt. (D.C.O.), M.E.F.

You will be sent a receipt for your P.O. by return of post and the book will follow as soon as possible.

THE REMINISCENCES OF "JOHN"  
1894 — 1944

## From Redcoat to Battledress

This book, shortly to be published, is the autobiography of Capt. J. H. King, late of The Royal Corps of Signals. Capt. King also served with the 7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment from 1914 to 1919, and two or three of the chapters are devoted to his service in the Regiment. Major-General G. G. Rawson, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., in reviewing the book, said he found much interest, amusement and pleasure in reading these reminiscences of an old soldier.

Readers wishing to order this book should write to Capt. J. H. King, 28 Kingfisher Court, East Molesey, Surrey. No remittance should accompany orders until book is ready for despatch, when subscribers will be notified.

## 1st AND 8th BATTALIONS THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

## OFFICERS' DINNER CLUB

Recently it has been arranged that officers, past and present, who have served in the above Battalions during the war should form a dinner club.

It has been provisionally arranged that the dinner would be held each year; cost, place and time to be arranged later. In conjunction with this a register of members will be kept at "The Punch House," 4/7 Norris Street, Haymarket, London, S.W.1, where there are facilities for eating and drinking, and where the manager is prepared to keep the register. Officers visiting London can go there and enter up their temporary address and other details, also look up the address of officers who are members, and arrange to meet.

I hope present members will send me the address of any past member, when I will send him one of these notices.

There is no subscription to this club, and the dinner will be charged for at the time of taking place.

The Hon. Secretary is Major W. D. Ellis, 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, B.A.O.R., whose permanent address will be forwarded later, and all correspondence should be sent to him.

It is pointed out that this club is for all officers who have served in either Battalion during the war, quite regardless of their parent Regiment.

(Signed) W. D. ELLIS (Major),

1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment.

B.A.O.R.

7th November, 1945.

## SUPPORTING THE ANZIO BREAKOUT

## THE "DIEHARDS" FIRED 4,000 MORTAR BOMBS OVERNIGHT

Formed in the spring of 1939 in the post-Munich expansion of the Territorial Army, the 2/7th Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) is now a machine gun battalion with the First Division in Palestine.

Few of the original Territorials are left—only 140 men are entitled to wear the green and yellow ribbon of the Territorial Efficiency Medal—but the spirit in which the Battalion began in a North London drill hall on 24th May, 1939, has lasted through six years of war and many reorganisations.

The Battalion spent three and a half years on Home Defence duties before embarking for overseas on 16th May, 1943, the anniversary of "Albuhera Day," which commemorates the Peninsular War battle, where the Regiment earned its nickname of "Diehards." It consisted of nine companies, three each of Vickers machine guns, 4.2in. mortars, and light A.A. guns.



Shown here against a typical Palestinian background is a group of O.R.s of the 2/7th Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment. Left to right, back row: Cpl Hargreaves, Pte. Pearce, Cpl. Sherwood, Pte. Daniels. Front row: Sgt. Hibberd, C.S.M. Bachelor, Sgt. Ashton, Cpl. Oakley, Pte. McBeth.

After a few weeks in North Africa the mortar companies went in action with the 51st (Highland) Division in Sicily. Then a new weapon, the mortars, were a surprise to the Germans, who soon learned to respect the long range 20lb. bombs, which caused them numerous casualties.

After Sicily, the battalion was transferred to the 1st Division, and its next job was at Anzio, where the machine gunners went ashore at H-hour on 22nd January. The mortars followed when the bridgehead was established, and four days later the battalion was heavily involved in supporting the 24th Guards Brigade as it struck out to try and cut the road to Rome.

Sgt. V. Busolini gained the first decoration for the battalion, an immediate M.M., by stopping a counter-attack with a single machine gun after a Tiger tank had knocked out half his section.

The next few days were critical, as the Germans desperately tried to force the Allies back to the sea, and both mortars and machine guns were kept firing continuously.

On 3rd and 4th of February, when the battle was at its height, three immediate decorations were won, the M.C. for Lieut. K. R. Pickard and Lieut. E. S. Mortimer, and the M.M. for Sgt. F. Ashton.

Four days later, in pouring rain and under heavy fire from the guns which the enemy had rushed

against the beachhead, the companies were again called on to maintain a steady hail of fire against a renewed German counter-attack.

## Held Out Until Surrounded

One of the mortar platoon commanders, Lieut. D. G. Fairhead, directed the fire from his O.P. in a shell-torn house until almost surrounded.

Major R. E. Rowbotham and Major G. Jenkins were awarded immediate M.C.s in this action.

On 17th and 18th February the Germans made their final push to reach the sea, and they suffered heavy casualties from the Middlesex weapons as they tried to advance.

Lieut. W. F. Bartlett was killed after directing the fire from the top of a haystack for 30 hours, although he had been wounded earlier, and Sgt. D. Batchelor, who assisted him, received the M.M.

After the failure of this attack things quietened down, but thousands of rounds were fired to harass the enemy until the breakout from the beachhead was achieved in May as the 5th Army pushed up from the south.

## Mortars Mounted in Gardens

More than 4,000 mortar bombs were fired in the record night's shoot which supported this break-



out, and then the battalion joined in the advance to Rome, during which Capt. C. E. W. Coleman won the M.C.

After a rest in Rome, the battalion again went into action at Florence, where guns were mounted in top storey windows and mortars in little back gardens, a complete change from beachhead tactics.

Then came the difficult country of the Gothic Line, where weapons often had to be manhandled through the mountains and ammunition could only be got to them by mules or man-pack.

Heavy fire support was still given, however, one platoon alone firing 28,000 rounds from its four Vickers guns when the main attack went in.

On another occasion, when a leading infantry battalion was held up by intense fire, another platoon engaged the enemy from 3,000 yards, killing 16 Germans, dispersing the rest, and enabling the attack to proceed.

The advance through the Apennines continued until October, when the Division was moved to relieve an American formation at Monte Grande, an important feature south-east of Bologna.

Weather conditions were bad, and the routine of defensive warfare was only broken by harassing shoots and a few German counter-attacks. During one of these Lieut. F. A. Isden gained the American Bronze Star and had a curious adventure.

In an early morning mist his O.P. was surrounded, and he was captured by German paratroops. As he was being led away he managed to topple his guard over a cliff and escape in the confusion back to his own lines.

#### White Christmas in the Line

The battalion had a white Christmas in the line, and snow was still deep on the ground when the Unit left for Palestine at the end of January after a year in action with only one short break.

For gallantry in Northern Italy Major E. F. Thompson was awarded the M.C., and Pte. W. H. Daniels the M.M. Thirteen officers and men were mentioned in despatches during the campaign, during which the battalion had upheld the traditions of the Regiment, instilled into all ranks in its early days by the first Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel S. Mirams, M.C.

#### 2/7th BN., THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

The close of our last report found the Battalion stationed at Jerusalem, whither it had been moved on Internal Security Duties. All ranks settled down quickly in their new home, which was in marked contrast to the previous, being on the fringe of a town, and thus offering entertainment facilities hitherto not experienced. Apart from the normal duties carried out in connection with Internal Security, the Unit has taken part in several functions worthy of note, including a convoy drive through the streets of Jerusalem and a Parade Service at St. George's Cathedral. For this latter event the Battalion marched to and from the Cathedral behind the band of the 1st Battalion Hertfordshire Regiment. On the return march the

salute was taken by Colonel F. Shuker, T.D., Comd. Jerusalem Sub-Area.

A unique ceremony in which the Unit participated was the presentation to the Supreme Moslem Council by the British Authorities of a gun for use in connection with the feast of Ramadan. The presentation was made by Major-General J. C. D'Arcy, C.B.E., M.C., G.O.C. British troops in Palestine and Transjordan, and this Unit provided a Guard of Honour of one Officer and 20 O.R.s.

Several distinguished personages have visited the Unit during its stay at Jerusalem, among them being General Sir Bernard Paget, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C., C-in-C. in M.E.F., Major-General J. C. D'Arcy, G.O.C. Palestine, and his Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, Mr. J. B. Shaw, C.M.G. In addition, a Battalion Quarter Guard had the honour of being inspected by His Excellency The High Commissioner for Palestine, Viscount Gort, V.C., G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.V.O., M.C., during his drive to Government House after arrival in Jerusalem on return from U.K.

Another occasion, a sad one, in which the Unit took part was the funeral of Colonel F. Shuker, T.D., Comd. Jerusalem Sub-Area, who died very suddenly on 6th October. The Battalion provided a bearer party, firing party and bugler for the ceremony, which was carried out with full military honours. Colonel Shuker had been a very good friend to the Unit since its arrival under his command, and his untimely death came as a keen shock to all of us who had the privilege of knowing him.

The events chronicled above are but a few of the many happenings involving the Battalion, and it can truthfully be said that all ranks were kept very fully occupied during our stay in Jerusalem.

Turning to the lighter side, there is one incident worthy of note. When the Unit first arrived in Jerusalem a task of the first priority was the erection of a barbed wire fence round the perimeter of the camp, which is adjacent to the local golf course, in order to prevent, or at least discourage the incursion into the camp of thieves and other light-fingered gentry, for which Palestine is notorious. Every available man was put on wiring, and the fence went up with a speed which was only equalled by that at which the Golf Club secretary arrived at Battalion H.Q. to complain that the second green was very effectively wired in! The situation was eventually restored without prejudice to the military situation, and without any very noticeable dislocation of Jerusalem's daily round of golf.

In the world of sport the chief event has been the winning by the Battalion XI of the 1st Division Cricket Knock-out Competition. In a most exciting game the Battalion beat the 1st Battalion The Loyal Regiment by 26 runs. The scores were:—

2/7th Middlesex 135 (L/Cpl. Allnutt 39 n.o., Capt. Goldman 25, Cpl. Smith 17).

1st Loyals 109 (Abbott 35, Heaton 31), (Olliffe 4 for 24, L/Cpl. Joseph 3 for 33).

At the end of the game a challenge cup and individual prizes were presented by Brigadier R. N. Anderson, D.S.O. This was a most pleasant day



Back Row (L—R)—L/Cpl. Jones, Cpl. Smith, L/Cpl. Allnutt, Pte. George (scorer), Pte. Turner, Capt. E. A. W. Kyte, Sgt. Ashton.

Front Row (L—R)—Cpl. Marson, Capt. F. L. Abbott, Capt. A. J. F. Goldman (capt.), L/Cpl. Joseph, Pte. Olliffe.

2/7th Middlesex team, winners 1st Division Cricket Competition, 1945.

the game being played on a first-class ground in ideal surroundings, with both Units present in full strength. Refreshment tents were plying a brisk trade, and the installation of a wireless truck enabled the game to be described to those left in camp, and also to those who were patients in the local military hospital.

A most successful Battalion sports meeting was held at the excellent Y.M.C.A. Stadium in Jerusalem, and there was keen rivalry in all events. Several close and exciting finishes were witnessed, and the general standard of athletics can be said to be good. The inter-Company competition was won by "D" Company.

On a higher level, the Battalion team came 2nd in the 3rd Infantry Brigade sports. Although Divisional troops, the Unit took part in the Brigade competition as the Divisional competition is being run on a zone basis. The Battalion team excelled in the field events, and also won the 4 x 110 metre relay. The 2nd Battalion Sherwood Foresters, however, were masters in the other track events, and emerged winners of the competition, though not by a large margin. The zone team for the Divisional sports will be composed mainly of personnel from 2nd Foresters and ourselves.

Turning to personalities we record, with regret, the departure on release of Major G. Jenkins, M.C. (O.C. "D" Company), Major H. A. B. Claypole (O.C. "A" Company), Capt. D. E. McF. Kidd (O.C. "H.Q." Company), and R.S.M. F. Thorn. Their respective places have been taken by Major E. A. W. Kyte, Major C. P. Cooke, Capt. J. J. Hyams and R.S.M. R. Hebdon (late C.S.M. "D" Company). Capt. C. E. W. Coleman, M.C., has been succeeded as Adjutant by Capt. H. W. J. Flack. We wish those who have left us for civilian life the best of fortune, fully deserved after their long and loyal service with the Battalion.

At the moment the Battalion is busy in settling down in a new camp some 25 miles from Haifa. Our stay in Jerusalem was short but very happy. Many new friends were made there, and much useful work accomplished.

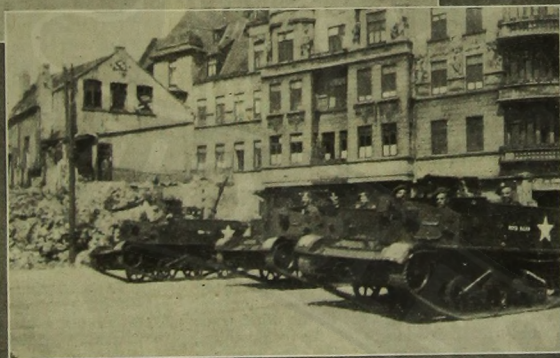
In conclusion all ranks of the Battalion join in sending greetings for Christmas and the New Year to all other members of the Regiment, past and present, wherever they may be, coupled with the wish that the not too distant future will see reunion dinners at home replacing news-letters from overseas.



## NEWS FROM THE BATTALIONS AND OTHER UNITS OF THE REGIMENT

Through an unfortunate error in the September number of this publication, a photograph of the 175th Field Ambulance was shown as the 1/7th Middlesex marching past at BREMERHAVEN on

the 12th May, 1945, in the victory celebration. The Editor apologises to the Battalion concerned for this mistake, and shows below three photographs of the 1/7th Middlesex on parade that day.



## 1st BATTALION NEWS

The 1st Battalion is concentrated in Lübeck, with one small detachment, changed every ten days or so, manning a frontier post on the Anglo-Russian boundary. We are comfortably installed in requisitioned billets in what was once one of the better residential quarters of the town on the south-eastern outskirts. In addition to usual offices and living quarters we have separate Messes for the Officers, Sergeants and Corporals, and a Club for the Privates, the Albuhera Club. There is a large central Mess and a house rather inappropriately shared between Guard and Detention rooms, and the Unit Education Centre. With leave personnel away and diminishing members owing to demobilisation, we have plenty of room to spread ourselves. On the other hand, adequate heating for so many buildings in the coming winter on the strictly limited fuel allowance will not be possible, and a considerable effort is being made by all Companies and Departments to supplement the ration with logs.

Our commitments consist of the Frontier post already mentioned, and sundry guards supplied to different H.Q.s and other V.P.s from time to time. Escorts to different trains have been provided, and there is constant patrolling to discourage crime. These commitments keep everyone fairly busy. The Frontier post is manned by a detachment of about 40 men under an Officer or W.O. There is quite a lot of activity on the main road through the barrier, and patrolling is carried out to check illegal passage across the border in both directions. There have been a few shooting affairs, but the majority of line-crossers are willing to obey shouted orders, backed by the show of a rifle. The Russian post opposite ours stands back around a bend in the road, and consists of a massive red archway well decorated with pictures of Stalin, Lenin, and other Soviet heroes. Not to be outdone, our post flies the Union Jack and the Regimental flag, and in front of the guard room facing the road is a Middlesex badge, worked in coloured gravel.

The remainder of our time is divided between training, education, sport and private amusements. Cadres and courses take many men away from the Unit, some to train for civvy street again, others to train as replacements for those shortly to be demobbed. Education is hampered by the interference of duties and leave; but no one would give up leave for education!

The Battalion's reputation for sport continues to be upheld in every direction. The 1st XI has only lost one match this season, the first defeat for more than two years. Fortunately this has not upset them. Cpl. L. Compton is still the star of the team, but he is well supported by the veterans of two seasons. Sgt. Bennett ("B" Company) is the leading goal scorer in the League with 11 goals to his credit. Cpl. Compton has temporarily been detached from the Unit to the B.A.O.R. Training Centre to take part in a series of matches against teams from England. He, L/Sgt. Barley ("A" Company), Cpl. Budding ("D" Company) and L/Cpl. Dickie ("A" Company) played in the Divisional side in a match against 51st Division, whilst Sgt. Bennett was reserve for the same game.

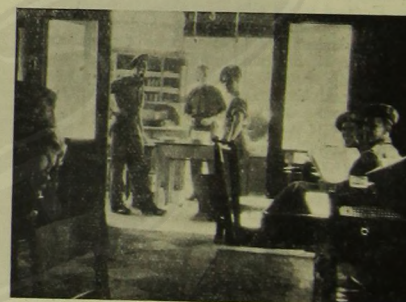
In addition to the 1st XI league there are two minor leagues in the area, and the Battalion is favourably placed in each of them.



C.O.'s inspection of "C" Company, 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment.



"D" Company, 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment, Guard Mounting at 227th Brigade H.Q.



The Albuhera Club of the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment.

Capt. Anderson (R.A.M.C.) and Pte. Johns ("B" Company) are playing for the Divisional side at Rugby, and a useful side is being built up in the Battalion. Capt. Klitz has been invited to





1st Battalion Soccer XI.

play in a Corps trial at hockey, and the Battalion hockey team (managed by Capt. Euren until his demob.) has only lost one game this season to a very strong Corps team, which then proceeded to Copenhagen. The Cross-Country runners under Capt. Gerrard swept all before them in the Brigade run, filling the first seven places and scoring 112 to their opponents 256. No account of sport would be complete without mention of Capt. Bayman, who is asked to play for a Battalion side in every type of sport, or of Capt. Delaney, who is missing only from the cross-country running.

We have had two very welcome visits of a social and sporting nature. Early in October a party of all ranks from the 8th Battalion came up for a weekend of sport, and at the end of the month the 1/7th sent a representative party over for the day. We held our own in all sports against these friendly rivals.

Around the Companies the story is mainly one of departures, promotions, and inter-Company rivalry in sports.

"A" Company are well represented in all Battalion sides. In the Baker Cup they finished third, after making a strong early bid to head the table. In basket ball, which has proved very popular in the Battalion, the two Company teams lie fourth and fifth.

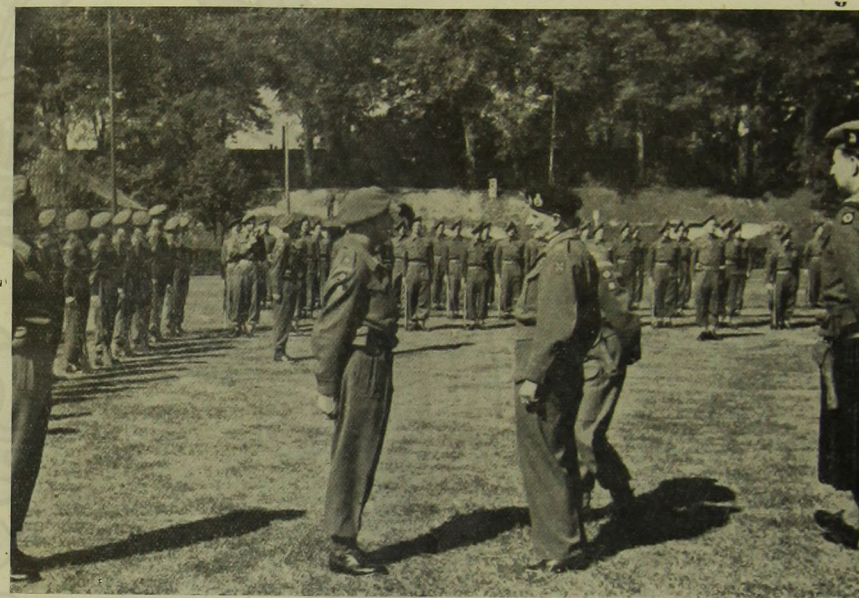
C.S.M. Gould, ex-"B" Company, has replaced C.S.M. Cree, demobbed, and C/Sgt. Mackenzie has replaced C/Sgt. Baldwin ("Badger"). Sgt. Brisley, Cpl. Foster and Pte. Roberts have all retired to civvy street.

In "B" Company Capt. Luck has taken over as 2nd i/c from Capt. Cummins on the latter's appointment as Adjutant. He has C/Sgt. Mansfield as C.Q.M.S. in place of C/Sgt. Hyslop, who has been released.

"C" Company has seen many changes. Major Crump and Pte. Burnett to civvy street. Capt. Delaney is now 2nd i/c, and Sgt. Duffey from "A" Company has become C.S.M. Major Redman, O.C. Company, was lucky enough to fill a vacancy on a two-month course at the American Forces University at Biarritz. Lieut. Bilney has joined the Company from Battalion H.Q. The Company is well represented in all Battalion sides, but has not succeeded in winning any of the inter-Company events for itself.

"D" Company has seen many changes. Major Sword, M.C., has become 2 i/c to the Battalion, and has been succeeded by Major Townend, who for a short time had been doing Adjutant. Lieuts. Harding and Harbour have both been promoted Captain, and are now Battalion Signals Officer and I.O. respectively. Capt. Meldon returned to the Company from Battalion H.Q. for a brief spell, but has now been posted to 7th Armoured Division as G.S.O.3. Sgt. Roy, Sgt. Emerson and L/Sgt. King have left the Company for civvy street.

In the sports world the Company have won the Baker Cup after a series of well-fought games. They also head the Basket Ball League with one team, but their second team has not risen above half way.



C-in-C's inspection of the 1st Battalion last July.

"H.Q." Company have been strong rivals to "D" Company in all sports throughout the season. They finished second in the Baker Cup, three points behind, and are lying only one point behind in the Basket Ball League with their first team. C.S.M. I. Sheppard is the leading light in all their teams, ably supported by C.S.M. Chenery, Pte. Bayliss, and others. Pte. Bayliss has now returned to civvy street with, amongst others, C.S.M. Broughton, Sgt. Reynolds and Sgt. Stockwell.

Lieut. Mason has received a well-deserved captaincy, and continues to run the P.R.I. and all the O.R. Messes and Clubs. In the Sergeants' Mess "A" Company won the Darts League, and L/Sgt. Barley won the individual tournament. A challenge to the Officers at table tennis and darts proved rather disastrous to the Sergeants, who lost 19 games to 6.

Major Heywood is a close neighbour in the town here, and occasionally plays for the Battalion at hockey in friendly matches. Lieut. Martin has all but left us to work with the Military Government. Lieut. Coulson is now responsible for all welfare in the Lübeck area, looking after all needs from drink and entertainment to photography and tailoring. Lieut. Jupp is now S.O.P.T. for the Hamburg District, and still an occasional visitor to the Battalion.

In conclusion, all ranks of the Battalion send their best wishes for the coming year to all members of the Regiment, wherever they may be, and to all ex-members of the Battalion now starting on their first year in civilian status. Good Luck and Good Hunting!

## 2nd BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

September to December, 1945

After the 2nd Battalion's move from Germany to Belgium in the middle of August, barely two more months were to be spent in Europe. Rumours of a move to the Middle East grew into reality, and it soon became common knowledge that the Battalion was going to Egypt—without leave before it went.

The two months at Iseghem in Belgium included a little football, short leave to Blankenberg, the beginning of an extensive education scheme under Capt. O'Brien, several W.T. cadres, and an occasional route march. Capt. Pilley arrived as our new Q.M., but before the move out East his place was taken by Capt. W. Raindle. The Battalion also supplied a training team of Officers and N.C.O.s under Major McLean, who departed for a short time to the 51st Belgian Fusiliers Battalion.

An intended move to Bruges was cancelled, and on 1st October the Battalion Advance Party, under Major H. M. F. Langley, set off for the Middle East by air. The main body spent many feverish days handing in G. 1098 stores and vehicles, and striving to make the weight of essential kit comply with regulations. Then we learnt at last that our route was to be by Medloc and not by air. On 10th October "D" Company and a part of "C" Company set off for Toulon via Ghent and Dieppe.



On 12th October the remainder of the Battalion followed. The journey through France was a long one and very cramped. It necessitated two nights on the train, but during the daytime we were at least able to see some of the very fine scenery in the centre of France.

At Toulon the Battalion was united again, and after forty-eight hours at a Transit Camp here embarked on the troopship S.S. "Batory." Living conditions aboard were good on the whole, and the Battalion enjoyed a very fine cruise from Toulon to Alexandria. The weather was excellent, and the sea extremely smooth. Sunbathing was the order of the day.

And now in Egypt the Battalion is sorting itself out at Tahag, drawing up stores and issuing kit preparatory to our final move to Geneifa. The business of getting sunburnt continues under the fatherly gaze of those who have been here before. Warnings have been issued against mosquitoes who pursue us, and Wogs who pursue our belongings. Otherwise it is early yet to write of this new field of activity for the Battalion. But on the whole the indications are good.

#### "A" COMPANY

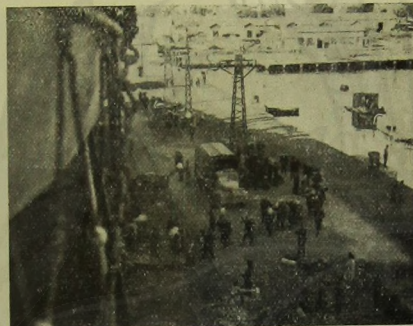
We are glad to have this chance to send greeting to all "A" Company ("It—wasn't—an—easy—beach") old comrades. Good luck to you all wherever you are! Think of us in the desert, showing a lot of pink ugly knees as we wear our new K.D. (Wot! No leave? Mind my camel.) The Company has changed a lot since we left Germany to reorganise. What is "A" Company without HOLY JOE, without that spectacled, talkative C.Q.M.S., without three score other familiar faces—real characters, all of them! And what is "A" Company without Canuck platoon commanders and big weekly parcels from Canada? "Bram" at long last has managed to get a job as an interpreter. And we wish Major Hewitt the best of luck at the Staff College, Camberley.

There are still many familiar faces, especially among Carrier Drivers, and the 2 Platoon clique is still going strong. Jimmy Mason, representing the football aristocracy has left 1 Platoon for Company H.Q. Schwartz and Wiltshire still do Flotsam and Jetsam in the stores. "Chip," now a P.L.C., still cuts hair in the intervals of looking after 3 Platoon carriers. Cpl. Burdett now rules supreme among the pay chits and 1483's. Sgt. Mann, Mescus and Sale signed on, but Mescus got knocked into a ditch by one of those fine careful Belgian drivers, and is languishing in plaster of Paris—that's what you get for signing on.

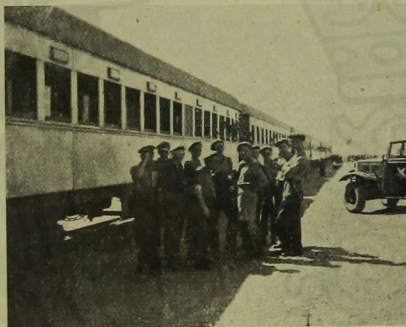
We welcome the newcomers, chiefly ex-highway decorators. They joined us under not very ideal conditions, but we are settling down now and they are turning up trumps—why, only the other day one of them turned up lots of trumps on the S.S. "Batory" coming over the blue, blue waters of the Mediterranean. Who wants to exchange French francs into piastres?

#### "B" COMPANY

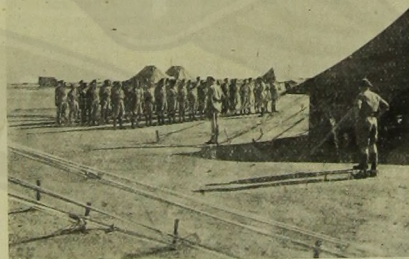
This month has proved to be a busy and most interesting one for "B" Company as for the



The 2nd Battalion embark at Toulon for the M.E.  
16th October, 1945.



The first few minutes of 2nd Battalion's arrival at  
Qassasin, Egypt. 22nd October, 1945.



2nd Middlesex on parade at Tahag, Egypt,  
October, 1945.

rest of the Battalion. The news of all leave being cancelled came as an unpleasant blow, but everyone soon became resigned to this fact and our thoughts were largely taken up with the impending move at the middle of the month to Egypt.

Capt. Binney, the Company 2 i/c, had more trouble with a broken arm, and had to have another spell in hospital, which it is understood he put to good use, but he was fortunately able to rejoin the Company in time, although his arm was still in plaster for the journey.

Several members of the old "B" Company left at the beginning of the month, including the O.C. Company, Major C. A. Gatehouse, M.C., who was most unfortunate in contracting yellow jaundice a few days before he was due for release. We left him in hospital in Belgium feeling rather grieved with life.

C.S.M. Jessop was also demobilised, but didn't seem awfully keen on this because he missed the ship he was due to sail on, and returned to the Company for another day. Sgt. West also returned to civilian life.

After a journey by train and ship we disembarked at Alexandria, and then came a most amazing trip in a quite reasonable train to a desert camp at Qassasin. For many it was the first encounter with the "Wogs," who showed astonishing tenacity and dishonesty in hawking their wares. It may be recorded here that those "fleece" included the O.C. Company, but it was a lesson well learned and will not be repeated.

The whole journey went extremely smoothly, and the only casualty was Pte. Dann, who contracted yellow jaundice on board ship. Everyone settled down very quickly to the new conditions, and the Company looks considerably smarter in its new issue of K.D. than it did in the old, rather battered, suits of B.D.

The Middle East appears to be better equipped as far as welfare items are concerned, than was the B.A.O.R., and we are expecting to get well organised as soon as we reach our final area at Geneifa. Generally speaking, everyone seems well satisfied with the change, except for the eternal question of leave to the U.K., and I think we should have a very pleasant time here once we settle in.

#### "C" COMPANY

During the month of October the Company was solely concerned with disposal of accumulated kit to enable all ranks to travel by air weighing a maximum of 250 lbs.

All equipment and vehicles were thoroughly overhauled ready for return to Ordnance. We had by now lost all our early release groups up to 26. Our replacements came from the 8th Battalion.

C.S.M. Fegan left for Chester prior to dispatch to the Heavy Arms School. In his place we welcome C.S.M. Donovan, who has served in both the 1st and 2nd Battalions; latterly he has been with the Royal Fusiliers.

Release Group 13 left us on 6th September, and we said goodbye to such veterans as Sgts. Durkin and Folley, Cpl. Prior, and Ptes. Cosgrove and Lewin. Sgt. Folley has since been seen in London, and is doing well. Cpl. Prior, after a short holiday by the sea, is starting work in Sittingbourne.

Sgt. Stillwell has left us after two years as Company Clerk, a duty which he performed most efficiently and to which we owe him many thanks. Cpl. Wear has now taken his place, a man of some reputation in the Technical Adjutant's office.

Sgt. Weller left us to take over duties of R.S.M., in which capacity we wish him all the best, as we do to R.Q.M.S. Etheridge, late C.Q.M.S. of this Company.

Sgt. Boyle, of the A.P.T.C., joined us on the 28th October, 1945, and he finds a very young Battalion with plenty of good material.

The weeks prior to entraining were taken up with education, drill and P.T. The Company left Iseghem with empty pockets and mixed feelings as to the future. The journey to the Middle East, periods of which were not too comfortable, was nevertheless interesting, taking us to Dieppe, Toulon, Malta and Alexandria. 22nd October found us at El Qassasin. Here we commenced to refit and re-equip ourselves.

#### "D" COMPANY

The two main features of the autumn period, in common with the rest of the Battalion, have been recovery from the August re-organisation and the move to Egypt.

On 2nd September 13 Platoon took six of their carriers to Tournai to take part in the Liberation Parade there, and a detachment from the whole Company made a similar contribution to the Iseghem parade a fortnight later.

Towards the end of our stay in Iseghem a number of Company dances were organised. "D" Company's was the first of these, and was held on 28th September, a few days after we had been told that we were going east. The highlight of the evening was the appearance of a realistic "Wog," beneath whose flowing robes and beard Pte. Chipperfield could be discovered with some difficulty. Equally startling were two extremely fast ultra-western "pieces" — "Miss" Attridge and "Miss" Crisp, also of 13 Platoon.

At very short notice "D" Company was sent off to Toulon via Ghent and Dieppe on 9th October, two days ahead of the rest of the Battalion, to fill some vacant space in another Unit's train. We reached Dieppe about 5.30 p.m. on the 10th, spent the night there (apart from our baggage party, which went straight on), left the following day at 9 p.m., and arrived at Toulon about noon on the 13th. There we were rejoined by the remainder of the Battalion.

There have been several departures from the Company. Of these, Sgts. Brown and Pretty have left for Class "A" release, while Cpls. Gunn, Francis, Swaine and Whitbread remained behind when we left Belgium, being in 26 Group or under, and therefore not eligible for M.E. service. Sgt. Forgan was posted to 21st Army Group Training Centre in Belgium, and Ptes. Bennett and Easton, both A.C.C., left us for Divisional H.Q. L/Cpl. James and Pte. Bowery were left behind in hospital. L/Cpl. Newton is in hospital at Alexandria.

#### "H.Q." COMPANY

Towards the end of September our pleasant sojourn at Iseghem was rudely terminated. Boxes



were packed, stores were handed in and, on the 1st October, our advance party left by plane for Egypt.

"Farewell dances" were held on the 7th and 10th October. They included several heavily escorted W.A.A.F. guests, and were a great success.

We said goodbye to many old comrades. C/Sgt. Jarvis and L/Cpl. Goddard left for "civvy street" on the 22nd. C.S.M. Manley (replaced by C.S.M. Taylor) and Sgt. Passfield went out with Groups 17 and 18. Capt. Carre was appointed O.C. H.Q. Company, No. 2 Release Embarkation Camp, and was accompanied by Pte. Fryer. Sgts. Hailey and Baker remained behind with the "House-keeping Party."

Some progress has been made at Iseghem towards implementing the Army Education Scheme, but plans were disrupted with the move, and it seems that the role of this Division has deprived many troops in the lower age groups of many benefits enjoyed by other more static Units.

On the 11th October the Company set out from Iseghem, amid cheers and tears, for Ghent prior to entraining for the arduous journey to Toulon the next day, via Dieppe. On the station entertainment was provided by Major H. B. Neve, Capt. C. A. Amoree and Capt. C. E. Watson-Taylor, who came to bid us farewell, as did a party of W.A.A.F.s.

After an extremely uncomfortable rail journey we rested at Toulon for two days, and refreshed ourselves by bathing in the blue Mediterranean. A Polish Transatlantic liner conveyed us across the ocean to Alexandria via Malta. The accommodation was excellent, and everyone enjoyed the trip.

#### 8th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

We arrived in the pleasant little town of Luchow, not far from the Elbe, last June. Since then we have settled down to the further period of exile, short for some, protracted for others, to which we must resign ourselves. Already the Battalion has lost some of its oldest and most valued members to "civvy street," including Major M. C. D. King, M.C., Capt. A. L. Page and R.Q.M.S. Woodall. Others have been posted away, one large draft going to the 2nd Battalion.

With order returning to Germany—we are not likely to forget the extraordinary conditions of last May and June—our operational activities have grown less, though they still exist. But much of our role consists of being prepared to do something, rather than doing it, and we can give quite a lot of time to recreation, welfare and education. The first two are dealt with under their headings below. As regards the latter, the Army Education Scheme for the pre-release period is being fully implemented, and the man about to be released has a very wide choice of trades and subjects which he can study or practice either within the Unit or at the various formation colleges open to us.

#### Welfare

During the Summer months the Battalion has had the use of an open-air swimming pool and Country Club.

The latter, situated in pleasant surroundings on the banks of the Elbe, proved a popular place with all ranks. The facilities of the club included boating, swimming and fishing, with the usual team games by the riverside. The club is staffed by Polish D.P.s, who worked very well and undoubtedly added to the popularity of the place.

In Luchow the Battalion is quite well off for entertainment. On an average we have three different films shown every week, and one German concert party. Much trouble has been taken to make the theatre attractive, and it is now well equipped with lighting and sound appliances.

The biggest asset in the Battalion is the formation of our own Dance Band, which has grown to 14 members, and is proving very popular with our own and neighbouring Units. We have been asked to broadcast the band from Hamburg, and look forward to this engagement eagerly. We are fortunate, indeed, to have these musicians in our ranks, as this band provides an excellent basis for our entertainment activities.

The Battalion pub, "The Pepperpot Arms," is well attended most evenings. Beer costs 3d. a half pint, and facilities exist for darts, table tennis, etc. Twice a week the German orchestra plays in the pub, and a Tombola is held weekly.

We have been promised a static W.V.S. canteen in the town, and have just acquired the use of the local hospital (now closed) for this purpose. When we have got this place started we shall use its excellent hall and stage for dancing instead of our theatre, which serves two purposes at the moment.

#### SPORTS ACTIVITIES

##### Cricket

After a late start in the season owing to the difficulty of finding a suitable ground, we eventually settled down to a successful season culminating in the winning of the 43rd Divisional Championship.

The first match of the season played on 4th August against 10th Medium Regiment, R.A., ended sensationally in a tie; from the beginning we went on to win seven of our matches, losing only four.

Largely contributing to this year's satisfactory season was the enthusiasm and hard work of Capt. J. H. L. Pennock, Officer i/c Cricket, and to the inspiring leadership and batting of the skipper, our Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Col. E. J. Unwin. In eight innings he scored 294 runs for an average of 42. From his bat came the only century of the season, 103 not out against 43rd Division R.E.M.E.

Colonel Unwin also leads the team's bowling averages, taking 23 wickets for 129.

Steady and able support was given by Pte. Thom, who leads the batting list with an average of 50. Cpl. Smith, Sgt. Carlier and Pte. Eve also batted consistently throughout the season.

In the attack, Pte. Richardson, fast opening bowler, and Pte. Redmayne, with his slow left-hand spinners, were an effective combination.

The season ended with an exciting victory over the 112th Field Regiment, which brought to the Battalion the Divisional Cricket Championship Shield. This match, although taking place in early October, was played in excellent weather.



Back Row (L—R)—Pte. N. Redmayne, Sgt. H. A. Carlier, Pte. S. Weathersley, Pte. D. C. Thom, Pte. A. Ashall, Cpl. S. Smith.

Front Row (L—R)—Pte. A. E. Eve, Capt. J. H. L. Pennock, Capt. F. T. C. Finucane, Lieut.-Col. E. J. Unwin, Major N. G. Gilbert, Pte. H. Richardson, Pte. J. E. Tomlinson.

On the first afternoon 112th Field Regiment won the toss, opened the batting, taking the whole afternoon to score 107 runs against steady bowling.

We opened rather disastrously with the loss of two quick wickets, but a good stand by Colonel Unwin and Sgt. Carlier retrieved the situation. By lunch the Battalion was all out for 153.

112th Field Regiment, in their second innings, scored 126, leaving the Battalion 81 runs to win the match.

After being well on top with 65 for 5, we suddenly found ourselves wanting one run to win with one wicket to fall. The winning hit was a glorious sweep to the boundary by Pte. Thom.

The Divisional Commander, in presenting the shield to Colonel Unwin, said he had never seen a more exciting finish to a cricket match.

Tabulated detailed scores and averages were as follows:—

Played 12, won 7, lost 4, tied 1.  
Winners of Division Knock-out Competition:—  
2nd Round.—5th D.C.L.I. 26, 8th Middlesex 71 for 6, won by 4 wickets.

3rd Round.—8th Middlesex 152 for 7 dec., 43rd Division R.E.M.E. 85; won by 67 runs.

4th Round.—121st Medium Regiment, R.A. 105, 8th Middlesex 111 for 8; won by 5 wickets.

Semi-final.—2nd Somerset 42, 8th Middlesex 137 for 9; won by 8 wickets.

Final.—112th Field Regiment; 1st innings, 107; 2nd innings, 126 (Lieut.-Col. Unwin, 6 for 32). 8th Middlesex: 1st innings, 153 (Lieut.-Col. Unwin 53); 2nd innings, 93 for 9. Won by one wicket.

Averages for Season.—To qualify 5 innings.

Name	No. of Times High- inn- not est Total ings out score runs	Av.
Pte. Thom	6 4 33 100	50.00
Lieut.-Col. Unwin	8 1 103 294	42.00
Cpl. Smith	5 1 34 94	23.50
Pte. Eve	10 2 34 112	14.00
Sgt. Carlier	10 — 33 117	11.70
Major Gilbert	8 — 29 68	8.50
Capt. Pennock	8 1 23 59	8.42
Capt. Finucane	7 1 16 49	8.16
Pte. Weatherley	6 1 24 27	5.40
Pte. Richardson	8 — 14 43	5.37
Sgt. H. Warr, M.M.	5 — 13 16	3.20
Pte. Tomlinson	5 1 4 8	2.00

Bowling.—To qualify 10 wickets.

Name	O.	M.	R.	W.	Av.
Lieut.-Col. Unwin	55	7	129	23	5.60
Pte. Redmayne	22	2	91	12	7.50
Pte. Richardson	62	9	207	23	9.00
Pte. Tomlinson	42	3	168	11	15.27



## Athletics

The athletic activities of the Battalion commenced with rather a setback in the large draft that was posted to the 2nd Battalion in early August.

Notwithstanding this, we entered a team in the Divisional Championship. In the 214th Brigade Eliminating Contest of the Championship we won six out of 12 events, and were the winning Battalion. In the Divisional Finals, Lieut. Mephram won the 120 yards hurdles, Pte. Griffin finishing second in the 800 metres.

We are proposing to enter a team in the forthcoming Divisional Cross Country Championship, which takes place in November.

## Swimming

Although no swimming pool was available in Luchow, the Battalion pioneers, under the direction of the Quartermaster, Capt. L. T. Honeybun, soon produced one in the local river. Here in early July the Battalion Swimming Championships were held.

In late July we entered a team for the 1st Worcesters' Swimming Championships, and carried off all the open events.

In late September the Battalion team, consisting of Ptes. Spiller, Short, Steele and Hatchett, won the inter-Unit relay race in the 214th Brigade Swimming Championships, Cpl. Murray winning the open diving.

In the Divisional Championship we were beaten into second place by the 4th Dorsets in a thrilling race.

## Boxing

The Battalion team at the time of going to press are already in training and, as holders of the Divisional Boxing Championship, are confident of repeating last year's performance.

A gymnasium has been obtained in the town for training purposes, and a boxing ring erected.

## Association Football

It is a little premature to write much of the activities of the Battalion team, although they have played several games with outstanding success. Two reverses, however, were met, one at the hands of the 51st Reconnaissance Regiment early in the season, and latterly on our visit to the 1st Battalion. On the occasion of the game with the last-named two of our stars were missing from the centre, namely, Brown and Phipps, which may have had some material effect on the remainder, who appeared to try to play as individualists rather than a team. In spite of this though, it was an excellent game, and we congratulate the 1st Battalion team on their efforts.

In the near future we hope we shall see the return match played on our own ground, when we intend to retrieve our loss. So, Capt. Les Delaney, keep your "boys" in trim.

Popularity in other football spheres at the moment rest on a six-a-side inter-Platoon knockout, and apart from a great number of exclamation marks, such as "Viel Arbeit," etc., has managed to turn out in shorts and boots many of the lesser known exponents of the sport.

## RUGBY

At the time of going to press no matches have been played, although several practices have been held. But a good fixture list has already been obtained.

We are anticipating a really good season, and we hear on the best authority that all the teams on our present fixture list are so busy detailing their out-rides to mark Colonel Unwin, that we are hoping perhaps one of our lesser lights will occasionally have a chance to nip through the defence.

## 1st BATTALION PRINCESS LOUISE'S KENSINGTON REGIMENT

The Battalion has once more become split up with the departure of "B" and "D" Groups to garrison smaller towns some 15-20 miles away. The area under control of the Battalion is larger than ever before, and we are now faced with an ever-dwindling fighting strength owing to L.I.A.P., releases, and extra regimental duties which we have to provide. There are several hundred men from the Battalion wallowing in 28 days' leave in England alone at the time of writing, so it can be well understood that our activities are almost entirely confined to maintaining the "occupational facade."

The lifting of the "frat" ban has offered the opportunity of organising an occasional dance, which has helped to relieve the tedium throughout the past months when E.N.S.A. shows and other entertainment facilities have become almost non-existent.

There are one or two interesting "flashes" to report. After a short whirlwind campaign, in which even 8th Army L.I.A.P. trucks were stopped and robbed, we have raised the astonishing total of over £530 to send to the "Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street." Guessing competitions, raffles, auctions, and well-organised collections trapped and fleeced practically every man in khaki in Austria.

"Security" checks have been carried out at regular intervals, and as the result of one mammoth drive in Spital area over 300 arrests were made, including the capture of ten S.S. men all disguised in "sheep's clothing." In this way we hope to keep the "Were/wolf from the door."

A gigantic Battalion Rifle Shooting Competition was organised. The average marksmanship was really good, and the championship was won by "D" Group, for whom Sergt. H. Griffiths returned the best individual score.

By far the most exacting and insistent task for the past month has been the provision of fuel. Every man available in the Battalion has been wielding an axe daily, with the result that sharp inroads have been made into the odd million trees in the immediate vicinity. When we have cut enough for ourselves, then any surplus that we can raise will go to help the Austrians in Vienna. One officer, professing to be the complete "lumber-jack," is reputed to bawl "TIMBER" at odd

moments, but invariably about ten minutes after the tree has been felled.

The biggest event to date really has been the arrival of Lieut.-Col. J. B. Worton to take over command of the Battalion a few days after Lieut.-Col. B. L. Bryar had left. He was subjected to the rigours of the current transcontinental railway journey for about a week before finally reaching SPITTAL, but he is now completely orientated to our occupational existence. Major A. E. B. Foxwell has become Battalion 2nd in command, and is perspiring freely with the question of deferred release for Group 21 being raised. Major R. D. Hutchings took over command of "D" Group, and promptly dashed off on L.I.A.P. with the Adjutant, Capt. G. A. Lavers, who has been replaced by Capt. C. G. Stuttard. Thus the shuffling of personnel and juggling with guards and commitments goes merrily along until our L.I.A.P.-ians' return.

The most absorbing idea at the moment about which most thought has been given is, of course, the forthcoming ski-ing. Every Group will have their own "runs" and instructors. As far as we can see bags of equipment will be available, and if any Kensington can't get around adequately on his skis by next spring it will be because he's gone home.

We feel it would not be inappropriate to sign off with a brief word about the scenery here. The sight of these enormous snow-capped mountains girdled by millions of trees with their autumnal foliage is just one of those things which words cannot describe. We have always the vision of long limpid lakes, silver waterfalls, fast-flowing streams, peaceful verdant valleys with their complement of charming villages and gay chalets. We live in a panoramic paradise which no verbal picture can portray.

We admit we are very lucky—but it is not undeserved.

## 160th M.G., O.C.T.U.

160th (M.G.) O.C.T.U., after a career lasting just over two years at Alton Towers, Staffs, has now ceased to exist as a separate entity. It has become D.(M.G.) Coy. of 163rd (Inf.) O.C.T.U. (Artists Rifles), but remains at Alton Towers.

Throughout the life of 160th O.C.T.U. there has, of course, been a strong Middlesex element on the staff, both Officers and N.C.O.s. This element still persists in "D" (M.G.) Coy., where we find Capt. Ken. Attrill (1/7 Middlesex and two Kens.), Capt. Frank Gibbs (1/7 Middlesex) and Capt. Owen Parry (2/7 Middlesex), also Sgts. R. Williams, J. Morgan, E. Weston, W. West, and Ptes. R. Clarkin and G. Probert of the 1st Battalion; Sgt. D. Gray, of the 2nd Battalion; Sgt. D. Girdler, 2/Kens., and Sgt. M. Tobin, 1/Kens.

Among recent releases was Major V. A. Thomas, M.C. (1/7), who was C.S.M. with the 2nd Battalion in the early days of the war. He has obtained a very good position with a well-known firm of public philanthropists!—an activity in which he has always been most interested—especially when his Company was stationed at Newmarket.

Sgt. A. Stone (1st Middlesex) and Sgt. E. Stebbing (2nd Middlesex) have also been released. We wish them all the best in civilian life, and hope it won't be long before we follow them!

Needless to say the Middlesex element has always taken a most prominent part in the sporting activities of the O.C.T.U., and continues to do so, Capt. Attrill being the new Sports Officer and Capt. Gibbs the Soccer Officer.

## 1st INDEPENDENT HEAVY SUPPORT COMPANY MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

The future existence of the Company was at stake when, at the end of August, 80 per cent. of the Company set off for home in a fleet of three tonners.

They were appropriately completing a journey across Europe, which had started four years ago from the FIRTH OF CLYDE, and taken them by way of SOUTH AFRICA, EGYPT, EL ALAMEIN, BENGHASI, TRIPOLI, MARETH, TUNIS, ALGERIA, and then the length of ITALY to AUSTRIA.

The remainder of the Company moved down to ITALY almost immediately after the departure of the "Main Body," where we were given the job of supplying fatigues, transport, etc., for the Welfare set-up just being established in the VERONA area.

Whilst thus employed, we waited in suspense whilst higher authority debated our future, and even as late as 30th September received a reinforcement, and wondered whether he was the first of many. He was not, and on 9th October we received the decision that the Company was to be disbanded. Some days later we were informed that all remaining personnel, amounting to some 28 all ranks, were to be posted to "C" Independent M.G. Company.

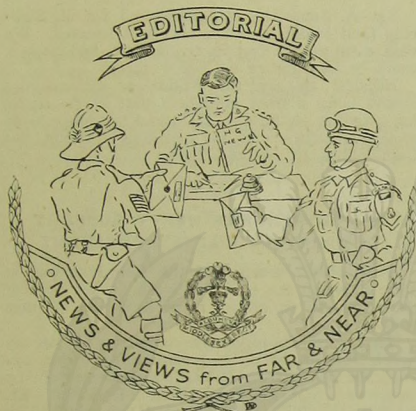
By the end of October the affairs of the Company were completely cleared up, and the Company's short existence came to an end.

It was in mid 1939 at ENFIELD, LONDON, that 48th L.A.A. BATTERY, R.A., was first raised under the auspices of the Middlesex Territorial Association. Later the same year the Battery was expanded to become 42nd L.A.A. REGIMENT, R.A., which served in A.A. Command, chiefly in the LONDON area, until 1941, when it became a three Battery Regiment (the fourth battery went to SINGAPORE as an independent L.A.A. Battery), and upon completion of its field training embarked for service overseas.

On arrival in the Middle East in early December, 1941, the Regiment, after a short period of desert training, came under command 2nd A.A. Brigade, and was employed in A.A. defence of the SUEZ CANAL zone. Later, under command 12th A.A. Brigade, the Regiment was employed in defence of forward area landing grounds, and when thus employed took part in the retreat to EL ALAMEIN in June, 1942.

The Regiment then joined 1st British Armoured Division, and fought with them from EL ALAMEIN to TUNIS. For periods when the 1st British Armoured Division was not engaged, the Regiment came under command of two other





Editor: Bt-Major G. W. Kempster.

The Editor is pleased to inform his readers that the circulation of this magazine has increased considerably, but regrets that the paper restriction still stands. In consequence he is unable to continue "The Honours on The Colours," and "The Historical development of Middlesex" series. If he did so he would have to omit a proportion of the Notes submitted by Units of the Regiment which would be grossly unfair to readers now released from service with the Colours, and to the Units themselves. For this and other reasons Lieut.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson's next instalment of "Machine Guns in the Desert" cannot appear in this number. The Editor is very sorry, but he must cut his coat according to his cloth the same as everyone else these hard times.

The attention of all readers is directed to the Regimental Association Notes in this number. All members of the Regiment are asked to co-operate in the "Social Scheme" details of which are enumerated therein. If this Scheme works, all concerned will have accomplished a grand job of work for the Regiment. It cannot, however, be properly put into operation without the assistance of all; so will you help. If you are in a position to assist please write to the Secretary of the Middlesex Regimental Association, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7, and remember that time is an important factor in the promotion of this Scheme, the furtherance of which will mean that many past members of the Regiment will be able to meet again and continue associations made when they served and maintain touch with us.

Acknowledgements this quarter are made to the Editor of the "Mid East Mail" for his courtesy in allowing us to print an account of the 2/7th Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment supporting the Anzio break out, to the Colonel of the Regiment for allowing us to quote so freely from his "news letters," and to the following contemporary regimental journals: The Suffolk Regimental Gazette, The London Scottish Regimental Gazette, The

Dragon, the Sapper, The Covenanter, The Gunner, The Tank, The R.A.O.C. Gazette, St. George Gazette, The Queen's Own Gazette, The Iron Duke, The Journal of the South Wales Borderers, The Oak Tree, The Sprig of Shillelagh, The China Dragon, The Faugh-a-Ballagh, The Journal of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, The Lion and Rose, The Borderers' Chronicle, The Eagle, and The Artifex.

#### OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES

Some progress has been made with the affairs of our Officers' Club in the past quarter.

Lieut.-Col. Sherbrooke Walker has been particularly busy in partnership with Lieut.-Col. Samuel, and it is now announced for the information of all members of the Officers' Club that the first post-war club dinner will be held in London on Friday, June 28th, 1946. Dress—uniform or lounge suit. The place, time, and further particulars will be given in the March number of this magazine, and units and past members will be circularised.

The object of this announcement is to enable those wishing to attend to book accommodation and make other necessary arrangements.

Lieut.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson, D.S.O., has agreed to take over the Cricket Week, which will be held at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, by kind permission of R.E.M.E., the present occupants. A good many cricketers have already signified their willingness to play, so we are hoping to have our "Week" in the last week in June, 1946. Further particulars will appear in the March number.

Mr. Greenshield, the Secretary of Hendon Golf Club, has just informed us that his club will be only too pleased to allow us to hold our "spring meeting" there. We are hoping to hold a two days' meeting, and again further particulars will appear in our next number.

In my last number I was apparently in error when I said that the "Serving" side had never won against the "Retired" in our annual golf battle. This is not so. Colonel Crawford pointed out that in 1938 the "Present" vanquished the "Past."

The last notes contained vague promises of better things to come, written in a spirit of optimism. These, I am glad to say, contain concrete proposals for the coming year.

#### LORD KITCHENER MEMORIAL HOLIDAY HOME

Readers are invited to subscribe to this Home, which is to give ex-Service men requiring it a free holiday. Subscriptions should be sent to the Secretary, 10, Kirkley Cliff, Lowestoft, and any further particulars can be obtained from the Editor, Die-Hards Magazine, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.