

# The Die Hards

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT  
(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



VOL. VIII. No. 2

JUNE, 1947

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

(37)  
The Plume of the Prince of Wales. In each of the four corners the late Duke of Cambridge's Cypher and Coronet.  
"Mysore," "Serangapatam," "Alubora," "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,"  
"Ponieres," "Ginchy," "Fiers-Courcellette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "18," "Bapaume,"  
"1917," "18," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Wimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "18," "Arleux," "Flecken," "Langemark, 1917," "Menin Road,"  
"Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre,"  
"Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazeubrouck," "Bailleul," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal  
du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy,"  
"1917-18," "Struna," "Dorran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suvla," "Landing at Suvla," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915,"  
"Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Muehar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18,"  
"Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Muran, 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 Coys.  
No. 1 Heavy Support Coy.

### Affiliated A/A Units of the Territorial Army

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

Agents—Lloyds Bank Limited, Cox'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.

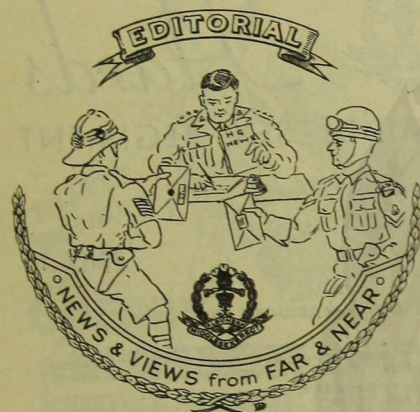
"The Die-Hards" is published in March, June, September and December, and copies may be obtained by application to the Editor.

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 TRIPPLICATE, AND BE ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY, and signed, stating whether it is desired to publish the contributor's name or not. Rejected manuscripts, etc., will only be returned if accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope. The Editor will thankfully receive Contributions from past or present members of the Regiment or others interested, but necessarily reserves to himself the right of publication. All communications concerning the paper, including Advertisements, should be addressed to the Editor, "The Die-Hards" Journal, The Middlesex Regiment, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 5/- (Post Free)





Editor: Bt-Major G. W. Kempster.

The Editorial in this number must, of necessity, be brief. Space is so limited that to include all matter sent to the Editor for publication has become impossible. In consequence, we apologise for any omissions or pruning we have been obliged to make or do.

We are greatly indebted to all who have contributed to these pages and thank them for the trouble they have taken.

#### FORTHCOMING REGIMENTAL FIXTURES FOR 1947 (as notified at present)

October 16th: Golf, Officers' Club; Autumn Meeting; 10 a.m., Hendon Golf Club.

Times of meetings of *Die-Hards* Clubs have been published previously. Readers requiring information in respect of them should apply to: The Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.

#### OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES

##### SPRING GOLF MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT GOLFING SOCIETY

The spring meeting was held on April 24th and 25th at Hendon Golf Club. The weather was kind to players though the first day was windy. The retired again beat the serving on the first day and Col. Crawford scored a double success on the second by carrying off both the scratch and handicap prizes. Unfortunately he fell sick soon afterwards and was operated on for appendicitis. We are pleased to be able to report satisfactory progress.

A general meeting was held on the second day, at which Col. Brown handed over the secretaryship to Col. Crawford. It was decided to hold the next meeting on October 16th at Hendon, and to play singles in the morning, and for the "Cooper" Cup in the afternoon. A vote of thanks was passed to Col. Brown, Mr. Greenshields, Secretary of Hendon, and Maj. Kempster.

There were a few disgruntled references to handicaps but the Committee decided to hold their hand until such time as members of the Society had had an opportunity of revealing their true form.

Though space is strictly limited we must congratulate Col. Brown and Lt.-Col. Wollocombe on winning the tankards in the afternoon of the 25th. The latter had just had his handicap lowered to 24 from some astronomical handicap he held previously. Both played very well indeed.

Col. Samuel and Col. Crawford worked very hard to bring a full side to Hendon. It was unfortunate that Maj. Beadnell was unable to play. Maj. Kempster took his place at the last moment, though rightly he should have played for the retired. Capt. Bywaters was also unable to make it in the morning. Fortunately, Col. Gwyn was able to more than hold his own against Col. Delcourt and Maj. Pattison. Though he was unable to maintain this form throughout the entire course of the meeting his fine effort indicated great promise, and it is highly likely that he is one of our coming players. General Bucknall played consistently throughout as can be seen from the results. He was again a runner-up in the foursomes. Some of our players were badly out of form, chiefly owing to insufficient practice.

However, the pendulum is likely to swing and they may come into their own at the autumn meeting.

We were very pleased to see Mrs. Samuel, Mrs. Wollocombe and her two sons, Mrs. Pain, Mrs. South and Mrs. Gwyn, all of whom attended on the second day.

It was a very enjoyable meeting indeed, marred only by the unavoidable absence of some of our regular players. His absence did not prevent Col. Worms exchanging numerous messages of a facetious nature with his erstwhile companion of the "Gun Room". We hope next time he will be present in person to go through the formality of playing for his cup.

#### Retired Officers versus Serving Officers

MORNING GREENSOMES			
Past		Present	
Lt.-Col. H. Phillips	0	Maj.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall	
Lt.-Col. G. L. Brown	0	Lt.-Col. M. Crawford	
Maj. C. T. Whinney	0	Brig. G. P. L. Weston	
Lt.-Col. T. South	0	Maj. G. W. Kempster	
Lt.-Col. S. F. W. M. Delcourt	0	Lt.-Col. R. G. Gwyn	
Maj. D. R. Pattison			
Maj. G. P. L. Hunt	3	Lt.-Col. A. E. Green	
Maj. G. B. Anderson		Maj. R. C. Bellers	
Lt.-Col. Matland		Lt.-Col. F. G. Parker	
Lt.-Col. W. H. Samuel	5	Lt.-Col. J. G. E. Reid	
	8		

AFTERNOON FOURSOMES			
Lt.-Col. H. Phillips	0	Maj.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall	
Lt.-Col. S. F. W. M. Delcourt	0	Brig. G. P. L. Weston	
Lt.-Col. G. L. Brown	1	Lt.-Col. M. Crawford	
Lt.-Col. J. K. Matland	0	Maj. G. W. Kempster	
Maj. C. T. Whinney	0	Maj. R. C. Bellers	
Maj. G. B. Anderson		Capt. J. Bywaters	
Lt.-Col. T. South	9	Lt.-Col. J. G. E. Reid	
Lt.-Col. W. H. Samuel		Lt.-Col. A. E. Green	
Maj. D. R. Pattison	5	Lt.-Col. F. G. Parker	
Maj. G. P. L. Hunt		Lt.-Col. R. A. Gwyn	
	15		

Result: Retired officers won by 8 holes.

#### Singles Competition

Lt.-Col. M. Crawford	84-12-72
Lt.-Col. T. South	92-12-80
Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe	106-24-82
Maj. C. T. Whinney	92-8-84
Maj. G. B. Anderson	104-16-88
Lt.-Col. A. E. Green	104-15-89
Capt. J. Bywaters	101-12-89
Maj.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall	99-9-90
Brig. G. P. L. Weston	105-14-91
Lt.-Col. E. T. Pain	108-16-92
Lt.-Col. R. G. Gwyn	108-14-94
Lt.-Col. H. Phillips	101-6-95
Lt.-Col. S. F. H. Delcourt	116-16-100

Three players lost their cards.

Winner of scratch and handicap prize: Lt.-Col. M. Crawford

#### Foursomes Competition against Bogy

Col. G. L. Brown and Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe	2
Maj.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall and Maj. G. B. Anderson	3
Lt.-Col. South and Maj. J. G. P. Hunt	3
Lt.-Col. A. E. Green and Lt.-Col. M. Crawford	4
Lt.-Col. R. A. Gwyn and Maj. C. T. Whinney	7
Lt.-Col. E. T. Pain and Lt.-Col. F. G. Parker	8
Brig. G. P. L. Weston and Lt.-Col. S. F. H. Delcourt	10
Lt.-Col. W. H. Samuel and Capt. J. Bywaters	10

Winners: Col. G. L. Brown and Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe. Maj.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall and Maj. G. B. Anderson were adjudged runners-up on the best last nine holes.

#### REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION NOTES

Two meetings have been held on Friday, March 14th, and on May 1st. At the first the Committee adopted the audited accounts for 1946 and again discussed the War Memorial. In the Secretary's report at the second meeting it was reported that £585 16s. 10d. had been spent on 155 cases during the January-March quarter, possibly the heaviest expenditure in the history of the Association.

The next Old Comrades' re-union was discussed and Maj. H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., was co-opted on the Committee. He was asked to explore the possibilities of a philanthropic housing trust in connection with the Memorial Cottages at the second meeting.

#### THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL 1939-45 WAR MEMORIAL

##### In Continuation

We have a great deal to report in this number, but first and foremost we should like to thank the host of subscribers to the Memorial whose names figure in and help to swell the subscription list which follows this account.

##### The Site

We cannot say definitely that one has yet been found, but we may safely say that negotiations on favourable terms have been entered into to secure one, and we hope

that in the next number we shall be in a position to acquaint you with its position, and other particulars of general interest. Obviously, it would be premature to discuss the matter at this stage.

#### The Appeal

We have not attained our target of £25,000 yet, naturally, neither are we likely too until the end of the present year. The success of our appeal lies largely in the hands of the Boroughs and Districts in Middlesex, and it is too early to say just how successful they are going to be. However, indications at present point to very favourable results.

#### Willesden

The Borough of Willesden, not one of the richest in Middlesex, is making the most strenuous efforts on our behalf. Its appeal committee, presided over by Alderman S. Scott, J.P., the Mayor, has organised an incredibly good programme which includes a civic lunch, football match, boxing at Pound Lane Drill Hall, a civic ball, garden party, cinema collections, and a tour of the Borough by the Regimental Band. They have appealed to individuals and firms and already they have collected a very large sum of money. Readers of these articles are likely to be pleasantly surprised when they ultimately learn the extent of their support.

If space permitted we should like to make a more detailed report of the activities of this Borough. As it is not we must content ourselves with thanking them for their first-class effort on our behalf, one which will never be forgotten, and ever borne in mind with the deepest gratitude.

#### Finchley

Councillor R. J. N. Norman, J.P., the Mayor of Finchley, was not long in honouring a promise of some standing to support us, and presented the appeal with a thousand pounds. We hope to include a photograph showing the cheque being handed over officially on Albuhera Day when the officers of the Depot will have the honour of entertaining him to lunch.

#### Other Boroughs

Friern Barnet, Hendon, Hounslow, Southgate, Staines, Twickenham, Uxbridge, Southall and Sunbury-on-Thames are, we know, helping us. Most probably they are hard at work on the appeal at this moment of writing. The remaining Boroughs and Districts will most likely help us too, but news of their activities has not so far reached this office.

#### The Army Benevolent Fund

The Army Benevolent Fund has been subsidising us for some time. (Incidentally, it would appear they may have to continue doing so for some years to come.) When it was learned that they were prepared to assist regiments with their war memorials, application was made for their support and, in due course, we received a cheque for £500. We show £1,000 in the subscription list because they are going to send us another £500 on July 1st. We are, of course, extremely grateful.





The Rt. Hon The Lord Latham of Hendon, receiving a cheque for £1,000 from Councillor R. J. N. Norman, Mayor of Finchley, for the Middlesex Regiment War Memorial Appeal, on the occasion of The Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex opening the Regimental Museum at Inglis Barracks, on Albuhera Day, 16th May, 1947

### Middlesex County Rugby Football Union

An unexpected windfall came in the form of an offer from the Middlesex County Rugby Football Union to place the proceeds of the finals of their annual seven-a-side competition at our disposal. Mr. W. C. Ramsay, the Secretary of the Club and his partner in business, Col. J. N. Lamont, M.C., T.D., so well known in the Regiment, secured this "plum" for us, and it is estimated that we are likely to receive approximately £1,500 as our share of the takings.

May 3rd was an exceedingly fine day, the Rugby was exciting and excellent and a very large gathering more than half filled the enormous stands at Twickenham. Scores of collectors carrying Rugby ball collecting boxes sold programmes, inside of which one of our brochures was enclosed.

Before the final itself Col. Browne spoke and his voice carried well though the loud-speakers to the large assembly of people who listened throughout his short talk in respectful silence. In the course of his speech Col. Browne thanked the organisers of the meeting for supporting us, the players, and the spectators for so

generously contributing to our appeal. He also introduced the massed bands of the Middlesex Army Cadets who had marched on the ground whilst he was speaking. On the applause dying down at the conclusion of the speech the massed bands played the General Salute and then in stirring fashion played up and down the ground to the great delight of all the spectators who cheered them heartily as they left the ground.

Rosslyn Park won this grand competition and the runners-up were presented prizes by Lord Latham who was present during the afternoon and took part in the finals, shaken hands with the two competing teams. It was a fine afternoon's sport, enjoyed by all.

### The Battalions

The 1st Battalion has already collected a large sum of money, not as yet, handed over to us. The 2nd Battalion are, we believe, still collecting. The M.C. Wing I.T.C., Crowborough, have made a start and are collecting boxes to the Secretary for disposal. We are very pleased with our serving soldiers. May we take this opportunity of thanking them. They are not wealthy

men, so the greater the credit due to them for their extraordinary generosity.

### The Home Guard

We approached the Home Guard, of course. That is to say, the Middlesex Battalions of that splendid force which played such an important part in the defence of the country during the last war. Need I tell you that they are supporting us. Hardly necessary if one glances at the subscription list—and their response still continues. We are deeply indebted to them indeed.

### Hong Kong

Mrs. Tidbury and Maj. Marsh are planning to extend the appeal to Hong Kong, and anticipate considerable success. The result should be interesting and we hope profitable. We think it will be both, for Mrs. Tidbury, who is working hard for the appeal in a variety of ways, is a highly successful organiser.

### In Conclusion

We have not reported fully on our activities and we have been obliged to omit much of interest from this report. Nevertheless, we can assure our readers that the Appeals Committee is "flat out," determined to succeed, and optimistic as to the final result.

Can you help us?

Yes, you can if you wish to.

This is not a request for another donation. Most of our readers have given us one, anyway. It is something quite different.

Will you, if you wish to help us, give us all possible publicity?

Will you talk about the appeal whenever possible? Incredible as it may sound to us who have seen sackloads of letters of appeals' matter taken from the Secretary's office, one is constantly hearing of people, even in the Regiment, who have never heard of the Memorial.

If our appeal should fail it will be through lack of publicity. The money is there, the desire to help is there—only the means of conveying the request to the right quarter is lacking.

So again, we ask you, please give the appeal all possible publicity, and thank you.

### MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL MEMORIAL SUBSCRIPTION LIST

- £1,383 7s. 7d.—Previously acknowledged.  
 £1,000—The Borough of Finchley.  
 £1,000—Army Benevolent Fund.  
 £188 7s. 3d.—Funds of 126 L.A.A. Regt., R.A.  
 £110 10s.—Mr. R. Grant, on acc. of 2 7th Colours Fund.  
 £105—Sir J. Perring.  
 £52—Lady Florence Perring.  
 £26 5s.—Mr. E. R. M. Macguire, President, O.C.A., 25th Bn., H.G.  
 £25—Lt.-Col. and Mrs. J. G. E. Reid, Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., Ultra Electric, Ltd., Col. C. H. Pank, C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D., A.D.C.  
 £22 4s. 7d.—P.R.I., 2nd Bn. Mx. Regt. (D.C.O.), ("B" Coy., £4, "C" Coy., £5 11s. 4d., "D" Coy., £12 13s. 3d.).  
 £21—No. 2 Coy., 22nd Bn. Middlesex H.G.  
 £15—2 Pln., "B" Coy., 25th Mx. H.G.  
 £13 18s. 6d.—13 Coy. (H.G.) O.C.A., 20th Mx.  
 £13 0s. 6d.—Ex-Mx. (H.G.) of D. Napier and Son, Ltd.  
 £13—Sergeants' Mess, 57 P.T.C. and Depot, Mx. Regt. (further donation).  
 £10 18s. 4d.—Maj. W. Randle, on behalf of N.C.O.s and men of "H.Q." Coy., 2nd Mx. Regt. (D.C.O.).  
 £10 10s.—Col. J. N. Lamont, M.C., T.D.; Lt.-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O.; Maj. P. L. Pearce-Gould; Sec. "D" Coy., 12th Bn. Mx. (H.G.) O.C.A.; Brethren of the Lodge of 20th Bn. Mx. (H.G.); Kodak, Ltd.; Lt.-Col. F. W. Weston; Secretary, M.C.C., Lords Cricket Ground.  
 £10—Mr. D. McDonald; Training Coy., 57 P.T.C. and Mx. Depot; Lt.-Col. W. D. Coles, T.D., J.P.  
 £8 18s. 6d.—Gunnersbury Troop of former 71st Mx. (H.A.A. Bty.) H.G.; officers of the 1st Bn. Mx. (H.G.).  
 £7 7s. 6d.—Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Whitehead, Potters Bar; Mx. H.G. Rifle Club.  
 £6—British Legion, Mill Hill East.  
 £5 11s.—Sergeants' Mess, 57 P.T.C. (further donation).  
 £5—Lt.-Col. C. H. Peppiatt, D.L.; Lt.-Col. D. Robbins, O.B.E.; Lt.-Col. G. Moss; Lt.-Col. N. Fisher; Capt. J. A. Howell; Capt. C. H. K. Fisher; Swakely's H.G. Association; Ten Twenty-Three Club; 23rd Bn. Mx. (H.G.); the Hill Rifle Club (3 4 Pln., "B" Coy., 25th Mx. H.G. O.C.A.); 13 Coy. O.C.A., 20th Mx. H.G.; Nat. Council Social Services Beer Fund on acc. Messrs. Arthur Guinness and Son Coy., Ltd.; Mr. J. Harman Jupp; Godfrey Davis, Ltd.; Miss G. D. Thomas, Mr. S. J. Belsham; Capt. R. Reid; Staines, Mx. H.G. O.C.A.; Maj. N. H. B. Lyon, M.C.  
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 £4 10s.—Mr. F. Fenimore, on acc. of Mr. Maggs' Pokey Die Friends.  
 £3 19s.—Capt. W. Ashby.  
 £4 5s.—Maj. J. G. P. Hunt (further donation).  
 £3 5s.—Mr. W. G. Blackburn; Maj. R. A. Smith and Mr. J. Smith.  
 £3 3s.—Maj. L. H. Cooper; Maj. G. A. H. Rower; Mr. S. W. Bush and Mr. L. J. Walker; Mrs. P. H. Hardcastle; Maj. G. B. Anderson, M.C.; Lt.-Col. F. Sloane Stanley; Maj. N. B. Hansell, on behalf of Kraft Cheese Coy., Ltd., H.G.  
 £3—Lt.-Col. A. de Climay.  
 £2 15s.—9th Bn. O.C.A., on behalf of Pokey Die Friends.  
 £2 7s. 6d.—Mr. F. Cook.  
 £2 5s.—Officers' Mess, 57 P.T.C. and Depot, Mx. Regt.  
 £2 2s.—Sir Harry Pritchard, D.L.; Lt.-Col. Herbert Cook; Lt.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson, D.S.O.; Lt.-Col. H. A. R. J. Wilson; Maj. H. W. Brighter; Maj. A. L. Sunderland; Mr. F. Stoddard; Mr. Rose Joseph; Mr. D. Jensen; Lt. J. Purcell; Maj. C. M. M. Man, M.C.; Maj. P. G. Edwards; Maj. F. A. L. Lawrence; Maj. F. J. Nunn, M.C.; Sir John Harris; Capt. T. H. Baker; Mr. L. C. Fillary; Mrs. Letitia Cooper; Capt. E. A. H. Jeffcoat; F. J. Parsons; Mrs. N. H. B. Lyon.  
 £2 1s.—Wyke Green Golf Club.  
 £2 0s. 6d.—Capt. E. Moir, from Mill Hill Golf Club.  
 £2—Mr. H. E. Wickham; Maj. A. R. Klitz; Maj. A. W. Clark, O.B.E.; Mr. H. M. Gell.  
 £1 17s.—Employees of Miles Aircraft, Ltd.  
 £1 10s.—Maj. R. S. Orr, M.C.; Employees of S. W. Bush Coy., Ltd.  
 £1 8s.—Staff of Candy Filters, Ltd., ex-members, 7th Bn. Mx. (H.G.).  
 £1 5s.—Mr. W. T. Adams.  
 £1 1s.—Sir Pelham F. Warner; Lt.-Col. J. Ewart Smart; Lt.-Col. J. J. Crook; Capt. M. P. Weedon; Capt. D. C. Rowberry; Lt. A. Burnett; Lt. S. R. Nicholson; Mr. E. H. Warrell; Mr. P. Shindler; Mr. M. Fose; Mr. G. Forster Smith; Rev. M. L. M. Wood; Mr. W. A. Wood; Lt.-Col. S. F. Gaulfield; Mr. S. J. Chidley; Mr. P. Barrett; Mr. W. J. Tamlyn; Mr. C. A. Lucas; Col. H. Peppole; Capt. N. McLeod Martin; Mr. J. Shankland; Capt. J. A. A. Williams; Mr. A. T. Jones; Mr. P. V. Cotton; Capt. T. F. G. Carless, M.C.; Sir L. Graham; Alderman E. W. Dyer, J.P.; Maj. C. E. Clenshaw; Mr. A. E. Sheldrick; Capt. H. S. Whitlock; Mr. C. W. Spores.  
 £1—Mr. R. O. F. Hickman; Mr. H. F. Bowser; Mr. A. W. Tate; Mr. C. E. Yeomans; Mr. J. T. Chone; Messrs. Horstead; Mr. G. Wilkinson; Mr. S. B. N. Ward; Mr. B. A. Burkitt; Mr. W. E. Pidgeon; Mr. W. S. Bauer; Mr. G. H. Moody; Mr. P. Carpenter; Mr. Kirkman; Mr. A. Sheriff; Mr. A. S. E. Ackerman; Lt. J. P. Jarrett; Capt. W. Rogers; Capt. H. Clark; Mr. D. L. Barron; Mr. I. G. Peacock; Mr. W. H. Gough; Mr. C. T. H. Rogers; C.Q.M.S. F. C. W. Hammond; Mr. J. T. Egerton Green.  
 15s.—Capt. P. J. Livermore; Sgt. L. Hawkins; Mr. N. Patterson; Mr. W. T. Adams.  
 10s.—Mr. N. Sergeant (Messrs. A. E. Manders, B. C. Walker); Mrs. M. H. McQueen; Capt. E. Mogeridge.  
 10s.—Capt. T. T. Mather; Cpl. W. E. Goodsell; Mr. H. Waller; Mr. E. L. Jeal; Mr. F. W. Morris; Mr. V. R. Henham; Mrs. Jesse Sawyer; Mrs. A. R. White; Mr. T. Stroud;



Mr. H. Richardson; Mr. F. W. Slater; Mr. A. J. Inman; Mr. A. M. Swelling; Mr. G. Hill; Mr. A. R. Joyce; Mr. F. C. Catt; Mr. G. Graham.

59.—Mr. V. Winney; Mr. M. Chetwyn Hayes; Mr. A. Miller; Mr. M. D. Thomas; Mr. R. J. Wright; Capt. M. G. Brock; Mr. C. A. Brand; Mr. R. Colbourne; Mr. D. Beresford; Mrs. E. L. Ash; Mr. E. A. Duvergier; Mr. R. A. Harrison; Maj. J. Harley; Mr. P. Upton; Mr. H. Manning; Mr. A. C. Cox; Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Matthews; Mr. A. F. Wright, M.B.E.; Mr. G. Jones Walters; Mrs. M. Walters; Cpl. J. Rae; Mr. F. Schiedlowsky; Mr. F. Osborne; Mr. A. Bridges; Lt. T. H. Boothman; Capt. Hill; Mr. A. E. Tuthill; Mr. R. R. Chaplin; Mr. E. Polden; Mr. J. Swinney; Mr. J. H. B. Bird; Mr. F. J. Richardson; Mr. W. G. Blackman; Mr. J. E. Russell; Mr. and Mrs. Bray; Mr. O. C. Payne; Mr. W. T. Braysher; Anonymous.

45.—Mr. A. Bruce; Mr. F. A. Webb; Mr. C. J. Stones.

38.—Mr. R. A. Evans.

28. 9d.—Mr. F. Leaney.

28. 6d.—Mr. J. J. White; Mr. H. Hisner; Mr. F. S. Carrick; Mr. G. L. Lloyd; Mr. J. A. French; Mr. C. Smith; Mr. H. Wells; Mr. C. Wilkinson; Mr. J. E. Gleave; Mr. D. Wetherall; Mrs. Lowe.

18.—Mr. T. G. Palmer; Mr. G. M. de Hacky; Mr. H. A. Tarbuck.

18.—Mrs. C. Obee.

Total subscribed up to date, May 15th, 1947: £4,576 11s. 5d. Note.—This does not include the money taken at Twickenham. There were two errors in the last subscription list which are regretted:

£3 3s.—Mrs. Learoyd should have read £3s. 3s.—Mrs. E. Learoyd Ash and Mrs. Oliver Jones.

£4—Maj. R. G. Bare should have read £4—Mr. C. Bare (ex-C.S.M.)

#### NO. 57 P.T.C. AND DEPOT THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

Whilst the Training Company continues to receive, train and turn out about 75 G.S.C. soldiers every fortnight or so, there has been a great increase in Regimental affairs here. As a result of an increase in our training establishment recently authorised, we have received the following officers from all parts of the Empire, including India. We welcome here Lts. T. A. Moller, M.C., J. de Gaye, D. M. Sutherland, J. Appleyard, D. O'Leary, N. A. Jordan, H. Moore, K. C. Bodimeade and R. R. Arscott. Lt. R. O. Nightingale has left and we wish him the best of luck in his farming projects. Lt. P. A. Mead has also joined and is a very busy man since he is Unit Education Officer, M.T.O. and Assistant Adjutant. In his latter capacity he is fully employed in dealing with the Courts Martial of deserters and absentees who are thrust upon us at an alarming rate, over a hundred having passed through the guard room in the last four months.

On April 3rd Maj.-Gen. J. C. O. Marriott, C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. London District, made a brief inspection visit and commented very favourably on conditions here.

The War Department has an ambitious housing programme for these barracks and Site Boards have already selected sites for 14 Married Officers' and 45 O.R.s' Quarters, whilst the ground work has already started on 16 new ones.

Capt. J. G. Stevens was married on April 26th and the Colonel of the Regiment presented him with the customary inscribed salver on behalf of the officers at the Depot.

During the Regimental golf meeting several officers visited the Depot Mess, including Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C., Brig. G. P. L. Weston, D.S.O., O.B.E., Col. G. L. Brown, D.S.O., and Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O., to mention only a few.

On April 29th another very successful Passing-Out Parade was held which the relatives and friends of the

G.S.C. personnel attended. Maj. G. W. P. Hodding, ably assisted by Col.-Sgt. Parnell, also organised an excellent all ranks' dance in the evening which raised over £10 for the Memorial Cottage Homes.

The unit suffered a temporary loss when Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., the C.O., went into hospital in Edinburgh at the end of April with acute appendicitis. We hope, however, that he will soon recover and return with Mrs. Crawford and his family to take up residence in the Mess in June.

Albuhera Day is being celebrated here this year in the traditional Regimental manner. Lord Latham, the Lord-Lt. Middlesex, has consented to reopen the Die-Hards' Museum on this occasion, which Capt. (Q.M.) R. W. T. Smith has laid out most effectively. Other features of the day include a fun fair, crazy sports, Officers' and Sergeants' Mess visits, a married families' tea party and an all ranks' dance. Special guests include the Mayors of Hendon and Finchley and the latter a presenting a cheque for £1,000 to the Memorial Cottage Homes Fund.

The Officers' Mess is now open to lady visitors for teas on Saturdays and Sundays and we hope to receive many old friends this summer who care to use the Mess as the H.Q. of the Officers' Club.

#### 1st BATTALION NEWS

##### Editorial

The two events of major importance occurring during the past quarter have both been severing of associations. The first, that of the departure of our late C.O., Lt.-Col. A. L. Green, D.S.O., has, of course, been regrettable in every way, while the second, the move of the Battalion from Rendsburg to Iserlohn, has proved to be a mixed blessing. It was a great surprise to us all when it was announced that our C.O. was to go. So rapidly did everything happen that we were hardly aware of our loss until it was all over. With barely time to hand over command, Col. Green managed to say farewell to the Battalion on parade before setting out on February 9 for England and his new duties as 2 i/c at Netheravon. All ranks wish him every success in the future and would say of the past that he has led us most ably through these difficult times of transition and the thankless duties of an Occupation Army Unit.

For some months rumours of a move grew stronger until they eventually crystallised into definite move orders being issued. Various individuals visited the new area and very soon we had a fairly accurate idea of the conditions we were to meet. It was not very encouraging to learn that the new barracks in Iserlohn were hardly habitable, having been partly demolished by air activity. Neither were we keen on being stationed so near to Corps Headquarters!

Early in March an advance party, under Capt. P. L. Crutchfield and Lt. A. Rowe (Qr.-Mr.) went to Iserlohn to prepare the barracks and secure accommodation for families. Meanwhile, back in Rendsburg, preparations went ahead for the move. All the tracked vehicles, motor-cycles, plus the non-running trucks, had to be entrained in addition to all stores, equipment and families' baggage. A great deal of credit is due to Lt.



Battalion Rugby XV, defeated by 1420 Hussars in Semi-Final of Divisional Rugby Competition



Corps of Drums, Iserlohn, Germany, 28th April, 1947



Corps of Drums

P. C. Barclay and Sec. Lt. D. A. Chipp for the successful handling of all this vast collection of baggage. Altogether three trains and a road convoy of 37 trucks

were employed to move the Battalion, and they had all arrived at Iserlohn by the evening of April 5.

The reports we had heard of the condition of the barracks were hardly exaggerated. Those of us who arrived that Saturday evening, thoroughly fatigued after three days' convoy drive, will never forget (a) the dreadful wreckage strewn everywhere, and (b) the expressions on the faces of the C.O., R. W. D. Sword, and the Adjt., Capt. R. J. P. Cummins. Then we had to face the wrath of the married officers and Other Ranks. The conditions they had to face were deplorable. This, of course, was a direct consequence of having to share the available accommodation with Corps. It was merely, of course, a question of taking what was left and then making the best of it. However, it is fairly safe to say that the complexion of such matters is now decidedly rosier. For some days the weather has been glorious, enabling us to get down to the job of cleaning up, repairing and generally getting the whole Battalion area presentable. We feel confident that by the time we next report ourselves to the Journal we shall have a happier tale to tell.

On leaving Rendsburg the following message was received from "H.Q." Schleswig-Holstein Sub-Area:—

"Commander and All Ranks this H.Q. thank you for your help in the past and wish you all success and the best of luck in your new area."

Earlier, on March 25, a guest night was held when the officers entertained the Commander, Schleswig-Holstein Sub-Area, Brig. W. D. Greenacre, the C.O., 3rd Medium Regiment (R.A.), which Regiment had taken over our commitments in Kreis Rendsburg, and the Rendsburg Kreis Resident Officer.

The training season opened early in April and is now in full swing. First of all "C" Company H.Q. and one platoon, and a Mortar platoon of "D" Company under the command of Maj. N. G. Gilbert, left for Vogelsang, and on April 27, "A" Company H.Q. and one platoon, and a Mortar platoon leave for the training area at Paderborn. This detachment will be commanded by Maj. A. R. Waller, M.C. Unfortunately the second party will not be back with the Battalion by Albuhera Day, having just three more days of training to do after May 16.

By the time these notes are published it is hoped that we shall have been able to welcome our new C.O., Lt.-Col. J. G. E. Reid. He is due to arrive early in May, when Major R. W. D. Sword, M.C., who has commanded since Lt.-Col. Green left us, will hand over to him. We hope that his time of command will be a happy and successful one.

#### "H.Q." Company

Since last going to print the Battalion has changed station. On April 4 we journeyed from the wide open spaces and flat plains of Schleswig-Holstein and came to the hills and dales of the east Ruhr country, and found our new abode in Epsom Barracks in the town of Iserlohn. The picturesque countryside which is our horizon, was not exactly in harmony with the state of our barracks; first impressions are apt to be misleading,





Guard Mounting at Rendsburg

A cursory inspection proved that there was plenty of hard work to do to bring them up to the Regimental standard. "H.Q." Company block must obviously have been chosen for us on our well-known reputation for hard work. There is no mean amount of it to do, but we can report good progress to date in our efforts to obtain that high standard which is a natural aspect of "H.Q." Company. Special mention must be made of the Corps of Drums who, acting as Battalion baggage party, did a very fine job of work and showed that they know how to work. I'm sure they will remember what a 400 lb. box looks like balanced precariously way up in the roof of the baggage shed.

The past quarter has seen changes in the composition of the Company. Much to our regret we had to say good-bye to Capt. W. A. W. St. George, our M.T.O., who left us for "D" Company to fill the post of 2 i/c of that Company. We will miss him in the Company's sporting activities. Lt. M. F. Leonard was another of our sporting fraternity to leave the Company, his destination being "D" Company, where he exchanges his mechanical knowledge for that of 4.2 Mortars. Among the arrivals we welcome Col.-Sgt. Waldron who takes over the B.O.R. from Sgt. Hore. He will be remembered by older members of the 2nd Battalion as a pre-war regular. We also welcome Capt. C. H. Mievill, M.C., who has assumed the office of Technical Adj. He has very quickly evolved a wonderful system of finding his jeep in the Battalion L.A.D. at night-time. We wonder why? Lt. J. Giles, our new M.T.O., whom we welcome, might have a lead on this! One other new arrival must be mentioned for he is a most important acquisition, I refer to Lt. D. R. Young the Battalion Messing Officer. We welcome him and look forward to a satisfactory solution to the inexplicable yearning for *real potatoes*. These are but a few of our arrivals and departures and space does not permit of the mention of all our casualties. We would, however, like to say cheerio to a few of the Company stalwarts claimed by the machinery of demob. The D.Ops. platoon regretfully lose Cpl. Waller, Cpl. Smith and Pte. Gilkes. We miss the familiar pounding of the Company office typewriter at midnight now that Gilkes has departed.

We must not forget to congratulate those members of the Company who by ability and hard work have gained

promotion in the period between Journal issues. Our congratulations go to Cpl. Burland, now in B.O.R., to Sgt. Wiseman, that sleuth and fear of all evil-doers in the Deutsch Schwartz Market, Cpl. Eve, B.O.R., Sgt. Parker, R.E.M.E., L.A.D., and Cpl. Lovell, R.E.M.E. attached permanently 1st Middlesex.

### Sporting Activities

We have, as usual, taken a keen interest in the sporting life of the Battalion, and it was a pity that the Albuhera Soccer League finished just as we were gathering together a stronger side than before. Capt. Delaney, Capt. Whitehead, Cpl. Lovell and Pte. Wilson are all in the Battalion side. Pte. Tatters has been a welcome arrival from "B" Company and, with the help of Robinson, we should have had a nucleus of a really good side.

We do, without doubt, lay strong claim to the position of basketball champions. Second in the Albuhera League to "A" Company, we were strengthened in the knock-out competition by the return of Capt. Delaney. We beat "C" Company by 68 points to nil in the first round and met "A" Company in the final. Watched by our Company Commander, who shows a live interest in all our games, we won a very warmly contested match by 20 points to 4. Our team was Capt. Whitehead, Cpl. Lovell, Pte. Robinson, Capt. Delaney and L/Cpl. White. We are very proud of this win as Wilson, a Battalion player alongside Capt. Delaney and Capt. Whitehead, was away winning the B.A.O.R. welter-weight title.

Our cricket and athletic prospects are fair and we look forward to a successful summer.

We shall say good-bye with great regret to Pte. Wilson who leaves with Group 49. He and Cpl. Lovell figure conspicuously in all our Company and Battalion sides. They are two grand sportsmen and uphold the best sporting traditions of the Regiment.

### "A" Company

In our last report we anticipated "a period of working together as a Company" in our new quarters. Unfortunately we had to vacate this modern building, "Browne" block, after a very short time and return to more cramped quarters on the ground floor of "Buck-nall" block. However, the Company quickly re-adjusted itself in its new surroundings and we were working smoothly after a few days.

### Training

The plan to extend the training of the Company continued into the New Year, but it had to be abandoned towards the end of January when very heavy falls of snow forced us to cancel all outdoor activities. This was a bitter blow to all who had worked hard to prepare the programme and to the men who had taken to their new training with interest.

Sgt. Burgess and Sgt. Thorogood have recently returned from Courses at Netheravon, and with Cpl. Forgham away at the moment the shortage of fully trained instructors is becoming less acute. We shall start training again as soon as we settle down in Iserlohn

in preparation for the coming Brigade Training Exercise.

We extend our best wishes for the future to all who left the Company on release during the past quarter. These included Capt. E. G. Hall, Sgt. Olivine and Ptes. Bailey, Stonehouse, Powell, Pullen, Smith, Bowring, Fisher and Batley, the Company Pay Clerk, whose guiding hand is greatly missed in the Company Office. To Sgt. Masters, at present on demob. leave, who has decided to re-enlist, we send our best wishes and hope to see him back again in the Battalion in a short time.

To offset the losses to the Company by demob., we have had several small drafts from 26 M.G.T.C. and from units breaking up in B.A.O.R. As the latter group are not trained machine-gunners our training programme must be very extensive. Four officers also joined the Company during this period. Lt. J. T. Griffiths, M.C., who previously served in the 2nd Battalion Kensingtons, and won his M.C. with them as a Platoon Commander, has rejoined and after a spell with the Military Government joined the Company in March. The other officers, Lt. J. Giles, Sec. Lt. D. A. Chipp and Sec. Lt. J. A. E. Collis came from the M.G.T.C. and have taken command of Nos. 3, 4 and 5 Platoons.

### Sports

The sporting activities of the Company also suffered as a result of the bad weather and few games were played during the quarter. Three games of soccer were played, the Company team defeated an R.A.F. team at Schleswig by 9-0, and followed this up on February 19 by beating "C" Company in an "Albuhera" Shield match by 3-1; the third game played against the rest of the Battalion was a win for our opponents by 2-0 after a very hard match. With the coming of the mild weather we shall arrange a series of trial games to find out what talent we have amongst the new drafts and to give some practice to Ptes. Perry 76, Perry 15, Zimmer and other regular members of the team.

Only one game of hockey was played during this period. This was an "Albuhera" Shield match against "C" Company which we won by 4-0. Shortly after this match we lost many of our star players when the Drums were posted to "H.Q." Company. These included L/Cpl. Aylward, inside left, Pte. Doe, half-back, and Pte. Cullen, forward. Another loss was Pte. Whittaker, back, who went out on release. We still have the nucleus of a good team in Maj. A. R. Waller, Capt. P. G. V. Bellers, Cpl. Baker, Cpl. Morris, Ptes. Brettell, Cook, Brown, Perkins, Yeoman and Perry 76.

Once again we did well in the basketball competition by winning the league for the second time and reaching the final of the knock-out. After a hard game the score was 12-4 in favour of "H.Q." Company. Again we have to thank Ptes. Phillips, Yeoman, Perry 76, Warner, Cope and Cook for our success in this series. Interest ran high in the Company when a knock-out competition was run which included teams representing the Officers and Sergeants. Both teams were casualties in the first round despite the fact they had the services of the Company Commander. The winning team was No. 3 Platoon which included three Company players, Ptes. Perry 76, Warner and Cope.

The Company was well represented in events outside the Battalion. In the 2nd Division Inter-Unit Cross-Country, Cpl. Salmon (1st), Pte. Brockhurst (9th) and Sgt. Hawksley (11th) ran for the Battalion. In March, owing to a mistake on the part of the organisers of the 2nd Division team, Cpl. Salmon and Pte. Brockhurst were not included in the team. However, Pte. Brockhurst ran as an individual and finished 20th in a field of more than 200.

Our promising Rugby side has not had a chance to play a competition game since December, the only game which has taken place in recent weeks being the Battalion match against the 2nd East Lincs in the 2nd Division Championship. In this match, which the Battalion won, the Company was represented by Sec. Lt. D. A. Chipp (scrum half), Sec. Lt. J. A. E. Collis (front row forward) and Sgt. Kenrick (full back). Also in training as reserves and possibles for the Battalion team are Cpl. Morris, Pte. Sharp and C.S.M. Fuller, who leads the Company pack.

On the same day, March 29, Ptes. Yeoman, Perry 76, and Phillips were in the Battalion basketball team which defeated the Black Watch team by 26-22 at Iserlohn.

Now that milder weather is approaching we hope to start a more varied sports programme and to continue with the "Albuhera" Shield competition.

### "B" Company

The period under review has been a very eventful one for "B" Company. After spending a very jolly Christmas in the Battalion at Rendsburg, the Company underwent a violent change, both in personnel and commitments. On December 27 the Company was informed that it would be sailing for England on January 6, and our job was to be Demonstration M.M.G. and Mortar Company at the School of Infantry, Warminster, in Wiltshire. It is indeed a great honour to have been selected for this very special job of which we feel justly proud, but it has, at the same time, meant re-organising the Company a great deal as only personnel with six months or more to serve would be required to make up this Company.

The "Albuhera Shield" Company was to be broken up. This meant many good-byes to old friends we had fought with right through the France and Germany Campaign, and at the same time a big welcome to all the newcomers from the other Companies who were to form this composite Company, because in addition to the M.M.G.s a platoon of 4.2 Mortars was also to be attached to us from "D" Company. So it was on the morning of January 6 the new "B" Company marched out of "Albuhera" Barracks for the last time—bound for England. Many old friends are still in the Company, and we were very pleased to learn that we would be commanded in England by our own Maj. G. O. Porter. In Rendsburg we were very sorry to say good-bye to Capt. T. I. Mather, our 2 i/c, but welcomed Capt. E. D. Lloyd Thomas from "H.Q." to take his place. C.S.M. Pike is still with us now in England, as also are Col.-Sgt. Soden and Sgts. Crithley, Stokes, Buckley, Spenceley and Walmsley.



Since our arrival in England we have had to battle with the most severe weather conditions experienced in living memory. Snow and very severe frosts have been the worst enemies in a camp which has left much to be desired all round.

During the first month the Company was split into three parts, one platoon going to the Infantry Heavy Weapons Wing at Netheravon, two platoons residing in the School of Infantry, Warminster, and the remainder of the Company being stationed in Sutton Veney Camp about three miles outside Warminster. The respective detachments were commanded by Lt. R. F. Smith at Netheravon, Lt. P. C. Barclay at the School, and Maj. G. O. Porter had his "H.Q." at Sutton Veney. Since then, however, the two platoons at Warminster have joined the "H.Q." Group at Sutton Veney. Last month we lost Lt. P. C. Barclay to the Battalion in Germany, and welcomed to the Company in his place Lt. G. E. St. Clair, who has now settled down in the Company as O.C. No. 7 Platoon and Officer in Charge Sports.

The demonstration work we carry out for the School of Infantry is very interesting, and the Company takes part in a very colourful programme of events. True to the "B" Company tradition the men adapted themselves to their new job in record time.

At the time of going to press, we learn that the Company will be taking part in a few days' time in a very special demonstration for the Prime Minister and the C.I.G.S.

Week-end leave is forthcoming quite freely and has in more ways than one made up for the very severe weather.

The sporting activities of this very sport-loving Company have been seriously curtailed on account of the weather, but a bright spell of two days last week was seized upon by the Company when they challenged the 2nd Battalion the Seaforth Highlanders to a soccer match at Knook Camp, the Seaforths' "home." For an hour and a half the two teams battled it out in a sea of mud (the result of the "great thaw") and a wind blowing at gale force. The final result was a draw—four goals all.

With the approach of spring weather at last we hope to renew our sporting activities and once again reach the high standard we attained in Germany.

Demobilisation is still taking its toll of the Company, and since leaving Germany a number of ex-"B" Company stalwarts have left the Battalion to try their luck in "Civvy Street," among them being Sgts. Masters and Olivine, the former paying us a visit at Sutton Veney recently. By the time our journal notes are due again the speed-up of Release Groups will have taken even more drastic toll of our numbers and no less than one-third of the Company will have departed—a very sad and most serious loss indeed.

#### "C" Company

Sub-editors must surely emulate the Government by blaming the weather for the brevity of their contributions. Had we been stationed in the mountains, we could have blessed the snow and ice, but the dreary plains of Schleswig-Holstein are hardly conducive to

winter activities. Nevertheless, on half a dozen occasions we have ventured out into the Arctic climate to play football, hockey and basketball, but in major tournaments we are unable to record any success. We can claim, on occasions, to have put the wind up our opponents!

But all that is a dream of the past and we are now amongst the lovely hills of Iserlohn and bathed in sunshine. As these notes go to press the majority of the Company are entraining for camp at Vogelsang, where we are to undergo three weeks' "flat out" and intensive training. We are attached to the 6th (Highland) Brigade and are looking forward to our new liaison with the Black Watch and Gordon Highlanders. Vogelsang, during the Nazi regime, was the special training area for the "Corps d'Elite" of the German Army and every facility exists for getting "really rough." (Local authorities are not screaming for its return to the agriculturists!)

Dame Rumour has it that two Infantry Battalions will soon be moving into our town. Small unit games competitions will then become the order of the day and life will be really hectic. No one should complain of boredom in the Rhine Army and our next notes should be full to overflowing.

Col.-Sgt. Redpath is shortly proceeding on leave, plus Selrom, and will be away for six or seven weeks. Meanwhile we welcome Sgt. Hawksley to the Company, his first duty being to answer for the C.Q.M.S. whilst he is away. Many of our stalwarts, too numerous to mention, have left us for the "stony path" of "Civvy Street," and we take this opportunity of saying how sorry we are to see them go. But their places have been taken by some goodly material from the I.T.C. and they have settled down in the Regiment very quickly.

#### "D" Company

Since the last issue of the Journal we have vacated "Ingles" block, a modern building, and have moved into the more cramped quarters of the top floor of "Bucknall" block. Despite the conditions the Company soon readjusted itself to its new surroundings and everything was working smoothly in a few days. In early April we moved down to "Epsom" Barracks, Iserlohn, and for the next few weeks all available men will be clearing up the barracks, which are very dirty.

#### Training

We have had three N.C.O.s who have come back from Netheravon, Cpls. Raycraft, Stewart and Stimson, who was posted to us from 54 R.H.U., and our shortage of fully trained instructors is becoming less acute. The heavy snow and bad weather has hampered our training activities, but these will be resumed again when we have settled down in Iserlohn. In the next few days we are sending No. 15 Platoon down to Vogelsang under Capt. J. de Gaye and Sec. Lt. K. C. Bodimeade, who has just joined us from Shorncliffe. They will be working with 6 Infantry Brigade. In three weeks' time No. 13 Platoon will be going to Paderborn to train with 5 Infantry Brigade.

#### Release

Losses by release include Sgt. Jones, Cpls. Shankland, Steel, Cossing and Walsh, L/Cpls. Topley, our Company Clerk, and Phelps, Pres. Kirsch, O'Brien, Baldry, White 60, Cahill, Brown 90, Taylor 39, Taylor 37, Mulholland, Russell 54, Maddock and McDermott, and Cfm. Oak. To all of them we wish every success in civilian life.

To offset the losses to the Company by demob. we have had several small drafts from 26 M.G.T.C. and units breaking up in B.A.O.R. We welcome to the Company Capt. W. A. W. St. George, Lt. M. F. Leonard and Lt. P. C. Barclay, also Sec. Lts. Chalk and Bodimeade from the M.G.T.C. and Sgt. Dodkins who came to us from "C" Company.

#### Sports

Owing to the fact that the weather has been against us, the activities of the Company in the sporting world have been rather limited, but now the better weather has come we have great hopes in getting a long way in the "Albuhera" Shield, particularly in rugby, cricket and hockey, and no doubt other Companies will find us difficult to beat as we have a very good nucleus of personnel. We feel fully confident of our success. Such persons as Maj. Ayre, Capt. St. George, Lt. Leonard, Lt. Barclay, Sgt. Pople, Pte. Rees, L/Cpl. Richardson and Pte. Paul are household names within the Battalion.

#### BOXING NOTES

Our Battalion was drawn to fight in the second round of the 2nd Division Inter-Unit Championship. Our opponents were the 1st Battalion the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in Gevelsburg in the Ruhr. We were then still in Rendsburg. The team travelled some 300 miles through Germany to their opponents' location. When our boxers arrived they were given an excellent reception. Two days after our arrival the contest was held. Our team was rather older and more experienced than the Fusiliers, and their team was full of very young and terrifically keen and fit boxers who had just won the first round of the championship against the 1st Battalion the Black Watch by a crushing defeat. All went well at the "weigh in," and everyone was the correct weight. The contest, which was held on January 24, was excellent, the hall was packed with spectators from both Regiments quite early in the evening, and the Band of the S.W.B. played to all. Our team won four fights out of the 11 fought. It was a very close victory for the Fusiliers for some of the decisions had very narrow margins, in particular Sgt. Bromfield's fight and Pte. Enever's. Our veteran, Sgt. Ellis, put up a wonderful fight but was finally beaten by the youthfulness and toughness of his opponent. Our winners were: L/Cpl. Groves, third string light, Pte. Wilson, first string welter, Sgt. Pople, light heavy-weight, and L/Cpl. Richardson, heavy-weight. After the contest, the victors gave a supper to our team. A dance band was in attendance, beer was served and very soon Welsh and English songs were heartily sung. A very good time was had by all. Early next morning our team returned to Rendsburg.

On Friday and Saturday, March 21 and 22, Pte. J. Wilson won two extremely hard fights and secured for himself the B.A.O.R. Welter-Weight Championship. At first sight he does not look like a boxer for he has not yet the markings of the battle-scarred fighter. However, his appearance is most deceptive as results amply show. He fought extremely well for this Battalion last year and by winning the last fight of the evening secured victory for the Die-Hards against the 4th Battalion the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. He has done very well in the boxing world since he joined the Army in 1942. He learnt all about the noble art at Fitzroy Lodge, and lives in Newington Butts, London. He is due for demobilisation any day now, and will not take up boxing as a career. The Battalion wish him luck for the future and thank him for the part he has played in keeping its sporting traditions in the front rank.

#### BATTALION SOCCER

The "interesting fixture list" we referred to in our last notes has almost completely been ruined by the severe weather. The complete fixtures for January had to be cancelled owing to the state of the grounds, and we were only able to play two Battalion matches before meeting the 1st Gordons in the second round of the 2nd Division Knock-Out Competition. One was against the 3rd R.T.R., whom we beat by one goal to nil, the other against the 1st Heavy Regiment, whom we beat 2-1. On February 13 we played the 1st Gordons, who travelled over 300 miles to play us. A first-class game was seen by a large crowd on a frozen pitch. After an early goal by the Gordons, the Battalion equalised, but in spite of our getting on top subsequently, the final whistle blew with the score still 1-1. Travelling difficulties necessitated the replay being played the next day on our ground once more. In spite of injuries the Gordons turned out a splendid team and settled down very quickly to the conditions. They soon found themselves three goals up and in spite of great efforts by the Battalion, the Gordons won by four goals to nil. This was a great blow to us but it is some consolation to know that the Gordons are now in the final. Good luck to them!

The 2nd XI visited Travemunde on February 19 to play the Rehabilitation Centre, and drew after a splendid match 1-1. On February 26, the 1st XI had another great game against our old friends the 1st Heavy Regiment, R.A., at Itzehoe, and we drew 1-1.

We opened our Iserlohn fixture list on April 9 by visiting Menden to play the Royal Horse Guard (The Blues). We were strengthened by the return of Percy 15 and Zimmer, our left wing, who had been out of the game for two months through injury. The team gained confidence by their return and we won by 4-0 in most convincing style. Our centre-half and captain, Percy 76, and Howson, our right back, have played many great games and we look forward to seeing them gain wider recognition. It is rumoured that Luton Town and Fulham respectively are not disinterested and we feel sure that they are right. Lovell and Wilson have played with great energy and they are to be congratulated on their performances in so many different Battalion sides.



## Rugby

In spite of the weather, which for a long time prevented any form of game or training, the Battalion team acquitted itself magnificently against the East Lancs by beating them 9—6 and thereby entered the 2nd Division semi-final. Maj. Ayre took over Rugby as soon as the thaw set in and organised a strenuous training programme. No doubt this stood the team in excellent stead when the match against the East Lancs developed into a fast forward tussle. Undoubtedly the success of this match was due entirely to the fast attacking play of our forwards, and to the safe defence of our backs and three-quarters. We are now due to play the 14/20 Hussars at Wuppertal in the semi-final, and consider that we have a very good chance of winning. Cpls. Burland and Lovell and Pte. Rees must be congratulated on being chosen to play in the 2nd Division trial which is being held with a view to selecting a team to play the 7th Armoured Division. It is a great pity that more men are not given encouragement to play rugby before joining the Battalion, as it is so difficult to find reserves when injuries, etc., force the issue.

Colours have been awarded to the Doctor, Lt. Douglas, Sgt. Kendrick and L/Cpl. White.

## Hockey

Owing to the severe winter it was not possible to play many games during January and February, but two Battalion matches were played, however, in a break in the snow during the third week in February.

The first match was against the 1st Heavy Regiment, R.A., at Itzehoe, which was played in a very strong wind and in very cold weather. As the play was very fast both teams soon warmed up. The "Gunners" had several very good players but the forcing tactics of our team won the day, the final score being 4—2. Capt. L. J. Delaney and Capt. W. A. W. St. George scored two goals each.

The next day the Battalion played the 21st Field Regiment, R.A., at home and the conditions were much better. Our opponents had a very good forward line and managed to run through our defence twice in the first ten minutes, leaving the Battalion two goals down. However, in the Die-Hard manner the Battalion fought back and pressed the play into the "Gunners'" circle, Capt. Delaney finally scoring before half-time. In the second half the play was even keener and the Battalion still pressed hard, going all out to equalise. After much play in the "Gunners'" half, we managed to score through Capt. St. George, bringing the score to two all. In the last few minutes of the game both sides tried frantically to take the lead but the match ended in a well-fought draw.

Heavy snowfalls impeded any further Battalion matches and few "Albuhera" Shield matches could be played either.

On February 17, "H.Q." Company defeated "D" Company 2—0 and followed up with a victory of 10—0 over "C" Company on February 21.

The only other "Albuhera" match played was on February 26, "A" Company beating "C" Company 5—0.

Towards the end of March the thaw enabled us to start playing again and several trial matches were arranged to pick the Battalion team to enter the 2nd Division competition in April.

A further Battalion match was played against the 3rd Medium Regiment, R.A., at home, which we won 4—2, the scorers being Capt. Bellers, Lt. Barclay, Lt. Cutts and Pte. Argent. This was a try-out for the Battalion team for the Division competition, but certain key players such as Capt. Delaney, Sgt. Pople and D/M. Holdford were not available to play.

In January we lost Capt. Mather on release, which was a severe blow as he had been the regular Battalion centre-half as well as being in charge of Battalion hockey for many months. His duties were taken over by Capt. Bellers. Lt. Barclay was away with "B" Company for two months but is fortunately back with us now to take his part in the competition matches. Another Battalion player who left us on release was Sgt. Olivine, who played his last match for the Battalion in February against the 1st Heavy Regiment. Col.-Sgt. Waldron who arrived at the end of March is a most welcome addition to the team and will most likely fill the centre-half position. He has had a lot of experience in Battalion hockey and should be a most useful player for the Battalion.

Regular players during the last two months have been A.S.M. Letchford, who kept up his usual brilliant performance in goal, Cpl. Eve, Sgt. McCluskie and Sgt. McIntyre forming a formidable defence. Capt. Cummins, D/M. Holdford and Cpl. Lovell have usually filled the half-back line but it is hoped to strengthen the forward line by putting D/M. Holdford on the left wing. The forward line has varied a good deal lately but it is hoped that the following will be the line up for the competition matches: Pte. Argent, Lt. Barclay, Capt. Delaney, Sgt. Pople and D/M. Holdford. Regular forwards in recent games have been Capt. Bellers on the right wing and Capt. St. George at inside-left.

We now have quite a number of players available as reserves and possibles for the Battalion team, including Pte. Doe, a useful half and a possible for the left-half position. Other keen players outstanding in trial games and "Albuhera" matches have been Cpl. Morris ("A"), half, Pte. Cullen 36, Cpl. Baker ("A"), Ptes. Aylward and Briggs ("H.Q.") and C.Q.M.S. Bignell, all in the forwards.

Hockey colours are at present held by Capt. Cummins, Capt. Delaney, D/M. Holdford and A.S.M. Letchford, but more are sure to be awarded after the coming competition in which it is hoped we will have a good chance of doing well.

## Cross-Country Running

The Battalion was called upon at very short notice to enter a team for the 2nd Division Inter-Unit Cross-Country running championships. Consequently training had to be concentrated into a matter of ten days, and very hectic days they proved to be. The team covered anything up to 12 miles daily in road work and running. The team was accommodated in Wuppertal Stadium for five days before the run and continued training there.

On Friday, February 7, the day before the run, all the competitors walked around the course. One hundred and ninety-five took part, the total comprising 12 teams of 15 men each and 15 individuals.

The course was blanketed with snow and the first mile crossed over a marsh with a long uphill drag. By the time this was reached the competitors were beginning to string out with Cpl. Salmon (Middlesex) and L/Cpl. Bailey (2nd Grenadiers) in the lead closely followed by six Grenadier Guardsmen who were packing extremely well. At the halfway mark, Cpl. Salmon had increased his lead to 200 yds. Approximate placings of the first five Middlesex then were: 1st, Cpl. Salmon, 7th, Sgt. Hawksley, 8th, Cpl. Stallard, 9th, Pte. Brockhurst, with Pte. Saffin 23rd.

Cpl. Salmon ran in at the finish an easy winner by 400 yds. in the good time of 57 mins. 22 2/5 secs., followed by L/Cpl. Bailey (2nd Grenadiers).

Cpl. Salmon shows promise of becoming a really great runner as last season he was 30th Corps 5,000 metres champion and ran for the B.A.O.R. Cross-Country team last winter.

In the final team placings we were fourth out of 12 teams competing, and Cpl. Salmon was first out of 195 runners. This was a really creditable effort and our congratulations go to Cpl. Salmon for his magnificent win and to the other members of the team who so strongly backed him up. The complete placings of the Middlesex team are as follows: Cpl. Salmon, 1st; Cpl. Stallard, 8th; Pte. Brockhurst, 9th; Sgt. Hawksley, 11th; Pte. Phillips, 16th; Pte. Saffin, 20th; Cpl. Murray, 59th; Sgt. Sweeney, 61st; Pte. Ennever, 76th; Sgt. Luke, 80th; Pte. Roche, 106th; Pte. Munday, 107th; Pte. Fisher, 114th.

## THE CORPS OF DRUMS

Many years have passed since the Corps of Drums last figured in these notes. Despite the difficulties occasioned by release and leave, the reforming and training of the Corps has been carried out under the energetic and capable direction of D/M. Holdford who, of course, needs no introduction to the readers of this Journal. He has been untiring in his efforts and has been ably assisted by Cpl. French, and it is with regret that we learn of the latter's decision to leave us for "Civvy Street" with his Group. Other familiar faces also appear in the Corps in L/Cpls. Phillips and Aylward and Ptes. Cullen (ex-2nd Battalion Band) and Winsborough. These, together with Ptes. Cullen 36, Doe, Kimber, King and Restorick, with their previous experience have proved to be of great assistance in training.

Whilst fully cognisant of such platitudes as "Rome wasn't built in a day," it is with intense pride that we now read in Battalion Orders relating to Drill Parades, etc., that "The Drums will parade as such." By the time these notes appear we hope to be able to offer an alternative to "Westward Ho."

Preparations for the move from Rendsburgh to Iserlohn and the subsequent settling in resulted in our training being suspended. We fancy, however, that we performed a useful service as the Battalion baggage

party. Whilst this entailed long and arduous days of toil we had the satisfaction of knowing that of over the 200 odd tons of baggage we handled, not one single item went astray.

Naturally, under D/M. Holdford, our sporting activities have not been neglected. In addition to preparing for "H.Q." Company Sports we are also running football and hockey teams. Whilst we were unsuccessful in our efforts to get the Adjutant to play football for us we hope to have his services for hockey.

Before these notes are published Cpl. French will have departed from our midst. Our best wishes go with him for a successful career in the Metropolitan Police Force.

In conclusion we offer our opposite numbers in the 2nd Battalion our best wishes and, subject to the Editor's better judgment, our unblushing faces for the scrutiny of all.

## Members of the Corps of Drums

D/M. Holdford, Cpl. French, L/Cpls. Aylward and Phillips, Ptes. Brown, Calvert, Cullen, F., Cullen, J., Doe, Harris, Kimber, King, Marshall, Matthews, McLeady, Munday, Restorick, Toplass, Vincent, Webb, White, Winsborough and Woodgate.

2nd BATTALION NEWS  
INTRODUCTION

In March of this year the Battalion carried out its long-expected move to Palestine. The change of scenery and climatic conditions are a welcome relief to those in Egypt, but the nefarious activities of a certain section of the Jewish community are definitely not so welcome.

The various Companies are on detachment at the moment, but we hope that it will not be long before we are all together again. Work is often arduous and the hours long but with the usual "Die-Hard" spirit we keep cheerful and carry on.

There is little time for training or sport, but each Company has done wonders in organising its own entertainment. We were all sorry to lose the Regimental Band; not only did it give us many enjoyable listening hours but made itself quite famous amongst the units stationed in the Fayid area.

It was with regret that we bade farewell to Lt.-Col. J. G. E. Reid, our C.O., at the beginning of April. We are glad to welcome Lt.-Col. F. Walden as his successor. Capt. J. Taverner recently left us for the U.K. and Capt. J. Stanier has taken over his duties as Adjutant.

## "B" COMPANY

With the exception of a few, who were benefiting from the influx of young women from Cairo to Fayid, the Company shed no tears in March on its departure from Egypt.

February saw the departure of Capt. E. J. Naish and the welcoming of Capt. J. L. Gray, M.C., as our new Company Commander. Civvy Street has recently claimed Ptes. Avis and Allegri (48 Group), and Ptes. Broderick, Dawson ("Torchie") and Orchard (49



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



1.—C mpany Commander's Jeep. Dvr. Jostling and Pte Kourtoulou. 2.—Rail Patrol, Lydda. 3.—Carriers on Train. 4.—"D" Company Canteen at Lydda. 5.—Floods at Fayid. 6.—Move to Lydda. 7.—At Giza Pyramids.

Group). At the time of writing 50 Group are "shuffling their soles off." Good luck to them!

Our small numbers have recently been made up with reinforcements from the Manchesters and R.N.F.s, to whom we extend a hearty welcome.

With the closing of "Lone Palm" holiday camp, leave has been restricted. However, Cyprus seems to offer more than adequate relief from Army routine, judging from the stories of two recent visitors, namely, Cpls. Tilling and Ward.

Sport has football naturally taking precedence. The Company side is quite strong, as shown by our victories over "C" and "D" Companies. Pte. Cocozza proves to be a fine centre-forward, while Hayto gives his usual breath-taking performances. Other stalwarts are Col.-Sgt. Freshwater, and newcomers Ptes. King and Bastock. In the latest boxing competitions Sgt. Jones and Pte. Collier have upheld the honour of the Company.

Cricket has an enthusiastic following and, judging from the displays at practice matches (between the two wash-houses), the Company has a strong, if unorthodox, side.

Hockey has its participants in C.S.M. Wild, Sgts. Finnis, Thompson and Woollard. Needless to say, with such players as these, the team has been most successful.

Our present camp at Tel Litwinsky (the Company is on detachment) is in quite a pleasant spot—the weather ideal—the scent of orange and lemon blossoms in the air—wild flowers growing in profusion around the tents—numbers of goldfinches trilling their tremulous song—and last, but not least, the comfort of wireless in our tents—installed through the ingenuity of Cpl. Woolger and Pte. Riches, although difficulty is experienced in the evenings, due to the inevitable efforts of stray dogs who seem determined to make themselves heard.

Here, as in Egypt, the guards are heavy, although time has been found to give the vehicles a much-needed "spring cleaning," the result of which somewhat "shook" the other Companies.

In ending we would like to point out that, different to other Companies, we admit that we are not always working—the little leisure that is ours is usually spent in the Naafi, the cinema or the nearby bathing pool—the trek to this usually being led by "Tarzan" Bates.

## "C" COMPANY

As with "B" Company, a number of our members were disappointed at leaving Egypt. The study of feminine characteristics was being seriously undertaken just before the move.

The journey from Egypt was completed quite satisfactorily, except for one of our ace motor cyclists who, unfortunately, fell from his machine.

At this new location we are detached from the Battalion and find ourselves in the same camp as our old friends, 65 Field Company, R.E., of 3 Div. So far we have played two games of football with them, being successful in both. No. 12 British General Hospital have also been our opponents on two occasions, resulting this time in alternate victories.

Our Company runners, Ptes. Grant, Elliot, Tedder, Kidd and Tremlett, did very well in the 3 Div. cross-country run, considering their lack of training occasioned by the move.

L.I.A.P. 30, which included Lt. Robertson and L/Cpl. Heritage, returned from a snowy leave and gave us the frozen facts on England. This inspired in us a greater respect for those at home and gave us a better understanding of their battle. L.I.A.P. 32 and 33, not forgetting Lt. D. Mackay, who returned home on a course, should now be enjoying themselves in the splendour of an English spring.

Sgt. Carlier will be going on a "Q" course soon, so "Ali Baba's" gang will be augmented (no connection with current affairs out here, this gang being comparatively harmless). Col.-Sgt. Griffiths obtained an "A" grading on his recent pay course and we have noticed that it has caused a decided improvement in his football pools.

"C" Company is now commanded by Maj. P. A. Fishbourne, and Capt. V. A. Thomas has recently joined us to take over duties of 2 i/c.

In conclusion we should like it made known that we are all in good shape and form for the diabolical entertainment we are getting. It is rumoured that still brighter periods are ahead, and in this case we say in true Army slang, "Fair enough, and cheerio."

## "D" COMPANY

During the last three months duties have been on the increase and, unfortunately, sport on the decrease, until now it has altogether ceased.

On 16th January "D" Company took its turn in guarding the C-in-C.'s residence. Soon after, another guard was formed and even the Company Clerk volunteered this time; it was not surprising, for its object was the safety of personnel in the A.T.S. camp.

In the last two weeks of January, Lt. Cave-Browne-Cave and 19 men attended a searchlight course at the School of A.A. near Haifa, and whilst there, they were visited by Gen. Sir Miles C. Dempsey, who showed much interest in the progress of their course. On return they took over duties at G.H.Q., operating two searchlights which were used to deter the local inhabitants from wandering into the camp area. A matter of three weeks after taking over their new duties they became instructors to a detachment of the Bedfs and Herts Regt., who, in turn, took over full duties from them.

One of the highlights of February was a visit to the Cairo Empire Club and on, led by a typical "dragoman," to the famous pyramids of Giza.

The advance party left Fayid early on 3rd March for Palestine, under the command of Capt. J. P. Jarrett. They moved by road and reached their destination, Lydda, late the same day. Meanwhile, the main party was busy packing and handing over to the new battalion. On 15th March the main road party started off, leaving the rail party in charge. The move was completed quite successfully, except for D.R. "Bomber" Wells, who managed to get six punctures on the second day.



After which, he gave it up as a bad job and finished the journey by truck.

In the December issue of THE DIE-HARDS "H.Q." Company mentioned that 26 drops of rain had fallen in Egypt. We would like to bring attention to the fact that on 17th March, when our main rail party was due to leave, sufficient rain fell to wash away part of the railway track and hold up our party for nearly 10 hours.

On our way up, Drms. Shearing and Buckingham helped to pass the weary hours by sounding calls from one end of the train to the other. We soon settled down in the new camp and by 20th March had taken over our full quota of duties.

Since the last issue of THE DIE-HARDS we have lost the following on release: Cpls. Sutcliffe, Young and Graham, Ptes. Leigh, Walker, Green, Garrett and Jones 77, nor must we forget Sgt. Robinson, M.M., who joined the Company before D-Day and remained with us until his release with 49 Group, and the latest releases, L. Cpl. Slade, Ptes. Hogan and Naylor. We wish them all the very best and hope that they will soon settle down in their new Civvy Street jobs. Capt. D. C. Rowberry has also left us to proceed on Python and has handed the Company over to Capt. A. B. De Quincy. He, in turn, is leaving us soon for a home posting, and Maj. Hutchings will be our new Company Commander.

#### "H.Q." COMPANY

During March we bade farewell to our old camp at Fayid, much to the annoyance of many members of the Company who were well organised with the newly arrived A.T.S. personnel from Cairo. Other than these, I think most of us were glad for a change of scenery—grass, trees and flowers—after 12 months of sun, sand and flies.

On arrival in Palestine we took over Sarafand College from the R.A.E.C.; definitely the best of Company locations from the point of view of living conditions, although duties are "taking the edge off the gingerbread."

The only topic in which interest has not declined is demob. The Education Staff suffered a great loss in March when Capt. J. H. Clark, M.C., left the Battalion, a loss that was shared equally amongst all who knew him and worked with him. We were also sorry to see the last of Capt. J. A. E. Howell, who travelled down to Geneva on a pre-vocational course at the beginning of April and is due for release as this article is being written. This month we said farewell and good luck to Sgt. Copping, Cpls. Bassett and Stevenson, L. Cpls. Tucker and Craft, Ptes. Alchin, Davies, Furber, Kirby, Matchin, Pratlett, Siddall, Spanner, Young and Williams 54.

Just after the move from Egypt, several football matches were played. The first, officers and N.C.O.s versus O.R.s, being after a sub-tropical downpour, was more like an Eton wall game than a soccer match, and resulted in a rather lucky win for the officers and N.C.O.s. During the first two weeks of our stay here at Sarafand, the tennis courts and cricket nets were well patronised. After this the college staff moved to Egypt, our own sports gear was moved to Kefar Vitkin

and the world was shocked by renewed Jewish outrages. These, in turn, made the pursuit of sport more or less an impossibility.

In conclusion, let me say that we are "bearing up" under the present strain, despite the inevitable outbursts of grumbling common to the British "Tommy" and hope soon to be once again together as a Battalion and operating with the usual smoothness.

#### SPORTS NOTES

The Battalion were a little unlucky in the final results of the sporting season, due to injury, guard commitment and, above all, the move to Palestine at the beginning of March. Nevertheless, the results were satisfactory and much spade work has been done to increase the sporting activities of the Battalion, and lay the foundation of next season's teams.

#### Athletics

In the Canal, South Zone, Open Championship the Battalion was well represented in every event with the following results:

100 yds.: 1st, Maj. Clayden, "C"; 440 yds.: 1st, Pte. Elliott, "C"; 880 yds.: 3rd, Capt. De Quincey, "D"; 4th, Pte. Grant, "C"; 1 mile: 1st, Pte. Howarth, "D"; 3 miles: 2nd, Sgt. Conway, "C"; Long jump: 2nd, Pte. Jary, "C"; High jump: 2nd, Pte. Rogers, "H.Q."; Hop, skip, jump: 1st, Pte. Jary, "C"; Hammer, 1st, Pte. Elliott, "C"; Discus, 3rd, Maj. Orr; Shot: 1st, R.S.M. Weller, 2nd, Pte. Jary, "C"; 3rd, Pte. White, "C"; 110 yds. relay: 1st, 2nd Middlesex, Maj. Clayden, Pte. Williams, Pte. Conway; 1 mile relay: 1st, 2nd Middlesex, Pte. Grant, Pte. White, Pte. Elliott.

The following were chosen to represent the Army & R.A.F.: Maj. Clayden, Orr, Capt. Stanyer, De Quincey, \*R.S.M. Weller, Sgt. Conway, Ptes. Howarth, \*Grant, \*Elliott, \*Jary, White, Rogers and \*Tedder.

We were only able to send those marked \* due to the move and, after a very exciting meeting, the R.A.F. won by four points.

We shall, presumably, have many of the stars left for next season and 1st Div. athletic meetings.

#### Cross-Country Running

The team faded away at the end of the season owing to lack of training under conditions in Palestine. The most promising runners were Capt. Stanyer, Ls. Robertson and Burnett, Ptes. Howarth, Grant and Tedder.

#### Soccer

The season has dragged on rather too long and, at the time of going to press, we still have the "Overlord" Cup to complete. This is awarded to the winner of the Company League, the cup itself being presented by Capt. Binney, late of "B" Company.

Pte. Skinner, the Battalion goalkeeper, had a grand season, with Streetfield playing brilliantly at times, but Kay was not his usual self. French, Coccozza, Brown, Revell and Atterbury played some good games, and we saw towards the end of the season plenty of young talent for the coming season.

#### Rugby

We met our end in "B" round, being beaten by the R.W.K. We were very unlucky due to injuries. Maj. Clayden went off after 10 minutes; Capt. Taverner was injured after 15 minutes; Sgt. Thompson, with a badly bruised shoulder, had to give up hooking and play wing forward; and Sgt. Waterfield sustained a broken finger, all of which occurred in the first half. In spite of this the Battalion was leading 3-0 after 45 minutes' play. R.W.K. then got a penalty to make it 3-3, and with two more tries won 9-3. This game was fought at a furious pace, but it appears that Regimental rugby has developed into a mad fight with very little skill attached to it. This has been found in all matches. Previously the XV beat the 7 Field Regt. 17-6.

Outstanding players were Maj. Clayden, Capt. Taverner, Lt. Scrivener, Sgts. Ross, Thompson, Ptes. Shelton and Merrett. Credit is also due to Col.-Sgt. Freshwater, Sgt. Jones, Cpl. French, Ptes. Langhorn, Simes and Skinner.

#### Boxing

Starting late in the season we have a very presentable team, although it was defeated by the R.W.K. by 18 points to 15 in the Brigade Final.

Results were as follows:

Heavyweight: Sgt. Jones won on points; Light heavyweight: Pte. Coyne lost; Middleweight: Pte. Meek lost; Welterweight: Sgt. Carlier lost, Pte. Scott won and Pte. Salisbury lost; Lightweight: Sgt. Webb lost and C.S.M. du Heume won; Featherweight: Pte. Collier won; Bantamweight: Pte. Kennedy lost.

C.S.M. du Heume must be congratulated on his spirit in stepping into the ring after so many years from it, to win a very cleverly fought fight against a young, tough, and fit opponent.

Ptes. Williams and Shreives have since joined us and should make a world of difference to the team.

We look forward to plenty of fights next season with successful results.

#### Hockey

We were defeated in the semi-final by the Suffolks, 2-0, in spite of the fact that we were in their goal area most of the second half.

The success of the season was due to R.S.M. Weller, R.Q.M.S. Etheridge, C.S.M. Hammond, Col.-Sgt. Selfe, Maj. Clayden, Col.-Sgt. Freshwater, Sgt. Thompson and Pte. Hymas. Sec. Lt. Clayden, L. Cpl. Phillips, Sgt. Thompson and Lt. Scrivener will form the nucleus of next season's team.

#### Tennis

The Battalion Tennis Club, with 30 supporters, has proved popular, and many have learnt to play this excellent game and we are hoping to increase our numbers quite considerably in the near future.

Maj. Clayden reached the semi-finals of the Zone meeting; he and Capt. Taverner were defeated in the second round of the Zone doubles.

#### Future Prospects

Release and Python will take many of our best sportsmen, certainly the experienced ones. It rests on the younger generation to uphold the high reputation gained by this Battalion in the field of sport, as I am well sure it will.

#### M.G. WING (MIDDLESEX REGT.), HOME COUNTIES I.T.C., WARREN CAMP, CROWBOROUGH

Since our last notes various changes have taken place amongst the staff. Lts. F. C. Brown and G. H. Cowperthwaite have assumed the duties of Admin. Q.M. and Adj. respectively. These two appointments have been forced upon us by our long stay in Crowborough and the fact that we operate to a large extent as a separate unit.

C.S.M. Overy has left us for an appointment as R.S.M. to our T.A. Battalion. We wish him every success and trust that the flow of ex-Middlesex members into the T.A. Battalion will be accelerated in the near future. C.S.M. Hastie has replaced C.S.M. Overy. C.S.M. Tarrant is, at the time of writing, away on embarkation leave prior to joining the 2nd Battalion. This is a sad loss to the Wing, not only from the weapon training point of view, but from the sporting and social side of our activities. Our good wishes go with him.

Commencing with this number of the journal, we have started to produce notes from each of our Groups and Platoons in an attempt to provide a really good journal contribution from the M.G. Wing. As time goes on we hope to enlarge on this by adding a "pictorial section." Many cameras and "black market?" films are in evidence in and around the camp, so this venture is obtaining a flying start for the autumn issue of the journal.

At the time of going to press, the unit is still at Crowborough. That lying jade, "Dame Rumour," has moved the unit many times during the past six months to many different places. But we are still in Sussex and here, perforce, must remain until some official intimation is received that we are needed elsewhere. The staff are quite happy and have many "social contacts" in the village. Two impending marriages to local girls occur shortly and it would seem from popular report that "many a heart will be breaking" when we finally leave this most delightful district.

Maj. Paterson is arranging the traditional celebrations for "Albuhara Day," and the programme ensures that everyone who can "stay the course," will have a happy day.

We send our heartiest greetings to all our comrades in the 1st and 2nd Battalions, to all at Mill Hill and to every member of the Middlesex Regt. wherever they may be.

#### 1 PLATOON (LT. A. H. A. ARMSTRONG)

This Platoon of 32 men has only been with us for three weeks but has settled down well. As a future Mortar Platoon they are listening with awe to "old sweats" of some four months' service who have actually



had the experience of firing the 4.2 mortar. This is the first Platoon to use the new Squad Leader armbands made in the Regimental colours and wistful eyes were turned to the arms of Ptes. Carey, Dixon, Hallard and Willis, who were the Squad Leaders in the opening week.

Sgt. Rout, of recent mortar fame, has proved his versatility as an Infantry instructor and has been ably assisted by Cpls. Latham, Jennings and Carpenter.

### 2 PLATOON (LT. A. F. LEGGE)

At the time of writing, 2 Platoon are scaring the local inhabitants by their attempts to drive Carriers. Much progress has been made, however, but not before Pte. White was thrown from his Carrier. Fortunately, he was not badly hurt and is again in training. During Infantry training under Sgt. Goslin (ex-G.P. Regt.) and Cpls. White and Neal, the Platoon did well in that no fewer than 20 obtained marksmen's badges.

One member of the Platoon seems already destined for high honours if his name means anything at all. It is "Churchill" but, alas, a mere Albert of that ilk, not a Winston.

### 3 PLATOON (LT. L. J. HARRIS)

At the moment, the 4.2 mortar staff are taking a well-earned rest.

A pre-Netheravon cadre of five officers and three sergeants has just been completed and is now engaged on the course proper at Netheravon. The cadre was under the instruction of Sgt. Rout, whose proficiency has been completely endorsed by the favourable reports from Netheravon.

Our training was completed on May 1, and congratulations are due to Ptes. Bath, Daw, Day, Greenland, Jelley, King and Paradise for passing the "Skill at Arms" tests. The "passing-out" parade was taken by Maj. Paterson who congratulated the men upon their smart turn-out. He was, unfortunately, prevented from seeing the men drill owing to a violent and sudden hailstorm which summarily disposed of all further proceedings.

Part of the Platoon was posted to the Demonstration Squad at Netheravon whilst the remainder are with "B" Company, 1st Battalion, at Warminster. We wish them all the best of good luck with their new units.

The instructors were Sgt. Woodford, Cpls. Newton and Ellis and L/Cpls. Palfrey and King.

Special mention may be made of Pte. Day, whose work and enthusiasm made him the outstanding trainee.

### 4 PLATOON (LT. D. M. H. FERGUSON)

This Platoon is something of a hybrid as it originally consisted of a normal intake plus a number of ex-members of the Jewish Bde. The latter have now all departed to various branches of the Service as interpreters.

We were the first to commence post-corps training at Warren. Previously all Platoons were sent to Shorncliffe to await drafting orders but, under a recent revision of programmes, they are now held at Warren and continue training until required elsewhere. The post-corps training consists mainly of route marches and



1. A machine-gun lesson in progress. Instructor, Cpl. Eaton.



2. A group of trainees and instructors.



3. The administration and "H.Q." staff. Standing, left to right: C.Q.M.S. Poulter, Sgt. Tomkins, C.Q.M.S. Ure, C.S.M. Hastie, C.S.M. Tarrant, Sgt. Burrell and Cpl. Goatman. Kneeling, left to right: Pte. Knott, Cpl. Adams, Ptes. Buckle and Smith.

schemes. These went off quite well although many felt the strain of heavy boots. On the first march, Pte. Cook, although far from fit, did exceptionally well. On one M.M.G. scheme, Pte. Manning acted as Platoon Commander and was ably backed by Ptes. Ball and Mumford.

The highlight of 4 Platoon's career was their demonstration squad consisting of Ptes. Smith, Ball, Manning, Mumford and Gye, which went to Colchester to give a demonstration to the A.C.F., and was highly complimented both by the Brigadier and the C.O. of the I.T.C.

A diverting pastime has been the fighting of forest fires and a minor incident occurred when Pte. Hodge, displaying considerable zeal, came into contact with a Carrier. A few stitches soon rendered him fit, with his enthusiasm undiminished.

On May 8, the Platoon left us in order to join "B" Company, 1st Battalion, at Warminster, where they will, without doubt, uphold the high degree of efficiency which they attained at Warren.

The instructors were Sgt. McFall, Cpls. Eaton, Minogue and Woodage.

### 5 PLATOON (LT. D. M. H. FERGUSON)

This Platoon has been with us for 12 weeks and has completed three weeks' M.M.G. training. As yet, they have not visited the open ranges but, with the M.M.G. cup shoot arranged for June, all are keen to obtain practical experience.

Sgt. Bartle and Cpls. Eaton, Epps, Morton and Cole are the training N.C.O.s.

The men have shown considerable "artistic" ability. The two huts they occupy have been painted outside in cream and red and murals decorate the walls, together with a facsimile of the Regimental badge. Ptes. Bacon, Goodman and Irvine are the "foremen" in this undertaking.

ABCAs arouse great enthusiasm and Pte. Morrison bids fair to emulate his distinguished Cabinet namesake.

### M.T. SECTION

Since the disbandment of 26 M.G.T.C. and the formation of the M.G. Wing, many changes have taken place. The M.T. Section is now approximately the strength of two Platoons and consists of "H.Q." and "B" vehicles, a Cadre Training Platoon of two Sections and an M.M.G. and M.T. Training Platoon.

We have lost Capt. Donaldson, who has left to take up a post at the Army School. He achieves promotion with this appointment and we offer him our hearty congratulations. In addition, we have said good-bye to Sgt. Hilton, L/Cpl. Holman, Ptes. Armstrong and Gardiner and Cfn. Hendry. We wish them all good luck in the future. Sgt. Firman is awaiting a posting to the 1st Battalion. The new M.T.O. is Lt. Butterfield, an old acquaintance of the 1st Battalion in their Hong Kong days.

In the football world, the M.T. Section has proved almost invincible. Three of our teams reached the semi-finals of the Crowborough Cup and, in the final, it was two M.T. sides (Universals v. Lloyds) who provided the opposition. The Universals defeated the Lloyds by 5 goals to 1.

L/Cpl. Birdsey surrenders his freedom on May 17 and we offer him and the future Mrs. Birdsey our congratulations.

Our efforts in training Carrier and motor-cycle cadres for the 2nd Queen's, prior to their movement overseas, has been greatly appreciated by that unit and a letter from the O.C., 2nd Queen's, is quoted elsewhere in these notes.

### APPRECIATION

The following letter has been received by the O.C., M.G. Wing, from the O.C. of the 2nd Queen's:

"May I say thank you for all the assistance you have given us. As you know, you have trained all our Carrier drivers and motor-cyclists and I can honestly say that we could not have got on without you. All concerned have been much impressed not only by the way you have taught them but by the help and guidance you have given."

### FOREST FIRES

The following article appeared in the *Daily Herald* on April 30, 1947, and our thanks are due to the Editor of that paper for giving us permission to quote the article verbatim in these notes:

### Flames Sweep Forest

*Herald* Reporter,  
Forest Row, Sussex,  
Tuesday night.

Abandoned war-time ammunition exploding around them, N.F.S. men, troops and villagers fought for six hours tonight a fire which laid waste nearly 400 acres of Ashdown Forest.

### "CRUSHED" OUT

Soldiers of the Middlesex Regt. at Warren Camp, Crowborough, 12 miles away, rushed over in half a dozen Bren Carriers when an S O S reached them on a training exercise.

Running the Carriers over the flames they "crushed" them out.

Nearly 1,000 acres of the forest have been destroyed by fires this month. The authorities are convinced that the fires are deliberately caused by fire-raisers.

### THE RETURNED BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR ASSOCIATION

34 Eaton Place, S.W.1

March 20th, 1947

DEAR SIR,—Facilities are now available at the above permanent headquarters of the Returned British Prisoners of War Association for the holding of regimental reunions, debates, meetings, etc.

I would be glad if you will have a notice to this effect placed on your information board and likewise inserted in the current issue of your Regimental Journal.

May I ask for your confirmation if and when this request has been granted.

Yours sincerely,  
M. CROSSAN,  
Organising Secretary.



## THE LATE LT.-COL. G. A. BRIDGMAN

(From the Colonel of the Regiment's "News Letter")

I regret to announce the death of Lt.-Col. G. A. Bridgman on March 16, 1947. He was buried at Torquay on March 19. The announcement of his death did not appear in *The Times* until March 22, 1947. He lived at Seacroft, Higher Downs Road, Babbacombe, South Devon (suburb of Torquay). He was born on August 19, 1875, and received his first commission on February 29, 1896, becoming Lt.-Col. on September 28, 1916, retiring August 14, 1920. His health was never very good. He lived for many years with his friend, Lt.-Col. W. D. Ingle, D.S.O., at Bognor, where he spent his time in the garden to which he was devoted. I served with him at our Depot from the winter of 1912 until the outbreak of the first World War. He was then Major and 2 i/c to Maj. W. C. C. Ash, D.S.O. (died of wounds in the Great War). He was a very able officer, possessed of deep military historical knowledge. He was, in fact, well versed in many directions, and there were few subjects on which George Bridgman could not talk, from Napoleon to Russia.

He taught himself the Russian language, which was no mean task, and in 1914 could read Russian newspapers well. After the end of the Great War he was commanding the 3rd Battalion from which post he retired. George Bridgman was largely responsible for the lay-out of the Mess lawns and gardens. All of us were made to help, and myself and Brig. Tidbury assisted to make the grass terraces below the tennis courts, for which purpose we worked hard summer and winter. How well I remember digging the endless yellow clay on which the barrack area stands.

George Bridgman taught me much about the Regimental history and *THE DIE-HARDS* Journal, and on his direction I once wrote articles on Albuhera which were to be followed by others, but the German nation halted me, so readers escaped that burden.

He married a "Gunner" officer's widow after retirement and thereafter lived in South Devon.

He was always a faithful subscriber to the Regimental Association and was an early subscriber to the Prisoner-of-War Fund when started. Ill health prevented attendance at our Officers' Dinners in pre-war days or since, nor was he ever able to attend Old Comrades' Dinners in later years of his life.

## THE LATE CAPT. S. A. RENNY

(From the Colonel of the Regiment's "News Letter")

I am deeply distressed to publish the death of Capt. S. A. Renny. This officer carried out Army welfare work throughout this last war, first at our own T.A. Headquarters and later at "H.Q." London District, where he worked until the very end. I do not think anyone knew of his health being in a parlous state, and so the blow came as a complete surprise. Actually the day before his death on Thursday, April 17, I received a message asking me to lunch with him on the 17th, which I could not do as I was required to visit local prisons with a party of Justices, and that occupied all day.

My readers will remember that Capt. Renny, as an executor to his brother's will, arranged for the Renny Fund of over £20,000 to be given to our Regimental Association for its charitable purposes. We can never repay him for that gift. Capt. Renny, as an Honorary Member of our Regimental Association and Officers' Club, has attended our meetings for some two years. He took the utmost interest in the Regiment, and I often met him to discuss welfare matters for he was passionately anxious to help the soldiers in all his domestic difficulties. Capt. Renny received no pay for his whole-time work as a Welfare Officer, and devoted himself to those interests. We shall miss him from all our deliberations, and I have lost a great friend.

## THE LATE COL.-SGT. J. H. H. LAMBOURNE

(From the Colonel of the Regiment's "News Letter")

2144 ex-Col.-Sgt. J. H. H. Lambourne passed away in his sleep on December 7, 1946, in his home at 3, Gordon Road, Finchley. His illness was of only three days' duration and he suffered no pain.

Col.-Sgt. Lambourne was born on June 3, 1868, and joined the Middlesex Regiment at Hounslow in 1886. He served in Ireland, East Indies and India, where he was Provost Sgt. of the 2nd Battalion at Ahmednagar and Bombay. He also served in the South African War from 1899-1902. He was discharged to pension in 1908 with the rank of Colour-Sergeant.

For his service against the Boers he was awarded the Queen's South African Medal with two clasps. He was also in possession of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal, the latter being awarded to him in 1945, 37 years after his original discharge from the Colours.

From 1908 until the outbreak of the Great War in 1914 he was employed at Mill Hill Barracks as a civilian clerk in the Depot Orderly Room. During the first World War he again donned khaki, rejoining the Colours as O.R.Q.M.S., holding that rank when the insignia was four chevrons and a star worn below the elbow, similar to the badge of rank of the present Drum Major.

He served again in the capacity of civilian clerk at the Depot after his discharge in 1919. His service with the Regiment ended in 1927 owing to illness. He thus served the Regiment without a break for 41 years. He was the son of a soldier, his father having served before him as a Sergeant in the Grenadier Guards and fought against the Russians in the Crimean War, 1854-56. Col.-Sgt. Lambourne was the champion shot of the 5th and 6th Battalions, then stationed at Hounslow, for the years 1899 and 1900. During these years he won silver trophies of a rosebowl and cup. His name also appears on a number of trophies in the Sergeants' Mess of the Middlesex Regimental Depot.

He leaves a family of seven daughters, four sons, 23 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Ten of the family served in the Forces in the two World Wars. He was buried at Hendon Park Cemetery, the Regiment being represented by the Colonel of the Regiment, Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L., and the Old Comrades by Mr. G. Kerswill.

## THE LATE COL.-SGT. BLINCO

Ex-Col.-Sgt. Alfred Blinco, of the Middlesex Regiment, who died suddenly at his home, "The Bungalow," Lees Road, Hillingdon, on Saturday week, after a short illness, was buried with military honours in Hillingdon Cemetery on Saturday.

Mr. Blinco, who was 77, was born at George Green, Bucks, where he spent the early part of his life and went to school with Mr. R. E. Evans (now proprietor of the "Red Lion" Hotel, Hillingdon), who continued to be a lifelong friend. They joined the "Die-Hards" together and for 21 years went through an eventful service life. They were discharged in 1908 but, at the outbreak of the Great War, Mr. Blinco joined up again to serve for a further four years.

He enlisted in the Middlesex Regiment on September 6th, 1887, at Hounslow, and was posted to the 1st Battalion at Aldershot in February, 1888, went to Ireland the same year and in September, 1889, was drafted to the 2nd Battalion in India.

## On North-west Frontier

He was promoted to the rank of corporal on May 13th, 1892, and to the rank of sergeant on April 1st, 1895, at Ahmeds Nagar. He went from Bombay as a transport sergeant to take part in the 1897-98 campaign on the North-West Frontier.

Returning home with the 2nd Battalion in 1898, he joined the permanent staff of the 4th Battalion at Hounslow, and was promoted to colour-sergeant on February 1st, 1899.

He went with this Battalion to the Boer War in South Africa in February, 1900, returning to England in 1902. In 1905 he joined the volunteer staff of the 17th North Middlesex Rifles at Camden Town, and on September 5th, 1908, after 21 years' service, was discharged on pension.

Re-enlisting in September, 1914, he served with the 13th Battalion both at home and in France, and was discharged in December, 1918, following an operation for appendicitis.

During these years of service he won seven medals, and the Oak Leaf, and was mentioned in despatches. The medals included the Indian Frontier Medal, 1897-98 (Malakand and Tirah expedition); the King's South African Medal; the Queen's South African Medal; a Good Conduct Medal; and three Great War medals.

## The Funeral

The funeral service at which the Rev. A. M. Bashford officiated, was in St. John's Church, Hillingdon. An officer and a bugler from the Middlesex Regimental Depot at Mill Hill were present, and at the graveside the bugler sounded the "Last Post."

Mourners were: widow; Alf, Stan and Bill (sons); Lou (daughter); Stanley (grandson); Lily and Frances (daughters-in-law); Charlie (son-in-law); sister Lizzie; Mabel and Lily (nieces); Harold and Alfred Salter; Tom, Albert and Bill Blinco (nephews); Mrs. Fisher

(sister-in-law), and other relatives; Mr. R. E. Evans; representatives from the Middlesex Regiment (Mill Hill Depot), and from the Hillingdon and District British Legion; and numerous friends.

The Hillingdon and District British Legion, of which Mr. Blinco was a foundation member, was represented by Messrs. G. C. Brasted, G. A. Maskell, A. C. Barber and W. Lamb.

## MAJ.-GEN. SIR LIONEL BENGOUGH

(From the Colonel of the Regiment's "News Letter")

A letter has recently reached us from Victoria, British Columbia, from Lionel Bengough. He served in the 6th Militia Battalion of the Regiment and during the South African War received a Regular Commission without examination in the 2nd Middlesex (77th). He retired from the Service soon after that war, and went out to Canada. His father also served in the 77th, joining as an Ensign in 1855 straight from Rugby School. He reached the 77th just after hostilities in the Crimea ceased, and was posted to the Grenadier Company. He proceeded with the 77th to New South Wales in 1857, and that was the last Regiment to serve in Australia. He next proceeded with the 77th to India, arriving as the Mutiny was nearly over, and he devoted much of his time to the study of Oriental languages. He passed many tests. As a Captain he passed into the Staff College. Coming home from India the 77th was the first Regiment to pass through the newly opened Suez Canal in 1870.

In 1879, Maj. Bengough with his native contingent were across the Buffalo River, when news came through of the fatal action at Isandhlwana, and he withdrew to Natal. In July, 1879, he was present at Ulundi.

In 1880, Lt.-Col. Bengough proceeded to India as 2 i/c of the 77th, and in 1881 joined the Intelligence Dept. at Simla as a Russian interpreter. He became A.A.G. at Bangalore in 1882, and later was Chief of Staff to Gen. Prendergast, V.C., C.B., in the force detailed for service against the King of Burma, and in the campaign was awarded the C.B.

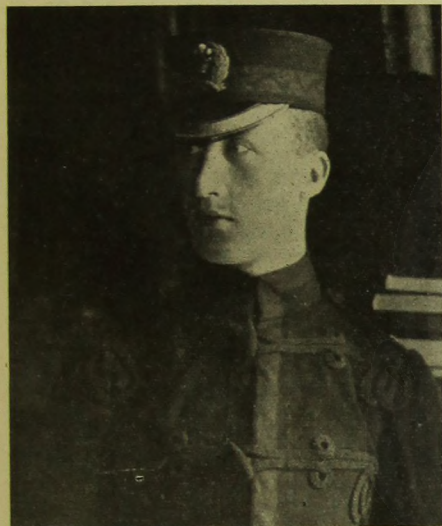
In 1887 he was Brigadier-General of the Nagpur District with H.Q. at Kampree, where he found his old Regiment the 2nd Battalion the Middlesex Regiment. In 1893 he was appointed to be T/Major General to command Jamaica, and returned later to command the 2nd Infantry Brigade at Aldershot from which command he retired in 1898 after 43 years' continuous service. He was appointed K.C.B. He died in 1922 and to the end retained his love for study of foreign languages and daily read the Gospel in Russian.

(Notes obtained from an article written by Col. Savile in *THE DIE-HARDS* in 1923.)

## THE LATE CPL OBE

We are very sorry to relate the death of Cpl. Obee on February 26, 1947. This N.C.O. was well known to many of us as an excellent soldier.





Lieut-Colonel A. B. Black as a Subaltern Officer at Hounslow in 1890

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR FROM LT.-COL A. B. BLACK

18 Wayside,  
East Sheen,  
London, S.W.14

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Doherty's letter in your last issue of *THE DIE-HARDS* certainly brings back memories. I did my preliminary drills at Hounslow in 1890, after being gazetted to the 3rd Battalion (Elthorne Light Infantry) in 1889. Hounslow Barracks was under the command of Col. E. Wood, late 10th Hussars. I remember Maj. Grove White who was in charge of the Middlesex Depot. My first Adjutant was Capt. Norton, who died in harness and was succeeded by Capt. Lempriere. I wonder if Mr. Doherty remembers S.M. Carpenter, Q.M. Reid who was succeeded by James Lee, and I. of M. Foote who eventually took over "The Hussar" near the Heath. My first colour-sergeant was called Okden, an ex-Guardsman. He had a huge moustache and they nicknamed him the "Lion-tamer." When he went up to a recruit and looked at him hard, the recruit fainted. Away from the parade ground I believe he was a kindly soul.

I remember wearing a Glengarry and also taking part in the eight Company formations of Forming Square to repel Cavalry. Thinking now of this Forming Square it seems not quite cricket to ask the poor horses to go for a horrible-looking porcupine or hedgehog. I could write much more about the old militia but I do not wish to bore you any more.

Yours truly,  
A. B. BLACK.

#### LETTER RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR

18a Silverston Avenue,  
Bognor Regis,

April 15th, 1947

DEAR SIR,—Please find enclosed subscription for 1947-48. I was very sorry to read of the passing of Vivian Stock. He was a great friend of mine in the days when the Regiment was in Wellington and Secunderabad. Of a reserved disposition, he was a kind and generous soul and a man who deservedly had the respect of all who knew him. I do not think he was capable of doing an unkind action and this would be a much better world if there were more Vivian Stocks in it.

Farewell, old friend.

Yours sincerely,  
I. G. PEACOCK.

#### RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD SOLDIER

By Hugh Doherty

Part II

##### ARMY LIFE

##### Shorncliffe

The cliffs near Shorncliffe are among the finest in England. An inspiring walk with the Straits of Dover below and the (at that time) not too friendly France clearly visible and very near-looking on a fine day. Travelling was an adventure then and to many of us this was our first sight of the sea.

We were quartered in hutments and as there was no sport or amusements in the camp we had to find the latter in the nearby town of Sandgate, where some sawdust-floored pubs catered for the troops.

Beer was good, plentiful and cheap but I think the main attraction was the barmaids then in full bloom everywhere. Strapping girls, blond and well upholstered (none of your straight up and downs), with generous curves fore and aft, especially aft. They spoke their minds freely and often and had one stock joke about Nelson and his single eye, etc. Being a seaside town a statuette or a picture of the famous admiral was in every bar.

Here, as at the Depot, we found the strutting Cavalry. This time Dragoon Guards, very much to the fore with their saucy pillbox caps, jangling spurs and superior airs.

Young soldiers of today can have no conception of the splendour of our mounted troops 50 years ago. The Infantry, too, were gay and colourful in their red tunics. The British Army had the reputation of being the best dressed in the world.

Today attire is more democratic, uniforms more uniform and spurs no use in a tank anyway.

##### Troopships and Spades

In December of that year (1893) we were transferred with other drafts by troopship to Gibraltar. The weather was heavy and we were battened down most of the way. We slept in hammocks and our food was Army biscuits (which were like dog biscuits). Drinking

water was rationed—so, also, was fresh water to wash in. Other things were of the same standard.

While on the subject of "troopers," I'll move ahead of my story and say the above conditions were the same when I returned to England with the Battalion 12 months later (1894), and again after one year in Aldershot when I was transferred with drafts from Southampton to Bombay (1895). Therefore, before sailing to India, having had experience of two troopship journeys we knew what we were in for, and pondering over recent events I wonder what the authorities would have done if at Southampton someone had said, "let's walk off and call it a protest." I'm afraid that the powers that be would have lost no time in giving it another name. Half a century ago a spade was called a spade.

##### Gibraltar

In due course and none the worse for our unpleasant passage by sea, we found ourselves in Buena Vista Barracks with the 1st Battalion (57th), where we were dispersed to various Companies, myself with several others posted to "I" Company (Capt. Randolph). At that time a Battalion consisted of 1,000 men in eight Companies.

Until the next batch arrived we were known as "the last draft," and for a short time while they licked us into shape we drilled together.

##### The Tailor's Parade

Significantly enough our first parade was not drill but what was known as the Tailor's Parade. It took place before the Adjutant (Capt. Stephenson) and was attended by the Sgt. Master Tailor and his orderly. Capt. Stephenson addressed a few words to us about the Battalion and what was expected of us, and left. After this the Master Tailor, observing us with obvious distaste, let us know just what we looked like. He then inspected each man carefully, indicating to his orderly who chalked what required altering. A few days later there was another uniform inspection, this time by the Adjutant who satisfied himself as to our turn out.

The implication of the foregoing is that the 57th was always most particular regarding the smartness and general personal appearance of All Ranks, and impressed the fact on recruits by making this the first parade.

##### Buena Vista Barracks

"I" Company occupied the ground floor of the barrack rooms adjoining the Parade ground, and the upper floor was occupied by the Regimental Band with its daily din of constant practising. The place was located on high ground and aptly named with stimulating views. North—into Spain as far as the Queen of Spain's Chair, a mountain so called because of its shape and the legend of an optimistic queen who vowed to sit there until Spain recaptured the Rock. South—across the Straits where 12 miles away the African coast and Ceuta could be seen, also every passing ship. East—Blank owing to rising ground. West—across the bay with its warships, cargo boats, passenger steamers and, at the other side, the Spanish town of Algeciras.

Gibraltar was a pleasant place to soldier in, delightful climate with little rain and only occasional storms. Fruit, particularly grapes and the prickly pear, plentiful and cheap. Cigarettes were also cheap. There was a small, old graveyard near one of the gates where lay the bones of many who fell at Trafalgar, and there was the delightful Alameda Gardens. The main street was good and broad, but the remainder of the town was higgledy-piggledy and crowded together into narrow streets and lanes reached by steps. The population was then about 20,000 Spaniards (but British subjects) and known rather derisively as Rock Scorpions.

##### Garrison

The Rock was garrisoned by a Brigade of Infantry, 1st Middlesex, 2nd East Lancs, and the King's Royal Rifles, with Artillery, Royal Engineers and Naval Personnel. The place was, of course, too small for combined exercises or route marches of the ordinary kind. What they did was occasionally to march us up to the Signal Station. When the leading Company reached the top it was a case of "about turn" and down again.

##### Guards

These were numerous at the Rock and the obligation came round about every fourth or fifth day, therefore no time was lost in introducing the last draft to such duties. I still remember my first (and it was my first anywhere) which unfortunately was the Quarter Guard with its constant coming and going of V.I.P.s, and by ill-luck I found myself on sentry-go at the Orderly Room time. I was windy and dithery, with the result that I turned out the Guard for a Captain and failed to do so for the Major. My state of mind can be imagined but it was smoothed over and to my surprise I was not upbraided, discovering for the first time that Sergeants could be human. I should mention that at that time a Sec. Lieutenant was a plain "Mr." with nothing on his shoulders. A Lieutenant had one pip, a Captain two and a Major a crown. To a recruit jittery with nervousness among strange surroundings and unknown faces a crown might easily look like a pip and vice versa.

My next Guard was probably the most important one on the Rock. Known as the North-West Front Guard, it had a Captain in Command. Two miles' march from barracks it was on the edge of the neutral ground, right off the Rock itself. There was frequent patrolling during the night with a password and countersign (changed daily) to be remembered and challenged. The neutral ground was, of course, that piece of no-man's-land between the British line of sentries and that of their Spanish counterparts—the latter guarding the entrance to the Spanish town of La Linea. We in red tunics, they in red trousers. It was a quiet enough place by day but very active during the night as I will explain later.

There was a second Guard on the frontier called the North Front Guard, and there was the Convent Guard (or Governor's Guard) in the town itself. Being on the main street the latter was pleasant enough, that is, of



course, when the recruit realised that the Governor himself was not popping in and out all day. Other Guards were at many places, with sentries posted on huge guns capable of bridging the Straits or the harbour. These were usually high up and at night indescribably lonely, but with magnificent day and night panoramic views and, of course, the famous Rock Apes in unpleasant attendance. The small hours of the morning could be very weird and tense with the Guard Room some distance away and quite out of sight.

### Ceremony of the Keys

Daily an army of the Spanish workers came from La Linea through "the lines" into Gibraltar, returning at "first evening gunfire" shortly after sunset, at which time the gates of the fortress were locked for the night.

The locking of these gates every evening was a formal parade, gay with colour and music but, at the same time, ceremonial and serious. It was known as the Ceremony of the Keys and started from Staff Headquarters where the parade fell-in. The chief actor was a Staff Quarter-Master Sergeant who carried three large keys on a very solid ring. Escorted by 48 men in full kit with fixed bayonets, and preceded by the Drums and Fifes of the Regiment doing the job, he marched through the main street to the gates, locked them and returned to headquarters.

This daily parade never ceased to arouse interest. There were always knots of people on the way who hovered about to see the show, but when the Drums of the 57th were doing their stuff there were crowds.

We of the last draft did not appreciate this at the time; we could, when opportunity occurred, see, hear and admire, but were too young and inexperienced to make comparisons. Like other things we took our Drums for granted and it was not until the Regiment got to Aldershot that we and others (like the Gibraltar folk) could discriminate. I'll have more to say about D/M. Deacon and his Drums later on.

### Smuggling

Except in respect of alcoholic liquors and tobacco, Gibraltar was a free port. Any taxes imposed, however, were small. For instance, in my time only one penny a pound was levied on tobacco. As a result the ancient craft of smuggling flourished and the neutral ground between our lines and the Spanish lines, deserted by day, was a scene of action at night. Petty operations began with the closing of the gates and was confined mostly to women and children. While on sentry-go we could see them as they passed through. They were in no way shy of us and started divesting as they neared no-man's-land, when various things were fixed round their waists and legs. It was crude but I suppose it worked.

More serious proceedings took place nearer the Spanish lines where, with their owners, the famous smuggling dogs awaited the contraband brought to them by others. These animals were highly trained, rolls of tobacco were strapped round their bodies and the dogs were kept where they were until it was quite dark.

They would then be unleashed, severally or at intervals according to circumstances, and would move off quietly and furtively slipping across between the watchers on the other side. Some were so well trained and reliable that they were sent back to repeat the performance. Occasionally a shot would ring out but whether the bullet found its billet we would not know, but hoped that it had not.

### Signalling

After about four or five months in Gibraltar I was put on a Course of Signalling, and as I already had a knowledge of Telegraphy was able to pass out in a very short time.

I was put in charge of a Telegraphic Office in Buena Vista Barracks where, judging by today's standards, it was all very primitive. For instance, Windmill Hill and Europa Point could not contact direct with Staff Headquarters but had to do so through Buena Vista, where messages were received and then re-transmitted to another station at Headquarters.

However it was all very nice for me if only I could have kept the job. Think of it, sleep in office, no fatigues, no parades, no Guards and five shillings added to my weekly pay!

I have written about my becoming a Signaller because my knowledge of Telegraphy, developed into expertness, had a lot to do with my subsequent life and experience in the Army. It was to mean that later I found myself attached to and living with various Regiments. Thus I got to know other men and other ways. In one Regiment I learned the gentle art of fumbling, an artifice most thoroughly frowned on in the Middlesex. In others, other things good, bad and indifferent; and believe it or not at one time I was attached to "The Blues"—no, not Chelsea—the Royal Horse Guards of Her Majesty Queen Victoria's Household Cavalry!

### Sport

At the time I am writing of the Middlesex Regiment was about 95 per cent. Londoners, the other 5 per cent. being gatecrashers with strange accents, and they couldn't play football either! There was then little or no soccer in London and professionalism had not arrived. Arsenal were then Woolwich Arsenal, a small team who played in that locality on a pitch of ashes with some planks for their more respectable customers to sit on. They were a very long way from their present pompous stadium at Highbury with its covered terraces, loudspeakers, soft carpets and tip-up seats, not to mention a Railway Station re-named to suit their convenience.

The members of their pre-war Bank of England team were not then born, and the time was not yet when casual entries would appear in their Petty Cash Book such as, for instance: "Wolverhampton Wanderers for Mr. B. Jones, £14,500."

Incidentally I went up to see Bryn make his first appearance in the Arsenal colours at Highbury. Naturally he was not at his best. Under the gaze of 100,000

critical eyes and with the leaden weight of such financial publicity in his boots, how could a lad do other than miff a few. This disappointed some spectators and as I swayed and surged with the crowd on the Stand I heard a voice explode with much scorn and little understanding: "Blimey, Bill, wot yer fink of that for fifteen faasand paands?" I like the Arsenal, they have done a lot for soccer and their team of artists were the first and, so far I think, the only team to put a stop to that ridiculous business of handshaking and necking of the individual who happens to have last touched the ball before it goes between the posts, unmindful of the clever approach work of others who actually made the goal. This, of course, is professionalism and if such silly business must be why not organise it properly by deputing in advance one member of the team to kiss the scorer on both cheeks and have done with it!

Writing of handshaking I remember on another occasion going up to Highbury to see Arsenal play a Midland team. It was one of their off days, they lost and that sterling player, Bernard Joy, had the mortification to slice two goals through his own posts. After the second a member of the opposing team rushed up to the disconsolate centre-half and shook him warmly by the hand! Was that irony, sympathy or just force of habit? Joy, as a rule, is a joy to watch, but I'm afraid there was no joy in the dressing room after that game.

I seem to have wandered very much off the trolley! What I set out to do was to write about the start of football in the Regiment and why it was we could no. play the game at that time. Instead I have got "off side" and wandered far afield to the 1938's. However, I will get on with the 1894 story which really was the beginning of our football in the Regiment, though I'm just as likely to barge off again in doing so.

The Army authorities decided physical drill and gymnastics was not everything and that competitive sport would also keep men in good trim and give them exercise of a pleasing kind. No doubt it was also hoped that the spirit of emulation as between Regiments and Brigades, etc., would lead to less drinking and more all-round fitness and comradeship. Football, therefore, was encouraged in the Regiment officially. Each Company got together a team and later a Shield competition was introduced, Company playing Company, the final winner holding the trophy for one year. A team representing the Battalion was picked and played against similar combinations in the Garrison. I have no recollection of their ever winning a game. We were certainly no match for the East Lancs, whose members, coming from the north, had known and played soccer for years. Thus the game was started in the Middlesex, and as beginnings are always difficult so it was to go on for some years. With much vigour and little skill we played in Army boots, the refinement of shin guards not included. Against this we had the satisfaction of always being able to field a cricket XI capable of holding its own against any Regiment. Also we had many fine boxers, swimmers and runners.

I often notice that vexed question crop up as to the respective merits of today's football stars and their counterparts of 50 years ago. To this I would say that

individualists of that time were quite equal to their opposite number of today. They were fewer of course, which is understandable, and they didn't have textbooks and instructors to develop their natural talents as now. Many come to mind. One example was Bill Bassett, still with us and now a director of his old club, West Bromwich Albion ("The Throstles"). Bill's counterpart today is Matthews, the "Potteries' Prince." Stanley has nothing which old Bill didn't have in his heyday, and both the same assets, mercurial feet plus football brains. Bill, however, always wore the same-sized hat and never developed any temperamental prima-donna stuff. There was no pampering.

(To be continued)

### REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

Appended below is a report from the above Association to whom the Middlesex Regimental Association subscribe £100 a year. In return they find jobs for our men requiring them. From figures received lately they are doing us very well indeed. Those of our readers wishing to contact them should write to the Secretary, the Middlesex Regimental Association, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7, who will supply them with the address of the nearest branch.

We have said all this before but that was some time ago and so we had better say it again!

In spite of its name—National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen—the Association looks after non-Regulars as well as Regulars. In 1942 a circular was sent to all Regimental Associations, etc., asking them to give their views on the subject to their Representatives on the Council of this Association. As a result the Council decided to include non-Regulars and the qualifications for eligibility for registration were amended as follows:

(a) At least two years' embodied service, exclusive of service in Reserve, in one of the Armed Forces of the Crown. The two years' service is not essential in the case of men who have been discharged as physically unfit through circumstances beyond their control.

(b) Character shown in official records of service must be such as to enable the Association to recommend the candidate to employers as thoroughly reliable. No man whose character on discharge was below "Good" shall be registered for employment.

(c) Each non-Regular must register after his discharge or demobilisation within a period equal to his period of Service and shall be eligible for re-registration at any time during the unexpired portion of that period.

(d) In the case of men who have been in civil employment since leaving the Service, satisfactory references as to character must be produced from employers. In the absence of such references, enquiry shall be made from former employers and the man shall not be placed on the register until a satisfactory report has been received.



From this it will be seen that as regards general civil employment non-Regulars must register or re-register within a given period while Regulars can do either at any time.

While Regulars can obtain Post Office employment only by registering with the National Association it must be remembered that for Post Office employment non-Regulars must apply through the Employment Exchanges. Nomination for Post Office is carried out in strict category order, Regulars with war service having priority. For this reason in some areas it may be years before a non-Regular can be nominated.

We hope we do not need to remind you that we charge no fees.

During the first nine months of 1946, 55,730 men of all three Services were registered and 38,143 placed by the 54 offices throughout the country, so you will see that we have quite got back into our stride again.

Employment may be fairly easy to get but it is important to get the right kind of job and it is, therefore, a good plan to visit your local branch as soon as you get home on release leave and talk things over with the job-finder.

#### UXBRIDGE & DISTRICT "DIE-HARDS" CLUB

The Drill Hall,  
Whitehall Road, Uxbridge  
March 4th, 1947

DEAR SIR,—The annual general meeting of the above branch was held at the Drill Hall, Uxbridge, on Wednesday, February 5th, 1947, and, despite the bad weather and present-day difficulties it was a good turn out.

Many friends amongst old and new members met again in the old home and the walls of the Drill Hall resounded to tales of the good as well as the bad times of the past. "Nutty" Sparks mentioned several of the high spots of his life here and the ears of Maj. Hedgecoe and the old adjutants of the 8th must have tingled. Stanley and Bert Jones, the "Hares," Ted Lacey, George Newman, "Nutty" and others send their best wishes to all their old pals. Ample refreshments were provided after the business of the meeting had finished and more could have been catered for as neither the beer nor food ran out.

The financial position of the branch is not too strong but our Social Committee, to whom we give a hearty vote of thanks, have made our position comfortable with contributions of about £75, proceeds from dances held since the branch was formed.

It is proposed to hold a branch dinner at the "Golden Lion," Hillingdon, in March, to which we cordially invite all present members of the Regiment on leave and all ex-members living in the district, and hope they will join us and bring the membership of the branch up to 100 per cent. At the time of writing our strength is about 85. The dinner committee is going strong and promise us a very enjoyable evening.

We are extremely sorry that Mr. R. F. Finch had to resign his secretaryship of the branch owing to pressure of business and private life, but we are pleased to say that we shall still have the benefit of his services, he having volunteered for, and been elected on, the committee. At the meeting a hearty vote of thanks was recorded him for the hard work he has done in getting the branch on its feet.

I trust you will be able to find a small space for some of the above in the next issue of the magazine. Would you also please insert, if possible, either a complete list of the Officers and Committee, or the names of the new members, quoting the new Hon. Secretary and Treasurer's name and address.

Would you give my kind regards to R.S.M. Paynter and I would like to say here how much the boys and I appreciated the dinner and entertainment provided by him and his Mess on the occasion of the last Cert. "A" examination I attended in January last.

With very best wishes to you from all members of the Uxbridge Branch and myself, I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

J. R. BELL,

Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

EDITOR—The dinner at the "Golden Lion" was held in March and was an outstanding success.

#### UXBRIDGE AND DISTRICT DIE-HARDS' CLUB THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

At the Annual General Meeting of the above branch of the Regimental Association the undermentioned were re-elected to the Committees:

President .. Brig. E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E.,  
D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P.,  
A.D.C.

Vice-Presidents .. Maj. G. Hartley, T.D.; Mr. B. R. Phelps.

Members .. Mr. W. A. Roberts, Mr. B. A. Hardy, Mr. S. C. Graham.

Mr. R. F. Finch resigned from the post of Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

The undermentioned were elected as follows:

Chairman .. Lt.-Col. T. A. Hall, T.D.

Hon. Sec. & Treas. Mr. J. R. Bell, M.B.E.

Members .. Mr. G. T. Hook, Mr. R. F. Finch

Hon. Auditors .. Lt.-Col. T. A. Hall and Maj. G. Hartley.

The address of the Secretary is now:

The Drill Hall,  
Whitehall Road, Uxbridge.  
Telephone: Uxbridge 437.

#### 2ND BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.) CAMPAIGN HISTORY

A limited number of copies are still available of the "Campaign in North-West Europe," the history of the 2nd Battalion the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), which was published in Cairo last year.

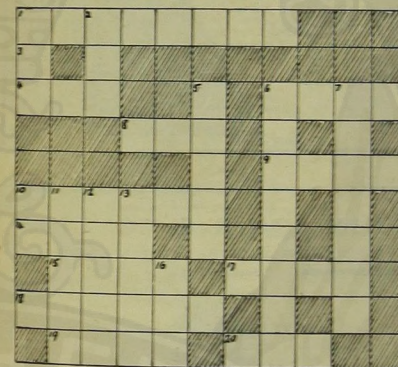
Written by Maj. R. B. Moberly, who was with the 2nd Middlesex throughout the campaign, first as a machine-gun platoon commander and later as a Company 2 i/c, gives a vivid and detailed account of the part played by the Battalion in the liberation of France, Belgium, and Holland, and in the final overthrow of Nazi power in Germany itself. Appendices include the Battalion Roll of Honour, a list of honours and awards, and a nominal roll of all officers, N.C.O.s and men who served with the 2nd Middlesex between D-Day, 1944, and VE-Day, 1945.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of this opportunity of obtaining a copy of the history should write immediately to:

The Secretary, Battalion History,  
2nd Battalion Middlesex Regiment  
(D.C.O.),  
Middle East Land Forces.

The price is 6s., post free.

#### CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 1



#### CLUES ACROSS

1. Peninsular battle.
2. Lucky if black.
3. Goes with a red flag.
4. Rendezvous for old comrades.
5. To find.
6. Well-known barracks.
7. Last part of fire order.
8. Some take their spirits this way.
9. To get your number on phone.
10. Tug-of-war team does this.
11. Close quarter weapon.
12. Who appreciated end of war.

#### CLUES DOWN

1. Every General has one.
2. Found in horse's mouth.
3. To be avoided in battle.
4. Home of the Regiment.
5. Soon.
6. Well-known Kipling work.
7. Number of famous pill.
8. Associated with Britain.
9. A soldier looks forward to this.
10. Five of them and a seven in fifty-seven.



May we remind our readers of the claims of our advertisers? We suggest to readers that if they will look through the advertisements in this number, they will find that every one of their ordinary or extraordinary needs is met, and met handsomely, by a firm which has the extra attraction of supporting our Journal. In short, remember that there is always news, and good news too, in our advertisements.



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