



THE DIE-HARDS

The Journal of

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)

June 1946

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THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

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THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN)

(37)

The Plume of the Prince of Wales. In each of the four corners the late Duke of Cambridge's Cypher and Coronet.
 "Myers," "Serlingapatam," "Albuhara," "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—46 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marnes, 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,"
 "Fozziers," "Ginchy," "Fiers-Courcellette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "18," "Bapaume,"
 "1917," "18," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "18," "Arleux," "Pillclem," "Langemark, 1917," "Menin Road,"
 "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre,"
 "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrück," "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," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915,"
 "Rumania," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Joridan," "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—90, Brompton Road, Knightsbridge.

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

— 47th City of London Searchlight Regiment R.A.
 — (St. Pancras) Searchlight Regiment R.A.

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., J.P.

Officer Commanding Depot:

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

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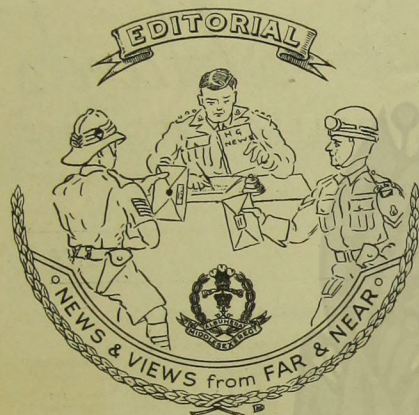
CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
EDITORIAL	146	BAND NOTES	149
COLONEL LANCERY ARTHUR NEWNHAM, M.C.	146	NEWS FROM THE BATTALIONS	150
OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES	146	1/10 BATTALION MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)	161
MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION SOCIAL SCHEME	147	LT. G. S. BLACKBAY	161
MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION NOTES	148	LETTER RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR	161
		MIDDLESEX ARMY CADET FORCE	163

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 in the Editor, "The Die-Hards" Journal, The Middlesex Regiment, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.
 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."

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

By now it must be generally known that the 2/7th, 8th, and 2nd Kensingtons have ceased to exist except in a state of suspended animation. They were unable to contribute to these pages immediately prior to their disbandment, and the sad fact remains that these splendid Battalions—which, raised for the late war, fought so well and gallantly in it—will no longer embellish these pages with accounts of their activities, and The Regiment will be the poorer for their loss.

Their memory will live for ever, however, in the annals of The Regiment. A few photographs of the closing days of the 2/7th appear elsewhere in this number.

The loss of these three Battalions has proved a definite loss to this magazine in respect not only of their contributions to it but in circulation also. We hope that our remaining Battalions will re-double their efforts and make up for this grievous loss.

His Majesty The King has approved the posthumous award of the George Cross to Colonel Lanceray Arthur Newnham, M.C., of this Regiment, and the citation is given later in the Journal. He was also graciously pleased to approve a posthumous Mention in Despatches for Lieut.-Col. H. W. M. Stewart, C.B.E., M.C., for his conduct throughout the campaign in Hong Kong and his behaviour as a prisoner of war.

We hope all readers will read the article herein about our "Social Scheme." We not only want them to read it, we also want them to give us their active support, particularly in publicising it by every means at their disposal.

We desire to acknowledge the magazines sent to us by contemporary Service Journals, and to all who have contributed to these pages.

COLONEL LANCERAY ARTHUR NEWNHAM, M.C.

Extract from *The Times*, 12th April, 1946.

Colonel Lanceray Arthur Newnham, M.C., p.s.c., born in 1889, joined The Middlesex Regiment in 1910 and during the 1914-18 war served first with the regiment and later on the staff as Brigade Major and G.S.O.II. From 1920 to 1931 he served on the staff in Egypt, on the Rhine, in Bermuda, and in the United Kingdom. He returned to the regiment abroad as second in command and was G.S.O.I, Hong-Kong, when the Japanese captured the fortress.

As a prisoner of war after the fall of Hong-Kong in 1941 he maintained a high standard of morale in the camp by his example of courage, resourcefulness, and devotion to duty. Even the bestial Japanese were unable to break his spirit after they had tortured him in the most barbaric fashion for several weeks. By his heroic behaviour and refusal to disclose to the Japanese information of value which he possessed, he has earned the following tribute from General Maltby:—"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." Having failed to extract any information from him the Japanese executed him.

He was one of the four to whom His Majesty The King approved the posthumous award of the George Cross in recognition of his most conspicuous gallantry while a prisoner of war in Japanese hands. The citation reads:—"Colonel Newnham succeeded in gaining contact with our agents early in 1943. While correspondence was being exchanged, a code being agreed upon, and suggestions for a general break out being arranged, the Japanese discovered the organisation, and on 10th July, 1943, Colonel Newnham and a number of others were arrested. He was starved, tortured, and finally brought before a Japanese court martial and sentenced to death. He was subsequently executed. In spite of his acute suffering, both physical and mental, over a period of five months, he refused to implicate any of his senior officers or connexions, thus, undoubtedly, saving their lives."

The example of his courage and fortitude will always be remembered in the Regiment whose traditions he upheld so gallantly.

OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES

Officers' Club Dinner

The demand for tickets for the Dinner on the 28th June has so far not attained the dimensions expected. At the time of writing, however, there is ample time to remedy this.

Officers' Club Golf Meeting

Very few of our members have notified the Secretary that they intend to play on the 17th of May. Still this Meeting was never well attended and nowadays many who would like to come simply cannot make it.

General Sir Brian Horrocks and General Bucknall have both written to that effect, and we know that

had they been able to leave their duties nothing would have kept them away.

Even so, enough of our old supporters are coming to make the Meeting a success.

Officers' Club Cricket Week

This Week has boiled down to a full match and a half-day match, the first against R.E.M.E. here and the other against a local side. These, like the Dinner and the Golf Meeting, will be over by the time you read these lines, but an account of all of them will appear in the September number for the benefit of those who were not able to be present.

I must mention that Lieut.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson has promised to captain the side during this "Week."

Officers' Club Subscriptions

We regret completing these notes with a grumble, but the fact is that a number of members have failed to pay their subscriptions for this year—a state of affairs we would ask them to rectify.

They have all been circularised earlier in the year, though in some cases the letters may not have reached them. We would ask them to be good enough to give this matter their early attention, if they have not already done so.

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION SOCIAL SCHEME

The Origin of the Scheme

It became obvious at the end of hostilities and the commencement of the release scheme that Middlesex men returning to civilian life would not only miss the comradeship they enjoyed while serving in The Regiment, but would look for a continuance of it in the form of an old comrades' organisation when they returned to their homes.

For the Committee of the Regimental Association responsible and anxious for meeting this need, the situation as it existed was fraught with difficulties, the chief being lack of accommodation, food, and even alcoholic beverages, without which no reunion of old comrades can be an assured success.

Six years of total war had not exactly killed the pre-war Old Comrades' organisation, but had left it—to use a modern and fashionable phrase—in a state of suspended animation.

A Sub-Committee of the Regimental Association formed to re-fashion our Old Comrades' organisation, considered that this object could 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.

This proposal was put forward as a resolution and adopted at the first General Meeting of the Middlesex Regimental Association Social Committee, a full report of which appeared in the December number of *The Die-Hards*, and which might well be studied by any of our readers interested but not as yet fully acquainted with our scheme, because the plans formulated at that meeting resulted in present progress, and will govern the future expansion we confidently anticipate.

The Scheme Worked

As a result of the enthusiasm and drive of certain retired members of The Regiment, the scheme soon commenced to operate. We will not praise them for their efforts—they might not wish it; but we shall mention them by name in order to present a clear picture of the present organisation.

It is not quite certain which Branch had the honour of opening first. Possibly it was Colonel Pringle's branch at Hornsey, or it may have been Major King's at Staines. In any case there was little in it, and both have made very definite progress. The Wednesday weekly meetings at the "Night-ingle," in Nightingale Lane, Hornsey, have been very well attended since their inception, and recently this Branch gave a most excellent dance in the Hornsey Drill Hall. They are alive to the added status the presence of ladies can bring to our organisation. At their opening meeting there was, we believe, a demand for a Ladies' Night, which has now been met. Colonel Pringle, Mr. Badham, the branch secretary, and Mr. Knight, the ex-R.S.M. of the 1/7th Battalion, are the keenest and most active supporters of the Hornsey Branch, though there are, of course, others, but whether in the course of a visit you meet the Committee or ordinary members, you will leave with a feeling that anyone who has ever worn the Middlesex badge is a welcome visitor there.

Staines is not so populous a district as Hornsey, so Major King's Branch has not been used to quite the same extent. However, at the present rate of progress the "North Star" may at some future date find itself unable to accommodate its swelling membership. Accommodation is perhaps our greatest difficulty, though we hope Major Denton, one of our strongest supporters, will alleviate it with rather more than the occasional loan of a Drill Hall for a dance.

Capt. Page, like Major King an old 8th Battalion officer, has lately been encouraged by stronger attendances at his Branch, which meets at the "Duke of Wellington," in the Staines Road. This is a first-class house capable of accommodating large numbers, if not of solving the problem which will ultimately confront us of dealing with those debarred from entry through lack of space. The Old Comrades' Association of the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment are encountering this difficulty already. However, Capt. Page would not like you to remain away on that account, and you can be sure of a warm welcome if you pay him a visit, and perhaps a glimpse of such well-known figures as Major Cox and Capt. Ward, to mention only two names.

The 8th sponsored a third Branch, which has its headquarters at Uxbridge. Here Mr. Bell and Mr. Finch act as President and Secretary respectively. Colonel J. Hall and Major Hartley also belong. One of the last branches to begin, this did not prevent them from giving an excellent and well-attended dance at the Drill Hall in Uxbridge on the 30th of March. The fortnightly meeting place is the "Railway Arms," in Vine Street.

The meetings at the Depot have up to date been very well attended, chiefly by the "regulars." This is perhaps understandable, for Mill Hill has always been a popular station with everyone, and it is true to say that many who have served there regard it not only as the home of The Regiment but their own spiritual home, too. With such a background, Major Clark, the present Depot Commander and

the oldest serving soldier in The Regiment, had little difficulty in getting away to a good start. Colonel Browne regularly attends these meetings, accompanied often by Colonel Beach, and the Secretary of the Regimental Association is, of course, a regular attendant unless he is at some other meeting. Saturday night is a popular one for social reunions.

We may say here that the Committee of the Regimental Association are giving the Social Scheme their personal support. Brigadiers Rackham and Baker, who evolved the idea of Regimental Clubs coming into their own again under the auspices of the Regimental Association, make a point of attending most of the major functions.

The 9th Battalion's Old Comrades' Association have had one big reunion gathering, and propose at the time of writing to hold a dance on Albuhera Day. The first occasion was a success even though an unusually cold night tried to interfere with it. The dance we hope will also be the success it deserves to be. It will not be Mr. Fennimore's fault if it is not, for his experience of Old Comrades and their social functions is second to none.

The Old Comrades' Association of the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment gave an excellent dance at the new Town Hall, Hammersmith, on the 12th April. This Town Hall possesses one of the largest dance floors the writer has ever seen, but it was filled to capacity.

There is no doubt whatever that their Committee and Mr. White, the Hon. Secretary, thoroughly understand the running of an Old Comrades' organisation. With their large membership they are handicapped by lack of accommodation, though this has not prevented them from throwing open their doors to all members of The Middlesex Regiment, as well as their own, a gesture we all very much appreciate.

S.-M. Bowen, who incidentally would like to be remembered to his old friends, is now in the victualling trade and expects shortly to be given the managementship of a house somewhere in the London area—perhaps even in the City. When this happens he intends to open up a further Branch, designed to cater, amongst others, for Old Comrades residing in Essex and London itself. Recently he paid a visit to the "Duke of Wellington" to study Capt. Page's methods. This preliminary reconnaissance, carried out at the suggestion of the Secretary, is desirable because it is not an easy matter operating a Branch, with its complications and difficulties, and another person's experiences can be of the greatest value to one starting a new venture.

Sometimes one hears of unofficial branches which have developed in Ealing, Stockport, and Chester, but at present one is not in a position, through lack of detailed information, to write about them. They appear to have formed themselves as some of the older clubs did after the 1914-18 war.

We must not forget to mention that the 429th Battery (9th Middlesex) have announced their intention of meeting at the "Bronsbury Arms," near Kilburn Station, on the last Friday in each month, in the evening.

That, briefly, is what we have accomplished up to date.

Will You Support Us?

If the foregoing has been of interest to you as a reader, may we ask you to support us—that is if you are not already doing so.

Should you wish to, all you have to do is visit one of the branches or write to its Secretary. Once you are in touch we feel confident you will remain so.

If you wish to help us further, would you then be good enough to inform everyone you meet in the Regiment, past or present, that if they are out of touch with Regimental activities they should write to the Secretary, The Middlesex Regimental Association, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7. If you can extract a promise from them to do the same to people in a similar position, so much the better, and perhaps by these means, by creating a snowball, we may bring our scheme to the notice of the many members of The Regiment who, in spite of our previous and considerable attempts at publicity, remain in abysmal ignorance of our efforts.

Our difficulties are many, so let us not add to them a lack of publicity. The written word in this Journal should alone be sufficient. Two thousand readers take it in and more must read it. So reach for your telephone, or pen and paper, before you forget, and give us that assistance that should make all the difference to the "scheme" and which we are confident you can and will accord us.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION NOTES

PRESENT CONSTITUTION OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

The new Committee elected after the war sat at the Middlesex Guildhall on the 15th March. The Committee as formed at present is given below:—

Colonel M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P. (President), Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C. (Chairman), The Officers Commanding all the present and past Battalions of the 1939-45 war, Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., Colonel C. P. Rooke, D.S.O., Lieut.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe, M.C., Lieut.-Col. P. H. Graves, Colonel G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., Lieut.-Col. F. Walden, Lieut.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., Major N. H. B. Lyon, M.C., C.S.M. Hastie, Mr. J. Castree, R.S.M. J. P. McFadden, Mr. J. Burnett, Mr. T. Todman, Bt. Major G. W. Kempster (Secretary).

This is a very representative Committee, every Battalion from the 1st to the 9th being represented.

The Proceedings

Colonel Browne gave up the chairmanship in favour of Brigadier Rackham, a position which he has now filled for a very long time, including the war years. On assuming the chair, Brigadier Rackham, the new Chairman, said that he wished to place on record our appreciation of the invaluable untiring services rendered by the Colonel of The Regiment to the Association throughout the war period, and that he hoped that these services would be brought to the notice of all members, whom he had little doubt would like to be associated with the tribute, and that the Committee should record their admiration to all units and ranks of The Regiment for their gallant and skilful services rendered

battle during the 1939-45 war, and throughout which they had so nobly upheld and further embellished the honour and traditions of The Regiment. The motion was carried with acclamation.

A Sub-Committee was formed to consider the form the War Memorial for the late war should take. This Committee, under the chairmanship of Colonel Beach, has a very interesting project in view, but it might be wiser to divulge the details of this scheme at a later date.

A report from the Social Sub-Committee was received, and greater publicity was called for at a meeting of this Sub-Committee and the organisers of local branches later. The article in this number is one of the steps it decided to take.

It was agreed to support the building of a Victory Club in London for the use of other ranks, to commemorate the war.

Another Sub-Committee was instituted to consider the existing rules of the Association, and the recently audited accounts were adopted.

In connection with these accounts, it was decided to earmark a certain proportion of our income to meet purely social expenses in respect of the new Social Organisation.

It was a very long meeting, at which many important matters were discussed, and it was pleasant being able to hold it in the Middlesex Guildhall, so long associated with The Regiment. The Colours of the disbanded 3rd and 4th Battalions hang there, and it was once proposed to place the Regimental Museum within its precincts, though this was not done.

Benevolence

We are still spending a lot of money on assistance, and demands on our funds are very heavy. Twenty-eight cases were assisted in February last at a cost of £124 10s. 7d., and in February £51 3s. was spent to help twelve cases. The latter month was a very light one, but March is going to be heavy (this is being written in March).

Very few cases brought to our notice are not assisted, and the trouble is that such large sums of money are required owing to the increased cost of everything these unfortunate people must have and cannot afford themselves. All the cases we help are investigated very carefully by the charitable societies we work with, and it is extremely difficult not to agree with their recommendations—we almost invariably do.

This is not an appeal, but it is a reminder that the continuance of your subscriptions and donations are aiding us in our task of alleviating the very real distress that unfortunately still exists and may, we fear, always do so.

Lack of space prevents us from acknowledging individual donations to our funds, but we take the opportunity here of thanking all those who have so generously helped us.

BAND NOTES

BAND TOUR WITH THE B.A.O.R.

The Band embarked on the "Dronning Maud" and sailed from Tilbury on 15th January to fulfil a tour of the B.A.O.R. After a smooth crossing

they landed at Ostend, but almost at once entrained for Brussels, which proved to be the starting point. Billets were provided at a Leave Hostel and they were very comfortable, as might well be imagined. The first engagement was on the morning of the 17th at the Place de la Monnaie. Having to play outside, it was, unfortunately, very cold and several of the brass "froze," and it was with difficulty that a performance was rendered, though a fair crowd were appreciative and forbearing. In the evening the Dance Band played for dancing at the 21st Club to a huge crowd. During the morning of the 18th the Military Band played to troops dining in the Montgomery Club, while in the afternoon, as a complete contrast, a concert was given to the staff and prisoners of No. 25 Military Prison. Here the Commandant proved to be Lieut.-Colonel Reddy of our own regiment, who made us most welcome, and the concert was very much appreciated.

In the evening the Dance Band was again in demand, this time at the British Officers' Club. On the 19th a visit to the British Junior Hospital included a concert and a dance. It was only a brief stay in Brussels, however, and on Sunday, the 20th, snow fell heavily and we moved to Antwerp to be billeted with the 21 A.B.W. (R.E.M.E.). On the next day two concerts were given in the Stadstheatre at Malines. The audiences were small, but were none the less pleased. On the 22nd, a call on the Dance Band, who played at the 21st Club in Antwerp with much success. Now followed a most interesting journey, and our first glimpse of Germany, for on the night of the 23rd the Band entrained at Antwerp and, passing through such famous places as Wesel, Munster, Osnabruck, Hanover and Luneberg, eventually arrived at Hamburg. From there a further journey by road saw the Band with the 1st Battalion at Lubeck, where old friends were met in Colonel Green, Major Sword and R.S.M. Marshall.

A very brief stay indeed (though very enjoyable), one which included playing at the Divisional Commander's Farewell Inspection (again the weather was bitterly cold), also at the finals of the Division boxing (which the 1st Battalion won), troops' mid-day meal (who showed their pleasure in no small manner), and at the Officers' Mess, where Major Heywood renewed acquaintanceship with us. Monday, 28th, found the Band back again at Antwerp with an evening performance at a dinner and dance at the Allied Officers' Club. The next three days were spent with concerts to the 45 R.H.U. (Malines), 106 British General Hospital, and a dance for the 21 A.B.W. Friday, 1st February, was moving day, and proceeding by road via Dunkirk (many memories of 1940 for many of the Band) arrived at Calais, being attached to the 112 Transit Camp. Most of the time here was spent in playing to the troops who were passing through, but a diversion was created when the Band played on the quayside as the ship that was bringing the first wives of our men overseas berthed, amid much excitement. The next place of call was to a seaside resort on the Belgian coast called Blankenberghe, where we arrived on the 11th, and the R.A.F. provided very comfortable billets. The opportunity was taken to enjoy the lovely sands and promenade.

During the period here, concerts were given to the Engineer Training School at Knocke, 2226 P.O.W. Camp, Zedelghem (twice), and 2224



P.O.W. Camp, Shamshuipo, Hong Kong, 1942. Camp band playing prisoners on to square for roll call

P.O.W. Camp at Jabbeke. On Sunday, 17th, the Band proceeded to the Release Embarkation Centre at Tournai for a brief stay, giving concerts to the troops in the attendant N.A.A.F.I. Then on the 20th we continued the journey onwards to Ghent, and were there attached to 38 R.H.U. in a Belgian barracks. This was a quiet period, the only playing being to 2232 P.O.W. Camp at Kraai, the 38 R.H.U., and a session by the Dance Band at H.Q. Officers' Mess. On Sunday, 24th, came the first visit to Holland, and the Band arrived at Breda and then began a somewhat hectic three days of travelling. Concerts were given as follows:—24th, U.N.R.R.A. at Haaren; 25th, troops at Nijmegen; 26th, 3rd Jewish Battalion at Eindhoven. The 27th and 28th found the Band at 113 Transit Camp at the Hook of Holland, where early morning concerts were given to troops returning from leave whilst they were awaiting trains to take them to their destinations. On Friday, 1st March, a concert was given to the Dutch people in the N.A.A.F.I. Other Renks' Club at the Hague, which was thoroughly enjoyed by a large and appreciative audience. Immediately after this a performance was given in the Officers' Club, and then came a journey back to Breda. This was a most hazardous affair of skids and slides on icy roads and a wind that blew the snow in all directions. We had two quiet days at Breda, and in the early hours of the 4th another train to catch from Tilburg, but this time only to go as far as Osnabruck. From there M.T. continued the

journey, and the Band arrived at Cuxhaven to spend a few days with the 1/7th Battalion. The time was spent in playing to the Companies at dinner time, and a band concert, also at the Officers' Mess, and at two or three dances. We met our friends in Capt. Trestain and R.S.M. Rose, and also Major Jacobs. On the 14th we commenced the journey back to the U.K. with a pleasant trip over the North Sea to Hull, and thence to Mill Hill where our interesting and valuable experience ceased.

Since these happenings the Band of the Middlesex Regiment has been informed that on the 10th June, 1946, it will have the honour of playing at Buckingham Palace on the occasion of a garden party given by Their Majesties.

1st BATTALION NEWS

Perhaps the most important event in this quarter of the year, affecting the whole Battalion, has been the change of garrison. Quite early in January the air was thick with many conflicting rumours, and camps and billets south of the Elbe were examined with gloomy foreboding. Fortunately, nothing came of these excursions and instead it was decided that the Battalion should become



Officers with G.O.C. 15(S) Division and Brigade Commander 227 (N) Brigade on conclusion of G.O.C.'s farewell parade.

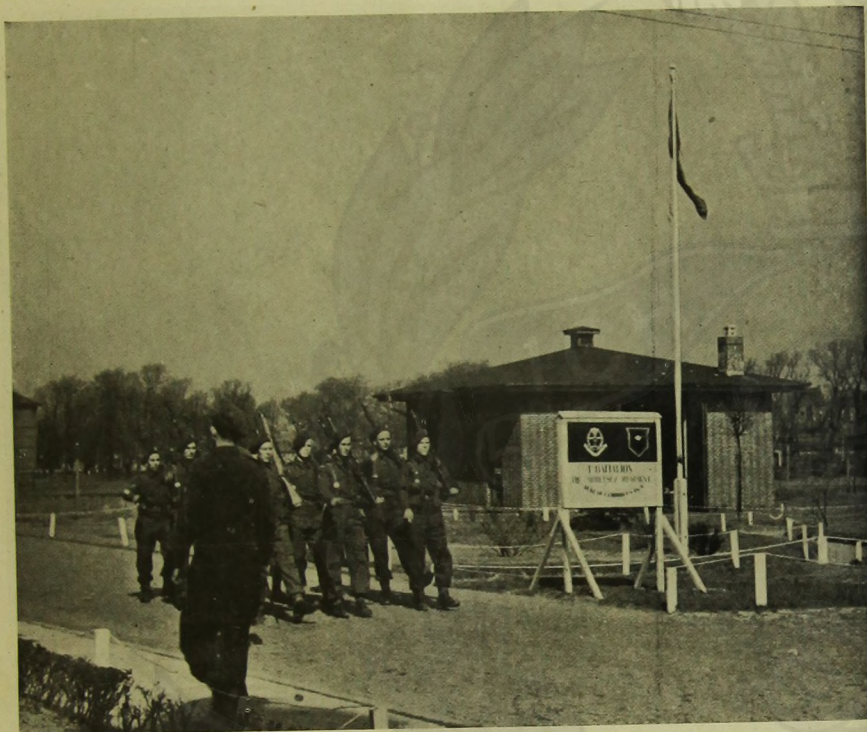
Support Battalion to the Guards Division, which by early summer was to take over 8th Corps area in Schleswig Holstein. With this in view, the Battalion was moved to Rendsburg in the first half of February, changing its homely comfortable billets in Lübeck for a rather small block of barracks in Rendsburg. The change was a great disappointment at first, as most such changes are, but it has now been possible to take over some further blocks in a more modern barracks and the Battalion is able to settle itself in more comfortably.

The town of Rendsburg is situated about half-way along the Kiel Canal, at one of the few railway and road crossings over the canal. The railway bridge dominates the town, standing as it does some 180 feet above the canal. It is gratifying to find it was built by a British firm. The road bridge is a swing bridge on canal level which as often as not seems to hold one up going south from the town. The town itself has none of the interest or pleasantness of Lübeck, although in the summer there will be easy facilities for bathing and yachting. For games there is a town ground with two football pitches, and in the barracks there is a hockey pitch (on the parade ground), a rugby pitch, and a first-class gymnasium which also serves for indoor tennis, badminton, basket ball, and an indoor cricket net. A squash court is being built inside one corner of the gymnasium. The barracks, an old German

Artillery Barracks, is complete with stables and an indoor riding school, in which, under the Commanding Officer, a series of Equitation Cadres is being run, with much amusement and keenness.

The Battalion commitments cover the whole Kreis of Rendsburg, which the Intelligence Officer maintains is the largest Kreis in Germany. Except for Rendsburg, it is a completely rural area, one of the best farming districts in the British Zone. Commitments are limited to guards on certain supply stores within the town, a task which is now shared partly with the German Police. Anti-Black Market patrols are carried out regularly under Capt. Gerrard, M.C., who has a team of German experts and C.I.D. working under him, with good results. A large number of accused have been passed to Military Government for trial. Although some trouble was feared at first, there has been very little active resistance on account of the cut in the German ration.

It is, of course, a great honour for the Battalion to become a member of the Guards Division and it will have a great example to live up to. The immediate effect has been the appearance of brass crowns and pips on the officers' shoulders and the ever-watching eye of the Guards Divisional sign has taken the place of the Red Lion of Scotland. It is with great regret that we have watched the break-up of the 15th (S.) Division, with whom we had been in close association since 1943, sharing all their for-



Outside Battalion H.Q. in Eider Barracks.

tunes and battles, in training, through the campaign and in occupation. Our friendships and rivalries were spread all over the Division, in whose record, among the best in N.W. Europe, we are proud to have had a share. The new Division, amongst whom we have already begun to make friends and rivals, are making their presence felt in Kiel on 25th April with a Victory Parade, on which a Battalion contingent will be led by Major Townend.

The Boxing Team take first honours in the sporting world. Victories over 10th H.L.I., 7th Seaforth's, and 6th K.O.S.B. made the team Divisional champions. The 8th Corps Final was successfully fought against the 1st Cheshires, putting the team in the semi-final of the B.A.O.R. Championship. The semi-final took place in Hamburg on 12th April against 5th D.C.L.I., of 30th Corps, and both teams were supported by large crowds of supporters. The Middlesex team started badly and at the interval had only won two out of six fights. After the interval, Sgt. Burke, on whom everyone's hopes were fixed, was knocked out, leaving four fights and four wins necessary for a Middlesex victory. Capt. J. Stubbs, M.C., who has been responsible for the training of the team throughout, fought next and won his fight, and his example was followed by Cpl.

Phillips, Sgt. Pople, and Pte. Wilson in the last three fights, giving us the right to fight in the final by one point. The team has been lucky to receive some first-class talent in drafts reaching us from the Kensington Regiment and the 8th Middlesex. The final is to be fought in Hanover on 26th April against the East Lancashire Regiment.

Hockey has proved a very popular and successful game this winter and spring. "B" Company won the Inter-Company League with a young team, many of whom will still be with the Battalion next season. Their play was fast and hard-hitting if somewhat unpolished, but the Company has been the mainstay of the Battalion hockey, in that it was always able to produce men to play. The Battalion side changed considerably during the season owing to releases but were still of very good standard at the end. Unfortunately, on a day when only a weak side was available, the team was knocked out of the 8th Corps Championship by 5th R.T.R.

The old soccer side has completely disappeared and we now hear news of members playing for league sides as civilians. There is much talent-spotting going on amongst the newcomers to the Battalion, and by next season a useful team should be in sight. "D" Company are in the final of the Garrison



Entrance to Eider Barracks.

Knock-out Competition, to play against an R.A.F. team. In the 5th Guards Brigade Senior League we have played four games and won three, the latest victory being over the 1st Coldstream Guards, whom we beat 11-1. The six-a-side Company League was won by "C" Company. The local German team has been played twice and honours are even. These matches always draw a big civilian crowd and feeling runs high throughout the game.

It is hoped to play cricket during the summer on one of the football pitches which is now being carefully returned, with nets for practice on the hockey pitch in the barracks. Lieut. C. Austin is in charge of cricket with L/Cpl. Ashall to assist him.

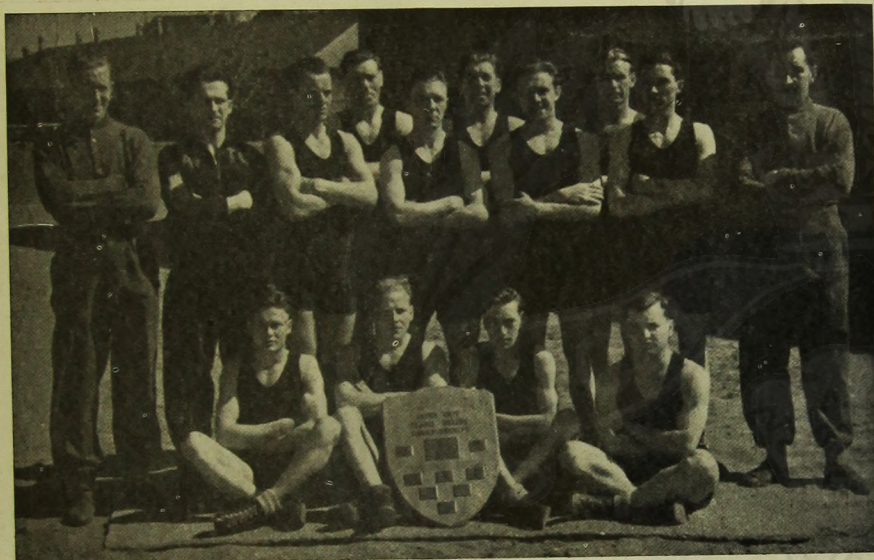
The Battalion won the Garrison Table Tennis League with one of its teams, and the second team was also high on the list.

Congratulations are due to Capt. A. Bayman on his M.C. and to Sgt. Hare on his Mention in Despatches. C-in-C's Certificates have been awarded to C/Sgt. Blackwood and Cpl. Mallandine, and G.O.C.'s Certificates to C/Sgts. Bishop and Groves, Sgts. Partridge, Tate, and Freeman, Cpls. Dickie and Breese, L/Cpl. Spurge, and Ptes. Richardson and Tankard.

Congratulations are also due to Capt. Coulson on

his marriage to a girl from Sweden whom he had the good fortune to meet during his welfare work in Lübeck. The wedding was held at the Garrison Church in Lübeck and a reception given in the Country Club at Travemünde, where the honeymoon started in the best of weather.

Many changes have taken place in the Battalion during the last three months, which have seen the largest groups go out of the Army. The list is far too long to publish in full, but amongst them were Major Ellis, of "B" Company, Major Klitz, of "H.O.," Capt. Bayman, Livemore, Mason, Jones, and Harding. Amongst the O.R.s, "A" Company have lost C.S.M. Gould, C/Sgt. Groves, Sgts. Freeman, Woods, and Hare, Cpl. Dickie, and Pte. Young. Sgt. Rolfe has handed over the M.T. of "B" Company and has joined Sgt. Jones, also well remembered for his M.T. work in "B" Company, as a civilian. "C" Company have lost Sgt. White amongst many others. "D" Company have lost C/Sgt. Bishop, Sgts. Turner and Inwood, Cpl. Breese, and other stalwarts. "H.Q." Company have lost Sgts. Brooks and Day, Cpl. Baker, and Ptes. Lawrence, Eggleton, and Tyrell. To all these and all the others who have gone without mention we wish the best of luck and prosperity as civilians. In



1st BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.) BOXING TEAM, 1945/46.
Winners 15(S) Division Inter-Unit Boxing Competition. Winners 8 Corps District Inter-Unit Boxing Competition. Runners-up in B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Boxing Competition.

their place we have welcomed the drafts from 8th Middlesex and 2nd Kensingtons. C.S.M. Fuller is now with "A" Company; C/Sgt. Shelley, Sgts. Thom, Burwell, and Buckley with "B" Company; Sgts. Landreth and Gilson with "C" Company; and Sgts. Stone, Burke, and Pople with "D" Company. In "H.Q." Sgt. Lundie is in charge of the Regimental Police, and Sgt. Macdonald with the M.T. Capt. W. Stoltenhoff and Capt. R. Archer have been attached from 54th R.H.U. since February but are now both about to be released. Capt. P. C. Barclay has taken over "B" Company on his arrival from the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers. Other new arrivals are Lieuts. J. McKenna and Holland, and 2/Lieut. B. Pielow. Major Beadnell has joined from the 8th Battalion Middlesex and has taken over command of "C" Company from Capt. L. Delaney, who now commands "H.Q." Company. More officers are still required to replace releases, and until they come officers of 28 Group are necessarily retained for further service.

EVENTIDE IN NORMANDY

Soft sways the wheat in summer's breeze.
Wafted o'er the Channel's rolling depths,
Rich comes the salt air, clean and fresh,
Travelling as a message from the seas.

The west'ring sun's last dying rays of light
Gently kiss the fleeting clouds of coming dark
Till, as racing balls of fire, they burst
In beauteous glory—heralding the night.

Then, as darkness deepens, so the moon ascends—
Cascading silver sheen across the lea,
Gliding wisps of cloud will brush his face—
He smiles on each as though they are his friends.

Soon to the south great fiery flashes rise.
The rolling boom of cannon rushes seaward.
Thor lifts high his heavy battle hammer
To strike again and blind our aching eyes.

Swift the replies on rising night winds ride—
A breath of England comes to home-filled minds.
A light from the darkness, friend meets foe
To guard the peace of Eventide.

I. F. GEORGE,
"H.Q." Company, 1st Middlesex.

Credit me not with a lordly name.
Heap upon my head no fame,
But put in my heart the gentle flame—
The flame of Love.

I want no words of flattering praise,
Nor yet another's envious gaze.
Be with me, God, through all my days—
That I may Love.

Give me a clean and honest mind.
Give me a soul to anger blind,
That I may be gentle, good and kind—
And so be Loved.



Battalion Hockey Team.

Give me the faith to banish greed.
Give me the power to sow Love's seed.
Give me these that I may lead
A life of Love.

I. F. GEORGE,
"H.Q." Company, 1st Middlesex.

WHO?

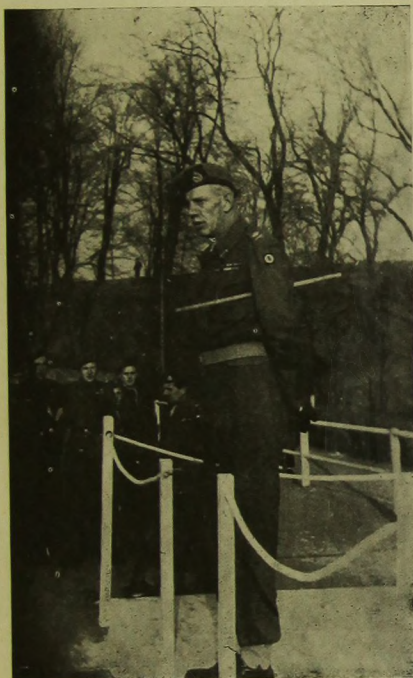
Who is the girl with the laughing eyes
As bright and blue as the summer skies?
Who is she so young and fair,
Tossing her waves of golden hair?
Who is she who runs to school
As fresh as a lily from the pool?

Pray, who is the sturdy, growing lass,
Who skips and dances o'er the grass,
While the sweet young voice, upraised in song,
Spurs on the woolly, bleating throng
Of sheep she tends? Who is she upon the moor?
Is she the girl they all adore?

Tell me, friend of the people, pray,
Who is she who weds to-day?
For whom do the gladdened peasants wait
Without the church that stands sedate
So high upon the sun-kissed hill,
Beside the splashing watermill?

Please tell me, friend of the waving corn,
By whom is the child so newly born,
Who meets this happy earth to-day
That all the folk around are gay?
Say, what is the mite who brings such joy—
Is it a girl or is it a boy?

Oh, why is the sun so dim to-day;
Has someone beloved passed away?
Why are the folk all deeply grieving so—
Is it to a funeral they go?
For whom do the tears come welling from your eyes?
Is it the girl with the laughing eyes?



Major-General C. M. Barber, C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C. 15(S) Division, saying good-bye to the Battalion on its leaving 15(S) Division to join Guards Division.

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

February-April, 1946

"From the land of milk and honey to the land of the lotus; from road blocks, day and night patrols, and eternal guards and fatigues to parading the torso around the shores of the Bitter Lake; from mud to sand. . . ." So writes one of our Company reporters, as 2nd Middlesex pays its second visit to Egypt since coming to the Middle East last October.

Our three or four months in Palestine ended at the beginning of April, and the general reaction to the return to Egypt was a feeling of relief. We had found the hills and greenery of Galilee a pleasant change after the barren sand of the Canal Zone, but, unfortunately, the general state of unrest and tension and the consequent heavy duties tended to spoil the pleasures the country had to offer. Life was, in fact, one continual round of guards, road blocks and patrols, and although we were never involved in serious trouble ourselves there was always a trying consciousness of tension and danger. And then, of course, the weather was hardly on our side. When it's fine in Palestine it's glorious;



1st Kensingtons' Farewell Parade in 78 Infantry Division, Spittal, 5th April, 1946. Major-General R. K. Arbuthnott, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. 78 Infantry Division.

when it rains, it rains and rains, and the wind usually loses no opportunity of enhancing the discomfort. It rained quite often while we were there, and we are not likely to forget the liquid mud of Jalama or the sticky clay of Ramat David, the leaking tents or the straining guy ropes.

On the brighter side, Battalion sport flourished in Palestine. Under Major Clayden's energetic leadership soccer, rugby, hockey, boxing and cross-country running were all indulged in enthusiastically. Our soccer team got as far as the semi-final in the 3 Division Knock-out, but were then defeated by the 7th Field Regiment, R.A. Excitement ran high when we reached the rugby final, but the season closed down on a note of anticlimax after our rather surprising defeat at the hands of the Lincolns. The last hockey match before leaving Palestine was a victorious one in which the Lincolns were our victims.

Within the Battalion the Inter-Platoon Soccer Competition reached its climax recently when 12 Platoon "D" Company beat 4 Platoon "B" Company.

At the moment sport is slack, but there's no doubt that athletics will be claiming our energies shortly, and we look forward to cricket and tennis. Swimming in the Bitter Lake is already a very popular pastime.

A big event before leaving Palestine was, of course, the departure of the far-famed 27 Group. For a long time previously there had been a steady trickle of individual releases, but the mass exodus



1st Kensingtons' Farewell Parade in 78 Infantry Division, Spittal, 5th April, 1946. Major-General R. K. Arbuthnott, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. 78 Infantry Division, followed by the A/C.O., Major N. G. Gilbert.

we witnessed on the morning of 12th March was unprecedented. As a result we have been missing a lot of familiar faces. We were sorry to lose them, but wish them—and all our demobees—the very best of luck and every success in civvie street (and we hope they will all write often and maintain our old contacts). At the time of writing, 29 Group are on the eve of their departure. And so it goes on, the face of the Battalion changing continually.

Our present camp is at Fayid on the Suez-Ismailia road, about six miles north of our November-December station at Fanara. The camp is a large one—we get plenty of exercise walking about—and accommodation is ample. We have a very good N.A.A.F.I. of our own, an education centre still in the process of being organised, and a reading and writing room. Within easy reach of the camp there are two cinemas with frequent changes of programme, services shops, churches of all denominations, and several canteens, in addition to Officers', W.O.s' and Sergeants' and Junior O.R.s' lidos on the Bitter Lake. The town of Ismailia is 20 miles distant.

Now that we are free once again from operational commitments, training is coming into its own. Education, now to be regarded as a definite part of military training, is in the throes of reorganisation in preparation for the starting in June of the

new Army Education Scheme, which will provide for compulsory formal education for all in 45 Group and above. Testing and grading into three classes of English and arithmetic is being carried out now.

In spite of printing and financial difficulties—and a certain shyness on the part of contributors!—which tend to make publication somewhat spasmodic, our magazine, "The Chad," survives and develops. It is becoming an established feature of Battalion life and is popular among former members of 2nd Middlesex now demobbed or with other units. For any who are not already subscribers, application can be made to "The Chad," 2nd Middlesex, M.E.F. Publication is normally monthly, and the subscription rate 2s. 6d. for three months (or three issues).

1st BATTALION PRINCESS LOUISE'S KENSINGTON REGIMENT

Towards the end of March we received orders to convert to an infantry battalion. Together with this bombshell came news that we were to move to the Naples area for garrison duties. Within a matter of hours we were told that Naples was merely a springboard for a further move to Greece.



1st Kensingtons' Farewell Parade in 78 Infantry Division, Spittal, 5th April, 1946. Major-General R. K. Arbuthnott, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. 78 Infantry Division, giving farewell speech.

The Move

Our life from then on can only be described as hectic. All our equipment was to be handed in to Villach, 30 miles away; our ammunition to St. Veit, 100 miles away; our wheeled vehicles to Graz, 150 miles away; whilst our carriers and armoured cars had to be despatched by rail to Italy. In the midst of all this excitement we had a farewell ceremonial parade for the Divisional Commander.

To add to our difficulties we only had 250 men available. Furthermore, "D" Group was only relieved from Mallnitz 48 hours prior to the move and the detachment of one platoon at Kellerberg, 12 hours before. Nevertheless, we left a vast army of officers and men, due for release, in Spittal, and we hope that they managed to tidy up after our hurried departure.

It was very sad to have to leave lovely Austria, but we count ourselves extremely fortunate in having enjoyed that Shangri-La for close on a year. Our journey south was interesting, in so far as we travelled through country over which the Battalion had fought. Many old sweat could be heard giving some excellent running commentaries!

Arrival in Italy

Our destination in the Naples area was a transit camp at Afragola. This town has only two

claims to fame. It is the birthplace of that arch-gangster Al Capone, and it must also be the foulest town in all the five continents. The vast majority of the inhabitants are criminals. Lieut. Orchard lost all his kit from the back of a 15 cwt. truck whilst passing through the town. The canopy of the truck was securely lashed down and the truck was never at a standstill. To prevent such thefts, some units are in the habit of inserting razor blades in the top of the vehicle tail boards. Another ruse is to secrete an enthusiast in the back of the lorry, who welcomes all visitors in no uncertain terms.

Arrival of Reinforcements

We soon settled down under canvas at Afragola. The Regimental red and grey signboards were quickly in evidence and the Regimental flag flying in the breeze. Hardly before we had time to settle down, we were inundated with callers offering help. No one could have been kinder than the Staff at G.H.Q., C.M.F., at Caserta, 30 miles away. They are producing four officers for us and 360 men from the Cheshire Regiment. Two hundred of the latter have already arrived and have settled in well. There is no doubt that there is a very real affinity between the four Machine Gun Regiments.



Farewell Parade in 78 Infantry Division, Spittal, 5th April, 1946. The remnants of "B" and "C" Groups, commanded by Major J. A. Nurse.

Releases

As is happening all over the world, the Battalion has changed in a most amazing way. Since the last issue of the journal we have lost 3 Majors, 8 Captains and 5 Subalterns, together with 250 men. Another sad loss has been Lieut. Edgecombe, the Q.M., who has been with the Regiment for so many years and is now about to be released. Nevertheless, we will all be meeting again one day, thanks to the magnificent efforts being made by the Regimental Associations of both the Middlesex and the Kensington Regiments to foster regimental *esprit de corps* through periodical gatherings and club meetings.

The Voyage to Greece

The Battalion was up before dawn on 20th April, and by 7 a.m. was on the way to the docks. Our ship turned out to be a converted collier, the "Empire Eddystone." It is a very new boat and that is all that can be said for it. She can best be described as a ship of 10,000 tons with one funnel and a deck. There are three holds. One is reserved for Officers and W.O.s and the other two house the rest of the Battalion. Never-

theless, the weather has been kind to us and the voyage is only one of three days.

Sport

During March, spring came to Austria and the snows began to disappear. Skis were put away and footballs appeared. B.T.A. and 78 Division produced a ravishing programme of sport for us and we started in with a vengeance. But all our efforts and hopes came crashing to the ground when orders for our move put an end to our training. Now that we have been strongly reinforced we will be able to start all over again when we settle down in Greece. Our hopes are to emulate the 1st Middlesex, and we congratulate them on their terrific performances in the boxing and hockey world of the B.A.O.R.

During January and February skating and ice hockey became very popular. The ice hockey rink was full every evening with Kensingtons waltzing with pretty and expert Austrian *fräuleins*.

Transfer to M.E.F.

Only recently has Greece been handed over to M.E.F. from C.M.F. Now we are together with

2/7th BATTALION MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)



General Sir Bernard Paget arriving with Lieut.-Colonel Robbins at Cairo Cathedral, 23rd December, 1945, on the occasion of "disbandment" service for 2/7th Middlesex. Lieut.-Colonel J. W. G. Ormiston is behind with the A.D.C.



G.O.C. Palestine and Transjordan inspecting Guard of Honour of 2/7th Middlesex on the occasion of the presentation of a field gun to Supreme Moslem Council, August, 1945.



2/7th Middlesex marching through Jerusalem for church parade, August, 1945.

the 2nd Middlesex, and we hope to be meeting them soon, if not actually, then in the field of sport. Our final destination after Greece is in the lap of the gods. It would be unkind to publish all the rumours we have heard. But by the time that the next journal is published we will know and we hope that we will have finally settled down in a permanent home and be finished with all these temporary moves.

1/10th BATTALION MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

The Benevolent Fund of the above Regiment is still in existence. By the terms of the original charter its funds may only be spent on assistance to ex-members of this Battalion. It may be that among our readers—though we hope not—there are some old 1/10th Battalion people requiring financial assistance. If such is the case they should apply to Lieut.-Colonel C. Jarrett, D.S.O., T.D., at Redlands, Bulstrode Way, Gerrards Cross, Bucks.

LT. G. S. BLACKABY

This officer was killed in the fighting in Hong-Kong, and his father, Mr. N. A. Blackaby, of 18 Trentwood Side, Enfield, Middlesex, has been trying for some time now to contact any member of the old 1st Battalion who was with him when he died. If any of our readers has any information likely to assist Mr. Blackaby would they be good enough to write to him or to the Editor at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

LETTER RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR

"Jesmond House,"
23 Richmond Road,
Cardiff.
16th March, 1946.

DEAR MAJOR KEMPSTER,—Many thanks for your letter of the 8th instant. It will certainly be a pleasure to me to contribute to the pages of *THE DIE-HARDS* again.

I wonder if you would care to publish the enclosed article which I have just written on the work of the R.A.P.C. I am afraid it is a branch of the service of which nothing is known by the average soldier, and perhaps it would be of interest to them to know something of the Corps which handles (they may think mishandles) their pay.

More than one old Middlesex Regiment member, both officer and other ranks, has transferred to the R.A.P.C. Mr. Davies, who is the chief civilian clerk in the Army Pay Office at Manchester, is an "Old Contemptible" who won the Military Medal in the 1914/18 war with the "Die Hards," and Major Cubitt is another ex-Die Hard now serving



2/7th Middlesex marching through the streets of Jerusalem "to preserve calm" on Eve of Day of Atonement, 1945. (N.B. Calm was preserved!)

in the R.A.P.C. Incidentally, the latter did some very fine work in the last days in France before the evacuation in 1940, so I heard from some of the men who had been with him.

Yours sincerely,

R. MAURICE HILL.

THE ROYAL ARMY PAY CORPS
BY CAPTAIN R. MAURICE HILL,
R.A.P.C. (T.A.R.O.)

There are few, if any, units of the British Army whose daily labours are of more importance to every serving member of the British Army than the Royal Army Pay Corps; and it is equally certain that there are few, if any, units whose work is less understood or appreciated by the rest of the Army. Part of the work is carried out in large pay offices at home or in certain stations overseas, and seeing these, many people are apt to jump to the conclusion that these represent the whole work of the Corps. Such a conclusion is very far from correct. The big pay offices represent only one side of the work. There is another, and vitally important, side of it; work which is done by small detachments, usually consisting of a field cashier, a clerk and a driver/batman.

But first a few words as to the history of the Corps. Until 1878 every Regiment had its own Paymaster, a commissioned officer who looked

after its pay and accounts and formed an integral part of the regiment, but in that year the Army Pay Department was formed, to which all these officers were then transferred. Prior to 1878, a Paymaster wore the usual uniform of the regiment to which he had been gazetted. For instance, the Paymaster of The Buffs wore a scarlet tunic with buff facings, the Paymasters of the 57th and 77th a scarlet tunic with yellow facings, and so on throughout the infantry of the line, with the usual blue trousers and shako of the period. The Paymasters of cavalry regiments or rifle regiments wore the appropriate uniform of their own unit. Upon formation of the Army Pay Department the uniform of all Paymasters was changed to blue with yellow facings, the officers' headgear in full dress being a cocked hat with hanging plumage of white and yellow swans' feathers; a type of head-dress which has on more than on occasion caused captains of the Army Pay Department to be received with the honours usually reserved for general officers. The old blue and yellow colour scheme is still preserved in the blue patrol uniform and in the coloured caps authorised for wear when off duty, as well as in the "arm of the service" strips worn in battle dress by members of the corps. It is also commemorated in the title of the regimental march "Primrose and Blue," composed by Staff Sergeant-Major H. Lovering, R.A.P.C., which has the distinction of being the only regimental march in the British Army composed by a serving Sergeant-Major. The yellow facings have given rise to the nickname of "Canaries" applied to the corps.

It was not until 1893 that non-commissioned officers and men employed on pay duties (hitherto borrowed for that purpose from all other units) were formed into the Army Pay Corps. The curious system by which the officers belonged to the Army Pay Department and the men to the Army Pay Corps continued until the end of the 1914-18 war, when they were united as The Royal Army Pay Corps. The badge of the corps is the Royal Crest of England (the lion and crown), with the motto "Fide et Fiducia" ("By Faith and Confidence") beneath it.

The official historian of the Great War of 1914-18 has paid tribute to the good work of the field cashiers, of whom he has said: "Although they had the responsibilities of bank managers they had none of their safeguards." In the World War so recently ended, the field cashiers of the corps have carried out their duties, always highly responsible, and often arduous and dangerous, in a manner which has earned commendation from many Generals, including Montgomery and Alexander. Of their services one national newspaper said: "Where a Guardsman can go with his bayonet, there the Royal Army Pay Corps must penetrate with its little tin boxes. It has lived up to its motto 'Whatever the dangers we always get through with the pay.' From the point of view of our troops in Libya the pay got through, strangely, unaccountably, to the remotest parts of the desert. But it isn't strange or unaccountable. It is largely guts—guts on the part of fellows so many people regard as non-combatants, the men of the Royal Army Pay Corps who get the money

through by truck, aeroplane or even camel out in the wilds. In the East African campaign, distributing money over an area of a million square miles, the R.A.P.C., moving in small, armed parties, often got ambushed and had to fight their way through—but they always did get through with the cash."

It is because the corps overseas usually works in such small isolated detachments that its work is apt to pass unrecognised and remain unknown to the world at large. But one item of news which did slip past the censor in the dark days of 1940 was the following report: "The Royal Army Pay Corps suffered heavy casualties when the liner *Lancastria* was sunk during the French evacuation. Some survivors were taken from the water after three or four hours—still clutching satchels containing twenty thousand pounds. There were many gallant deeds by the 'Ink Slingers' that day." As long ago as 1906 it was ordered that the Command Pay Office Staff at Malta should be allotted duties in assisting the garrison gunners whenever the island's defences were manned, and during the long siege of the George Cross Island the detachment of the R.A.P.C. sustained many casualties. When Singapore was about to fall, the 75th Detachment, R.A.P.C., having emptied their kit bags of all personal possessions and packed them with currency and official documents of the most important nature captured a ship in harbour, at the point of the bayonet, worked it through thousands of miles of sea to Java, and thence to Australia, fighting off hostile bombers with no other arms than their rifles and narrowly missing being taken by the Japanese fleet.

In peace time there is no direct recruitment to the R.A.P.C., the officers of the corps being transferred (after a probationary period) after having first spent some years as commissioned officers in the combatant arms of the service; while the other ranks also enter the R.A.P.C. after a period of probation, after first spending some years in a combatant unit. Promotion up to the rank of Sergeant is on a time basis for Regular members of the R.A.P.C., and in addition to a high proportion of Warrant Officer ranks they are also eligible for commissions, as a certain proportion of these are reserved for selected other ranks of the R.A.P.C., who can be commissioned direct into their own corps as Assistant Paymasters.

The R.A.P.C. serve in all the principal military stations at home and abroad; India is not normally one of their stations, but during the late war large detachments of the corps have been sent there, and strong units of the corps are still serving in India.

H.R.H. Princess Arthur of Connaught is Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Army Pay Corps, an appointment in which she succeeded her late husband, H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught. The senior officer of the corps on the active list is known as the Paymaster-in-Chief, this very important appointment being held at the present time by Major-General R. G. Stanham, C.B.E., who served in The Buffs before transferring to The Royal Army Pay Corps.

R. MAURICE HILL.

MIDDLESEX ARMY CADET FORCE

The object of this short article is to make known to all readers of *The Die-Hards* the ways and means by which they can assist the Middlesex Army Cadet Force in the important task which that Force is performing. A special appeal to join the Force is made to ex-Officers, Warrant Officers and N.C.O.s who have experience in modern warfare.

All will be aware of the existence of the Army Cadet Force and that it enrolls boys between the ages of 14 and 18 years, but not, possibly, of the present position and development.

The object of the Army Cadet Force, as defined in the Regulations, is "to give mental, moral and physical training to boys, and so to form the character of each to enable him to start well in life and to develop in him the principles of patriotism and good citizenship. Thus will be brought out qualities of self-confidence, self-respect and ability to face and accept responsibility with the power to control himself and others."

The A.C.F. is particularly designed to afford pre-entry training for the Army.

The Army Council, in a recent policy letter on the Army Cadet Force, have stated that "The Council believe that at no time in the history of this country has there been such an urgent need for training youth in the qualities of self-respect and respect for the community at large. They have been authorised by H.M. Government to maintain the Army Cadet Force as an efficient organisation; and they conceive it to be their duty to weld the administration of that Force into the life of the community on the one hand and of the Army on the other. They believe that the mechanisms of the three Defence Services provide a ready and efficient means of furthering this object, and for their part they intend to support the interests of Army Cadets by every means at their disposal."

The letter goes on to make it clear that "the training and organisation of the Army Cadet Force are modelled not merely upon military requirements, but upon the social and recreational development of boys during the period of years before they are called upon to enter one of the adult Services. Its club and recreational activities represent a social rather than a military feature."

In Middlesex there are nine units of the Army Cadet Force—one Regiment and eight Battalions, each of a varying number of sub-units situated to cover the area allotted.

As has been previously stated, the urgent need is for more Officers, W.O.s and N.C.O.s to train and lead the cadets. The most pressing need is for young war-experienced Officers and N.C.O.s, the latter with a knowledge of physical training. All those who have been recently released from the Services are requested to consider how they can help the local Cadet unit. If you are not able to join the Force surely you know of someone who is suitable and can persuade him to join, or perhaps you may be able to help in some other way.

Secretaries of "Die-Hards" Clubs are requested to ensure, if they have not already done so, that they are in touch with the local Cadet unit. Close liaison will be to the mutual advantage of both, as there are many obvious ways in which one can help the other.

Officers, who are considering joining the Force, are requested to write to The Secretary, County Cadet Committee, 18, Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1, or to get in touch with the local unit direct.

All others who are interested are requested to get into touch with the local unit. In order to facilitate this details of the units in Middlesex are:—

Headquarters.					
Unit.	Name of C.O.	Address.	Tel. No.	Recruiting Area.	
61st (Mx.) A.A. (C) Regt. R.A.	Lt.-Col. J. Hugh-Jones.	Drill Hall, Deansbrook Road, Edgware.	EDGware 3016	Edgware, Finchley, Mill Hill.	
1 (C) Bn. Mx. Regt.	Lt.-Col. W. Wilson, M.B.E.	Drill Hall, Northolt Road, Roxeth.	BYRon 2046.	County.	
2 (C) Bn. Mx. Regt.	Lt.-Col. C. D. K. Wallace.	Drill Hall, Elmgrove Road, South Harrow.	HARrow 2132.	Uxbridge, South Harrow, Wealdstone.	
3 (C) Bn. Mx. Regt.	Lt.-Col. S. H. Short, O.B.E.	Drill Hall, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8.	MOUnview 8308.	Hornsey, Highgate, Enfield, Wood Green.	
4/6 (C) Bn. Mx. Regt.	Lt.-Col. F. L. Pettman.	Drill Hall, High Road, Tottenham, N.17.	TOTtenham 5320.	Tottenham, Edmonton.	
5 (C) Bn. Mx. Regt.	Lt.-Col. C. A. Taylor, M.C.	Drill Hall, Stamford Brook, W.6.	RIVerside 1004.	W.6, Acton, Ealing, Hanwell.	
7 (C) Bn. Mx. Regt.	Lt.-Col. J. F. Lomer.	Drill Hall, Hampton Hill.	MOLesey 1899.	Twickenham, Hounslow, Staines, Sunbury.	
8 (C) Bn. Mx. Regt.	Lt.-Col. B. J. Pielow.	Drill Hall, Hayes Bridge, Southall.	SOUthall 3207.	Hayes Bridge, Hayes.	
9 (C) Bn. Mx. Regt.	Lt.-Col. G. H. Knight.	Drill Hall, Pound Lane, Willesden, N.W.10.	WILLesden 1449.	Willesden, Wembley, Stonebridge.	



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