

The Die Hards

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



VOL. VIII. No. 1

MARCH, 1947

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," "Seringapatam," "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—46 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," "Bellevue," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "18," "Albert, 1916," "18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Flers-Courcellette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "18," "Bapaume, 1917," "18," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "18," "Arleux," "Pilekem," "Langemarck, 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," "Landing at Suvla," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "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," "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," "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, Infantry Records, Warwick.
Pay Office—Old Infantry Barracks, Canterbury.

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 Coy.
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's & King's Branch.

Allied Regiments of Canadian Militia.

50th H.A.A. Regiment (Prince of Wales Rangers) 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:

Lt-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O.

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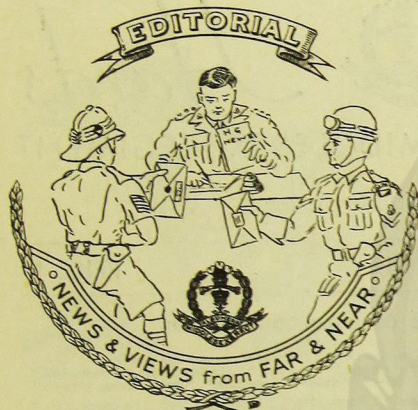
NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

"The Die-Hards" is published in March, June, September and December, and copies may be obtained by application to the Editor.

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 TRIPLICATE, 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.

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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 5/- (Post Free)



Editor: Bt-Major G. W. Kempster.

We are delighted to inform our readers who may not already know that the Regiment once again owns its own home at Mill Hill, and notes from 57th P.T.C. appear in this number. This happy and long-awaited event can only influence this Journal beneficially, and strengthen regimental ties. Already the Officers' Mess has become more than a shade of its former self under the guiding hand of Major Marsh and the encouragement of Lieut.-Col. Crawford, the newly appointed Commanding Officer, to whom we wish every success in his new command.

As regards other non-Regular Units of the Regiment, unable at present to write for themselves, we learn that the 7th Middlesex are now allotted as a Machine Gun Battalion to the Home Counties Division, and the 8th Middlesex are to become a Parachute Regiment. The 9th Middlesex has been selected as a Light A.A. Regiment though their role is not yet entirely fixed. The Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment is now likely to be that of a G.H.Q. Liaison Unit. The 1st and 2nd Battalions are still serving in B.A.O.R. and M.E.L.F. respectively, and 26 M.G.T.C. is rapidly closing down.

We hope that on release from suspended animation all these Units will contribute to our Journal as they used to in the past. A good deal of space in this number has been devoted to the Regimental War Memorial. The present project to erect 20 cottage homes at a cost of £25,000 is ambitious, but we mean to succeed, and we hope to play our part through the medium of these pages. Already there has been an encouraging response to our appeal for financial assistance.

We are glad to introduce another writer to this Journal, Mr. Hugh Doherty, who served in the Regiment between 1892 and 1900. Mr. Doherty has supported us financially, and is now engaged in and has largely completed a long account of his service which we are publishing in serial form under the title of "The Recollections of an Old Soldier." Those who can recall the days he writes of are sure to enjoy reading it ;

those who belong to later generations should do, too, for his humorous description of life in the Regiment in the closing stage of the last century makes excellent reading indeed. We are very indebted to this gentleman for the trouble he has taken to brighten these pages with his sense of humour, his gift for narrative, and his genius for recording events long passed so accurately. We are glad to say that he wrote as a result of our appeal for new writers, and quite willing to admit that some of our readers read the Editorial.

We thank all who have contributed to these pages, especially the Editors of Battalion Notes, which, of late, have reached a high standard of excellence, which we know will be maintained. Before closing we must thank Capt. L. F. Baker for his contribution.

FORTHCOMING REGIMENTAL FIXTURES FOR 1947 (As notified at present)

- April 24th. Golg. Retired Officers v. Serving Officers.
10 a.m. Hendon Golf Club.
- April 25th. Golf. Officers' Club. Spring Meeting.
10 a.m. Hendon Golf Club.
- June 8th. Cricket. Middlesex Regiment v. Romanys
at Mill Hill.
- June 21st. Cricket. Middlesex Regiment v. Hamp-
stead Heathens at Hampstead.
- June 25th. Officers' Club Dinner at the Connaught
Rooms. 7.15 for 7.45 p.m.
- June 26th. Cricket Week begins at Mill Hill. Mr.
Whitehead's side v. Middlesex Regiment.
- June 27th. East Surrey Regiment v. Middlesex Regt.
- June 28th. Major Ormiston's side v. Middlesex
Regiment Officers' Club at Home.
- June 29th. Hampstead Heathens v. Middlesex Regt.

THE LATE PTE. GARWOOD

Mrs. M. Garwood, of 19, Great Oak Road, Bignall End, Stoke-on-Trent, would appreciate any information leading to or about the death of her husband, who was killed in action with the 2nd Battalion, Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) about the end of May, 1940.

It would be helpful if the Company he served in could be identified as this information cannot be supplied at present. Will anyone who knew him or saw him about that time please communicate with the Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7, with a copy to Mrs. Garwood at her address.

BIRTHS

We are pleased to announce the birth of a daughter to Major and Mrs. H. Marsh, and of a daughter to Major and Mrs. G. W. P. Hodding, both at present serving at 57 P.T.C., Mill Hill, N.W.7.

A Personal Letter from the COLONEL of the REGIMENT

*Members of the Middlesex Regiment and
our Comrades in the Home Guard, who have
worn the badge of their County Regiment.*

As the Colonel of the Regiment I need your full sympathy and practical aid in planning the Regimental War Memorial.

This Memorial will consist of 20 cottage homes on the lines of those existing at Mill Hill, where 20 disabled and infirm members of the Regiment can, with their families, enjoy a happier future than they would in ordinary circumstances.

We must raise £25,000 to achieve our objective.

We need your help, just as much as you can afford to give, so that those comrades of yours—who have suffered whilst serving with the Regiment—are safeguarded in the future.

You who subscribe will be their benefactors—their hosts in these homes—you will feel you have a personal interest in their welfare, and they, as well as I, will be eternally grateful.

Yours sincerely,

M. Browne

COLONEL,

THE MIDDLESEX REGT. (D.C.O.).

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL 1939/45 WAR MEMORIAL

The Memorial

There has been mention in these pages from time to time of the War Memorial, but few details of the scheme have appeared in print. A few donations have been acknowledged; it has been referred to in Regimental Association Notes, and, finally, the appeal for funds from the Regiment was included in a brochure signed by the Colonel of the Regiment and despatched to readers with the December number of the Journal.

A number of readers have commented on the lack of information, the reason for which they will better understand if they read on, for this article is an attempt to explain the intention of the Regimental Association Committee, and its activities in the past months.

Origin

When it became obvious that all regiments after the conclusion of the late war would desire a memorial to commemorate the memory of those who had fallen, the War Office issued a directive which urged two courses very strongly, the first to make any such memorial utilitarian, and, secondly, to combine some degree of beauty with the subject chosen. The idea, of course, and one we all agree with, was to discourage a further heavy expenditure in erecting more conventional stone edifices such as commemorated the fallen of the last and previous wars.

The time came when the Regimental Association Committee had to consider the form our own was to take, and a Committee known as the "Memorial Committee" was set up to act for them.

Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., was selected as Chairman of this Committee. He is very well qualified to act in this capacity for his knowledge of property and land and his business experience is very considerable. Further, he is very well known in the county and this is extremely important, for without the backing of the county our ambitious project cannot possibly succeed.

It was Col. Beach who converted the Committee to "Cottage Homes." There were arguments for and against, but, finally, there was general agreement that this was the form the "Memorial" should take and, further, that they should be for the use of men of the Regiment incapacitated as the result of wounds received in war. Brigadier E. E. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., A.D.C., Major N. H. B. Lyon, M.C., Lieut.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., and Major A. Cooper, D.L., and Mr. Todman were also asked to serve on the Committee and agreed to do so. All these officers are too well known in the Regiment to require any introduction to our readers. It may be said here that Col. Beach and his Committee have devoted much time and thought to their duties and have never allowed their enthusiasm to flag in spite of the difficulties they have encountered.

The Site

Having decided on the form the Memorial was to take the next step was to secure a site. It must be remembered that land in Middlesex is expensive, and that to buy sufficient for 20 cottage homes could cost between five and six thousand pounds. We may yet have to make this purchase.

As is generally known the Regimental Association owns four cottages in Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill. They stand in Government ground, and a small nominal rent is paid yearly, most of which is refunded. Two of these cottages were built after the South African War, and the other two after the Great War. They have been administered during that period by the Secretary of the Regimental Association acting for his Committee, and they have been comparatively simple to manage. Incidentally, the occupants of these cottages are disabled, elderly, and past members of the Regiment. They will tell you how much they appreciate living in them, seeing the Regiment from time to time, and tending their gardens.

It was obviously the course to ask the War Office to find us another site in or near the curtilage of Inglis Barracks to accommodate the proposed cottages. This was done and the War Office agreed in principle.

Unfortunately, the grounds of Inglis Barracks now have to accommodate another unit—10th Command Workshop, R.E.M.E. It is not the fault of this excellent unit, of course, but they have encroached on land inside the barracks that formerly would have been available for building sites for our Memorial. At the time of writing it appears very doubtful if we shall be able to build within the precincts of the barracks.

A site was offered in Partingdale Lane, but after a brief survey it was found to be in the "Green Belt" which commences just north of the barracks, and that up to date is the only firm offer of Government land that has been made us.

However, the Quarter Master-General has been interested in our scheme through the good offices of Lieut.-General Sir Brian Horrocks, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., and quite recently a sitting board from London District inspected several sites in and near Mill Hill. Their immediate report was not very encouraging, but the matter is still being pursued and might yet result in the type of offer we hope for.

It would be pleasant indeed if we could inform you we had secured a site, but at the time of writing we can only say we have done our best, and that we confidently anticipate acquiring one ultimately. We are certainly not going to fail.

The Appeal for £25,000

Twenty-five thousand pounds is a large sum of money. One of the duties of the writer is to deal with donations and he finds the work involved in dealing with the comparatively few subscriptions received to date arduous enough, and the work involved so far is trivial in comparison to that which remains to be done.



The Existing Cottage Homes—Regimental Memorial, 1914-1918

It was realised that the Regiment would never be able to raise anything like this sum, so, through the Committee, we appealed to the county for their support. We did not appeal in vain. Lord Latham, the Lord Lieutenant of the County, after vetting Col. Beach's scheme, very carefully agreed to back us, and added his signature to the appeal signed jointly by the Colonel of the Regiment and himself. He called a meeting of the mayors and chairmen of urban councils in Middlesex and presided at this gathering held on January 30th, at the Middlesex Guildhall, when the appeal was officially launched.

The idea is that each borough and urban district council shall form its own local committee on which one of the committee will be a past or present member of the Regiment. It is expected that most of these representatives will be members of *Die-Hards* Clubs living in or near the borough or urban district council on whose committee they will sit.

These committees will then decide how the money can best be raised, and send us the proceeds of their efforts. It is said that there is likely to be considerable rivalry between them. Be that as it may, we wish them every success and we take this opportunity of thanking them for their co-operation and willingness to support their County Regiment, and we are sure that their help is going to strengthen the ties that now rightfully exist between the leading citizens of Middlesex and ourselves.

The Regiment

We started our own appeal in the Regiment much sooner, and the response up to date has been magnificent as you can see from the list of donations already received and which continue to pour into the Secretary's office. They nearly all come from officers of the Regiment because, so far, they alone have been circularised with the exception of readers of this Journal. Shortly we intend to circularise the other ranks of the Regiment, and we feel sure that their response will be equally generous.

We expected the response to the appeal to be a fairly good one, but the size of some of the amounts

we have been sent surprised and delighted those responsible for the appeal, and we take this opportunity of thanking the ladies and gentlemen of the Regiment who have given us such a good start. Although we know we cannot foot the whole bill it is pleasant to feel that it is not being entirely left to the county. Col. Browne, we know, was pleased to be able to say this at the meeting of mayors at the Guildhall. There is no doubt at all, the Regiment has certainly led the way, so, again, let us thank all our subscribers whose names appear in the subscription list. This list is by no means complete. Battalions, for example, are organising their own appeals. Lieut.-Col. Green has appointed an appeals secretary in the 1st Battalion and something similar has been arranged in the 2nd Battalion by Lieut.-Col. Reid. The Sergeants' Mess at 57 P.T.C. recently handed over a substantial sum to the Secretary which they collected over the festive season. Some are sending us their card winnings and innumerable offers to make collections have been received, and this brings us to our Appeals Committee.

Appeals Committee

An Appeals Committee was formed from members of the Regiment, the hard core being the Memorial Committee, with Col. Beach in the chair. They were fortunate to secure the services of Mrs. Tidbury, who organised the Hong Kong Fellowship so successfully, Mrs. Gordon Parker, who assisted her, and Mrs. South, who recently organised another dance—on behalf of the Memorial this time and which brought in a very substantial sum. We are indeed indebted to these ladies for the very considerable support they are giving us.

Major A. Cooper, D.L., serves on this Committee, too, and perhaps next time we write we may be in a position to impart some interesting news of a project he has in mind for raising funds.

Capt. J. G. P. Hunt, the Hon. Secretary of the 11th Battalion Luncheon Club (this Club at the behest of Lieut.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe has subscribed nobly to the Fund), is organising the publicity side. We are indeed fortunate to have his assistance, for he has a vast experience of appeals, and can command the services of experts to help him. Already he has given us considerable help and there is no doubt at all that the success we hope to achieve will be in no small measure due to his personal guidance and active co-operation. Col. Passingham once again serves on one of our committees, ready, as always, with wise counsel. Lieut.-Col. Robbins, the hard-working chairman of our Finance Committee, Major Hardcastle, and Major Denton, also serve on it. The latter is liaising with the *Die-Hards* Clubs and Home Guard Clubs; in fact, any clubs in Middlesex where there is a reasonable prospect of extracting some money to help the good cause.

This Committee has met twice, but has not really got into its stride as yet. An appeal is not organised and finished with in a few weeks. Ours are told is likely to continue throughout the year. This can

easily be appreciated when you consider that much of the money will be raised through the medium of dances, direct circularising, letters to the Press, flag days perhaps, torchlight tattoos, and sweeps, to mention only a few means of raising funds. But to leave the appeal.

National Federation of Housing Societies

In order to obtain the Government subsidies and to derive certain other advantages we are registering with this Federation, and the Committee of Management has already been appointed. There are one or two legal tangles to unravel but steady progress is being made.

In Conclusion

We hope the foregoing has been of some interest to you and if any of our readers wish for further information The Secretary of the Middlesex Regimental Association, Inglis Barracks, will be pleased to furnish it, particularly if the writers are in a position to help with the appeal. The Appeals Committee assigned us the work of writing this in the Journal, and we hope we have not failed them. If, as a result of this article, a shower of cheques and offers of assistance descend on the Secretary's office after the publication of this number we shall know we have not.

Once again our grateful thanks to all subscribers, and we promise to keep them informed of future progress through the medium of these pages.



"—Freedom from Fear"

MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL 1939/45 WAR MEMORIAL SUBSCRIPTION LIST

We gratefully acknowledge the donations received for the Memorial as given below :

- £96 2s. 5d.—Previously acknowledged.
 £140.—Lieut.-Col. T. South, O.B.E., T.D., and Mrs. Ada South.
 £100.—Major H. A. Neal.
 £26 5s.—Col. H. E. Smith, C.B.E., D.L., J.P.
 £25.—Capt. A. P. L. Blaxter, Major P. W. F. F. Powell, Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P.

- £21.—Major E. L. Heywood.
 £20.—Col. J. K. Maitland.
 £13 16s.—The Sergeants' Mess, 57 P.T.C.
 £11.—Lieut.-Col. J. S. Crosby, O.B.E., M.C.
 £10 10s.—Major P. L. Pearce Gould.
 £10.—Col. W. Garner, C.M.G., T.D., D.L., Brig. O. H. Tidbury, O.B.E., M.C., Mrs. P. E. Newnham, Lieut.-General Sir Brian Horrocks, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Col. G. L. Brown, D.S.O., Major H. T. Pernel, Lieut.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., Major G. W. Kempster, Major H. S. Montgomerie, Lieut.-Col. J. D. Kay, D.S.O., D.L.
 £6 10s. 6d.—Lieut.-Col. W. H. Samuel and family.
 £5 5s.—Mrs. J. J. Kempster, Major J. A. Hamilton, Mr. B. G. Coventry, Capt. H. Glyn Jones, K.C., Staff of the York Mineral Water Factory, Lieut.-Col. A. C. R. Waite, Capt. F. S. C. Hancock.
 £5.—Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Major M. C. D. King, M.C., Lieut.-Col. H. P. Lambert, Major R. T. Guscott, Major H. Marsh, Col. A. M. O. A. Passingham, C.B.E. D.L., J.P., Major E. C. Kent, Brig. F. G. M. Rowley, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Major R. B. Moberley, Mr. G. Vernon Tate, Major J. R. C. Kenyon, M.C., Lieut.-Col. C. W. Warden, Lieut.-Col. J. H. S. Hudson, Mr. V. G. McLean, Major L. C. Beadnell, Lieut.-Col. F. T. Chamier, Admiral Sir George H. D. O. Lyon and Lady Lyon, Miss R. Manning.
 £4.—Major R. G. Bare.
 £3 10s.—Capt. J. G. P. Hunt.
 £3 3s.—Mrs. E. Leary, Lieut.-Col. A. M. Man, Mr. J. H. Hewlett, General Sir Ivor Maxse, K.C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O., Mr. G. Chipperfield, Mr. H. R. Strong, Mrs. G. M. Kerr, Major R. P. H. Bellers, Air-Commodore H. F. Fuller.
 £3 2s.—Mr. R. F. Cutler, Lieut.-Col. J. S. Crosby, O.B.E., M.C.
 £3.—Mrs. E. F. Osler.
 £2 2s.—Mr. F. W. Heather, Capt. R. W. Dawe, Major G. A. H. Bower, Mr. R. E. Evans, Major C. T. Whinney, M.C., Mr. M. Palmer, Mr. R. D. Cohen, Lieut.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe, M.C., Major D. C. Owen, D.S.O., Mr. C. Spalding, Lieut.-Col. S. H. Short, O.B.E., Mrs. M. Geradine, Capt. L. McCoy Hill, Mr. F. E. Whitehead.
 £2.—Capt. D. B. Grey, Capt. E. Shipster, D.S.O., Capt. W. Fletcher, Capt. B. E. Silk, Capt. J. G. P. Hunt.
 £1 15s.—Mr. W. G. Taylor.
 £1 5s. 8d.—Collection at Old Comrades' Meeting.
 £1 3s. 6d.—Mr. F. G. Harris.
 £1.—Lieut.-Col. P. A. Warren, Lieut.-Col. J. S. Crosby, O.B.E., M.C., Brig. G. P. L. Weston, D.S.O., Capt. O. Parry, Major A. F. Hughes, M.C., Capt. J. A. Churchill, Col. J. L. Blumfeld, T.D., Capt. A. L. Page, Mr. H. L. Macalwaine, Capt. L. W. McKay, Major S. A. Cox, Mr. B. Winn, Mr. T. Sewell, Mr. L. J. Harris, Mr. D. A. Chipp, Mr. A. Goldman, Mr. E. F. Bird.

- £1.—Mr. J. Heston, Lieut.-Col. F. G. Poole, D.S.O., O.B.E., D.L., Capt. A. F. E. Robinson, Cpl. A. F. Dyer, Mr. E. M. Taylor, Messrs. Goldstraw, Misses M. L. K. and M. K. W. Whiteman, Lieut.-Col. E. T. Pain, Capt. J. T. Powell, Capt. H. A. Pike, Mr. J. C. Maskell, Mr. C. A. Moore, Mr. J. G. Peacock, Capt. A. L. Haggard.
 £9 12s. 6d.—Received from the following : Mr. R. G. Shrieve, Sgt. King, Mr. J. L. Robertson, Mrs. A. L. M. Hammond, Mr. H. B. Harris, Mr. D. A. Marshall, Mr. H. D. Appleyard, Mr. E. S. Corbridge, Dr. L. I. Silver, Mr. R. G. Shave, Lieut.-Col. The Reverend H. P. Osbourne, D.S.O., Major H. A. Maynard, Mr. A. R. Willard, Anonymous donation, Mr. J. Ryan, Mrs. E. Reed, Staff of Northern Provincial Bank, 50 Cornhill, Mr. Alec Clark, Capt. A. Regan, Mr. K. B. Torrens Spense, Mr. A. Willis, Cadet J. H. Veevers, Mr. and Mrs. Osterholm, Mr. D. E. Dowlan, Capt. M. R. Rosam, T.D., Mr. J. Bodger.
 Total received up to date, February 3rd, 1947.—£883 7s. 7d., plus £500 from *The Die-Hards* Journal, making a total of £1,383 7s. 7d.

THE LATE CAPT. V. E. STOCK, M.C.

It is with the greatest regret that we announce the death of Capt. Stock in his seventy-second year. He died in hospital after an illness, from cancer, of six months' duration and was cremated at Putney Vale Cemetery on February 17, 1947.

Capt. Stock was well known in the Regiment, in which he enlisted in 1889. Prior to the 1914-18 war he had reached the rank of R.S.M. and was commissioned as Quartermaster on the outbreak of hostilities. He served with the 1st Battalion in France throughout this long and arduous campaign and was awarded the Military Cross. He continued to serve with this Battalion until he was posted to the Depot in 1923, where he remained until he retired in 1929.

Afterwards he became associated with the British Legion and became Secretary of the Wimbledon branch. It was while he was serving in this capacity that he sickened with the disease that killed him. It can be truthfully said that he died in harness, as he would have wished, serving a great cause and inspiring others with his unconquerable spirit.

The cremation service was attended by his daughter, Mrs. Helsington, of 73 Malden Way, New Malden, Surrey, relations and friends, Colonel Browne, the Colonel of the Middlesex Regiment, Lieut.-Colonel Crawford, Majors Clark and Kempster, R.S.M. Paynter and six members of the Sergeants' Mess who acted as pall bearers, and a large contingent of the British Legion under the personal command of Major Cohen.

It was an impressive ceremony and we who were there are unlikely to forget the immobility of the six pall bearers standing guard over the flower-strewn coffin, flanked by the 18 banners of the British Legion carried by the bemedalled men of the generation which fought

the first World War in which Capt. Stock was so long engaged.

Nor are we likely to forget the Last Post and Reveille, sounded by a bugler of the Regiment, or those beautiful words from Masfield's poem of remembrance spoken by Major Cohen at the conclusion of the service : "At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them." Afterwards a relative of the family thanked everyone for attending in such inclement weather and for their gifts of flowers, and Colonel Browne also thanked the British Legion for honouring their dead comrade. And so another old *Die-Hard* passed on, leaving the world the poorer for his loss. But we who knew him will never forget the man we were once privileged to call our friend, and the Regiment will ever recall with pride one of its finest members. Our sympathy in their bereavement goes out to Mrs. Stock and Mrs. Helsington, the wife and the daughter he leaves behind him.

THE LATE CAPTAIN M. TROTTOBAS

Many of the older members of the Regiment will remember this gallant young soldier. He was always outstanding as a young non-commissioned officer in the 2nd Battalion, and made his mark in the boxing ring. All who served in the early days of the war in the 2nd Battalion will recall the enthusiasm he displayed in carrying out his duties as a P.S.M., and the ease with which, aided by his intimate knowledge of France and the French language, he negotiated the many difficulties that presented themselves when the Battalion was helping to construct a defensive line they were fated never to use. The following account is an extract from the Colonel of the Regiment's news letter :

I append a most interesting extract from *The Daily Telegraph* of December 2nd, 1946, about an ex-member of our Regiment, Capt. M. Trottoabas. He enlisted at Mill Hill in 1933 and served in 2nd Middlesex until the Dunkirk evacuation of May, 1940. He apparently evolved at that time the novel idea of reversing the M.M.G. in the cross head to give A.A. high-angle fire, and thus brought down a German plane. He was then a platoon sergeant-major in "B" Company, 2nd Middlesex. C.S.M. Donovan was in Lille in August, 1945, and was told many details about this brave young officer who was apparently killed on the day prior to the entry of Allied troops. Few were aware of his bravery, although I think early after Dunkirk he did tell me he was to be employed on a secret mission, but he divulged no details. He was always a smart young soldier, and I have many happy recollections of him during my command of 2nd Middlesex. The Press account now discloses his truly heroic work.

LILLE HONOURS "CAPT. MICHEL" British Agent Who Died Fighting

About 12,000 inhabitants of Lille, as well as delegations from all over France, to-day attended the unveiling of a memorial to Capt. Michael Trottoabas, a

British officer who, as "Capitaine Michel," has become almost a legendary hero of the French Resistance Movement. After the Dunkirk evacuation he parachuted into France three times. He was arrested by the Germans in 1941, but escaped to England. Returning to France he set up the headquarters of a sabotage organisation in a Lille café. The group, known as W.O. ("War Office"), had a black cat's head as a badge. By September, 1944, the W.O. and other resistance groups in the area had 8,000 members. Their disorganisation of the German forces in Northern France was so effective that it contributed largely to the rapid advance of the Canadians after the invasion. Capt. Trotobas was killed in a gun fight with the Gestapo. He and his secretary were tracked to their headquarters. The captain killed the officer in charge and wounded another. Then the Germans opened fire with machine-guns, mortally wounding him and his secretary. To-day a ceremony in the main square of Lille was attended by representatives of the French and Belgian Resistance movements and of the British Legion.

The parade marched to the cemetery, where, in the presence of Capt. Trotobas's father and of French and British official representatives, the memorial was unveiled by Major Malfait, the French officer who led the group after the captain's death.

THE LATE MR. J. W. GOODALL

The late Mr. Goodall, we regret to announce, died recently at his home at 46 Englands Lane, Loughton, Essex, at the age of 78. He enlisted in the Middlesex Regiment on September 15th, 1885, at Hounslow, when he was then eighteen and served continuously with the 1st Battalion until he went on pension in 1906. He served in Aldershot, Ireland, Gibraltar (where he became Officers' Mess Sergeant), Cape Town, India, and Burma.

He afterwards joined the Corps of Commissionaires at Eton, and later worked in the Regimental Records Office at Hounslow as a clerk until retiring at the age of sixty.

Mr. Goodall was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, also the Meritorious Service Medal. It is also interesting to record that he actually held a fourth class certificate of education dated 1892, and a Hythe Certificate stating he was qualified to instruct on the use and mechanism of the Maxim and Nordenfeld rifle calibre machine-guns.

Capt. Smith and Mr. James, the latter one of Mr. Goodall's contemporaries, were present with others at the funeral.

Mr. Goodall was a fine man, and a true "Die-Hard," but he will be remembered chiefly by the older members of The Regiment as the best Officers' Mess Sergeant of all time. We are indebted for the particulars of service given above to his son Captain C. E. Goodall, who is still serving.

THE LATE 6188349 SGT. OSBORNE, D.C.M.

We regret to inform our readers that the late Sgt. Osborne, D.C.M., died on November 19, 1946.

The Regiment was represented at the funeral by Capt. Smith, and a wreath was sent by the Regimental Association.

Sgt. Osborne enlisted in 1901 and was discharged in 1922 on pension.

He served in the World War I and was awarded the D.C.M., also all the last war medals and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

He leaves behind his widow, who resides at 13, Clapton House, Southwold Road, Clapton.

We extend our sympathy to her in her great loss.

OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES

Golf

It is intended to organise two golf meetings this year, one in the spring and one in the autumn. About the latter we cannot write at the moment, as nothing has been arranged. The spring meeting will take place at Hendon Golf Club on April 24th and 25th. The first day will be devoted to a trial of strength between the past and present. Col. Samuel is raising the retired team and Col. Crawford the serving side. We cannot say which side will win at present as form is rather obscure, but it is usually a safe bet to back the retired.

The next day we shall hold the spring meeting, playing singles in the morning for the scratch and handicap cups which we play for annually if wars permit. In the afternoon, instead of our customary foursomes against bogey, we shall play greensomes. Let us hope the weather will be kind to us, and that there will be a good attendance.

Cricket Week

It has not been found possible to renew all our old cricket fixtures, but games have been arranged against the Hampstead Heathens on Sunday, June 29th, and a team Major Ormiston is bringing to play us from Camberley on Saturday, the 28th. On Friday, the 27th, we hope to play the East Surreys. It is not easy to get teams together these days, but Col. Roupel, of the East Surreys, himself a keen cricketer, is doing his best to raise one. We have often played them in the past. We tried also to obtain a fixture against the Royal Fusiliers, but they have not restarted cricket yet.

On June 26th we are playing a side Mr. Whitehead, the President of the Wanderers, and an old opponent of ours, is bringing to Mill Hill. His son is in the Regiment in B.A.O.R. and we wonder which side he will play for. Mr. Whitehead, who has great influence in the cricket world, has promised to help us with our Memorial Fund through the medium of cricket clubs in Middlesex. We wish him every success.

The cricket week is starting late on account of the Test match, which, if it goes the full distance, terminates on June 25th.

Further games have been arranged against the Hampstead Heathens on their ground on June 21st, also against the "Romanians" on our ground on June

8th. Both matches should provide us with some much needed practice for our own week.

All required to play will be asked to do so in good time. It is unlikely that Col. Stephenson will be able to skipper the side throughout the week, but we understand that Brigadier Weston will be available.

We are purchasing two season tickets for Lord's. They will admit members of the Officers' Club to the members' enclosure for ordinary matches, and to reserved seats in the Mound stand for important games. They will be kept by the P.M.C. at No. 57 P.T.C., Mill Hill, to whom anyone requiring the use of them should apply.

Officers' Club Dinner

Our second post-war Officers' Club dinner will be held at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, W.C.2, at 7.15 p.m. for 7.45 p.m., on the evening of June 25th, 1947. Dress uniform or lounge suit (no miniatures). The dinner will cost a guinea to diners. Drinks before and after the dinner will be paid for by those attending, but the wines, cigars, cigarettes, etc., supplied during the dinner will not be a charge against diners. There is nothing to prevent a past or present officer of the Regiment attending the dinner should he not be a member of the Club, but he will be asked to pay the full cost of the dinner, a sum fixed at £2 5s. This notice will be circulated to all members of the Club.

Those wishing to attend should send a remittance of £1 1s. or £2 5s. to the Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Officers' Club, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7. The Secretary will then send him a ticket which will admit him to the Connaught Rooms.

Officers' Club "At Home"

The Officers' Club "At Home" will take place on the afternoon of Saturday, June 28th, the afternoon that Major Ormiston is bringing his side to play us. At the time of writing it is impossible to advise you as to arrangements yet to be made, but these will be contained in a circular letter which will be sent out to members of the Officers' Club, all of whom will be welcome if they can come.

The Officers' Mess, No. 57 P.T.C., Mill Hill

The Officers' Mess at Mill Hill is now ready to receive visitors, but members are reminded that membership of the Officers' Club automatically entitles them to honorary membership of the Depot Mess, to use an old term. The Commanding Officer and his officers have advised us that they will welcome and hope to see members of the Regiment, and there is no objection to them asking for a Mess bill.

Officers' Mess Livery

The P.M.C., No. 57 P.T.C., has asked us to enquire, through these pages, if among our readers there are any Regular officers who may have Mess servants' livery in their possession which they are prepared to loan or sell to the Depot Mess. Anyone who is in a position to

do so is asked to write to Major H. Marsh, of No. 57 P.T.C., Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7, or to the Secretary of the Officers' Club at the same address.

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION NOTES

The last meeting of the Committee was held on Thursday, January 30, 1947, at the Middlesex Guild Hall. In the unavoidable absence of Brigadier Rackham, Lieut.-Colonel Crawford presided.

Report of the Housing Committee

It was reported that preliminary arrangements had been made to form a Housing Committee in connection with the 1939-45 War Memorial, and that it was considered necessary to adopt the rules of the National Federation of Housing Societies, and also to join this federation. The Committee of Management and the necessary officials have been selected.

This link with this federation will entitle us to the Government and local building subsidies that will assist us materially to finance the building estate the Committee has in mind, and will also place at our disposal expert advice and certain building priorities.

Benevolence

The matter is being raised again at the next meeting as some legal difficulty has yet to be ironed out.

The Secretary reported that £349 2s. 10d. had been spent on benevolence during the September-December quarter. He asked for authority to expend up to £600 on the January-March quarter, and stated that 1947 had started badly from the point of view of disbursing funds (£100 was spent in the first 10 days of the new year on grants—a reflection on changing conditions, it is feared). £1,586 10s. 4d. was expended on grants in 1946. We are indeed fortunate to enjoy to the support of the Army Benevolent Fund, because without their assistance we could not meet such a heavy expense from income.

The Accounts of the Association for 1946

These were to have been adopted at the meeting. The Finance Committee, however, decided not to recommend their adoption until certain changes had been made in the draft balance sheets, which at present show certain sums received during 1946 as income which they consider should be capitalised. They have passed the auditors and will be submitted at an interim meeting to be held shortly. These interim meetings are becoming quite a feature of the Committee's work and are proving necessary.

Report of the Finance Committee

At the end of the Chairman's report the Committee approved all the investments and reinvestments made in 1946. Colonel Robbins and the Finance Committee were thanked for their work in redistributing the capital of the Association, whereby the yield on our investments has now risen to 3.4 per cent., which is extremely good in these days of cheap money.

As a result of the Finance Committee's report it was decided to form a Social Committee, presided over by Brigadier Baker and numbering amongst its members R.S.M. Paynter and all the secretaries of *Die-Hards* clubs, to control the expenditure of these clubs. The idea was to centralise and co-ordinate, not, of course, to curtail the assistance we have given in the past, which, incidentally, has paid handsome dividends, as might be expected from such well-run organisations.

Certain other administrative arrangements were agreed to by the Central Committee.

Editor's Report on the Circulation and Distribution of the Journal

The Editor regretfully pointed out that the Journal was not receiving the support it had enjoyed in the past from units and that some complaints had been received from officers that they were not allowed to pay their Journal subscriptions with a banker's order, and that they much preferred the pre-war system of paying for their Journal in the Officers' Club subscription.

The administrative difficulties of changing the present system were pointed out, and the whole matter was left for further discussion at the next meeting.

Every effort will, of course, be made to meet everyone's requirements.

The Editor also reported he was preparing a big drive to increase circulation. Any help our readers can give us will be appreciated.

Regimental Diary for 1948

We are negotiating with the Army Sports Control Board for a Regimental diary.

The Cloak Room Incident at the O.C.A. Meeting on December 14, 1946

It was agreed that this incident should be regarded as closed and the loss, which was not inconsiderable, written off.

To Confirm the Appointment of Mrs. P. Brooks as Assistant Secretary

Mrs. Brooks' appointment was confirmed by the Committee, and we are sure she will prove a great success in her new appointment.

Mr. George Kerswill has now left us after many years' association with the Regimental Association. His Civil Service appointment terminated recently on his reaching the age limit.

We wish him every happiness in his retirement, or success in any future task he may undertake, and take this opportunity of thanking him for all the good work he has done for the Regiment over a considerable period of time.

He is still residing at Mill Hill, so we hope he will be a frequent visitor to our *Die-Hards* Club in Inglis Barracks.

Other Business

An application for financial assistance from the Victoria League was not approved by the Committee.

General

The Association is very busy these days, busier than it was, but do not hesitate to write to us if advice or assistance is required. Sometimes, unfortunately, we cannot give it. We cannot help people over permanent accommodation, that urgent national problem which is so exercising the minds of our fellow citizens. Anything else we will try to cope with.

OLD COMRADES' REUNION AT BUCKINGHAM GATE

The Old Comrades' Reunion on December 14th last year must have been unique in several respects. To begin with a sit-down dinner was not provided and buffet refreshments were served in lieu. As someone said, "What is the use of chasing a small amount of food round your plate? We shall not attend it for what we are likely to eat, but to meet our friends." And so it was arranged. The Mecca Café, a large and very well-known catering company, was engaged for the evening and certainly ensured that nothing was lacking. It could not have been easy in these difficult times to have provided such ample stocks of liquid refreshments so vital to the success of an old comrades' reunion. But they did and the organisers are grateful to them.

Never, in the history of the Regiment, have so many old comrades attended this reunion. Counting the twenty-odd guests there were seven hundred present. There would have been more if the hall could have accommodated them for, unfortunately, late applicants for tickets had to be refused admission. It is possible that some of them may read this. If so, will they please excuse us for the disappointment our refusal to sell them these must have caused. Next year we hope to obtain a larger and more suitable hall than we were able to obtain for this occasion. We cannot say which one at present, naturally, and it probably will not be the Albert Hall which someone in all seriousness suggested. But it will be something more suitable. You can count on that—and a cloak room that works properly. But before we mention that painful subject, a word about the meeting.

The General Meeting

Apparently in the past the General Meeting of the Regimental Association was sparsely attended. We thought it might be this time, especially as it had been arranged to take place half an hour before things were due to start. However, quite a number attended it.

Brigadier Rackham, the chairman of the Regimental Association, presided and, after the Secretary had read out a brief report of the activities of the Association, he invited those present to speak.

Mr. Duffield was the chief speaker and said it was a pity that more could not be made of the General Meeting, but thought the Association had done well in the short time they had been operating since the last war. Mr. Bowen made some suggestions about raising funds



Group taken at The Old Comrades' Reunion at Buckingham Gate on the 14th December, 1946. Reading from left to right: Lieut.-General Sir Brian Horrocks (G.O.C. Western Command), Mr. B. H. Rockman (Chairman of the Middlesex County Council), Colonel M. Browne (Colonel of the Middlesex Regiment), Mr. W. R. Clemens (Mayor of Hendon), Mr. J. Knights (late R.S.M. 17th Middlesex), Colonel G. Beach (Chairman of the Regimental Memorial Committee), and Colonel A. M. O. A. Passingham (late Chairman of the Middlesex Regimental Association).

for the Regimental War Memorial (there is an article about this in this number) and, finally, the meeting passed a vote of thanks to the Committee of the Regimental Association. It was a brief but pleasant meeting of no small value and interest to both Committee and members.

It was then seven o'clock and the Secretary gave the signal for refreshments to be served.

Our Guests

Meanwhile, the Colonel of the Regiment, and some of his officers, were meeting the Chairman of the Middlesex County Council, Mr. Rockman, Mr. Radcliffe, Clerk to the Middlesex County Council, Mr. Clemens, the Mayor of Hendon, and the mayors of boroughs or the chairmen of urban district councils within the County of Middlesex. They were entertained at the May Fair before coming on to Buckingham Gate to meet the Regiment.

Never before, on an occasion such as this, has the Regiment entertained so many notabilities from their own county. It was a grand getting together of the leading citizens of Middlesex and their County Regiment, and we feel proud indeed that they, almost without exception, honoured us with their presence, and hope they enjoyed the occasion as much as we did. Our chief guest, Lord Latham, unfortunately, could not be present as he was indisposed. Mr. Rockman acted for him. We understand that Col. Browne spoke at

this dinner and mentioned our War Memorial. We also understand that Mr. Rockman, replying, left him in no doubt at all that the county would not fail us when we made our appeal. Since then we have had ample proof that he meant what he said, for, as reported elsewhere, the Lord Lieutenant and his boroughs, and urban district councils, have adopted our scheme and pledged us full support at a meeting held at the Middlesex Guildhall, on January 28th, at which, considering the Arctic conditions, a considerable number of these gentlemen again honoured us with their presence.

Those Present

From half-past six onwards the Hall filled steadily. The Committee wondered anxiously if they had over-estimated its capacity. It had been a guess anyway, and the congestion at times was considerable. The Secretary at one time rather wished the fog that had threatened earlier to keep people away had not lifted, so considerably at the last moment. Major Denton reassured him, however, and the guess proved to be correct, for the maximum number fitted themselves into the minimum space, not comfortably, but not dangerously, and a sense of discomfort was lost in the pleasure of meeting old friends again. The bar worked at top pressure and one had time and the opportunity of renewing old friendships and reliving the past. Would that it were possible to say a little or much of all those who were present, but, alas, space forbids.



Group taken at the Old Comrades' Reunion at Buckingham Gate on the 14th December, 1946. Many well-known members of the Regiment can be seen.

To mention a few, however, there were Mr. Knights, whose photograph appears in one of the groups, Mr. Bob Speny, who tried to ensure that his did too, Mr. Tulley, who admitted in the course of the evening that he did get his Journal, and Leslie Compton, fresh from kicking goals for the Arsenal. At the doorway Mr. Kerswill and Mr. Fennimore stoutly denied entry to the gatecrasher, and inside, Capt. Page, that popular Secretary of the Hounslow *Die-Hards* Club, presided over the catering. Mr. Hurst, our only Chelsea Pensioner, and Mr. Doherty, whose serial begins in this number, were two of the oldest members present. There were, at least, three generations represented at the meeting, and it can be said that this and the large attendance was due to our *Die-Hards* Club who, not for the first time, justified their existence and visibly proclaimed their presence.

The Speeches

Our guests and their hosts joined us at Buckingham Gate with commendable promptitude and cheers were given as they arrived. They made their way to the

platform—a rather unsteady improvisation of forms and gymnasium mats—which just served its purpose and no more.

The Colonel of the Regiment spoke briefly and was followed by General Sir Brian Horrocks. Mr. Rockman also spoke. They found it difficult to make their voices carry in the congested hall, where the bar refused to close down as had been arranged, and in the absence of a loud-speaker. This had been ordered, but, for some extraordinary technical reason, refused to work when required. The main hall was gas-lit and the electric points in the hall were apparently not connected up. We must say that we laboured under every possible disadvantage at Buckingham Gate and suffered directly from the unwillingness and lack of co-operation on the part of the staff. It is quite unnecessary to explain it was not a Middlesex Drill Hall.

Again space prevents us from recording these speeches but they were fine and suited the occasion, and the mass of listeners crowding round the platform were moved to giving three hearty cheers for the Colonel of the Regiment at Brigadier Rackham's instigation. At the conclusion of the cheering no one could have doubted

the high esteem he is universally held in by the many who know him.

So the Party continued, reinforced and stimulated by its new arrivals. It was difficult to hear the hired band—not a very good one, and playing only because our own was not available—in that babel of laughter and conversation; and so the evening wore on, till thoughts turned to home, and journeys there—long ones in some cases.

Then catastrophe overtook the organisers. The cloak room failed to function properly. We will not dwell on this unfortunate incident, which almost wrecked a good evening, but we do take this opportunity of profoundly apologising to all our guests and fellow members who lost their property or who were otherwise inconvenienced by being delayed and perhaps thereby losing trains. We did our best afterwards to put things right for those who suffered loss, and would like to give them our assurance that a repetition of this disaster is unlikely to occur again.

This is a fairly long account of a very memorable occasion, but we thought it deserved to be recorded at some length. It was our first post-war reunion, and a great success in many ways. There were faults in organisation which must be corrected of course, but all of us left that evening feeling that we belonged to a fine Regiment, and eagerly looking forward to our next reunion.

As is our custom we had sent a message of loyal greetings to their Majesties. They replied with the following message, which was read out by the Colonel of the Regiment: "Please convey to all ranks of the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) Old Comrades assembled this evening the sincere thanks of the King and Queen for their kind and loyal message."

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE, 1/10TH AND 2/10TH BRANCHES OF THE REGIMENTAL O.C.A.

On Remembrance Day, November 10th, the old comrades of the 1/10th and 2/10th branches of the Regimental Association gathered for the annual Service of Remembrance, held again for the first time since 1938, in Chiswick Parish Church.

On the walls of this fine old church on the river bank, surrounded by ancient and interesting monuments, the Colours of both Battalions have hung since the first Service of Remembrance.

There was a good attendance, the 1/10th with their friends numbering nearly 60, and the 2/10th about 100.

The local branch of the British Legion also attended with their banners.

The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Reverend A. H. Rees, Hon. Chaplain to the British Legion, assisted by the Reverend H. P. Judd, Hon. Army Chaplain.

The Vicar had taken great interest and arranged a service which, commencing with the National Anthem, was entirely appropriate to the occasion, the hymns in particular being those that old comrades could join in singing.

It was a fine service. The first Lesson, a significant lesson in these times, was from the 33rd chapter of the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel, and from it also came the text for the Vicar's impressive sermon, viz., the fifth verse—"But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul."

At the conclusion of the service, wreaths were accepted by the Priest from the old comrades of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd/10th Battalions as tokens of remembrance. They were later placed under the Colours. The act of remembrance was followed by the Last Post and Reveille blown by a bugler kindly detailed by the O.C. 26th Machine Gun Training Centre.

After the service comrades and their friends held a pleasant reunion in the Church Hall, kindly placed at their disposal by the Vicar. Refreshments of tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits were available, owing to the generosity of the wives of certain 2/10th old comrades, and for that pleasure very grateful thanks are due to Mrs. Percy Cumming, Mrs. W. A. Lovegrove and Mrs. Charles Rush. All the arrangements were made by the Hon. Secretary of the 2/10th branch, A. H. Cumming, 21 Hounslow Road, Feltham, Middlesex.

B.K.C.

LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR

FROM 57th ALLIED BATTALION OF AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY

425 Wellington Street,
Clifton Hill, N.8,
Victoria,
Australia.

January 6, 1947.

To The Secretary,
Middlesex Regimental Association.

DEAR SIR,—After much passing from hand to hand your note has at last reached me, but I am not the C.O. of 57th Infantry Battalion. However, I will do my best to let you know the present circumstances of our old unit.

As doubtless you are aware, about 1930-31 the 57th Battalion and the 60th Battalion were linked and the unit became known as 57th/60th Australian Infantry Battalion.

From 1939 to early 1946 the unit served as a battalion of 15th Australian Infantry Brigade in 3rd Australian Division and saw service in New Guinea, Papua and Bougainville. It has now some additional battle honours to be added to those gained during the 1914-18 war.

In early 1946 the Battalion was demobilised and its future service depends on Government policy. As yet there is no indication as to what will happen in future training.

The ex-members of the Battalion have formed an association—the 57th/60th Battalion Association—which has as its objects the assistance in rehabilitation of members and the welfare of members and their dependants.

The members have done me the honour of making me their President for the current year, and that is the reason why I am writing to you. I write on behalf of the members of the Association.

The ex-C.O. of the Battalion, Lieut.-Colonel R. R. Marston, D.S.O., is a member also, and at the earliest opportunity I will pass your note to him.

I am very pleased indeed that our two Associations have been able to exchange greetings again, and I would now like to extend our best wishes to you for a very happy and successful 1947.

Please convey to your Colonel, officers and O.R.s our greetings, and we look forward to hearing again from you in the not distant future.

Believe me,
Sincerely yours,
NORMAN M. WALKER.

67 The Droveway,
Hove, 4,
Sussex.
December 29, 1946.

Dear Editor,

On December 14th I attended the Regimental Association Old Comrades' Reunion when hundreds of youngsters aged 25 to 75 braved the fog to forgather and greet old friends. (Later their high spirits dispelled the fog.) Anything the Middlesex Regiment does it does well. The reunion was competently organised, there was abundance of everything that mattered, and we all had a good time.

Col. Browne, accompanied by his distinguished guest, General Horrocks, and supported by a bodyguard of tough-looking London mayors, arrived midway through, when speeches were delivered and applauded with gusto and cheers. In these days of signature tunes it occurred to me that old soldiers should have their own for such gatherings. I mentioned this to the leader of an excellent little band in attendance who thought it a good idea. There are many suitable but my suggestion would be to begin the proceedings with "When we were young one day" and end with "I'll see you again."

A FEW REMARKS ABOUT THE DECEMBER NUMBER:

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Investments. Ref. remarks under Regimental Association Notes. The Gilt Edged Market to-day is a major headache for any finance committee and one not to be cured by a few aspirins.

Having the unenviable and thankless task of handling investments on behalf of others, they see their efforts to maintain an income nullified by a flippant Chancellor, who imposes hardships on the more prudent class of stock holders, while at the same time spending huge sums of the tax-payers' money advising people to save.

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Who knows but in Cpl. Goatman you may have found a 1946 Kipling.

His light-hearted satire in verse on the new Army will make all old soldiers chortle.

From one of the old to one of the young I would comment in the language of to-day: "You've said a mouthful, chum."

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I have written by air mail to C/Sgt. Say in New Zealand (though I do not know him). Sent him a calendar and asked him a few questions.

Yours sincerely,
H. DOHERTY.

Die-Hards Club,
The "Ship Inn,"
Borough Road, S.E.1.

Dear Major Kempster,

Recently I had the attached letter sent to me from Mr. B. J. Luckie. I found it extremely interesting and I have forwarded it in the hope that you will be able to publish, at least, parts of it if not all, in order that any of his colleagues might get into touch with him.

I have replied to him informing him that I was taking this course.

I remain,
Yours faithfully,
J. BOEN.

November 25, 1946.

East Liberty,
G'bauderie,
Guernsey.
November 5, 1946.

Dear Sir,

Reading through the circular *re* the reunion of *Die-Hards* I was very interested to note that you had a branch at the "Ship." I immediately went back 46 years in memory. You see, the last drink I had before joining the *Die-Hards* was at the "Ship," and, strangely enough, I have never had an opportunity of visiting that district since. I was 16 years old at the time and lived many years in Queen's Buildings, Scovell Road. So I spent my boyhood days in that vicinity. I used to go to Belvedere Road School, then worked in the shoe factory under the railway arches in Newington Causeway. I think it was "Pococks." I remember going to the "Ship" for my mother's half-pint of stout and piece of cheese, and the barman would dredge the stout with ginger—total expense was 2d. (I do not suppose the "Ship" has altered its price since then.) I wonder! Well, to get back to the Service, I took the Queen's shilling at Hounslow, which, of course, was the depot in those days. Although serving, I never went to Africa, but joined the Battalion (the 2nd) after the war. I was in the Band, being stationed at many places including Portsmouth, Borden, Warley and Guernsey. The latter place, where I reside now, was where I got

caught in the net and married. Then we went to Malta until the 1914 War broke out. I daresay a lot of your lads remember that one, of which I went right through until the beginning of 1918, then I got gassed and I came home to Chatham. After that I re-formed the 4th Battalion at Colchester in 1920, and that over I was invalided out. I came to Guernsey and bought a little off-licence and grocery store, which was successful until the Jerries occupied the Island. Then I got into a jamb with the Jerries, so they packed my wife and self to a concentration camp in Germany. I could go on writing several sheets, but I do not want to bore you. We are now settled back here again and picking up wonderfully well. One of the reasons in writing to you is to know if any of the boys remember me. I am just an ordinary bloke, having held practically every rank from Lance Jack to Acting Captain. I would like to become a member of your branch. If there is a subscription I would willingly pay same. I will probably come to one of your meetings next year, when things are more settled.

There are five old *Die-Hards* living here—Sgt. Walton, Haradine, (Dean, Harry), Bill Dene, and my son Bert, who was taken prisoner at Dunkirk. If any of the lads remember any of us we would like a line from them. There is another—Ted Welch.

I regret I am unable to get across for the Annual General Meeting, but hope you all have a good time. And with my best wishes for every success for your branch, glad to see the old comradeship which we learned and had during harder times is still being fostered.

I remain,
Yours faithfully,
B. J. LUCKIE.

TRUST FUND OF THE 51st HIGHLAND DIVISION

The letter appended below should be of interest to those who served in the 51st Highland Division whilst with the 1st/7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).

Officer in Depot Party.

November 26, 1946.

DEAR SIR,—On behalf of the Trustees of the above Fund I would be very grateful if, with the permission of the Colonel of your Regiment, you could give prominence in the next issue of the Regimental paper to the fact that the Trustees of the above Fund are now prepared to make monetary grants in necessitous circumstances out of the funds at their disposal. Perhaps you would also help us by informing the secretaries of the various branches of your Regimental Association.

Total sums available. The Trustees are prepared to meet claims up to a total of £1,000 per annum in grants varying from £100 down to a minimum of £10. No smaller grants than those of £10 would be made by this Fund.

Those eligible for grants. The claimant, or, in the case of a claim on behalf of a dependant, the deceased,

must have served overseas as a member of the 51st Highland Division for a period of not less than six consecutive months, unless wounded in service with the Division, or for some other exceptional reasons.

Both officers and other ranks and their dependants are eligible for the grant.

METHOD OF APPLYING FOR GRANTS

Applications should in the first instance be made to the Secretary and Treasurer—

Lieut.-Colonel C. N. Thomson, D.S.O., T.D.,
64 Reform Street,
Dundee,

who will supply the special forms of particulars required by the Trustees. Special arrangements are being made by which applications will, where necessary, be verified and confirmed either:

- (a) By ex-Highland Division representatives in the district from which the application emanates.
 - (b) Or, alternatively, by the nearest branch of the Earl Haig organisation, who have kindly consented to look into claims when required.
- Period of grants.* Grants will normally be made for one year at a time, but in deserving cases may be repeated from year to year.

TYPES OF CLAIMS LIKELY TO BE MET

(a) For ex-members of the 51st Highland Division.

- (i) Towards the purchase of tools, etc., for a trade, particularly when the applicant is incapacitated.
- (i) Towards books for study at University or technical colleges, etc., or in special circumstances towards other expenses in attending a University.
- (iii) Towards a holiday after a period of sickness.
- (iv) Towards extra medical comforts during a period of sickness.
- (v) In exceptional cases, towards the expense incurred in launching out in a new business.
- (vi) Towards the expenses of setting up a home.
- (vii) Towards fees and expenses for evening classes.

(b) For the dependants of ex-members (whether the member is alive or deceased).

- (i) Towards the education of children or the starting of them up in trade or business.
- (ii) Towards children attending Cadet Corps activities, particularly the Army Cadet Force.
- (iii) Towards children's activities in Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, etc.
- (iv) Towards a holiday after a period of sickness, perhaps involving the expenses of looking after children during this period.
- (v) Towards widows in peculiar pecuniary difficulties caused by the death of the husband, such as the settlement of applications incurred prior to his death, such as instalments on furniture.

Yours,
(signed) D. N. WIMBERLEY.

RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD SOLDIER

By Hugh Doherty

PART I

Looking Back

I joined the Middlesex Regiment in London on April 14th, 1893, at the age of 17 years and 2 months.

When I joined there were no motor-cycles, motor-cars or aeroplanes, no cinemas, wireless or television, little football, and few bicycles—the latter a luxury. However, the pubs were open all day and half the night, and there were lashings of beer (spelt then with a capital B).

That decade is referred to as the "Gay Nineties" and the "Naughty Nineties." For a lot it was not so gay and, by present-day standards, not so naughty either.

"Taking the Shilling"

Enlistment was a simple matter then. Here and there gorgeous sergeants hovered around, their caps decorated with a flowing streamer of red, white and blue ribbon, which denoted a recruiting sergeant. These men were always fine specimens—friendly of eye, glib of tongue, and dressed to kill.

If you looked one in the face it was enough. "Well, my lad," he would begin (rapidly appraising your height and chest measurement) and usually that was that. There was, however, a small ritual attached to it.

If you agreed, or appeared so to do, he quickly smacked a shilling in your hand and again that was that. You had "taken the shilling" and were in honour bound to go through with it. He would then take you round the corner for a meal of sorts. (It was on record that a kind sergeant on one occasion gave a lad a meal before the shilling—but he only did that once.)

During the blow-out the regiment one desired to join was discussed.

I had seen pictures of the Guards in their magnificent busbies, but was aware they were not looking for weedy 5-foot-fours. Fusiliers also wore busbies (though not so resplendent) and they were less particular about inches, and, of course, I had heard the song "Fighting with the 7th Royal Fusiliers" and was quite ready to "carve my way to glory," too, if I could only wear a busby. But, alas! the 7th were not then open. My kind sergeant promptly noted that it was his job as an army salesman to steer me gently away from the carving business and busbies.

He assured me that the latter were most uncomfortable and, quickly getting into his stride, "Take my advice, lad, join the finest regiment in the British Army—the 57th." He then paused, looking at me rather sourly. "I'm not quite sure they will have you; very particular regiment the 57th—but I'll do my best," etc., etc.

Next the doctor and the swearing-in. What name you gave did not matter a damn. (Identity cards had not been invented.) The age limit was 18 to 25 and, so long as you gave a figure within that limit, remotely resembled it and had a good pair of feet, you were in.

Period of service then was seven years with the Colours and five with the Reserve. If serving abroad when time was up an extra year with the Regiment

(8 and 4). There was an option to go on for the full 12 with the Colours and a further option after that to do 20 (or was it 21?) and qualifying for life pension.

The latter varied according to rank on discharge. An R.S.M. (there were no C.S.M.s) got 5s. a day pension, which may not sound so very generous in 1946, but half a century ago money was money. Pay in the ranks was 1s. a day (less sundry deductions).

Immediately after the swearing-in I was addressed as follows: "You are now a soldier of the Queen. The first duties of a soldier are obedience and punctuality." Later that day I walked through the gates of Hounslow Barracks with two other "Rookies" and let me say *now* I have no quarrel with my kind sergeant of the distant nineties over his portrayal of the Middlesex Regiment. It was, and remains, sound truth. Many years later, with emotional pride, I was to hear the Regiment referred to by a high-ranking officer with no regimental connection as "The Reliable Middlesex." However, that is another story.

The Depot

Hounslow was then the Depot. My memories of it are sharp on some things, confused on others. (Who, for instance, ever forgets his first drill instructor?)

Drill

I was in uniform within 24 hours and the first thing taught was saluting, the reason for, and the importance of which, was well driven home.

I soon got over the phase of saluting anyone who wore a peaked cap and, in due course, learned to form fours, "pick 'em up," and remember which was "the other left" to step off with.

We were taught a form of physical exercise with rifles (open order) which looked very attractive, particularly when done to music. Also a form of bayonet exercise, much more difficult and very good to watch when done by, say, 100 men.

I mention these two exercises because I have an idea they are not now done—and, believe it or not, I have a distinct recollection of being taught to "Form square to repel cavalry." Shades of Rorke's Drift! I have no memory of doing this after the Depot so probably we were the last of the many.

The Instructor

Our drill sergeant was a master of the bobbing-down technique. Occasionally, while standing easy, he would have a few words with some of us—"What drove you from home?" or "Couldn't your mother stand the sight of you any longer?" and to me—"Where the hell did you come from?" (I spoke with a Scottish accent). "Why the blazes didn't you join a Scottish Regiment?" Then I said a foolish thing, that "I asked to join the 7th." Prompt came the reply: "Pity you didn't; that b— mob will take anybody and anything." Silence is golden! This bothered us a bit at first but we soon sensed 'tis a way they have in the Army and however gruff just friendly banter.

Nomenclature

Another thing dying out, but certainly not yet dead, was the reference to and naming of regiments by their

"numbers." The name "Middlesex" was rarely heard. It was the 57th, the 77th, the 7th, and so on.

Equipment

The rifle issued to us with its accompanying sword bayonet was, I believe, the first of the new magazine type. I gather this from recollections of our talks with the "old sweats." There were a few about and they delighted us with their tales of love, war, and strange experiences. They spoke warmly of their Martinis, explaining that, though they had the kick of a horse, they were much lighter to handle than the new rifle and had the additional advantage of a long triangular bayonet.

They explained with relish that the latter was driven home—a sharp turn of the wrist and then out—demonstrating the movements with a one two, three. (I believe cheese testers have, or had, a similar gadget to get a sample from the middle of a cheese!) Wide-eyed we took all this in. We were young—it was meat and drink to us.

Incidentally, these "old sweats" suffered much from what they called dry throats due to service abroad!

Personalities

I have little recollection of those at the Depot other than the aforementioned drill sergeant and, of course, the sergeant-major. The latter, a short, peppery man, had a white moustache and wore a long sword.

Of the S.M. we recruits were in a constant state of reverential fear. We would go into a huddle and discuss the awful question: "If a full corporal had the authority to order a lance-corporal and file to arrest any one of us, any time, and have us locked in the guard room, what could not the S.M. do?" However, we were soon to grow up and scoffers (1946) should please remember that we (their regimental grandfathers) were not so sophisticated as our grandchildren of to-day.

The C.O. was, if I remember rightly, a Major Grove-White. If not, it was Major Hughes-Hallett, and one of these two wore bushy whiskers. In fact, his face was all moustache and whiskers barring the regulation (then) three-fingers' breadth under the chin, which was (had to be) clean shaven.

Squarepushing

Bell-bottomed trousers were all the go in the London districts from which the majority came. Those who could get hold (somehow) of a second pair of the uniform issue, and at the ends had inverted "V" slips let into the legs. Also a spare glengarry from which were removed the regulation six-inch ribbons, replacing these with others 18 inches long. When going on leave these were taken out in a parcel and worn while away. At that time the quiff was in its heyday, cultivated and tended with great care. All this was considered very posh (a word unknown then).

The uniform was glengarry, red tunic, and dark blue trousers with thin red piping. All men had to carry a short cane of regulation pattern and length when out of barracks.

Food

At the Depot the system in connection with the bread and tea ration was a 2-lb. loaf daily (with a splash of butter) between two men, who had one large thick basin which they shared and used together. This simple business (later extended to the same quart pot in the canteen) was the origin of some life-long friendships and a youth named Charles Dellow (of whom more anon) had mine for keeps.

The Town

Hounslow itself was a small town in the country, where one could buy six eating apples for a penny and 1 lb. of tomatoes for twopence—other things correspondingly. Also, here we had the Depot of my swashbuckling 7th (Royal Fusiliers) and the Death or Glory Boys, the gorgeously uniformed 17th Lancers, to whom the P.B.I. were merely the Red Coats, the Foot Sloggers, or the Gravel Crushers.

Sport

I have no recollection of sport of any kind at the Depot.

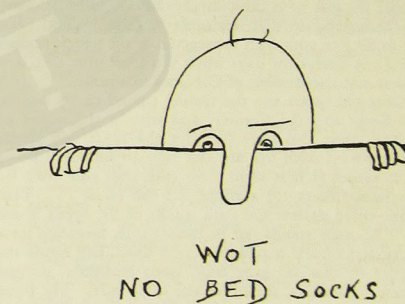
Barrack Room

This was cold and dreary (the occupants were not), lighted by a few gas jets. No lockers or other conveniences. Hanging inside the door was that quaintly worded inventory found in all Government buildings and enumerating everything movable. An item in our list was: Tubs, Soldiers', for the use of, 1. This tub was brought in every evening and, with much effort, removed in the morning. It was aged, solid, heavy, and like all old things had a fragrance of its own. Also, it was just about big enough for the job, except on the night of pay days.

We were not encouraged to be fussy in 1893. To-day there is talk of cubicles and curtains, bedside lamps and pyjamas. Time marches on!

Advertising

The alluring notices in the National Press to-day calls to mind another contrast. When I enlisted placards for recruits were usually displayed outside



police stations—there were no frills. A poster “Wanted for the Army” would be flanked on either side by similar bills “Wanted for Murder” and “Wanted for Larceny.”

This sardonic appeal was in keeping with the times. “Tommy Atkins” was very much looked down upon until, of course (in Kipling’s words), “the guns begin to play.” When they ceased it was always “as you were.” It may account, also, for the fact that the Army then, was, from time to time, a refuge for the criminal. I well remember occasional parades when we were carefully inspected, not by the adjutant, but by a civilian, burly, bowler hatted, and with unmistakable feet. After such inspections we would on dismissal eye each other with a new and rather furtive interest.

Also in those days the Navy was “The Sure Shield.” We just could not be invaded so the Army was very secondary. It did not matter that it was always scrapping somewhere or other—the scrapping took place far away. Drill sergeants, by way of putting them in their proper places, always started recruits off with an inspection, a sniff, and a “Thank Gawd we’ve got a Navy.”

Transfer

At the end of about four months my particular intake had its first move and, though it was only to Shorncliffe, a transfer from the Depot to another station sounded to us like high adventure. Also, we knew it was a stepping stone to the real thing—the Battalion and service abroad.

(To be continued)

BATTLE REMNANTS

An Account of a Visit to the Battlefields of France By Captain L. F. Baker

When the throng and the activity depart from a place they leave behind a forlorn kind of emptiness in their stead, which the litter, the match-boxes, and the tins on the ground only increase. You cannot re-people the site of a company headquarters by sticking up the sign again that lies under the hedge, and even the finding of your own unforgettable slit trench cannot bring any nearer the days when you slept in it. So it is now in the department of Calvados in France.

Over two years ago the throng passed on its way to the Seine and the frontier, and with it the power of motion must also have fled, for the fields and slopes that crawled with life are fast now in immobility—or so it seems at first sight. So still, that you often do not notice them for a while, are the tanks . . . That shape there against the dark trunks of the copse is one . . . Another stands out in the stubble, mistaken for a rusty agricultural machine . . . A third, half round the corner of that far grey wall, waits stealthily, its gun askew. Panthers, these, for the most part. The other types were easier to move. Most of the Shermans have gone, and the Mark IVs and S.P.s. But the

Panthers remain on the battlefield, the immovables—nothing but a super-crane could lift the corroded masses on to a transporter now. And so they stay. Some are old friends, piled up even now with the empty liners of Middlesex Platoons. White bones lie on the driving seats where the charred little monkey-bodies sat when we did those shoots; the soot has been washed from the armour in two winters.

They seem to have shrunk, these Panthers, to have lost weight; their guns are not so long and tapering, so formidable, as one remembers. On the whole they are rather a melancholy band. Though the Mark IV on the way down to Ste Honorine still gives one the shock it did. There it is, suddenly, in the gap of the hedge, the gun trained ready. “Christ!” one thought the first time. But the crew were just short of the corn, their faces in the mud, their legs bent to run. Eloquent corpses, those Gerries! How they seemed to be striving to reach the shelter of the corn, day after day, till, like the cows round them, their legs began to lift, and they were put where they could most benefit the crops. Those who like to look at armoured still-life may remember Tilly-la-Campagne. Squadrons are rooted to the spot there. From the Falaise road you can study them; in particular one troop just nosing the sky-line, hardly deployed even. The crops grow round them. This is the immobility that grips the land. In many ways alterations have been pitifully few. A solitary farmhouse was being rebuilt in Ste Honorine, and two or three only in the street of Ranville. All those poor little Sodoms and Gomorrhas of July the sixteenth, the villages of the Plain of Caen, have not altered a jot of their tattered silhouettes; the church towers (so helpful once for leisurely resection—when it was sunny and the spirit moved) show their familiar breaches unrepaid across the fields. In Caen the rubble has been moved and great spaces are laid open; Winston and Churchill still carry what traffic there is over the Orne; the sign-posts at the roundabouts have been inherited from 2nd Army. Northwards, huge, gaunt, black, on its hill across the river, Colom-belle’s factory gives sinners a preview of the Abomination of Desolation.

But, looking closer at the villages, you can see that the people are rather more numerous than appeared at first. And that everyone is busy and quite amazingly cheerful. Fences stand where none were before, some of the pitted roads have been relevelled, fields have cabbages in them after the corn, and a cow or two do their best to fill the place of the famous herds which so conspicuously failed to take cover. And Caen is still a local capital: it has full petrol pumps, and cars in the streets; you can have meals at a restaurant, and buy sweets in temporary wooden shops. And in undamaged shops that have survived, as well. Though most of the town is ruined, a surprisingly large area remains whole. They are luckier there than at Falaise. But no one spoke bitterly of the ways of liberation to us.

To the north-east of the town, where the Orne Bridgehead lay, the salvaging of the broadcast stores and wreckage has laid open the land in unaccustomed nakedness: the slope above Ranville is stripped of its glider-cloak, the Orne of its Bailey Bridges; the

fields are smooth which bristled with poles, and all the churned-up tracks are grass-grown once more. From the fields and the roadsides the little graves have been gathered in under the battered old tower of Ranville church. “All, all are gone, the old familiar faces”—the Middlesex orchard in Ste Honorine, untended, is overgrown with weeds, the slit trenches filled in, and only the Sherman-squashed motor-cycle of the 2nd Seaforths lies where it did, and an Army spoon on a shelf in the empty cottage by the wall.

1st BATTALION NEWS

Editorial

As these notes are written, the Battalion is on the point of completing twelve months in Rendsburg. From February 12th, 1946, we have garrisoned this old town, standing guard over the famous Kaiser Wilhelm Canal, between Kiel and Hamburg. Most of us consider that we know Schleswig-Holstein fairly well—perhaps too well. The ubiquitous subject of the weather cannot be left out, even at the expense of boring Journal readers. We are just recovering from a spell of cold weather that is reckoned to have been the severest for over 50 years.

As a prelude to the regretted disbandment of the Guards Division, the G.O.C., Major-General J. C. O. Marriott, paid us a farewell visit, and addressed all ranks in the gymnasium. His talk left us with no doubt but that we had maintained the traditions of the Regiment, and those of the Guards Division. Before the General left, the Commanding Officer received, on behalf of the Battalion, a miniature inscribed replica of the Guards Division Standard.

On December 2nd, 1946, an Officers’ Mess Party was held, affording an opportunity of saying farewell to the Guards Division. An impressive list of invitations was sent out, headed by the G.O.C., and it was with great pleasure that we were able to welcome almost all those to whom invitations had been sent.

It is strange to contemplate that, having so long been administered by a division of great repute, we are now under the wing of a Sub-Area Headquarters. However, as a Regular Unit, we do not expect this state of affairs will continue for very long.

There have, as usual, been a certain amount of departures of individuals from the Battalion, among whom were Majors L. C. Beadnell and P. A. Fishbourne. Major Beadnell, who commanded “C” Company for a considerable time, has left to take up an appointment as Brigade Major to the Territorial Army, and Major Fishbourne has been posted to 2nd Battalion. We regret that they had to leave and wish them success in their new duties.

“B” Company, together with a platoon from the Heavy Mortar Company, have left us, under the command of Major G. O. Porter, to take over demonstration duties at the School of Infantry, Warminster. They are expected to be away for about six months.

We congratulate the following, who have been awarded the C-in-C’s Certificate for outstanding



“D” Coy. Inter-Company Drill Competition,
December, 1946.



Members of Battalion Rugby Team.



Sergeants entertaining German children at a Christmas
Party, 1946.

good service and devotion to duty during the occupation of Germany: Capt. C. G. Austin, C.Sgt. Redpath, Sgt. N. Hore, Sgt. S. Page, and Pte. L. Savagar.

On November 19th, 1946, the Commanding Officer received his D.S.O. from His Majesty The King at an investiture at Buckingham Palace. We congratulate him on his award. From the investiture the Colonel went on to join a course at Old Sarum, near Salisbury, and so for a month the Battalion was commanded by Major R. W. D. Sword.

As a result of the appeal for the Regimental Memorial Fund the Battalion has so far raised £91 1s. 9d. The



Christmas Dinner, 1946.



Battalion Hockey Team.

Fund within the Unit was commenced on January 4th, and the above figure is as it stood on January 18th. Collection boxes, raffles and dances all have been organised for this purpose.

The Christmas season was observed by the Battalion in the true spirit and, although, as always, there were difficulties in finding the means to make the festivities as communal as possible, most of us will agree that they went down with a swing. Christmas Day and Boxing Day were observed as holidays, and on Christmas Day in the Kiel Club (The Garrison's O.R.s' NAAFI Club) the corporals and privates sat down to Christmas dinner, served by the officers, W.O.s and sergeants. Liberal supplies of liquid refreshment and the usual features of the Christmas menu were there and, undoubtedly, justice was done to them.

SPORTS

Owing to the departure of "B" Company the "Albuhera" Shield Competition had to be wound up for 1946-47 early in January. In the effort to get the games played off in time it was not uncommon for the same players to take the field twice in a day. "B" Company, who had shown excellent form throughout the competition, were the victors by 14 points. The positions, with points gained, were:

Company	"B"	"C"	"A"	"D"	"H.Q."
Cricket League	2	4	6	9	9
Cricket Knock-out	4	8	2	6	10
Swimming	10	8	6	4	2
Water Polo	5	4	3	2	1
Soccer League	8	6	4	10	2
Soccer Knock-out	9	5	9	2	5
Rugger Knock-out	4	2	8	6	10
Hockey League	6	2	8	4	10
Hockey Knock-out	10	4	8	2	6
Cross Country 1...	1	5	4	3	2
" " 2...	5	4	2	3	1
" " 3...	5	4	1	2	3
Novices' Boxing	4	8	6	10	2
Open Boxing	10	8	4	6	0
Basket Ball League	4	3	5	2	1
Athletics	8	10	4	2	6
Tug-of-War	2	4	1	5	3
Rifle Meeting	10	4	8	6	2
TOTAL POINTS	107	93	89	84	75
POSITION	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th

An Inter-Company Drill Competition was held, although this did not count towards the "Albuhera" Shield. To ensure a high standard in judging, the Commanding Officer and Adjutant of the 2nd Welsh Guards were asked to judge. A very fine turn-out indeed was produced by all Companies and in this, too, "B" Company carried off full honours and were awarded the Cup presented by the Commanding Officer.

Hockey

The season really commenced in August when two or three trial games were held with a view to sorting out the wheat from the chaff. The Battalion had changed so much from the previous year, that the side has had to be practically rebuilt. However, we were very fortunate in having such stalwarts as Capt. Cummins, Capt. Delaney, and L/Cpl. Eve.

The fixture opened with a 3-2 win against 4th R.H.A. on our own ground, but they turned the tables the following week when they trounced our very much weakened side 6-1. Our best performances were victories over the Royal Navy (8-1), 2nd Irish Guards (7-1) and 2nd Welsh Guards (8-1). However, our visit to Hamburg, on October 26th, while very instructive in showing our side how hockey should be played, was not very lucrative from the goal-scoring point of view. We were defeated 7-1.

At the end of the year the Battalion hockey side could feel fairly satisfied with their performance. The table then stood as follows:

P.	W.	L.	D.	For	Against
14	7	5	2	48	41

This would, in all probability, have been bettered had it not been for the appalling weather just before Christmas. Seven consecutive games were cancelled, just at the time when the side was at its strongest. Unfortunately the Warminster Detachment has sadly crippled our team, but there are many young keen players in the Battalion and we should be able to replace our losses. So far six fixtures have been arranged for 1947, the first to be played, weather permitting, on January 15th.

Soccer

The extreme weather conditions have played havoc with the Battalion fixture list. Only one match was

played in December, and, so far, none in January. The December match, against the 1st Heavy Regiment, R.A., whom we beat in the first round of the Army Cup, resulted in a 3-0 win. This reflected great credit on our second eleven, six of whom were called upon to play in this game.

The Scots and Irish Guards accounted for us in the B.A.O.R. and Army Cups, respectively, but we live to fight again in the former competition as the Scots Guards have since left B.A.O.R.

A German eleven has again been defeated, as have the Grenadier Guards, R.A., and R.E., but the 10th Hussars beat us 5-3 on November 23rd in a friendly match. The second eleven remained unbeaten on this day by defeating the 10th Hussars' second eleven at Rendsburg 4-1.

An interesting fixture list is waiting us for the remainder of the season and we are hoping that the weather will give us an opportunity of proving our worth.

Rugby

So far this season we have played seven matches, beating the 1st Heavy Regiment, R.A., 4th R.H.A., and twice the H.Q., R.A.S.C. We lost to the 2nd Welsh Guards, 5th Royal Tanks, and 102nd Anti-Tank Regiment, R.A.

Considering that we have only approximately 30 players fully conversant with the rules, we think this is a pretty good effort and feel particularly proud of having defeated the 1st Heavy Regiment, R.A., 11 points to 6 in the first round of the Army Cup. In the second round we were drawn to play 5th Royal Tanks, who were last year's finalists, and we were soundly beaten by 17 points to nil. We were unfortunate in having to field a weakened side, but must admit that 5th Tanks have an excellent team and should go a long way in the competition.

Colours have been awarded to the following: Major G. B. Ayre, Capt. R. J. P. Cummins and W. A. W. St. George, Sgt. Pople, L/Cpl. Burland, Ptes. Wilson, Parkes, Rees and Cfmn. Lovell.

Boxing

As is the case with other sporting activities, the Battalion has lost a number of its more experienced boxers, who have returned to civilian life. The inter-company boxing competitions presented admirable opportunities for the selection of new talent, with the result that the following have been busily training for this year's contests: D/Major Holdford, Sgts. Ellis, Bromfield, Pople and Nicholson, L Cpls. Richardson and Gettins, Ptes. Kirby, Groves, Wilson, Cole, Enever and Burgess (71), and L/Cpl. Chackfield. The cold weather has produced some difficulties, as the nearest Turkish baths are in Hamburg, 60 miles away. However, with true Spartan fortitude, the team scrambles into a lorry to work off a few surplus pounds.

Amongst those whom we have lost through release, is Capt. J. H. Stubbs, M.C. Not only was he our best middle-weight and team captain, but was a true leader

of men, and got the very best out of the material at his disposal. We wish him all the very best in civilian life.

So far this season we have had but one contest, against the 2nd Welsh Guards on January 7th. Unfortunately, we lost by only one point, but for us it was a very valuable evening, learning a lot as the result of it. We were to fight the 2nd Battalion Irish Guards on January 14th, but have since learned we must travel down to the Ruhr to box the 1st Royal Welch Fusiliers on January 16th in the 53(W) Division competition. Should we reach the final, it is probable we shall meet the 1st East Lancs. who beat us last year in the final of the B.A.O.R. Championships.

"H.Q." Company

To foretell, say, to the nearest month, who would be commanding the Company would, in the past, be most unwise. Capt. E. D. Lloyd-Thomas, having commanded for about four months, has left us to go to England as Second-in-command of "B" Company. We wish him well in his new job. Major P. A. Fishbourne arrived from England, commanded for two weeks, and was posted to the 2nd Battalion. Capt. W. A. W. St. George took over for a few weeks until Capt. A. E. Peasley, newly arrived from 24th M.G.T.C., combined his duties of Signal Officer with those of O.C. Capt. Peasley will be remembered by older members of the Regiment as an older member of the pre-war 2nd Battalion.

Capt. E. G. Hall, of the Manchester Regiment, who was with us for quite a considerable time as I.O., has left us for "A" Company. He will have been released by the time these notes are published, and so we wish him the best of luck in civilian life.

Amongst others who have left the Company are Sgt. Stewart, who has taken up a job as Cook Sergeant in the R.A., and Cpls. Waller and Carter (R.E.M.E.), L/Cpl. McMullin, and Ptes. Chaisty, Durack, King and Goodier, who have all gone to Civvy Street.

We are very pleased to welcome Lieut. R. R. T. Whitehead, an old member of the 1st Battalion, who was demobbed about a year ago but did not seem to like Civvy Street. He is now back with us holding his Short Service Commission, performing the duties of I.O. Other new arrivals include Sgts. Hart and Newman, Cook Sergeant and Technical Sergeant respectively, Cpl. Beauchamp, and Ptes. McLeish, Sullivan, Breslin, Casely and Winsborough.

Despite our losses through demob., etc., we have contrived to keep up a fairly high standard in games and, considering we are such a small Company, have put up a reasonably high performance.

This season we have particularly shone in rugger, winning the knock-out competition. We have seven of the Battalion side in our Company.

Hockey, too, has been a strong point. We won the hockey league, but were beaten by "B" Company in the hockey knock-out when five of our team were away.

Basket ball has been a weak point this year, a disappointing side putting us at the bottom of the league.

Although we had the same people who won for us last year we were never able to get our full side together.

The Company gained third place in the recent Inter-Company Cross-country run, with Ptes. Bagg and Beeston both distinguishing themselves. Considering the limited number of runners we have to choose from our effort was a good one.

We cannot take any credit for soccer. In both the Albuhera League and knock-out competitions we were severely trounced. This was accounted for partly by injuries, but it must be said that without Capt. Delaney, D/Major Holdford and Cfmm. Lovell there would have been little point in fielding a team at all.

"A" Company

Since the last issue we have spent a month on detachment in Kiel, but were fortunate in being back with the Battalion in time for the Christmas festivities. A short while later we moved our quarters to take up those in "Brown" Block, located by "B" Company.

Despite the shortage of fully-trained instructors, the basic and specialist training programme has shown marked progress.

Losses to the Company have been considerable. Lieuts. J. McKenna and P. W. Galvin have left us; the former to civilian life and the latter to "B" Company. Sgt. Cooper has become Regimental Provost Sergeant, and the following have all departed for Civvy Street: Cpl. Cracknell, Ptes. Wright, Cowen, Coyle, Eldridge, Jenkins, Richardson and Talbot. To all of the above we extend our best wishes for the future.

We welcome to the Company, Capt. E. G. Hall, from "H.Q." Company, shortly to be demobbed, Lieut. J. O. Dare, late of the 1/7th, who has returned to the Regiment after a considerable spell with A.M.G.O.T., and Sgts. Budden and George.

In the "Albuhera" Shield we were placed third. Our soccer team did well towards the end of the season, for which great credit must be given to Perry and Zimmer. In the rugger knock-out we were placed second—a tribute to C.S.M. Fuller's enthusiasm. Even greater success was achieved by the basket ball team, who finished top of the league. Ptes. Yeoman and Phillips deserve honourable mention for their efforts.

Generally speaking, conditions are now more settled than they have been for a long time, and we can look forward to a period of working together as a Company without excessive changes in personnel.

"B" Company

Although sadly depleted by demobilisation, those of us who remain feel justifiably proud of our achievements, particularly in the sporting world.

When we returned from detachment at Kiel, "C" Company had to be ousted from the top of the "Albuhera" Shield Competition. First of all we won a convincing victory over "D" Company. A special word of praise must go to Pte. Enever, who, although beaten on points, put up a very plucky fight against Capt. Stubbs in the boxing contest. In the last two cross-country runs we were easily first. In the last

run our first 12 runners put up only 96 points between them.

Although not counting towards the "Albuhera" Shield, we won the Battalion Drill Competition, scoring 89 out of a possible 100 points, due, in no small way, to the efforts of C.S.M. Pike.

Then came the news that our Company would have to take first turn at the School of Infantry. There were still quite a number of events in the "Albuhera" Shield to be decided. Owing largely to the efforts of Sgt. Stokes and several other Company stalwarts who, on several occasions, had to turn out twice in one day, all the events were finished by January 6th. By beating "A" Company by one goal, after extra time, in the final of the hockey knock-out we were placed first for the award of the Shield, 14 points ahead of our rivals.

"C" Company

Since returning from Kiel, where we were able to continue with our training, we have been able to settle down, reinforced by drafts from 1/7th and R.H.U.s.

As always, we have to record the loss of many of our old members. Just before Christmas Major L. C. Beadnell left to take up a post with the T.A., in which we wish him every success. Sgt. Dorsett, popular "mine host" of the Rendsburg W.O.s' and Sergeants' Club, has left for civilian life.

We welcome as Company Commander, Major N. G. Gilbert, under whom, we are sure, we shall all be very happy to serve. A welcome, too, is extended to all who have joined the Company.

Despite many changes in personnel, we held top place in the "Albuhera" Shield Competition until the last moment, when "B" Company forged ahead to win by only 14 points. In soccer, although losing the last few games, we always managed to hold our own. Great credit must go to L/Cpl. Gettins and Ptes. Hales, Buck and Sisoff for their skill and enthusiasm throughout the season.

Although not outstanding at hockey, we enjoyed some hard games. Ptes. Argent, Vincent and Buck were our mainstays and our Company Commander, although arriving too late to have any marked influence in the over-all position in the season, proved himself a very strong back.

Due to the bad weather basket ball came into its own and the first few games were played fast and furiously with some easy victories for "C" Company. With our star shooter, Sgt. Perry, and Sgts. MacIntyre, Cpl. Hall, L/Cpl. Gettins and Pte. Adolphe hopes are, therefore, high for this competition.

We found great difficulty in raising a rugger team, but, nevertheless, we had some enjoyable games. Sgt. Morgan, Cpl. Deamer and L/Cpl. Joyce being outstanding. Our games were not victorious, but we hope to put up a more spirited resistance next season.

We won the first cross-country run, but "B" Company, who were hard on our heels all the way, overpowered us in the end. Our congratulations go to Lieut. Frith, Cpl. Stallard and Sgt. Dodkin who each gained first place in the three runs.

"D" Company

Since the last issue of *The Die-Hards* we have very seriously been depleted as a result of the move to Warminster of a complete Mortar Platoon. Apart from this, having a large number of garrison or regimentally employed, our strength has dwindled to such an extent that the C.S.M. complains that he has about 25 men from whom to find guards and picquets.

Losses by release include Capt. J. H. Stubbs, who, by the way, we must congratulate on being the father of a baby girl, C.Q.M.S. Budding, a great loss to our soccer team, Sgt. Page, one of our greatest sporting stalwarts, Cpl. Swinyard, of Albuhera Club fame, Cpls. Compton and Neal, L/Cpl. Griggs, and Ptes. Scanlan, Jarvis, Bush, Priddle, Turner (32) and Jones (61). To all of them we wish every success in civilian life.

Although we claimed only fourth place in the competition for the "Albuhera" Shield this does not adequately reflect our true capabilities. We won the soccer league and were third in both the hockey league and the rugger knock-out. From the Company have been drawn many of the Battalion's sportsmen. Major G. B. Ayre, Sgt. Pople, Cpl. Walsh, and Ptes. Rees, Hewitt and Paul all play for the Battalion rugger team. In the Battalion soccer side were Capt. J. H. Stubbs, C.Q.M.S. Budding, Sgt. Page, L/Cpl. Richardson, Ptes. O'Brien and Morgan, and Cfmm. Oak, and the boxing team also drew a large number from "D" Company.

There have been promotions in the Company and we congratulate L/Cpl. Lanfear, now Corporal, and Ptes. Hall, Kindred, Richardson and Hawnt, all Lance-Corporals.

Our task now is to maintain the high standard in training and sport in spite of our commitments at Warminster, and the losses to Civvy Street. This, no doubt, will be done, and already the cricket and swimming enthusiasts are counting the days when they will come into their own.

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

INTRODUCTION

Expecting one time to return to Palestine with the rest of 3 Division, 2nd Middlesex is now remaining in Egypt as "G.H.Q. Guard Battalion" at Fayid, which is the scene of tremendous activity these days (January) as accommodation is prepared for G.H.Q.

Training time is severely limited by guard duties, and education has been reduced to one afternoon a week. Sport continues to flourish. The regimental band has been with us since November 17, a great asset both on and off parade.

After a month away from the Battalion in temporary command of 8 Brigade, Lieut.-Colonel Reid left recently for a course in U.K. Major Clayden is commanding the Battalion, with Major Orr as second-in-command. A considerable number of officer reinforcements have

joined recently, including Capt. J. L. Gray, M.C., formerly with 1/7th Middlesex.

"B" COMPANY

Early in November the Company rejoined the Battalion at Fayid, after three months at Suez, where we guarded the small military port of Adabiya, which desert campaigners will remember as the Middle East terminus of the Cape sea route. Despite the filth and flies, and the wiles of the natives, the task was a worthwhile one, with interesting moments.

Major K. P. Baxter, M.C., left us for release about this time and was succeeded by Capt. E. J. Naish. The Company also lost Ptes. Riddiford and Valinsky with 46 Group, but the arrival later of Cpl. Stamp and Pte. Hillier, who rejoined the Regiment (ex-2/7th Middlesex and 2nd Kensingtons respectively) after a short spell in civilian life, has been a compensation. We are shortly to lose Ptes. Douglas and Sweeney with 47 Group, and Capt. Naish expects to leave soon on Python.

Training recently has been greatly restricted by our guard duties and other commitments, and opportunities for realism are few. We were glad that two of our platoons were able to take part in a fully supported attack exercise with the 1st Royal West Kents in December. Recently, the Company had the honour of supplying the guard at the C-in-C's new house at Fayid on the day on which General Dempsey took up residence.

The Company has been unfortunatly in the field of sport, only Company H.Q. and No. 5 Platoon teams managing to survive the first round of the Battalion Inter-Platoon Soccer Competition. In the "Overlord" Cup Competition we were beaten by "C" Company, but drew with "H.Q." We are hoping for more success in the future, particularly in view of the fact that the cup was presented to the Battalion by Capt. G. A. Binney, who commanded the Company for a time in Palestine last year. The Company is well stocked with sportsmen, however, and supplies C/Sgt. Freshwater, Cpls. Ward and French, and Ptes. Cocozza and Freeman to the Battalion soccer XI; Lieut. Scrivener, C/Sgt. Freshwater, Sgts. Thompson and Jones, Cpls. French and Moore, and Pte. Freeman to the Rugby XV; and Capt. Naish, C/Sgt. Freshwater, and Sgts. Thompson and Watson to the hockey side.

Christmas in the Company was a very merry affair, and the usual customs were observed on Christmas Day. That evening the Company held an extremely informal social in the gymnasium, which was a great success, owing largely to the efforts of Cpl. Tilling and Cpl. Summerlin.

"C" COMPANY

Life in the Company has been very regular of late, and although our commitments have been eased somewhat, guards still take precedence over other activities. On January 15 the Company provided the first ceremonial guard to be mounted on the C-in-C's residence at Fayid.

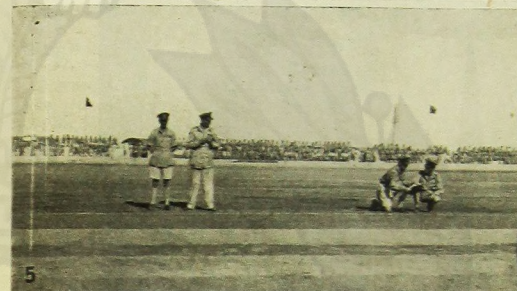
In November a three-day "machine-guns in the



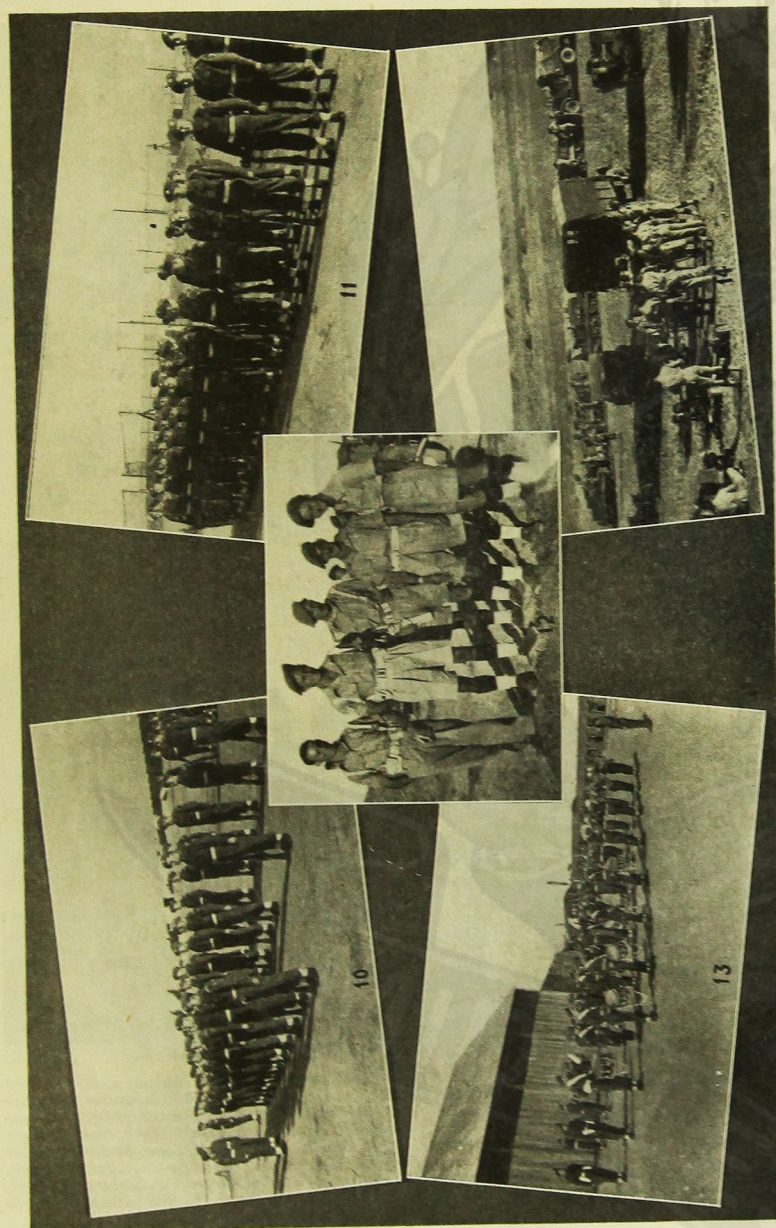
SCORE BOARD		7.84s	8.84s	9.84s	10.84s
EVENTS					
4x100 YDS. RELAY	4	10	6	8	2
3 MILES TEAM	4	6	8	10	2
HIGH JUMP	2	5	3	4	1
4x40 YDS. RELAY	4	6	10	8	2
DISCUS	2	5	3	4	1
LONG JUMP	3	4	5	2	1
4x220 YDS. RELAY	6	10	8	4	2
1 MILE TEAM	4	6	8	10	2
SHOT PUTT	1	3	5	4	2
4x880 YDS. RELAY	4	6	10	8	2
TOTALS	34	61	66	62	17



1. 2nd Middlesex Officers' v. Sergeants' soccer match, Fayid, Christmas morning, 1946, scenes during the game
2 and 3. 3rd Divisional Sports Meeting, Fayid, 29th and 30th October, 1946, Major Clayden long jumping and
the score board (2nd Middlesex last column but one). 4. 2nd Middlesex Officers' v. Sergeants' soccer match, Fayid,
Christmas morning, 1946—the Sergeants' team (left to right, standing): Sgts. "Pete" Conway, "Chindit" Thompson,
"Pawney Mladom" Waterfield, "Lush" Thomson, "The Horse" Jones, "Barney" Ross, C.S.M. "Chad"
du Heaume, C/Sgt. "Touchline" Griffiths. Front row (left to right): C.S.M. "Garth" Hastie, C.S.M. "Spud"
Murphy, C/Sgt. "Josh" Taylor.



5. 3rd Division Sports Meeting, Fayid, 30th October, 1946. C.-in-C., Middle East, General Dempsey and G.O.C. 3rd
Division, Major-General Whistler. (On right, A.D.M.S., Colonel McMyn and 8th Brigade Commander, Brigadier
Bedford-Roberts.) 6 and 7. 2nd Middlesex Officers' v. Sergeants' soccer match, Fayid, Christmas morning, 1946—the
Officers' team coming on to the field (left to right): Major Clayden, Capt. Rowberry, Capt. Naish, Lieut. Mongor
(behind him Capt. Stanyer), Capt. Taverner, Capt. Rogers, Major Raindle, Lieut. Small, Lieut. Scrivener, Major
Orr, and the game in progress—(left to right): Capt. Rowberry, Lieut. Scrivener, Capt. Taverner, Sgt. Thomson.
8. The morning after two nights before and still going strong! (Left to right): L/Cpl. Carter, Pte. Carver, Pte. Bates,
Cpl. Bibbs, and Pte. Dacosta—all of "D" Company. 9. A group of "D" Company football enthusiasts on the
Canal South District ground at Fayid.



10, 11, and 13, "B" Company mounting C-in-C's Guard at and Middlesex Camp, Fayid, with Regimental Band Guard Commander, Lieut. G. N. Longway. Impacting, Capt. E. J. Naith and C.S.M. Wilde. 12, A "C" Company group (left to right): L/Sgt. Ruskin, Sgt. Williamson, Lieut. Snell, C.S.M. du Heume and Sgt. Thomson. 14, The harbouring area of "C" Company on a scheme at Wadi Yasar.

desert" exercise was followed by a "pepperpot" exercise, which revived memories of other "pepperpots" in Europe! Other training has been limited to occasional rifle, bren, and sten range practices.

At last the parasite of demobilisation is beginning to take smaller toll. The acting O.C., Capt. Adamson, left early in the New Year, and Capt. J. T. Stanyer has taken over command of the Company during Major Clayden's temporary command of the Battalion. Other Class "A" releases have included Lieut. Snell, Sgt. Mann, Sgt. Ruskin, Cpl. Chandler, L. Cpl. Allen, and Pte. Harlen. Pte. Board left on Class "B" release, and Pte. Miller was the first spot of the Python down-pour now threatening.

During December Lieuts. Hawes, Mackay, Staplehurst and Capo joined the Company, having arrived in the Middle East recently from England. Sgt. Carlier rejoined the Regiment after a short spell in Civvy Street and was welcomed to the Company by his old comrades of the 8th Battalion.

Once again the Company has shone on the sports field, soccer inevitably taking pride of place. Before Christmas, three games were played against "D" Company. The first two were drawn and the last lost, 1-0. In December we played H.Q. Squadron of the 1519th Hussars in a grand game with no score that will long be remembered. In the first round of the "Overlord" Cup we beat "B" Company 2-0. Our defence was firm, and Kay and Streatfield led many strong attacks. The Company has been unfortunate in the platoon knockout competition, only No. 7 Platoon surviving the first round. Much credit is due to Cpl. Lewis for his untiring work in arranging these games.

Winter evenings have encouraged indoor sports, and in the Battalion table tennis competition the Company team has survived the first and second rounds. Good luck to Cpl. Woolley, Pte. Merritt and Pte. Ridge in subsequent rounds.

"D" COMPANY

The tempo of life has changed little during the last three months, except that our main energies are now devoted to carrying out the heavy duties that fall to us as members of the "G.H.Q. Guard Battalion." Such time as is left to us is spent on the rifle range, in the education centre, or maintaining our stores and vehicles.

Capt. D. C. Rowberry is now Company Commander (in place of Major R. E. Orr, M.C., who is acting second-in-command of the Battalion), with Capt. C. F. Rogers as second-in-command. (Capt. Rowberry expects to leave shortly on Python.) Several newly-joined officers—Lieuts. Warr, Witterick, Avers, Cave-Browne-Cave, and Hawkins—have been welcomed to the Company, and C.S.M. Murphy has taken over from C.S.M. Hastie, who, to our regret, left for U.K. just after Christmas for compassionate reasons.

Sport is going splendidly. The Company is well represented in the various Battalion teams, and scarcely a day passes without some sporting activity taking place.

Nearly every week there is a Company social evening, ably organised by Cpl. Rainford and well attended by all ranks. The programme usually includes indoor

competitions—darts, snooker, table tennis—the officers and sergeants playing the rest. The officers and sergeants are invariably beaten and have little hope of an early comeback!

Local leave, although we are now in the winter season, is extremely popular and going well. Cyprus, despite the rather wearying journey, is delightful, and there is an excellent leave camp nearby at Timsah (Ismailia).

Now that a much greater flow of reinforcements is arriving, releases are not hitting us as hard as they did three or four months ago. We shall, however, be sorry to lose Cpls. Young, Graham and Sutcliffe, and Ptes. Green, Walker and Leigh with 47 Group. They have all been with the Company a long time and will be missed.

Christmas was most enjoyable. Thanks to the untiring efforts of those responsible, the various activities and entertainments organised for the festive season were a great success and greatly appreciated by all ranks. The highlight, of course, was the Officers v. Sergeants football match; the officers of the Company have only just recovered from the awful punishment they took on that never-to-be-forgotten Christmas morning!

Finally, we hope that old members of the Company who read these notes will drop us a line occasionally. We are always delighted to hear from them.

"H.Q." COMPANY

Release farewells continue. Recently we said cheerio to Capt. A. E. Bird, Sgt. Geiss, Sgt. Johns, L. Cpl. Bonniwell, Pte. Mudd and Pte. Jones.

Pending the return from leave of Major W. A. Raindle early in December, the O.C.'s chair was occupied on the "one on—one off" system by Capt. J. A. Howell (Signal Officer, now away on a pre-vocational course in Cairo, generally believed to be "Bricklaying," but possibly "Building Construction") and Capt. C. R. Oakley (M.T.O., whom we expect to lose shortly when he takes over "B" Company from Capt. Naish). Capt. P. F. Newman has joined us as Q.M., relieving Capt. H. Farrow, M.B.E., who is now in U.K. 2/Lieut. B. K. Clayden, who joined us as a reinforcement, is also in England—on a signals course at Caterick. Sgt. Copping is holding the signals fort. Capt. Cattell, back from leave, has resumed his duties as I.O.; Lieut. Burnett has returned to "D" Company. Capt. Opperman is now second-in-command "B" Company. Capt. Taverner is still Adjutant, and Capt. Clark continues to educate.

New members of the Company include Cpls. Smirthwaite and Hounslow (now on leave in U.K.), L. Cpl. Cumper and Ptes. Brock, Hammond, Price, Frow, Davies, Madden, Whiteley, Coates and Gamble.

Company sport has been going well. We have had two soccer tussles with "B" Company, both ending in draws, as did our "Overlord" match with "D" Company. Within the Company, the department league, for which Major Raindle is presenting a cup, has reached the halfway mark; the order at the time of writing is: Q.M., Coy. H.Q., M.T., and Signals. The following deserve special mention for their soccer efforts: R.S.M. Weller, C.S.M. Hammond, Sgts.

Needham and Thomson (now with "C"), L/Cpls. Brown and Ryder, Ptes. Skinner, Whomes, Machin, Neville, Byrne, Read (83) and Madden, and Bdmn. Stapleton.

C.S.M. Hammond is presenting a cup for the basketball league that has just started, with the C.S.M., Cpls. Axten, Gomm (R.A.O.C.) and Bassett, and L/Cpls. Tanner, Simpson and Holmes prominent players.

Most of the Battalion hockey players come from "H.Q." Company, including R.S.M. Weller, R.Q.M.S. Etheridge, C.S.M. Hammond, C/Sgt. Selfe, Major Raindle, Capt. Cattell, Capt. Taverner, 2/Lieut. Clayden, L/Cpl. Cumper and Bdmn. Hymas.

Our rugby stars are: Capt. Taverner, Capt. Skinner (M.O.) and Ptes. Read (83), Machin, Sime, Salisbury and Williams (54). Our thanks go to the department sports representatives for their untiring efforts in helping the various games to go with a swing: L/Cpl. Holmes (Q.M.), Pte. Read (M.T.), L/Cpl. Hawkins (H.Q.) and L/Cpl. Tucker (Signals).

SPORTS NOTES

Sport has flourished in the Battalion during the last three months. The enthusiasm and keenness shown by all ranks has been most encouraging.

Soccer

The 1st XI, after a rather shaky start, have settled down well and are playing good football at present. Out of the 10 matches played to date, they have won 5, lost 3 and drawn 2.

Freshwater, the team captain, has been playing a steady and sound game throughout the season, while Bdmn. Brown, at centre-half, has been a tower of strength; he will be a big loss to the side when the band returns to U.K.

The main difficulty with soccer is the poor quality of the grounds in Egypt. Grass pitches are extremely rare, and most games are played on the eternal sand-cum-gravel, with the result that casualties are abnormally high.

Hockey

The hockey side has had a most successful season. A total of 11 games have been played; 9 were won and 2 lost, with a total of 43 goals to 13.

Clayden and Hammond have been outstanding in the forward line, while Etheridge and Selfe have been very sound in defence. The Battalion is hoping that the team will go a long way in the divisional hockey cup.

Rugby

Training has been going on for a month now, and there are quite a number of enthusiasts. The main difficulty with this sport is again the problem of grounds—even grass pitches are viciously hard at this time of the year, and the casualty rate is even higher than in soccer! Major Clayden has been putting in some hard work teaching learners the rules of the game.

Only one Battalion match has been played so far, and on this occasion a weak side lost 9-7 to the 1st

Royal West Kents. The Divisional cup knock-out competition is commencing in February, and we hope to repeat last year's performance by reaching the final—only this time we want the cup as well!

Major Clayden, Lieut. Scrivener, Sgt. Ross and Cpl. French have been playing for the Suez Canal Army side, and Major Clayden has been selected to represent the Army, Egypt.

Athletics and Cross-Country Running

The athletic team just failed to pull off the Divisional Championship. The final scores were as follows: 2nd Lincolns, 66 pts.; 2nd Middlesex, 62; 1st Suffolk, 61; 2nd Royal Warwicks, 34; R.A.M.C., 17. However, a very good team average was shown; this is borne out by the fact that every member of the team received an individual award for being either winner or runner-up in one event or another.

After some hard training under Capt. J. T. Staney, the cross-country team won a six-mile run at Cairo, in which 62 competitors from the Army and R.A.F. in the Cairo and Canal areas took part. There are some talented runners in the team, notably Sgt. Conway, Pte. Howarth, Pte. Grant and Pte. Tedder, who won the Novices' Race (first novice home).

Boxing

Boxing has perhaps been the most backward sport in the Battalion, but enthusiasm has increased greatly in the past few weeks. Sgt. Carlier is i/c training. This N.C.O., who only recently joined the Battalion, was lightweight champion of 43 Division for three years and 12 Corps champion in 1942.

The Brigade championship is taking place in the third week of February, and the winners will go forward to the Divisional finals.

No. 57 P.T.C. AND DEPOT THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

Early in November, 1946, the daily traveller by No. 240 bus route on reaching the summit of Bittern Hill may well have wondered what had suddenly happened to change the existing order of things. What had put the extra touch of champagne into the air and why was it that every bush and tree was looking young and spruce? And, finally, why were even little children to be heard singing that fine old traditional English folk song, "The Old Diehards"?

The answer to all this was that another important event had occurred in the history of the Regiment and Mill Hill. After a period of five years "foreign" occupation the Depot Barracks have been restored again to the Regiment, though this time there is a slight difference in the intiment. As No. 57 Primary Training Centre, we are officially a unit of the General Service Corps and have the job of giving the first six weeks' basic military training to groups of ninety new recruits who arrive every fortnight. These recruits are not necessarily destined for the Regiment, but during their stay are graded and tested with a view to their future employment in the Army.

The numbering of P.T.C.s was taken from the old "Regimental District" numbers and it is hoped that this explanation will remove any possible feelings as to why 57 was selected by the War Office.

As far as the Regiment is concerned, the Depot again not only functions as it did before the recent war as the home of the Regiment, but also contains a Holding Wing for anyone in the Regiment in between posting, release, leave, etc.

Before giving a résumé of Depot personalities this opportunity is taken to offer our very sincere thanks to Colonel M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P., Colonel of the Regiment, and Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E., O.C., Regimental Depot Party, for the wonderful way they and their assistants have looked after both the interests and the property of the Regiment at the Depot during the war, with the result that those who have returned here have found not only the Old Regimental Treasures in perfect condition, but also the various funds considerably increased. The Colonel of the Regiment continues to keep his office in the Main Office building; and the Regimental Association, with its many ramifications, so ably administered by its cheerful and hard-working secretary, Major G. W. Kempster, is situated next door to him in the same building.

The Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., has recently returned from commanding a sub-area in Palestine and is assisted as second-in-command by Major H. Marsh, who is also busy re-decorating and furnishing the Officers' Mess on pre-war standards. Major G. W. P. Hodding, from the 2/7th Battalion, is commanding the Training Company and he is assisted by Lieuts. R. G. Taylor, R. O. Nightingale and L. A. Hunter. Capt. J. N. Shipster, D.S.O., who was here during January as second-in-command Training Company, has now left for Netheravon. Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E., is P.R.I., Welfare Officer and Band President. Capt. D. L. Binder is Adjutant and is rapidly finding that there appears to be no paper shortage in this part of the world. Capt. H. Farrow, M.B.E., following in his father's footsteps, is Quartermaster and has the most difficult task of trying to economise fuel in barracks which, with outside plumbing as the general rule, are now completely frozen up. The Holding Wing of the Depot is commanded by Capt. (Q.M.) R. W. T. Smith, and this expert on Regimental History is also reorganising the "Diehards" Museum in the building which used to be the Corporals' Club.

Capt. J. G. Stevens commands "H.Q." Company, which includes most of the Depot Permanent Staff, and he also runs the Messing, no small task as we share cookhouse and dining hall with 10 Command Workshop, R.E.M.E. Finally, Lieut. L. W. Driver, our hockey expert, has been running the Education, Entertainments and Motor Transport. He has now, however, left us to attend a P.T. course, which may lead to a permanent Staff appointment on the P.T. Staff, and we all hope that he will get the appointment for which he is so well fitted.

R.S.M. J. Painter and R.Q.M.S. G. Blackman, names well known in both the 1st and 2nd Battalions and indeed in all regimental circles, are occupying the two

senior places among the Warrant Officers. Both have followed in their father's footsteps, and both have had brothers who have served as senior non-commissioned officers in the Regiment.

Bandmaster J. Thirtle assists in training the Band Boys when he is not teaching at Kneller Hall and we hope to welcome home soon Bandmaster C. Dennis with the Regimental Band, which has been in Egypt playing for the 2nd Battalion.

It is impossible to mention as many of the old Middlesex faces who have returned as we would like to do in these notes, owing to lack of space, but here are some tabulated for easy reference:

<i>Training Company</i>	<i>"H.Q." Company</i>
C.S.M. P. Donovan.	O.R.M.S. J. Wright, M.B.E.
C.Q.M.S. E. Paterson.	C.S.M. H. Jennings.
	C.Q.M.S. L. Shrubbs, M.M.

Holding Wing

C.S.M. J. Stretton.
C.Q.M.S. F. Jaques.

NEWS ABOUT INDIVIDUALS

(from the "News Letter" written by the Colonel of the Regiment)

Now that we are about to launch the Appeal for our Memorial Cottage Homes I wish to remind all that the success of our efforts to do so is owed almost entirely to Colonel G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L. I am myself apt to take his help for granted as I live with him in his delightful home in Finchley. I feel, however, that everyone in the Regiment should realise the immense amount of trouble he has taken for which he has received and has expected no praise—his whole manhood has been spent in our 9th Middlesex, which he commanded, and of which he has been Hon. Colonel for many years. I first met Gerald Beach when I was posted to our Depot in 1912, and I saw him as a young subaltern who struck me by his enthusiasm for attendance at our various instructional lectures and tactical exercises without troops. After leaving the 9th Battalion he became Commandant of the Middlesex County Cadet Force, after also having been one of the few T.A. officers to be promoted Substantive Colonel for his good services. Prior to the recent war, he became Chief Warden for Finchley in the A.R.P. services, and remained in that post until that service was disbanded. He is now a member of the Middlesex County Council, and the Army Welfare Officer for the Hendon, Finchley and Friern Barnet area. He devotes his whole life to his work, and also finds time to act as chairman to the special committee responsible for our Regimental Memorial. Living with him as I do I am apt to forget all he has done for his Regiment, and it is only right I should place these remarks on record so that all ranks can know how much they owe to him.

I must also mention that his housekeeper, Miss Ruth Manning, who is almost a member of 9th Middlesex, having known all the officers for many years, directly she heard of our memorial fund insisted on subscribing

£5 towards it in thankful gratitude for the safety and security our soldiers have given to her life. This lady's home, during war time, was badly damaged by bombs, and all her windows and ceilings in her small flat (which was occupied, whilst Colonel Beach was living at A.R.P. Headquarters in Finchley) were broken by a bomb, which fell close at hand. She now also cares for the Colonel of our Regiment.

Miss Dorothy Douglas Longe, the daughter of Colonel Longe, who commanded 1st Middlesex when I joined in 1905, writes to tell me that my notes about the pronunciation of the name "Ingles" (as Ingles) are quite correct. She has been so informed by one of her chiefs in B.A.O.R., who belongs to the Ingles family. Miss Longe tells me several men of P.L. Kensington Regiment are stationed at her Training Camp (4th Training Brigade), B.A.O.R., and are as anxious to return to the Regiment as were the men of 7th Middlesex sent to the same camp.

Lieut.-Colonel Aymar Clayton, whilst in Canada, heard from Mrs. Osler, whose late husband served as a regular officer in 2nd Middlesex many years ago. Mrs. Osler lives in Toronto with her two daughters. Lieut.-Colonel Clayton is proceeding, on January 6th, as A.Q.M.G. to Combined Operations H.Q. near Knightsbridge Barracks.

Major P. L. Pearce-Gould is now on staff Q Maintenance, H.Q. SEALF, at Singapore. He tells me there is an officer of the Regiment called Major Mekie in M.S. at the same H.Q., who was D.A.A.G. at H.Q. British Troops in Bangkok, Siam. Major James, also in our Regiment, who was in Batavia, has gone as G.S.O.2 (Int), G.H.Q. Burma Command. Lieut.-Colonel Henry Druce is still in Batavia, and is sad, as all British troops have left.

Major Pearce-Gould hopes to proceed to our home Staff College in 1948, provided he is selected and passes the difficult entrance examination.

Lieut.-Colonel A. N. W. Kidston, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (who commanded 1st Middlesex after Lieut.-Colonel Pickard Hall was killed, having been second-in-command to him), is also at these H.Q. with Pearce-Gould. He has been acting as Liaison Officer between ALFSEA and India Command. He was expecting to move to Palestine, where he is to take over duties as second-in-command of 1st Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Old members of 2nd Middlesex and 3rd Middlesex will be glad to hear that the plaques in the Tanglin Barracks, Garrison Church, which commemorate the deaths of members of 2nd Middlesex and 3rd Middlesex (who died 1921-23; I think these dates can refer only to 2nd Middlesex) are in good condition, as that church was undamaged. 3rd Middlesex was in Singapore before reaching India in about 1908 and these names must be of much earlier date.

Major P. E. C. Tuckey has decided to retire from the Army. He has been unwell for some time and feels he is not fit to continue in the service. His last appointment was G.S.O.2 in the Intelligence Division, Control Commission in Berlin.

Brig. T. S. Muirhead, the last commander of the T.A. Middlesex Brigade which was in existence prior

to the war, has recently written to me for news of our T.A. Battalions, and the many officers he knew in his time. He is a very old friend, and in the Great War we served together as instructors. Later he commanded a Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment, and then the Middlesex T.A. Brigade.

Lieut. S. E. Honess, a recent regular officer, informs me he is now a regular officer. He was, early in the war, in the ranks of 2nd P.L. Kensington Regiment. On receiving a temporary commission, in December, 1942, he was posted to the Royal Norfolk Regiment, and later joined the 1st Battalion Hampshire Regiment in France after D-Day, where he was wounded. He then proceeded on an eighteen-months' course at London University to learn Japanese, which he has now completed, and expects to proceed to the Far East as an Interpreter.

Major Weller, who is living in South Wales, near Caerleon, Monmouthshire, and is employed as Military Registrar in a hospital, is expecting to be permitted to retire, having passed the age of 45. He has been selected for the appointment of secretary of Monmouth Golf Club, of which Colonel Herbert Phillips is an active playing member.

Lieut.-Colonel Walden's period as Assistant Commandant at the School at Netheravon has been extended to the end of January, 1947, as no one as yet been selected to take over the post. I recently visited him and met a number of young officers attending their initial course in our weapons. I understand they are a good type of junior officer and have done well at the course.

Brig. G. H. C. Pennycook, now at the War Office, attended our Old Comrades' Association meeting on December 14th, and wrote to say how glad he was to meet so many old friends. I am to visit him at his home in January.

Lieut.-Colonel W. D. Coles, T.D., late 9th Middlesex, writes to tell me he has now recovered sufficiently to leave Guy's Hospital and reached his home in Tunbridge Wells, where he has seen many of our ranks from Crowborough. He hopes to return to his firm in St. Martin's Lane early in 1947 (he is a Director of Messrs. Harrison, the Government printers).

Major R. T. Guscott writes to say he was on leave pending retirement on December 29th, after 40 years' regimental service. His many friends look forward to seeing him frequently, for he lives at Bexhill. He has met there Lieut.-Colonel Hosken (formerly in South African Police Force), who commanded our 10th Middlesex during part of 1914-18 war. He recognised him as he was wearing our regimental tie.

Lieut.-Colonel Overell informs me he expects to leave MELF in February, having been permitted to retire. As Camp Commandant, G.H.Q., he has over 2,000 other ranks under his command. His son Philip in the Regiment is back from the Gold Coast, and has decided to take up forestry as a civil career. I had hoped he would continue in the Regiment as a regular officer, but he has decided not to do so. Colonel Overell saw both Colonel Crawford and Lieut.-Colonel Worton in ME H.Q. during December, 1946. Lieut.-Colonel Chamier, a former C.O. of 70th Middlesex,

has arrived at G.H.Q., MELF, and asked to be remembered to me. Colonel Overell has bought a home in Yorkshire, but I hope we shall often see him coming South.

Lieut.-Colonel Douglas Percy-Smith, D.S.O., O.B.E., has had a relapse in his bronchial pneumonia illness, but on my recent visit I found him better and cheerful. It has been a long illness and at one time was very serious.

Major Lawrence tells me his son Christopher is to go to Sandhurst R.M.A. in June, 1947, and he will come into the Regiment, where he will be welcomed by the numerous friends of his father in all ranks. I gather he is a first-class athlete, including boxing. He is now at Wellington, from which school many of our best officers have come, including Lieut.-Colonel H. W. M. Stewart, D.S.O., M.C. (Monkey). Major Lawrence recently met, in London, Colonel W. L. Roberts, M.C., who was on the staff of A.A. Command all the war. I hope to see him again soon.

M.G. WING (MIDDLESEX REGIMENT) HOME COUNTIES, I.T.C.

At 2359 hours on January 31, 1947, the 26 M.G.T.C. closed its doors for the last time. The happy and close association between the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and the Middlesex Regiment had ended. To our many friends in the "Fighting Fifth" we say *au revoir* and wish them the best of luck in their new role as infantry instructors at Fenham and Catterick.

Those of us remaining at Crowborough are now known as "Middlesex Regiment, M.G. Wing, Home Counties I.T.C." The I.T.C. is reputed to be at Shorncliffe, some sixty miles away, in an easterly direction. It was planned that we should move there on December 12, 1946; later, the date was given as January 27, 1947; now, the move is postponed "indefinitely." You will find the M.G. Wing then, clinging desperately to the ice-bound slopes of the highest point in Sussex and camouflaging itself as an Eskimo retreat.

The weather has, of course, seriously affected training. In the prevailing conditions, where the water freezes in the guns in twenty minutes, it is not found easy to enthrall our trainees with the desire to carry out E.G.D., I.A., and Mortar Drill. Changing for P.T. involves a hardness comparable to that of the Spartans; arms drill is a direct invitation to frost-bite. In spite of these most unpleasant conditions, the instructors have managed to keep things moving along fairly smoothly. A platoon that fired a course on the range during an "arctic blizzard" in the week ended February 1, returned the best results of any platoon for some time past. This redounds to the credit of the instructors and to the new rifle pamphlet from Hythe. In addition to the weather, pending moves and their subsequent

cancellation, the disbandment of the 26 M.G.T.C., and the reorganisation of the M.G. Wing, have added to the difficulties encountered and, with the excellent spirit prevailing, overcome.

The reorganisation is almost completed, and Major Ian Campbell, M.C., has assumed command. Major E. T. Paterson is second-in-command and Capt. Donaldson is M.T.O. Many regular soldiers of the Middlesex Regiment are now with us, including C.S.M. Overy, C.S.M. Tarrant, C/Sgt. Ure, C/Sgt. Poulter, Sgt. Burrell, Sgt. Hobson, Sgt. Barron, and L/Cpl. Wright from the old 1st Battalion, and Sgt. Preston, Sgt. Griffiths and others from the old 2nd Battalion.

The main topic of conversation in the mess centres upon outdoor and indoor sports, the latter being devoted entirely to bridge. Major Paterson has produced an infallible system to scoop the football pools and all moneys subscribed by we haphazard punters are now scheduled to augment Major Pat's income.

Judging by the "congregation" of officers at 7 a.m. each "Test" morning around the wireless set, all are enthusiastic cricketers. Criticisms are levelled and tactics discussed. Even "W.G." is recalled from his mortal and unending sleep to help in arranging the strategy which will regain those elusive "Ashes." Opinions naturally differ, but Capt. Donaldson believes he might replace Wright to some advantage and Major Pat is expecting to be flown out to Australia in time to replace Bedser in the last "Test." The writer himself had hoped early on to replace Gibb behind the wicket, but since Evans has produced such grand form it is not now thought to be so necessary that he be given leave for this purpose.

Capt. Thomas, of the 2nd Battalion, who stayed here for a few months, introduced a new and completely infallible bridge system. It has become famous as the "Hush, keep it dark" system. The main purpose is to confuse one's opponents by making small or large slam bids on every hand. In so doing one's opponents are entirely ignorant of the cards held against them; but, unfortunately, one's partner is in exactly the same position. However, it remains infallible if only for the reason that it "gingers up" the proceedings and results in many long and acrimonious discussions upon the ethics of the game.

In the rather more "active" section, Cpl. McGrath and Cpl. Wells are due to box for the Home Counties this month and we wish them all good luck.

Football and hockey have been ruined by the weather, but, in the interim, a very good sports stores has been set up and equipped with new cricket boots, football boots, white flannels and many other sporting accoutrements which, we hope, will be put to full and successful use when we arrive at Shorncliffe.

It is to be hoped that these will be the last Journal notes compiled at Crowborough. By the time the next Journal goes into publication we should be installed, more or less permanently, in our new home.



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