

The Die & The Hards

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



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THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN)

(57)

The Plume of the Prince of Wales. In each of the four corners the late Duke of Cambridge's Cypher and Coronet.
 "Mysora," "Serlingapatam," "Albuhera," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyreneos," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsular,"
 "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1900-02."
 The Great War—6 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "La Bassée, 1914,"
 "Messines, 1914," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg,"
 "Bellevue, 1915," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "Albert, 1916," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood,"
 "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Flers-Courcelette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "Bapaume,"
 "1917," "Arras, 1917," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "Arleux," "Pikerm," "Langemark, 1917," "Menin Road,"
 "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcapelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "St. Quentin," "Kosieres," "Aves,"
 "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrouck," "Bailleul," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal
 du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy,
 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suva," "Landing at Suva," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915,"
 "Rumanj," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughhar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18,"
 "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murmur, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

Regular and Militia Battalions.

1st Bn. (57th Foot). 2nd Bn. (57th 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

17th Bn. 27th Bn. 8th Bn. 30th Bn.
 9th Bn. 505 L.A.A., R.A., T.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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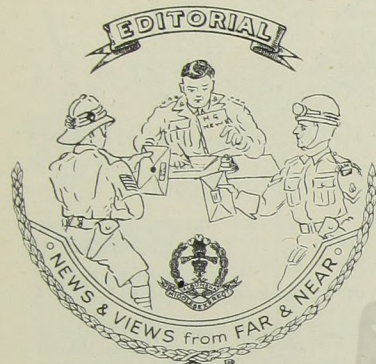
NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

"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.

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

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Editor: Bt-Major G. W. Kempster.

The Editorial in this number must again, of necessity, be brief, and once more the Editor must apologise for some pruning of contributions sent him.

We hope readers will like the new cover. It is claimed that it may improve our advertising revenue. There are some who do not welcome changes, and to those we would say that there have been several in the cover design since the Regiment started a regimental magazine.

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

FORTHCOMING REGIMENTAL FIXTURES FOR 1947

Saturday, September 13.—Old Comrades' Gathering at 57 P.T.C. and Depot, the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).

October 16.—Golf, Officers' Club, Autumn Meeting, to a.m., Hendon Golf Club.

Saturday, November 29.—Old Comrades' Reunion. Particulars reference the two Old Comrades' Meetings mentioned above will be published later.

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.

7th MIDDLESEX REGIMENT B.E.F. OFFICERS' CLUB

The first post-war Annual Dinner will be held at The Trocadero, Piccadilly Circus, London, on Friday evening, the 7th November next.

All officers who served either in the 1/7th Middlesex or the 2/7th Middlesex are eligible to dine.

Notices will be sent out shortly to all officers whose addresses are known.

Secretary: Maj. G. A. H. Bower, 4, Bream's Building, London (Chancery Lane), E.C.4.

THE HISTORY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION

This has now been published. There are two volumes: (a) *Anzio Campaign* and (b) *Florence to Monte Grande*.

Both volumes are extremely well supplied with both large and small scale maps and there is a number of photographs in each.

The price of each volume is 4s. Copies may be obtained from "G" Branch, H.Q. 1 Infantry Division, M.E.L.F. Payment may be made by either postal order, money order or cheque, but it should be noted that the sum of 1s. 3d. should be included in all cheques to cover banking charges in the Middle East. Copies will be despatched immediately on receipt of remittance.

Hawkes and Company, of 1 Savile Row, London, W.1, have Middlesex Officers' Club ties in stock. Price 10s. 6d., and one coupon required.

OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES

Officers' Club "At Home"

About two hundred attended the "At Home" held on June 28 during Cricket Week. Some were guests but the majority belonged to the Regiment. The rain nearly wrecked the function. Fortunately it cleared in time to allow visitors to reach the tea tent. After that it was fine. It is now considered that in future it may be advisable to hold this function in the Depot Officers' Mess.

Hendon Golf Club

Hendon Golf Club have been good enough to allow serving regular officers of the Middlesex Regiment to join their club for £4 4s. od. a year. A letter of thanks has been sent on behalf of the Regiment.

Officers' Club Dinner

One hundred and fifty-six members of the Officers' Club attended the annual dinner at The Connaught Rooms on Wednesday, June 25. It was a highly successful function and the catering was excellent. A number of distinguished guests from the county and most of our senior officers were present.

After The Rt. Hon. Lord Latham, Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex, had proposed the toast to His Majesty the King, the Colonel of the Regiment, Col. Browne, proposed the health of the Regiment. He referred to his great responsibilities as head of the Regiment, which now numbered two commanders-in-chief—a unique record—and many senior officers under whom he had served personally in the past. However, no one present

really believed him when he protested he was embarrassed at addressing so many distinguished guests and members of the Regiment, and when in the course of his excellent speech he referred to a wholesome respect, almost bordering on fear, he had always felt for R.S.M.s, we were readier to believe him; and this tribute to our warrant ranks, well represented at the dinner, was enjoyed and appreciated by all of us.

Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks then spoke on the Army generally. He referred to the Regiment as a happy family, and one which everyone must do his utmost to keep together. He paid a tribute to the old 1st and 2nd Battalions, and recalled his adjutant days in the 9th Battalion when it was infantry. He appealed for the greatest support for the Middlesex Army Cadet Force which he said was doing remarkably well and carrying on regimental traditions.

Gen. Bucknall then proposed the health of the Guests—Lord Latham, who in a short time has done so much for the Regiment; Mr. Messer, the Chairman of the Middlesex County Council; Mr. Radcliffe, another old friend of the Regiment; Mr. Page Taylor, late Sheriff to the County and actively engaged with the Middlesex Regiment War Memorial Appeal; Mr. Ramsay, Secretary of the Middlesex County Rugby Union who recently secured us a sum of two thousand pounds for this Memorial; and Col. Tofted, who commanded R.E.M.E. at Mill Hill during the late war and gave the Regiment his willing support during that difficult time of exile.

Lord Latham then replied to Gen. Bucknall for the guests, and strongly supported the War Memorial. In the course of his speech he thanked Mr. Messer for finding a site for it near Enfield. He concluded by thanking Mr. Ramsay for his fine effort and with yet another humorous R.S.M. story.

Brig. Rackham also spoke and thanked the voluntary workers who assisted him in his duties as secretary of the Middlesex Territorial Army and Air Force Association. A number of these gentlemen were of course present. He then paid a glowing tribute to our generalship in the late war and pointed out they were mostly from the infantry.

Our own two Generals came in for their need of praise naturally, which was fitting, and pleased everyone.

Mr. Messer concluded the speeches with some pleasant and encouraging words in connexion with the Memorial, which project he has encouraged in the most practical form of all by providing a site. Their Majesties sent us a message of good will and thanks for the loyal greetings sent them previously. The telegram was read out by the Colonel of the Regiment.

Many lingered on in an upstairs room long after the dinner was over, reluctant to leave old comrades, and thus concluded our second post-war dinner.

The following were present at the dinner: Col. M. Browne (Colonel of the Regiment), The Rt. Hon. Lord Latham, Mr. F. Messer, Mr. C. E. Page Taylor, Mr. C. W. Radcliffe, Mr. W. C. Ramsay, Col. C. C. L. Tofted, Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian G. Horrocks, Maj.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, Brigs. F. G. M. Rowley, O. H. Tidbury, B. B. Rackham, E. E. F. Baker, H. A. W. Murray,

G. P. L. Weston and G. H. Pennycook, Cols. R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker, A. M. O. A. Passingham, G. L. Brown, G. Beach, Sir Edwin King and J. N. Lamont, Lt.-Cols. B. L. Sutcliffe, A. de Chimay, T. S. Wollocombe, W. E. Pringle, A. H. Farley, C. P. Rooke, T. L. Marks, T. A. Hall, S. H. Short, S. F. Hedgecoe, J. H. Clowes, A. B. Black, W. H. Samuel, A. M. Man, A. S. J. de S. Clayton, R. A. Gwynn, C. Jarrett, Herbert Cook, J. James Crook, J. D. Robbins, D. G. Parker, E. W. Fane de Salis, F. J. Parker, A. E. Green, J. W. A. Stephenson, G. L. Fox, W. L. Roberts, T. H. Reddy, A. K. Johnson, J. G. E. Reid, D. C. Percy Smith and H. W. Clayden.

Majs. H. Marsh, A. W. Clark, L. H. Owen Josephs, D. R. Pattison, C. T. Whinney, G. A. H. Bower, A. T. Jones, H. K. Hardcastle, P. D. H. Marshall, F. A. L. Lawrence, P. E. C. Tuckey, R. C. H. Bellers, J. A. Hamilton, J. Harley, F. J. Nunn, H. W. Brighton, T. C. Johnson, J. T. Dear, R. G. Bare, A. W. F. Peal, C. H. L. Travis, G. D. Porter, C. F. Denton, F. G. Hogg, P. D. f.f. Powell, H. A. Neal, I. D. Marjoribanks, P. B. Allott, J. W. G. Ormiston, A. F. Lockwood, I. D. McLean, J. de la M. Herepath, B. K. Cattell, G. B. Anderson, D. V. Littlejohn, M. C. D. King, D. Y. Cubitt, C. H. Perkins, A. W. Lewey, G. W. P. Hodding, R. A. Kaye, I. Campbell, C. Donaldson, L. C. Beadwell, J. B. Redman, J. Dodge, D. A. Phillips, J. F. Fryzer, G. Brinley Ayre, A. C. Burton, G. W. Kempster, H. H. Grey and J. M. Cossar.

Cpts. J. A. Williams, L. McCoy Hill, J. D. Perfect, W. D. Ellis, J. G. Stevens, M. P. Weedon, V. Denny, N. Macleod Martin, W. R. Dawe, A. F. E. Robinson, E. A. H. Jeffcoat, A. Clark, D. S. Haig, G. Kent, E. F. Bird, A. P. L. Blaxter, R. W. J. Smith, W. A. W. St. George, J. G. Chiverall, J. R. Tavener, H. Farrow, G. F. Rowling, R. J. P. Cummings, C. G. Webber, R. W. Latham, N. B. McIvor, P. G. V. Bellers, H. M. F. Langley, K. P. Baxter, I. H. Battye, L. E. Baker, H. Glyn Jones, D. L. Binder and L. C. Doidge.

Messrs. A. C. Wood, J. L. Billen, M. Randall, F. J. Millard, R. Douthet, A. Goldman, T. A. Moller, S. B. Dearing, P. A. Mead, E. C. Graham, P. de Gaye, O. G. Johnson, J. W. Badham, L. M. Meldon, P. S. Donovan and R. T. Smith.

Col. Campbell (Hon. Colonel of the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment) and Lt.-Col. H. Phillips were prevented at the eleventh hour from attending and wired Col. Browne expressing their regrets. Dr. J. A. Cargill, Vice-President of the Middlesex County Rugby Union, was also unable to attend, to his great regret, owing to a recent indisposition.

The Cricket Week

Regimental cricket has started again; and, in spite of considerable difficulties, a side was raised to take part in six matches against pretty strong opposition. Had we been able to field one truly representative of the Regiment, containing such players as Col. Stephenson, Maj. Unwin, Col. Davies, Maj. Clayden and Leslie Compton, the results would have been very different. Next year when we resume our pre-war fixtures against such doughty opponents as the Cryptics, Incogs, and I.Z.,

some or all of these players must support us, for we cannot afford ever again to take the field so weak in bowling; and our batting requires stiffening.

Brig. Weston captained the side throughout and with the aid of the secretary selected the sides. He carried out both tasks in his usual forceful manner. Had he not done so the results would have been even more disappointing.

The Week revealed or confirmed an impression of considerable talent amongst those playing. Maj. Ormiston and Capt. St. George and Weedon are very fine bats. Maj. Man keeps wicket well and is capable of making runs—quickly if required.

Brig. Weston is still a good and consistent bowler, and Col. Green can also be counted on to take wickets.

The ground had not entirely recovered from six years of war, though the table played truly enough; and the weather throughout the Week was wretched and affected most of the games.

The Week for various reasons was rather broken up into odd days and periods and the first game was played against Romney on June 8 at Mill Hill. Rain started at about four o'clock and Romney decided to declare, having made 135 runs for 7 wickets, leaving us a shortish time to make the runs in. They were knocked off for the loss of four wickets. So the week started off with a win. Scores:

Romney

N. J. D. Moffat, not out	26
H. G. de G. Warter, c Weedon, b Marrable	20
F. P. Longton, c Weedon, b Green	22
K. G. L. Unwin, c Peel, b Weston	4
P. Powell, hit wkt., b Binder	30
E. N. Evans, lbw, b Binder	11
F. J. S. Crawford, c Tavenner, b Peel	1
D. N. Watney, c Green, b Peel	10
Extras	11

Total for 7 wks. declared .. 135

Bowling—Brig. G. P. L. Weston, 1 for 23; Maj. J. W. G. Ormiston, 0 for 14; L/Cpl. Marrable, 1 for 25; Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, 1 for 11; Maj. A. W. Peel, 2 for 33; Capt. D. L. Binder, 2 for 18.

Middlesex Regiment

Maj. J. W. G. Ormiston, lbw, b Evans	61
Capt. M. P. Weedon, c Crawford, b Evans	15
Capt. W. R. Barratt, hit wkt., b Powell	8
Maj. C. M. M. Man, b Evans	40
Capt. J. R. Tavenner, not out	9
Extras	3

Total for 4 wks. .. 136

Bowling—A. A. Muir, 0 for 39; H. G. de G. Warter, 0 for 10; D. N. Watney, 0 for 20; E. N. Evans, 3 for 25; P. Powell, 1 for 16; E. S. Suell, 0 for 23.

Result—Middlesex Regiment won by six wickets.

The next game was against Hampstead on their ground, and in some ways this was the best game of the week. There was a little rain, but there was never any

prospect of finishing the game properly as it only started in the afternoon. The Regiment batted first and after a big stand by Maj. Weston and Capt. Weedon they threw their wickets away in an effort to force the pace. F. E. Covington of Hampstead, a left-handed bat, played a forcing innings and scored his century. His rate of scoring was outstanding in a half day's match that produced 369 runs.

Hampstead was captained by Mr. Berliner, an old friend and cricketing opponent of former years. He was delighted to see the Regiment again, and still bowls very well. He skipped the "Heathens" side later in the week and we shall see more of him and Hampstead when we play them next year. Naturally enough there were the inevitable enquiries for "Steve," Charles Whinney, and Jimmy Unwin. All we could do was to apologise for their absence, and blame the war, work, and *anno Domini*. Scores:

Middlesex Regiment

Lt.-Col. J. H. Clowes, b Berliner	3
Maj. J. W. G. Ormiston, c Mill, b Smith	73
Capt. M. P. Weedon, c Bell, b Frazer	76
Capt. W. R. Barratt, c Covington, b Frazer	24
R.S.M. J. E. Paynter, c Armstrong, b Frazer	4
Brig. G. P. L. Weston, b Smith	2
Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, b Frazer	0
Cpl. Bailey, b Smith	0
L/Cpl. Marrable, not out	3
Capt. G. Bywaters, b Smith	1
Maj. A. W. Peel, not out	1
Extras	10

Total for 9 wks. declared .. 197

Bowling—P. B. Berliner, 1 for 35; A. S. Frazer, 4 for 44; N. B. Smith, 4 for 66; N. T. Armstrong, 0 for 24; F. E. Covington, 0 for 18.

Hampstead

F. E. Covington, c Ormiston, b Weston	103
S. L. Birn, b Weston	14
F. S. Mill, b Marrable	34
Ingram, not out	6
N. B. Smith, b Clowes	4
Extras	11

Total for 4 wks. .. 172

Bowling—Brig. G. P. L. Weston, 2 for 55; Col. A. E. Green, 0 for 47; R.S.M. Paynter, 0 for 21; Maj. A. W. Peel, 0 for 19; L/Cpl. Marrable, 1 for 14; Lt.-Col. J. H. Clowes, 1 for 5.

Result—A draw.

Our next game was against Mr. Whitehead's XI. Aided by a nice fifty from Capt. Weedon the Regiment made 161. They were unable to get their opponents out and thus met with their first defeat. Rain did not interfere with this day's play. Scores:

Middlesex Regiment

Maj. J. W. G. Ormiston, lbw, b Malcolm	16
Lt.-Col. J. H. Clowes, b Malcolm	7
Capt. M. P. Weedon, b Lorenzi	50
Capt. W. A. W. St. George, c Grevett, b Lorenzi	37

Capt. W. R. Barratt, b Whitehead	1
Lt. Smith, b Whitehead	8
Capt. V. J. Macleod Martin, c Osborne, b Whitehead	16
Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, c and b Lorenzi	7
Brig. G. P. L. Weston, b Malcolm	1
Capt. J. G. Chiverall, st Grevett, b Malcolm	3
Maj. A. W. Peel, not out	3
Capt. G. Bywaters, b Lorenzi	1
Extras	22
Total	162

Bowling—H. B. Atkinson, 0 for 17; F. E. Whitehead, 3 for 33; H. I. Malcolm, 4 for 55; J. Lorenzi, 4 for 34.

Mr. F. E. Whitehead's XI

H. J. Malcolm, c and b Weston	34
P. Powell, st Bywaters, b Clowes	26
W. Grevett, c Smith, b Martin	6
W. Western, b Martin	12
G. McKillivray, not out	50
Maj. Kells, c and b Clowes	6
A. W. J. Osborne, not out	12
Extras	22
Total for 5 wks.	168

Bowling—Brig. G. P. L. Weston, 1 for 40; Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, 0 for 27; Capt. Martin, 2 for 37; Lt.-Col. J. H. Clowes, 2 for 25; Maj. A. W. Peel, 0 for 19; Capt. J. G. Chiverall, 0 for 4.

Result—Mr. F. E. Whitehead's XI won by seven runs.

The next game, against the East Surreys, was abandoned on account of rain. This was the day on which a tremendous storm flooded the ground and nearly blew the tents down. The Regiment started badly, but Capt. Weedon and Barratt were retrieving the position when the storm struck to put an end to a very promising game. Scores:

Middlesex Regiment

Maj. J. W. G. Ormiston, c Eatwell, b King	0
Capt. M. P. Weedon, not out	38
Capt. L. A. W. St. George, b King	9
Capt. A. I. F. Goldman, b Minogue	16
Capt. W. R. Barratt, not out	7
Extras	6
Total for 3 wks.	76

Result—Match drawn.

The next match was against Maj. Ormiston's XI, a side raised by himself from the staff at Sandhurst, where he himself is an instructor. The Regiment fared badly. Maj. Davies Scourfield, who scored a century, was dropped early in his innings. Maj. Ormiston was not playing for the Regiment, and Capt. Barratt had the misfortune to damage his hand whilst attempting to catch Maj. Robinson off a hard drive. Scores:

Major Ormiston's XI

Maj. R. E. R. Robinson, b R.S.M. Paynter	61
Maj. D. G. Davies Scourfield, st Man, b Mcleod Martin	104
Maj. S. D. M. Wilson, c and b St. George	1
Capt. S. L. Chambers, run out	15
Mr. R. Phillips, b Green	6
Capt. E. C. Phillips, b Green	0
Maj. W. M. E. White, not out	42
Maj. L. C. Beadwell, not out	7
Extras	16

Total for 6 wks. declared .. 252

Bowling—Brig. Weston, 0 for 56; Lt.-Col. Green, 2 for 53; Lt.-Col. Clowes, 1 for 28; Capt. Mcleod Martin, 1 for 65; R.S.M. Paynter, 1 for 17; Capt. St. George, 1 for 4; Maj. Peel, 0 for 12; L/Cpl. Marrable, 0 for 1.

Middlesex Regiment

Lt.-Col. J. H. Clowes, b White	4
Capt. M. P. Weedon, b Davies Scourfield	18
Capt. W. A. W. St. George, c Hayles, b White	9
Maj. C. M. M. Man, b White	1
Lt. Smith, run out	3
Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, c White, b Davies Scourfield	1
R.S.M. Paynter, c Robinson, b Wilson	6
Brig. G. P. L. Weston, c Beadnell, b Chambers	5
Capt. V. N. Mcleod Martin, c Hayles, b Cassels	2
L/Cpl. Marrable, b Chambers	1
Maj. A. W. F. Peel, not out	1

Total .. 51

Bowling—Brig. A. J. H. Cassels, 1 for 20; Maj. W. M. E. White, 3 for 9; Maj. S. D. M. Wilson, 1 for 10; Maj. D. G. Davies Scourfield, 2 for 9; Capt. S. L. Chambers, 2 for 3.

Result—Maj. Ormiston's side won by 201 runs.

The final game was against The Hampstead Heathens. This was a very close and exciting game. The Regiment were all out for 90, and it looked as if the Heathens were bound to win. The wicket, however, was tricky and when eight wickets had fallen for 77 runs, it looked as if the Regiment might. However, a ninth wicket stand unexpectedly realised 50 runs and that placed the issue beyond doubt. Scores:

Middlesex Regiment

Maj. J. W. G. Ormiston, c and b Smith	1
Capt. M. P. Weedon, b Smith	23
Capt. W. A. W. St. George, b Hope	20
Maj. C. M. M. Man, b Hope	2
R.S.M. Paynter, c Mill, b Smith	1
Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, hit wkt., b Smith	1
Lt. Smith, not out	22
Brig. G. P. L. Weston, b Fitzgerald	3
Capt. J. G. Chiverall, b Fitzgerald	2
Maj. A. W. F. Peel, c Mill, b Fitzgerald	4
L/Cpl. Marrable, c Atkinson, b Smith	0
Extras	11

Total .. 90

Bowling—J. Hope, 2 for 24; N. B. Smith, 5 for 28; N. S. Fitzgerald, 3 for 13; G. P. Mead, 0 for 2; F. Mannin, 0 for 12.

Hampstead

A. W. Stansfield, b Weston	21
T. H. Sinclair, b Green	8
A. L. Warr, c Weedon, b Marrable	17
S. F. Mill, c Weedon, b Weston	6
F. Mannin, b Weston	0
N. B. Smith, b Weston	14
P. B. Berliner, b Weston	0
J. Hope, st Man, b Green	24
N. S. Fitzgerald, lbw b Peal	18
G. P. Mead, b Weston	2
N. S. Atkinson, not out	0
Extras	22
Total	132

Bowling—Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, 2 for 38; Brig. G. P. L. Weston, 6 for 37; L/Cpl. Marrable, 1 for 31; Maj. Peal, 1 for 4.

Result—Hampstead won by 42 runs.

Thus ended the first post-war cricket week. Next year we hope to get into our stride again with the help of our star players, with the addition, perhaps, of some new blood.

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL 1939-45 WAR MEMORIAL

In Continuation

For lack of space this report must be brief and confined almost to thanking the senders of donations, large and small, whose names figure in the subscription list which follows.

The Site

A site has been offered us at Enfield for a peppercorn rent by the Middlesex County Council; and should the Ministry of Health approve—and there is not the least doubt they will—and should the Committee decide that it is suitable in all respects, that is where the cottages will be built, the number depending on the response to the appeal. Further details of the site will be given in the December number. Needless to say the Committee desires to build at the earliest opportunity, but delays are certain to occur. The South African War Memorial Cottages at Mill Hill were not completed till 1905; those of the Great War until 1936.

It is a thousand pities a site adjacent to these existing cottages could not be obtained and that we have been obliged to go so far afield. However, there was no alternative, except to purchase land at an exorbitant price, and at least we now have a site.

The Appeal

Is the appeal prospering?

It is difficult to say. At the time of writing, August 4, the Fund stands at £8,976 5s. 5d. in hard cash at the bank.

Of that money Finchley contributed £1,000, Southgate £238, and Wembley £200. The remainder has come from the Regiment, in which we include the Home Guard, people in the county interested in the Regiment and project alike, and £2,024 from the Middlesex County Football Union. The Regiment has certainly done its share. Donations from Regular Units, disbanded Home Guard Battalions, *Die-Hards* Clubs, and individuals have been generous indeed. We do ask our supporters all the same to keep on giving us publicity. This point cannot be overstressed.

Boroughs and districts are in most cases on our side. Some are slow starters, but that cannot be helped. We know that a number of them are collecting hard at the moment, that Willesden have already reached their target of £2,000, and have altered it to £3,000, that the next Mayor of Acton, Capt. Lewis, has announced his intention of at least reaching this total. We know that Twickenham is trying to collect £2,000, and that others are going for a £1,000.

We anticipate, therefore, some substantial cheques before the end of the year from these and similar sources.

There is no telling where our appeal is likely to lead to. A few days ago two very substantial cheques arrived from Hong Kong, for instance.

So we still hope to reach our target.

In Conclusion

We are greatly encouraged by the results of our labours up to date, but the more assistance we are given the quicker we shall fulfil our purpose; and the sooner the unfortunate people for whom the cottages are being built will be able to move in. So let us keep the appeal moving and achieve our aim soon.

We thank the undermentioned for their generous donations:

MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL MEMORIAL SUBSCRIPTION LIST

- £4,576 11s. 5d.—Previously acknowledged.
 £2,024 9s. 9d.—Middlesex County Rugby Football Union.
 £500.—Army Benevolent Fund (part of the £1,000 shown in the June number and received in July).
 £366 12s. 11d.—1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).
 £339 8s. 0d.—28th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (H.G.).
 £238 17s. 9d.—Collection made on Mayor of Southgate's Flag Day.
 £200.—Alderman Miss E. H. Howse, J.P., from Mayor of Wembley's Charities account.
 £100.—Tottenham and District Gas Company, 2/7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) donation to Memorial Fund, "B" Company, 14th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (H.G.).
 £50.—Uxbridge and District *Die-Hards* Club.
 £35.—Mr. G. L. Towers.
 £30.—Employees, J. Lyons and Company, Ltd., Cadby Hall.
 £25.—The Hornsey *Die-Hards* Club, Mr. Guy Chester.

- £22 15s. 1d.—Collection at 57 P.T.C. and Depot, Middlesex Regiment on Albuhera Day.
 £21.—12th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) Home Guard.
 £17 11s. 9d.—Further collection from 9th Battalion Middlesex Regiment O.C.A.
 £16.—Hon. Secretary, "D" Company, 1/10th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).
 £14 16s.—Collection made by Maj. R. D. Guscott and Mr. H. E. Duffield at the Polaris Lodge.
 £14 15s.—O.C.A., "D" Company, 25th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (H.G.).
 £11 13s. 10d.—M.G. Wing (Middlesex Regiment, D.C.O.), I.T.C., Home Area.
 £10 10s.—John Barker and Company, O.C.A., the Ashford Middlesex Home Guard, Mr. E. H. Dowlen, Mr. H. T. Russell Ross, Mr. D. Reid of the Chartered Bank of India, Hong Kong.
 £10.—101st A.A. Battery, Middlesex H.G. Social and Welfare Club, Maj. H. S. Emery, M.C., United Kingdom Optical Company Ltd., Brig. B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C.
 £9 10s.—"B" Company, 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).
 £8 3s.—Hampstead Golf Club.
 £8 1s.—Ex-H.G. of T. G. Tickler, Ltd.
 £6 11s.—Further donation from 9th Battalion O.C.A.
 £6 8s.—Ealing *Die-Hards* Club.
 £6 6s.—Lt.-Col. T. H. Reddy.
 £6 5s. 3d.—Collection made by Capt. Smith and Mr. Higgins.
 £6.—Technical Staff at Napiers, Maj. J. Duncan.
 £5 5s.—Mr. W. B. Giles, Maj. J. W. G. Ormiston, Mr. R. V. Cripps, Alderman R. H. J. Pendred, Col. C. H. D. Bonnett, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., Lt.-Col. S. F. Hedgecoe, Lt.-Col. S. F. W. H. del Court, M.C., Secretary, Mill Hill War Memorial Appeal, Sir Alfred and Lady Hurst.
 £5.—Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., Lt.-Col. S. F. Caulfield Kerney, M.B.E., Mr. A. V. Townsend, J.P., Mr. J. W. Bird, Highgate School Junior Training Corps, Mr. Brett, General Electric Company Ltd., Brig. E. W. C. Flavell, D.S.O., M.C., Miss E. G. Stephens of Hong Kong.
 £4 17s.—Wyke Green Golf Club.
 £4 4s.—"E" Company, X Zone, 17th Middlesex Battalion (H.G.).
 £3 3s.—Lt.-Col. E. V. H. Hudson, Directors, Solent Court Hotel, Mr. A. G. Dain.
 £3.—Mr. F. Fenimore on account of Poki-die friends, Lt.-Col. R. W. H. Willoughby.
 £2 15s.—Maj. J. E. Dobbs, M.C.
 £2 2s.—"B" Platoon M.G. Club, 21st Battalion Middlesex H.G., Mr. Jack Mendoza, Mr. L. Callander, Mr. H. H. Mammery, Mr. E. F. J. Rich.
 £2.—Messrs. J. and E. Moore, Mr. J. Mendoza, The "Ship" *Die-Hards* Club, Mr. L. A. G. Bengough, Maj. E. F. Thompson, M.C.
 £1 19s. 7d.—Sports Committee, 4th Battalion Middlesex Home Guard.

£1 15s. 6d.—Lt. A. N. Jordan.

£1 14s. 8d.—Collection at Service on passing-out parade at 57 P.T.C. and Depot, Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).

£1 10s.—Miss J. French.

£1 8s.—Preston Hill Cricket Club.

£1 4s.—Uxbridge and District *Die-Hards* Club.

£1 1s.—East Barnet H.G. Rifle and Revolver Club, Hadley Wood H.G. O.C.A., East Barnet Home Guard Dickens Club, Mr. H. Mendoza, Mr. C. M. Hutchens, Mr. H. G. Rae, Mr. P. L. Bacon, Mr. Pocock, Mr. W. J. C. Chapple, Mr. A. C. Chidley, Platoon Sgt. T. A. Tiller, Mr. R. J. Coney, "C" Company, 11th Battalion Middlesex Regiment H.G. Association, Mr. H. M. Hawthorne, Mr. J. Rabley, Capt. J. M. E. Fell, Mr. S. Hogg, Capt. J. I. Lyons.

£1.—Mr. R. G. Bayles, Mr. W. B. Douglas, Mr. E. R. Cobb, Mr. Clelland, Mr. H. C. Knight, Mr. M. Wasborough, Goodalls of Loughton.

17s. 6d.—Mendoza and Company.

14s. 5d.—Collection at 57 P.T.C.

12s. 2d.—"H.Q." Company, 57 P.T.C., and Depot, Middlesex Regiment.

11s. 6d.—Anonymous.

10s.—Mr. N. Brilliant, Maison Andre, Mr. C. Mendoza.

9s. 2d.—P.M.C., 57 P.T.C., and Depot, Middlesex Regiment.

7s. 6d.—Sgt. A. I. Redford.

5s.—Mr. J. B. Nash, Mr. H. Bramson, Mr. A. Craig, Mr. H. Bryant, Mr. A. Rothenberg, Mr. Chapman, Another, Mr. H. R. Fenn, Mr. F. T. Parkinson, Mr. D. May, Mr. A. F. Page, Mr. G. Coleman, Mr. C. D. Goddard, Mr. W. Winny.

4s.—Mr. E. M. Thistle.

3s.—Mr. O. Martin.

2s. 6d.—Mr. Sidney, Mr. P. Meici, Miss Hill, Miss Ingh, Mr. E. Franklin, Mr. A. Vandervelde.

2s.—Mr. Hensen.

1s.—Mrs. Ellen Gregory.

The state of the Fund on August 1, 1947, was £8,976 5s. 5d.

LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR

Pte. D. A. Fergusson, late of the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) writes from R.I. Ward, Queen Mary's (Roehampton) Hospital, Roehampton, S.W.15, where, unfortunately, he is a patient at present, with a request that his old friends should write to him, if possible, send him photographs dealing with his rugged days when he played for the 1st Battalion and an Army first team. He very much wishes to hear from his old friends.

Mr. N. M. Walker of 425 Wellington Street, Clifton Hill, N.8, Victoria, Australia, wrote a long and interesting letter recently about the recent activities of the Association of the 57/60 Allied Battalion of Australian Infantry, which we wish we could print in full. They have not forgotten the Regiment they are affiliated to and eagerly await this Journal and news generally.

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION NOTES

Another Meeting of the Regimental Association was held on July 29, at the Middlesex Guildhall.

Secretary's Quarterly Report

The Secretary reported that 95 cases had been assisted at a cost of £435 os. 3d. during the March-June quarter.

Report of the Memorial Committee

A very important resolution in respect of the Regimental Memorial was passed:

(a) That the essence of the Memorial is the ability to provide comfortable and well-administered dwellings and environments at a nominal rent for occupation by members of the Association and their dependants, preference being given to the disabled soldiers of the Regiment.

(b) That complete control of the estate shall remain within the Regimental Association or a body of members appointed by the Executive Committee by means of a Trust Deed or Limited Liability Company not trading for profit.

(c) That the whole estate at Enfield shall be planned now and gradually developed as and when funds become available.

(d) That ample funds for administration purposes be retained even if this reduces the number of houses built.

A memorial plaque to be placed on the existing War Memorial was also discussed and a sub-committee was set up to consider it.

Report of the Finance Committee

Certain investments were being considered, and it was announced that the annual report for 1946 had been published and issued.

Old Comrades' Reunions

Two Old Comrades' Gatherings to take place in the autumn of the present year were discussed, and the sub-committees in charge were instructed to make their arrangements.

Vacant Cottage in Mill Hill Barracks

The occupancy of this cottage was discussed, but a decision was not reached by the meeting.

Donation to the Victory Club

A donation of £50 os. od. was agreed to.

Subscriptions to Other Charities for 1947

The Finance Committee was instructed to review these at their next meeting and make their recommendations at the next meeting of the Association. The meeting then closed.

57 PRIMARY TRAINING CENTRE AND DEPOT
THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

The main event which has occurred since we last appeared in print has been the earmarking of a number of our warrant officers and senior N.C.O.s for service

with the 2nd Battalion. These include R.S.M. J. Painter, C.S.M. Stretton, C/Sgt. Jaques, C/Sgt. Shrubbs, Sgts. Corner, McGowan, Denison and Hamlin. To say we shall miss these stalwarts is to state the obvious, but we draw consolation from the thought that our loss is the 2nd Battalion's gain. That Unit's manpower posting is indeed serious, due to releases and the Python scheme, and the replacements we are sending are urgently needed. In their place we shall be having, in all probability, R.S.M. McLoughlin, from the 1st Battalion, and the balance from personnel late of the 2nd Battalion who have returned to U.K. after their Python tour of three years overseas. To all these we extend a warm welcome.

We hope to report in the next issue an account of a cricket match between the officers and sergeants of the Unit, scheduled for Sunday, August 17. Each side is busily plotting the other's downfall and the contest should be exciting and entertaining, to say the least.

On Tuesday, August 12, at the Recruits' Passing-out Parade, the Colonel of the Regiment presented awards as under to personnel of the Regiment. It was of interest to see the two extremes, on the one hand, some 80 about to leave for various arms of the Service after completing their basic training here, and, on the other hand, 13 veterans, with a total of over 245 years' service between them.

Personnel presented with awards were:

W.O.II (C.S.M.) J. Hammond	Certificate of Mention in Dispatches
W.O.II (Q.M.S.) J. Wright, M.B.E.	L.S. and G.C. Medal
W.O.II (C.S.M.) J. Smith	" "
Sgt. A. Ball	" "
Sgt. W. Perkins	" "
Sgt. E. Fletcher	" "
Sgt. A. Staveley	" "
Sgt. J. Jones	" "
Sgt. F. Housden (now Royal Pioneer Corps)	" "
Loc/Sgt. A. Bennett	" "
Loc/L/Cpl. R. Smith	" "
Bdsman, A. Hymas	" "
L/Cpl. D. Fletcher	Territorial Army Efficiency Medal and Clasp

MR. J. V. JACOBSON

Mr. J. V. Jacobson, of 79 Trindon Street, Sunderland, County Durham, who served from 1915-1937 in the 1st and 2nd Battalions and joined Excise and Revenue in 1938, recently paid a visit to the Depot. At present he is in charge of the *Lapwing*, one of His Majesty's Customs launches. He has been following this seafaring life for nearly eleven years. It is remarkable that a soldier who served for 22 years should have been able to turn his hand to the sea. He would appreciate news of his old comrades.



View of the Regimental Museum at Inglis Barracks.]



Interior View of the Officers' Depot Mess at Inglis Barracks.

10th H.D. BATTALION MIDDLESEX REGT. OFFICERS' REUNION DINNER

The officers of the former 10th (H.D.) Battalion held their first reunion dinner on May 2, 1947, at the Criterion Restaurant, with the C.O., Lt.-Col. H. Cook, M.C., in the chair, and a company of 48 which included as guests:

The Colonel of the Regiment, Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L.; Brig. E. J. Speed, M.C., former Area Commander; Col. A. B. Pasmore, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., who commanded when the Battalion was renumbered 30th (H.D.) Battalion; Maj. P. Dickens, formerly G2 of the Area; Maj. R. J. Reid, M.C., Royal Tank Regiment, and Capt. V. S. Bolton, R.A., the sons of 10th Battalion officers; Lt.-Col. C. Jarrett, D.S.O., T.D., and Capt. N. B. McIvor, M.C., officers of the 2/10 Battalion in the 1914-18 war; Maj. J. B. Melhuish, Royal Signals; Padre Scott, of the London Scottish; and Maj. Elliott. An unexpected and very welcome guest was Col. H. F. Prinsloo, O.B.E., from South Africa, who was in London on his way back from the Geneva P.O.W. Conference. Further mention of Col. Prinsloo follows below.

The 10th Battalion officers present were: Capt. T. H. Baker, Maj. R. Bare, Capt. S. J. Belsham, M.C., Lt.-Col. F. C. Bishop, M.C., Capt. S. P. Bolton, Maj. L. C. Brothers, M.C., Maj. B. K. Cartell, Capt. A. A. Clarke, Lt.-Col. H. Cook, M.C. (Chairman), Brig. E. W. C. Flavell, D.S.O., M.C., who commanded the 70th Middlesex Young Soldiers' Battalion before going on more active service with Airborne Forces, Capt. D. B. Gray, Maj. A. Grieg, Maj. L. W. Griffiths, Maj. I. G. Guy, Capt. H. W. F. Hamilton, Capt. S. J. Harris, Capt. G. H. Henson, Lt.-Col. A. Hermelin, Maj. S. C. Jay, Capt. H. C. Killenback, Capt. R. H. Last, Capt. R. Lea, Maj. P. W. Lowman, Maj. C. W. Lundgren, M.C., Maj. E. W. Mayhew, M.C., T.D. (Second-in-command), Capt. E. Mognidge, Capt. N. A. Moore, M.C., Capt. R. Reid, Maj. R. W. Russell Walker, Capt. O. F. Savege, M.C., Maj. A. E. Sheldrick, Capt. G. H. Taberner, Capt. H. L. Walter, M.C., Lt.-Col. F. W. Weston, Capt. H. S. Whitlock.

Other 10th officers who subscribed to the dinner but were unable to attend were: Capt. E. H. Aikman, Capt. F. M. Arculus, Maj. G. A. Beazley, Maj. J. Best, Maj. N. Gilbert, M.C., Capt. E. Hines, Maj. P. A. James. They may give satisfaction to these officers who know that the value of their "unconsumed portions" defrayed the cost of the incidental expenses.

Cordial letters were received from: Capt. L. W. Browning, Capt. W. M. Carmichael, Maj. W. F. Clarke, Maj. W. G. Clifford, Maj. J. Craige, Lt.-Col. R. N. Davidson, Capt. F. J. Delbridge, Capt. G. B. Fletcher, Capt. A. F. Holmes, Maj. T. N. F. Houston, M.C., Capt. F. C. Larkworthy, Maj. H. K. Longman, D.S.O., M.C., Capt. C. L. Milligan, Capt. N. J. Nevitt, Maj. C. A. Phillips, Lt.-Col. M. A. Prinsloo, M.C., Lt.-Col. J. J. Sheppard, D.S.O., M.C., M.B.E., Capt. E. F. Smith, Capt. S. Skipper, Capt. H. J. Stegalls.

During the evening the following donations were made to the Middlesex Regiment War Memorial Fund: Capt. T. H. Baker, £2 2s.; Capt. S. J. Harris, £2 2s.; Maj. C. W. Lundgren, M.C., £5 5s.; Capt. R. Reid, £5 5s.; Lt.-Col. F. W. Weston, £10 10s. (Other subscriptions were given, too.)

Toasts

After "The King" Brig. Speed proposed "The 10th Battalion" and in so doing paid the Battalion several generous compliments which Lt.-Col. Cook, in replying, and in equally generous terms, passed on to his officers. The officers received them with appropriate pleasure and becoming modesty.

Maj. Cartell proposed "The Regiment," paying a tribute to the work that the Colonel of the Regiment does on the Regiment's behalf, and Col. Browne, in a moving speech in reply, asserted that whatever he was able to do for the Regiment was, to him, only a pleasure.

Maj. Mayhew proposed "The Guests" with care and courtesy, and Maj. Dickens replied with amusing episodes of the invasion period.

Col. Prinsloo also replied to this toast, and his remarks are reproduced below.

The evening was so enjoyable that it was decided, on the spot, to make it an annual affair in the form of a 10th Middlesex Officers' Dining Club. The arrangements to

be made in the same way again, and the informal committee, which started it, to become a permanent committee to continue it.

The Committee is: Lt.-Col. H. Cook (chairman), Maj. E. W. Mayhew, Maj. A. Grieg, Maj. R. Bare and Maj. B. K. Cartell, to whom any communications should be addressed at 54 Brewer Street, W.1.

Col. H. F. Prinsloo, O.B.E.

Col. H. F. Prinsloo is the son of Commandant H. F. Prinsloo, who commanded the Boers at Spion Kop and was killed in action at Witkloof, where, in 1926, Boer and Briton erected a monument to commemorate his gallantry.

The young Prinsloo, as a boy of 11, also fought at Spion Kop, where the Middlesex Regiment and others were engaged and suffered heavily.

He is also a direct descendant of Hendrick Frederik Prinsloo, who was involved in the Slagter's Net rebellion in 1815, when five frontier Boers were hanged.

Formerly the C.O. of the Botha Regiment, in 1942 he became Commandant of the great P.O.W. camp at Sonderwater.

Between wars Col. Prinsloo is a farmer in the Ermelo district.

Col. Prinsloo's reply

Colonel of the Regiment and Brother Officers, When I say "Thank you" for this fine reception, I want to assure you that it springs from a source deeper than the ordinary human touch.

The honour and pleasure is entirely mine. I am indeed proud to be amongst you as members of so famous a Regiment, but more so because you belong to the London people, so few of whom, not so long ago, had to stand for so many, alone at bay between victory and defeat of perhaps our western civilisation. May I assure you of the highest admiration of my people in South Africa for you, who preferred a grave under the ruins and debris of your fine houses, rather than bend your knees to the brutal bullies and cruel gangsters of the time.

Men of your regiment (Lt.-Col. Cunningham, Hermelin, and others) served under my command during this last world war, and I am glad to say they were not the worst I commanded. In the first world war I also had the honour of having some of your regiment's members under me.

Talking of that war, it seems almost strange to think that it took place only 12 years after the Boer War, in which I also took up a rifle against you, as a boy of 11 years old.

To-day I cannot help thinking of one of our Boer War generals, Coren Brits, who at the outbreak of the 1914 war, and a rebellion in our country, received a wire from Gen. Louis Botha asking him how many volunteers he could raise by the following Saturday, and he replied, saying, "I can raise about 70,000 by Saturday, but let me know who the hell I must fight this time."

I first heard your regiment's name from my late father, Commandant Prinsloo, who commanded the burghers on Spion Kop (January 24, 1900), when he said to my late mother, "The Middlesex and Lancashire Fusiliers were plucky fellows, and it seems a pity that we, belonging to two God-fearing nations, should kill one another like that." On Spion Kop there stands a monument erected on the trenches, which had to serve as an honourable grave to those brave men of yours.

If I remember well special mention was made of one of your Middlesex men, the late Capt. Muriel, a man among men.

In that war I had lost my all and my little heart was full of bitterness and revenge. I was sorry we could not kill you all, and looking back, I often wonder what would have happened to me if we had not had men like Generals Louis Botha and Smuts to lead us.

It was well expressed by that grand old soldier, Gen. Sir H. Smith Dorrien, when he said "We had a good scrap because chivalry was then still alive."

Anyway, we made an honourable peace, joined hands, coming to grips with reality on the ruins of our wars, realising that only on the foundations of good fellowship, through mutual respect for one another's sentiments, was it possible to form our British Commonwealth of Nations within the broad framework of which we have learned to co-operate, to think and feel alike and to act and sacrifice for the common good of the whole which, in view of the present world conditions, is indeed a fine example for suffering humanity struggling in their ruins towards peace with security to follow.

It demands, however, a much larger framework, an entirely new world system, needing "atomic" courage, because unless we are prepared to look far beyond even the glory of the Middlesex Regiment, and of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and make way for a new life of unselfish co-operation in a system of sympathy and sacrifice for humanity as a whole—mankind will fall again.

RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD SOLDIER

By Hugh Doherty

PART III

Spout (Alleged)

When on sentry at some posts well up the Rock, the Bull Ring in the town of La Linea was always visible, and we talked about it in the Guard Room with much interest, a bit mystified as to just what took place. There were some cruel sports in England at the time, such as dog fighting, cock fighting, etc., and we knew that meant dog v. dog and cock v. cock. We understood, therefore, that in Spain it was bull v. bull.

On one occasion the Sergeant of the Guard put us wise. Not that sergeants were in the habit of entering into conversation with the men—discipline was strict. They were aloof and apart. On that particular guard we had Sgt. Day in charge, who, hearing our talk, got over the difficulty by giving us what was actually a short lecture on the subject of Spanish custom.

Incidentally, Sgt. Day, known in the Regiment as "Toff" Day, was supposed to be working for a commission through the ranks. He was, and in due course got his commission and was posted to another regiment, which was the usual procedure in such cases. I never heard of him after, and often wondered how he fared and if he ultimately returned to his old regiment as did, years later, Sgt. George Johnson, still with us, who finally, as Capt. Johnson, commanded his old company. To attain such a goal half a century ago was exceedingly difficult and only men of exceptional character and ability ever did so. And that reminds me, our Sgt.-Maj. Dawes of 1st Battalion, 1894, later became captain and quartermaster of his battalion.

If ever there was a respected and well-liked sergeant-major that man was Dawes. Well over six feet in height, built in proportion, and with a voice in keeping, his method and manner was a generation or more ahead of his time. I met him again many years later in Darjeeling, but I am digressing off the trolley again—bullfighting is the subject.

Bullfighting

Sgt. Day's brief account of what took place at a bullfight roused our curiosity. Later, when I found myself working at Staff Headquarters in the town and living for the first time away from the Regiment, I managed to get a permit for La Linea and satisfied my inquisitiveness by witnessing a show. This is what happens:

The arena is a tall building, circular in shape and open to the sky. Being thus exposed to the sun there was a portion actually in the shade and here the more wealthy spectators sat, prices being governed by sunlight and shade.

The actors taking part may consist of two or more parties, each with its chief fighter, called a matador, who has his own particular team of assistants—banderilleros, chulos, picadores. These helpers could collectively be more aptly named as just "tormentors."

Anything up to six bulls may be killed in one afternoon, the matadors booked taking them in turn.

The display commences with a ceremonial parade of all about to take part in the spectacle. In their brilliant and many coloured costumes and accoutrements they pass round the arena, when the President of the show (usually some person of rank) throws down the key to the man whose duty it is to open the bull cells.

In the meantime, while this flaunting exhibition is going on, the bull in its cell is being maddened and goaded into fury by the sticking in its shoulders of iron pins with streamers attached.

The supernumeraries leave the ring, and blindfolded horses in wretched condition and mounted by "tormentors" take their position against the barrier. The cell door is opened and the infuriated bull dashes into the ring.

At once it attacks the mounted men, wounding or ripping up the horses, sometimes disembowelling them. As the bull attacks the horses the mounted picador, who is armed with a spear, thrusts this into its back with the result that it turns its attention to another rider. Sometimes the rush is of such force as to overthrow the horse and rider. Immediately the chelos get going with their red cloaks and divert the bull from the fallen picador, who escapes. The number of horses killed is one of the features of the fight, a bull's prowess being reckoned accordingly.

Then the banderillas do their stuff with darts about 18 inches long, small coloured streamers attached. They dance about and draw the attention of the bull. It charges, they side-step and plant the darts in the beast's neck.

All this renders it mad with rage and pain. So it goes on and on until the bull weakens with exhaustion and is ready for the kill.

This is the matador's special job, but first he must have his little ceremony. He goes up to the box where the president (or other big noise) sits, holds aloft his sword and says a few set words (perhaps the equivalent of "Now, I'll show you"). Then, with a (watch me) gesture, he tosses his hat away and proceeds, bareheaded, to the work of killing.

All this takes very little time and the bull, dazed and tired, waits—his tormentors have retired a little, leaving it in peace.

So bewildered is the animal that it can be jockeyed, if necessary, by a couple of men into the most suitable position (having regard to the people in the stalls) for its execution. There is now extreme tenseness and silence.

The matador's job is to kill with a single thrust through the back of the neck, close to the head, and downward into the heart—a most difficult stroke, requiring long practice and natural dexterity. It often fails, requiring repeated thrusts. The matador is rated accordingly and, if a favourite, is acclaimed after the

kill with extravagant enthusiasm. The dead beast is now dragged out of the ring by mules (as are the dead horses), the surface is raked over, another cell door is opened, the next bull is introduced, and the spectacle begins anew.

The foregoing description is substantially what I witnessed at my first and last bull fight. The matador brought the animal down with his first thrust. Two helpless, friendless horses were killed. The disgusting show was to go on, but one bull was enough for me.

With difficulty I made my way out through the orange-sucking spectators.

I felt sick and was scared I would be. The air outside was nice to breathe and the adjacent "Rock" good and solid to look on. I thanked my stars I belonged there.

Later, I chewed the cud on what I had seen. There was no great risk to the men who took part—probably less than in a game of Rugby football. The red cloaks, or a prod with a lance, always did the trick. In any serious danger there was always the barrier to be easily vaulted, and when, finally, the killer did his stuff it was to a bull not dead, but dead beat. The picadors were padded, the horses, pathetic and blindfolded, were not. I saw the entrails of one stuffed back with straw to enable it to carry on a little longer while the unconcerned onlookers sucked their oranges and spat the pips about. As for Ferdinand himself, he was specially bred for the job, well looked after, and led a carefree life until the day he had to die, when they tortured him first. A sordid show.

Courtesy and Cavalry

A detachment of Cavalry, with sabres drawn, trotting through the main street of Gibraltar is surely the last thing one would expect to see—and Spanish Cavalry at that.

The Military Governor of La Linea was paying a courtesy visit to the Governor of Gibraltar and doing so in style, with an escort of his own Cavalry.

From the window of the Telegraph Office at Headquarters I was fortunate enough to see this happen in 1894.

The guard of honour was supplied by the Middlesex Regiment and I was given to understand this visit was an annual affair. I wonder if it takes place to-day!

Wine, Women and Song

The most popular entertainment for the majority of troops in Gibraltar was to be found "up the Ramps," a general term indicating two narrow streets approached by sets of stairs roughly cut out of the Rock.

They ran more or less parallel and at the end was a tavern of a kind we had not seen before.

Spacious, with a stage at one end and furnished with small wooden tables and benches, one could sit down and refresh in reasonable comfort.

A chairman presided who was always a soldier from one of the regiments. He was paid a fee and had to be able to sing and, if necessary, use his fists. There was also a waiter, fat and greasy. He was the proprietor.

From time to time a young woman singer was brought out from England to lend charm and help with her vocal efforts. If the chairman was not careful she married him.

These two contributed a set number of songs nightly and, in addition, any one else who could sing and others who could not would have a go and chorusing was taken up lustily by those present.

Relaxation of this sort was quite a novelty to us youngsters who had seen only the dismal pubs at home. Wine was available and cheap, but we stuck to beer.

In the adjoining streets referred to, quietly but without furtiveness or any attempt to conceal the obvious, the oldest profession was carried on.

Money matters were nicely adjusted to suit the pockets though an unpaid Lance-Jack might not agree, as non-coms. had to use their own street, pay double, and so far as I could notice merely came into the same house through another door. The Delilahs were from Andalusia.

After 9 p.m. no dawdling was allowed. Any old swear who reads these lines and remembers Gibraltar, 1894, will recognise the Staff S.M. who made his appearance punctually at that hour every night. He will remember also his high pitched nasal voice and his three laconic words, "Inside or out."

Gibraltar, we thought, was a nice place to soldier in and it was with mixed feelings we heard the news that the Battalion was to return to England in the winter and that Aldershot was to be our station. We had got nicely used to the sun, which shone most of the time, warm and comforting. We were soon going to miss it.

Aldershot

Aptly enough the Regiment was posted to Albuhera Barracks and my first recollection of the place is as a member of a strong fatigue party in the early morning after our first night there. It was frosty and very cold; the sergeant in charge knew the answer and marched us so vigorously we arrived at the railway station tingling with warmth and feeling very good indeed. The job of work was baggage fatigue.

Here, in Aldershot, we found soldiering of a very different kind to the comparative quietness of Gibraltar. Troops of all Services in great numbers and more or less on top of one another. A vast combined training centre for all arms, a programme beginning early in the year and leading by stages to the annual manoeuvres in the autumn.

Beginning with Company exercises, then Battalion, later Brigade, Divisional, and so on. Route marching and musketry very much stressed. They brought us along gradually with the former, increasing the distance each time. It was very strenuous; the roads were not then macadamised. Consequently they were rough and very dusty. A column on the march raised clouds of dust, which could be seen for miles and, of course, we carried everything on our backs. To-day, I believe, troops travel light and go by car.

During the period of Company training Capt. Randolph would sometimes give "I" Company a short lecture on tactics. We took great interest in such talks and I remember they always had reference to the Franco-German war of

1870. Whether such lectures were given to other companies I do not know. I never heard of any.

Going to School

Standard of education was very low; some could just about sign their names. Facilities for improvement were provided but there was no encouragement. Consequently those who made use of the Army schoolmaster were men seeking promotion or already promoted and expected to qualify.

There were three grades of certificates—third, second and first. A corporal was supposed to attain a third, sergeants and colour-sergeants a second. The first was so far away that aspirants were allowed to take it in two parts. The schoolmaster himself (he wore a special uniform) was very efficient and patient. His classes were small. Looking back and in the light of up-to-date propaganda I realise the stimulant required was that the schoolmaster should go to the companies and give the lads what would be called to-day a pep talk, explaining the advantages that were there for the taking. Nobody thought of that. Promotion at the time was governed by seniority only, and that applied to the commissioned as well as the non-commissioned.

Fancy Drill

My recollections beginning with Aldershot are 1895. At one period during that year someone in my company started a phase which I can only call fancy drill. It was quite unofficial and the idea was to try out certain rifle drill movements in a way other than "text-book."

The one I remember best had to do with the "shoulder arms," which, at that time, was done in two movements: (1) Rifle butt into the left hand; (2) cut the right hand away. Which, of course, enabled one to get a good grip under the butt before letting go.

The new stunt was to do the thing in one movement; in other words, throw the rifle up and across. I remember about a dozen of us practising, individually at first, later "in line," about one pace from a wall which we faced. The idea of the wall was to check us from throwing the right arm outwards. Some became quite good. In the meantime, other companies got wind of this idea, which spread not only in the Middlesex but to the other regiments in our brigade.

For two reasons it did not last. First, it could never be absolutely relied on. Someone was, at some time, sure to fizzle. Secondly, it was stopped "by order."

Some high-up got to know and then it was a case of "Gad, sir, what's the Army coming to?"

There was another small stunt which lasted until the manoeuvres, when the reflection of the sun put an end to it. We did not start it in the Middlesex and we took a very poor view of the man who did. It was polishing the brass on the rifle butts, which, up to then, was painted black. For inspection on parade we did the "trail arms."

Reverting to the old "shoulder arms" I do not know how this may be done to-day, but in 1914 I found it superseded by what in 1895 was the movement known as "advance arms."

On Being Too Clever

During the course of training I was one day ordered to report to Divisional Headquarters, Signalling Branch, for telegraphy test. Very pleased with this turn of events and expecting a job I gave of my best only to be promptly "returned to duty." Reason—it was a test to find out if any operator required a month's refresher course.

A Distinguished Visitor

In 1895 the Shah of Persia paid an official visit to England and as part of his entertainment (and no doubt enlightenment) he inspected the Aldershot Garrison. There was no wangling out of that parade. Every available man, horse and gun was at the Long Valley, including the Commander-in-Chief of the Army.

The Duke of Cambridge

The Duke of Cambridge, whose name the Regiment bears, was Commander-in-Chief in 1895 and my generation of the 1st Battalion saw him that year for the first and last time. A big, heavy man with thick, white moustache and side whiskers he sat his horse firmly though somewhat bent forward. He was then well past the allotted span of three score years and ten. After the manoeuvres a few months later he retired from the Army and died about ten years after, at the age of 85.

Olympia

A military tournament took place every year at Olympia with competitions and displays by all Services. Individual or team competitors could take part by "entering" as in ordinary sports. Displays, however, were by selection and the 1st Middlesex was invited to send a detachment to the 1895 show for an exhibition of military exercises.

Drill in the Battalion was always first-class and the only thing required was to get together the necessary number of men of a good average height (which put me out of the running).

There was never any doubt as to who would take charge. Sgt. Taylor was the man. Known, for some reason or other, as "Docherty" Taylor, he had the finest "word of command" in the Regiment (and that goes for both Battalions).

Taylor was no height or size but was a live wire and his voice a decided asset for such an occasion. The detachment trained for the job and, needless to say, no one in the party dropped a rifle or tripped over his own feet at the show. They acquitted themselves as they were expected to do.

We also had some entrants for the bayonet competitions. I have forgotten how they fared, Taylor and his job was the only thing we were interested in.

To the young I would say that in bayonet fighting an infantryman took on, say, a mounted Hussar armed with his sword, a mounted Lancer with his lance, or another footslogger armed like himself. There were competitions for all three. The Lancer was easy game, the Hussar rarely won, and the bayonet v. bayonet was anybody's game. A tall man had some advantage in reach

very often countered by a short man with extra nimbleness.

There are no lances now and, I suppose, no swords, but the bayonet will always be there, though I notice it shrinks in length with the years. I wonder what the old sweats, who at the Depot demonstrated and sang the praises of the old long, triangular weapon, would say to the six-inch butcher's skewer seen to-day.

At the time of which I am writing we did as part of our drill bayonet exercises which had in view combat with an enemy, just such as in the competitions at Olympia. There was the short lunge with both arms, the long lunge with one arm, the parry, the deceptive move, all from the right, then change arms, repeating the movements from the left.

(To be continued)

ACCOUNT OF THE PART PLAYED BY THE 1st BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT IN THE DEFENCE OF HONG KONG, DECEMBER, 1941

By Lt.-Col. S. F. Hedgcock

Foreword

As this account is written primarily for readers who are not familiar with the geography of Hong Kong, a map is given for the assistance of those readers. I hope that among them will be many relations and friends of officers and men who so gallantly gave their lives during the operations, and of those who failed to return from captivity because of the brutal treatment of their captors. This record is a précis of the Battalion Commander's own report and those of his Company Commanders, written during the first few months of captivity. These reports were buried in Argyle Street Officers' Prisoner-of-War Camp in 1942 and were sent to the War Office after the liberation of Hong Kong. As far as possible the original writers' own words have been used.

Although it is not possible, in such an account as this, to mention all those who performed outstanding service, in the eyes of all officers and men who served under him in Hong Kong, no account could be complete without a tribute to the Battalion's gallant Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. H. W. M. Stewart, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C. A senior warrant officer once said to me: "The men love the Colonel!" No wonder! Firm and capable during the operations, he was a tower of moral strength to all around him. In captivity, under appalling conditions and after crushing disappointments, he gave every ounce of his great energy towards alleviating the sordid lot of his men, and was a shining example to all about him.

After ten months of captivity, in October, 1942, with the bulk of the remnants of his fine Battalion, he was

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS—A.A., Anti-Aircraft; G.S.O., General Staff Officer, 1st Grade; H.K.V.D.C., Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps; I.A., Indian Army; L.L., Lyon Light; M.G., Machine Gun; M.T.B., Motor Torpedo Boat; O.P., Observation Post; O.R., Other Rank; P.B., Pillbox; R.N., Royal Navy.

in the *Lisbon Maru* on the way to Japan when she was torpedoed. When the majority of the Japanese had abandoned the ship, leaving their prisoners locked in the holds, Col. Stewart and his men eventually burst their way out, only to be fired on by the guards as they came on deck. Eventually the survivors landed in Japan, where, after a few days, their gallant leader died from the effects of his exertions on behalf of his beloved men, and from the knowledge of the cruel fate so many of them had suffered.

The Garrison of Hong Kong

In December, 1941, Hong Kong was garrisoned by two regular battalions of British infantry (2nd Battalion Royal Scots and 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment); two battalions of Indian infantry (57th Rajput Regiment and 214th Punjab Regiment); two Canadian infantry battalions (the Royal Rifles of Canada, from Quebec, and the Winnipeg Grenadiers); portions of an Anti-Aircraft Regiment, R.A.; the Hong Kong Regiment, Hong Kong and Singapore Royal Artillery; two Coast Defence Artillery Regiments; two companies of Royal Engineers and a company of Chinese sappers. In addition there were a number of ancillary units belonging to R.C.S., R.A.S.C., R.A.O.C., R.A.M.C. and other corps. Of these, during the first two war years, the two British battalions had lost the majority of their regular officers and O.R. personnel by posting to units in U.K. The Indian battalions had a few regulars, but the bulk of their O.R.s were reservists. The Canadian units had been garrison troops for a year—one in Newfoundland and the other in the West Indies—before being sent, at a week's notice and with many changes in personnel, to Hong Kong where they landed in November, 1941. In consequence, though no fault of their own, they were practically untrained and, when the Colony was invaded, without their transport. The Artillery units had suffered from "expansion" and also had the disadvantage of having mixed British and Indian personnel with a sprinkling of Chinese in their war establishments.

In the event of invasion the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps was to be mobilised and take its place alongside the remainder of the war-time garrison. The main units of this Corps were M.G. companies—British (*sic*), Scottish, Eurasian, Portuguese and Chinese—armed with Vickers guns, and a Portuguese anti-aircraft company armed with Lewis guns. In addition there were four coast defence and two anti-aircraft batteries of artillery (British, Eurasian, Portuguese and Chinese); an armoured car unit; a company of sappers; and an Army Service Corps company. The Corps was composed of volunteers and conscripts, conscription for British residents having been introduced in the Colony in 1940. Many of the volunteers were Scandinavian members of business houses. In fact, as late as 1938 the foreigners in the Corps were drawn from no less than seventeen nationalities. The lack of homogeneity in the fighting personnel of the Garrison was to have its effect later in the defence of the Colony. Naval strength was limited to a couple of antique destroyers and a few M.T.B.s. There was no R.A.F. unit.

The Defence Scheme

The Defence Scheme envisaged rapid demolitions on the two roads and railway on the east and west of the Kowloon Peninsula, followed by the holding of a lightly-held east and west line running about five miles north of the point of the Kowloon Peninsula. The position was to be manned by 214 Punjab on the right, 57th Rajput in the centre, and 2 Royal Scots on the left. It was hoped to be able to hold this line for about three weeks in the event of a Japanese attack overland.

On the Island of Hong Kong itself were the two Canadian battalions in support of 1st Middlesex, who manned the P.B.s on the beaches. The bulk of the H.K.V.D.C. units were also to be employed on the Island. It was hoped to be able eventually to withdraw the mainland units to the Island in addition, and to use them there whilst awaiting the arrival of a relieving force.

The Middlesex Regiment's Part

Since the outbreak of war in 1939, the M.G. companies of the Battalion had been allocated to the defence of the east, south and west shores of the Island, occupying concrete Beach Defence Pillboxes and Lyon Light Shelters each consisting of a pillbox containing not less than two machine-guns (in some cases three, four and even five) and a small searchlight. The companies held four sub-sectors:

"A" Company, including P.B.s 1—11, Sandy Bay to Aberdeen Island. H.Q. at Pokfulam.

"C" Company, including P.B.s 12—20, Brick Hill to Repulse Bay. H.Q. at Little Hong Kong.

"B" Company, including P.B.s 21—30, West Bay to Red Hill. H.Q. at Stone Hill.

"D" Company, including P.B.s 31—39, Tytam Bay (east side) to Lyemun. H.Q. at Obelisk Hill.

A total of 110 guns was manned by these companies. Joint Company H.Q. were in each case established with Company H.Q. of the Winnipeg Grenadiers and the Royal Rifles of Canada.

A fifth company, referred to in the Defence Scheme as "Z" Company, consisted of spare men of the battalion drawn from M.G. Companies and H.Q. Company. It manned the N.-W. Sector, P.B.s 58—72, with 38 guns, covering Kennedy Town and the Water Front, with H.Q. in Macdonnell Road. This company would withdraw should the mainland be evacuated by 214 Punjab, who would take their place in this eventuality. The war station of Battalion H.Q. was Leighton Hill.

Thus, except for a stretch of coast in the N.-E. Sector, the Battalion was responsible for the beach defence of the whole of Hong Kong Island. On the initial deployment of the garrison the N.-E. Sector was not to be manned, except two P.B.s which were garrisoned by the H.K.V.D.C. This sector was ultimately to be the scene of the Japanese landing.

Each P.B. and L.L. crew consisted of one N.C.O. and eight O.R.s, as follows: Commander, Second-in-Command, two No. 1's, two No. 2's, one No. 3 and two L.L. personnel. Each P.B.'s tactical area was wired in,

and in most cases there were two alternative positions within the perimeter and one outside. All P.B.s were connected by telephone to Company H.Q. P.B.s were self-contained in M.G. equipment, ammunition, grenades, oil, food and water.

The whole of the southern front came under the command of Brig. Lawson of the Canadian Army, whose H.Q. were situated at Wong Nei Chong Gap. The A.A. platoon of 1st Middlesex was posted there for the defence of these H.Q.

The night of December 4, when the G.O.C. British troops in China, Maj.-Gen. C. M. Maltby, C.B., M.C. (late 1A), dined with the Battalion, turned out to be the last occasion when all officers dined together. The following day "A," "B," "C" and "D" Companies deployed to their respective war stations. December 6 was a day of great activity, and much work was done strengthening defences where necessary. Even on Sunday, December 7, however, the imminence of war was hardly realised by all. Church parades took place and the Regiment sent the usual contingent to the Cathedral. The C.O. attended, but was called away to Brigade H.Q. As a result "Z" Company was also ordered to "stand by."

Outbreak of Hostilities—Battalion H.Q. and "Z" Company

At 0410 hours, December 8, Japan commenced hostilities against Hong Kong, and by 0830 hours at least one air raid on Kai Tak aerodrome had taken place. Early that morning Battalion H.Q. and "Z" Company deployed. Leighton Hill, the war station of Battalion H.Q., was a prominent height running north and south, forming a watershed between Causeway Bay, Tai Hang Village and Happy Valley, and connecting with the important gap of Wong Nei Chong (West Brigade and Island Command H.Q.). Crowning this height were four blocks of Government officials' houses. Running south from the hill was a ridge (here referred to throughout as the Chinese Cemetery Ridge), which came to be the scene of stiff fighting.

Between December 8—11 fighting took place along the Inner Line—the line of defence on the mainland held by 214 Punjab, 57th Rajput and 2 Royal Scots. Owing to the turning of the left flank and the loss of the important Shing Mun Redoubt—an irretrievable disaster—this line was given up. The 2 Royal Scots and 214 Punjab were withdrawn to the Island, leaving 57th Rajput to fight a rearguard action involving a withdrawal through Devil's Peak and Lyemun Channel.

On the night of December 11 the G.O.C. rang up the C.O. and told him to muster as many men as he possibly could and hastily to occupy P.B.s 40—55 in the N.-E. Sector of the Island and so cover the withdrawal of the mainland force. At Battalion H.Q. there were approximately 60 to 80 men, and these were at once formed into P.B. crews and placed under the command of Maj. S. F. Hedgcock, whose H.Q. were opened at Taihook Police Station. The rapidity with which these P.B.s were occupied was rather remarkable, as the personnel included many clerks, cooks, officers' servants and

This is a detailed topographic map of Hong Kong, showing the Kowloon Peninsula, Victoria Harbour, and the New Territories. The map includes numerous place names, elevation contours, and a legend. A scale bar at the bottom indicates distances in yards (0 to 3000). A date stamp '1500 hrs 25 Dec' is visible near the Stanley Peninsula.

Legend:

- BUILT UP AREAS (hatched pattern)
- PILL BOXES (small circles)
- MAIN R-ADS (solid line)
- TRACK (dashed line)
- DEFENCE LINES DURING OPERATIONS 8-25 DEC 41 (thick solid line)
- INITIAL ENEMY LANDINGS (thick arrow)

R.A.O.C. artificers who had never before been actively employed in P.B.s. Although no attack developed on this front there was no lack of activity.

On December 12 P.B.s 59, 70, 71 and 72, belonging to "Z" Company, were subjected to much bombing and shelling. In particular P.B. 59 in the R.N. dockyard was seldom free from both. During this period Battalion H.Q. remained at Leighton Hill with but the bare remnants of its personnel, approximately 10 to 15 O.R.s. In the late afternoon of December 12 Leighton Hill was subjected to long range M.G. fire, most of which passed overhead. On December 13 Battalion H.Q. was bombed. Six bombs in all were dropped and the hill was straddled, but, fortunately, no casualties resulted.

On December 14, after three strenuous days, Maj. Hedgecoe's force was withdrawn to Battalion H.Q., being relieved by "Z" Company, which was later relieved by 5/7 Rajput. By December 16 Battalion H.Q. was well installed; all windows had been splinter-proofed, and more trenches, another A.A. emplacement and slit trenches had been dug against shelling and bombing. Most of that morning the enemy systematically shelled the N.-E. Sector and in particular P.B.s 51-55 and North Point, forcing the crews to withdraw to alternative positions. P.B.s 52, 54 and 55 suffered particularly heavily. By now the enemy had pin-pointed P.B. positions and Leighton Hill. Orders were given to restrict movement to the back premises of the buildings. This was none too soon, for at about 1430 hours the whole hill was subjected to 15 to 20 minutes' fairly heavy bombardment by high velocity guns which succeeded in setting light to one block.

This block was burnt out completely, and all the other houses on Leighton Hill were hit. Battalion H.Q. fortunately escaped with only one casualty, R.S.M. Challis. The C.O. was at the telephone and had a miraculous escape when two shells burst in the front rooms of the house. One civilian, a Mr. Beddows, was blown to bits. It was decided to move to the alternative H.Q. in Ventris Road, a block of Government buildings bordering on the east side of Happy Valley Racecourse. This was carried out in the morning of December 17 during some shelling by the Japanese, who had now got Leighton Hill well registered. All men were sent to slit trenches and "Z" Company, who had been in Ventris Road on the night of December 16-17, moved to Leighton Hill and on the morning of December 17 took over P.B.s 53, 54 and 55 in the N.-E. Sector in addition.

On December 17, apart from some slight shelling, nothing of importance took place. "B" Company, 5/7 Rajput, had moved into reserve in occupation of the Caroline Hill and Tai Hang Village areas. The Company Commander, Capt. Course, early made contact with Battalion H.Q. and throughout the rest of operations in this area his company was virtually under command of O.C. 1st Middlesex. This company had not lost many men, but had had little or no food or rest for some days. It was still in good fighting trim, however, and it was hoped would do much to strengthen the right flank of Leighton Hill, echeloned as it was in a forward position covering the important Chinese Cemetery Ridge. Early

contact with the Japanese forward elements was made, and Lt. W. A. Mackinlay, who had joined the Battalion on mobilisation, carried out a most valuable reconnaissance in locating their exact positions.

During this period visits to the companies had been carried out daily by the C.O., Second-in-Command, or Adjutant. All companies were administered from Battalion H.Q. and the feeding up till then had worked most satisfactorily in spite of black-outs.

(To be continued)

1st BATTALION NEWS

EDITORIAL

As stated in the last paragraph of the editorial of the Journal's June edition, we now have our new Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. J. G. E. Reid, to whom we extend a welcome and a wish for a happy and successful command. Unfortunately, though, we are losing the "star personality" of the Battalion, namely, R.S.M. McLoughlin (Boswell), in the next few weeks. Mr. McLoughlin joined us from the Irish Guards in May of last year. In spite of the power of his vocal chords and expert manipulation of his pacing-stick on the square, he is undoubtedly one of the most popular characters in the Unit, and we all wish him the very best in his forthcoming career as a civilian.

We are now beginning to settle down at Iserlohn. The barracks (Epsom Barracks) show a considerable improvement, and already the gardens look quite a picture. The town itself is far better than Rendsburg, while the surrounding hill-country provides an ideal "play-ground"—far different from the flat and uninteresting terrain of Schleswig-Holstein. On top of all this, facilities for the soldier's greatest pastime have been improved beyond all of our wildest dreams; that is to say we have been issued with "pukka" mattresses, pillows, and even sheets and pillow-slips.

After much bribery and corruption the Unit Education Officer, Capt. D. F. Cutts, managed to "fix up" a cinema which we hope to use for recreational purposes in the approaching winter when the transport facilities for visiting Iserlohn will be considerably harassed by climatic conditions.

The weather, since our last letter, has been extremely kind and has allowed sporting activities of every description to take place, but, of course, this statement also goes for training, and almost unceasingly a Composite Company has been at Vogelsang or Paderborn for training with various Brigades throughout B.A.O.R.

The Release Programme is still draining the Battalion of its veterans of World War II, but, fortunately, reinforcements are being welcomed on an ever-increasing scale, the last draft being as strong as two hundred and fifteen. We hope their stay with the Battalion will be of a happy and successful nature.

Major-Gen. Sir Arthur B. Dowler, K.B.E., C.B., Director of Infantry, paid the Battalion a visit on July 10.

Also at the beginning of July Lt. P. Galvin arrived from "B" Company at Warminster, bringing with him the Regimental Colours.

By the time this letter goes to press we hope to have welcomed R.S.M. Weller of the 2nd Battalion, who is coming from Palestine to take over the duties from R.S.M. McLoughlin.

It is with great regret that we have just been notified of the loss of our Second-in-command, Maj. R. W. D. Sword, M.C.

Maj. Sword has been with the Battalion since July, 1943, and has commanded the Battalion for considerable periods during the last 18 months. He has shown a very active interest in sport, and it is mainly due to the large part that he has played in this sphere that the Battalion has competed so well in sport throughout B.A.O.R. We wish him every success on his new appointment in U.K. Maj. N. G. Gilbert takes over the duties of Second-in-command from Maj. R. W. D. Sword, M.C.

"H.Q." COMPANY

The main emphasis during the past quarter has been on getting "dug into" our new quarters. As we forecast in our previous notes there has been no small amount of hard work to be done to bring our accommodation up to that high standard required of the Company. Everyone has been busily engaged on their allotted tasks in the common effort to improve the landscape of their immediate surroundings. Where there was only rough grass surrounds in our Company area but a few short weeks ago, there can now be seen well-laid-out gardens which have already provided a splash of colour to enliven Epsom Barracks. Pte. Foden, the Battalion gardener, who is a member of our Company, has worked hard and long to help produce these pleasures. Judging by the amount of vegetable seeds he has planted, the Battalion will not have to suffer white cabbage seven days a week in the growing season.

Great improvement has also been made in our living accommodation. New single type lockers, civilian pattern chairs and tables have been installed. Barrack rooms are small, the average number in a room being six, enabling them to be made very comfortable, and in addition we have a new innovation, a Company Quiet Room, complete with easy chairs and comfortable settees, where those wishing to read and play table games may do so in a bright and quieter atmosphere.

Losses by release continue, approximately 30 more of the old stalwarts departing in the three months under review. It is sad business to have to say "good-bye" to so many of those old campaigners who have served in the Company for so long and who by their long experience formed the backbone of the Company in all its spheres. Among those taking the one way train to the "White Cliffs" was Sgt. Nicholson, R.A.P. Sergeant, who will always be remembered by the many who have received that spot of iodine on the arm in preparation for the "jab." He will be greatly missed in the Company hockey and boxing teams.

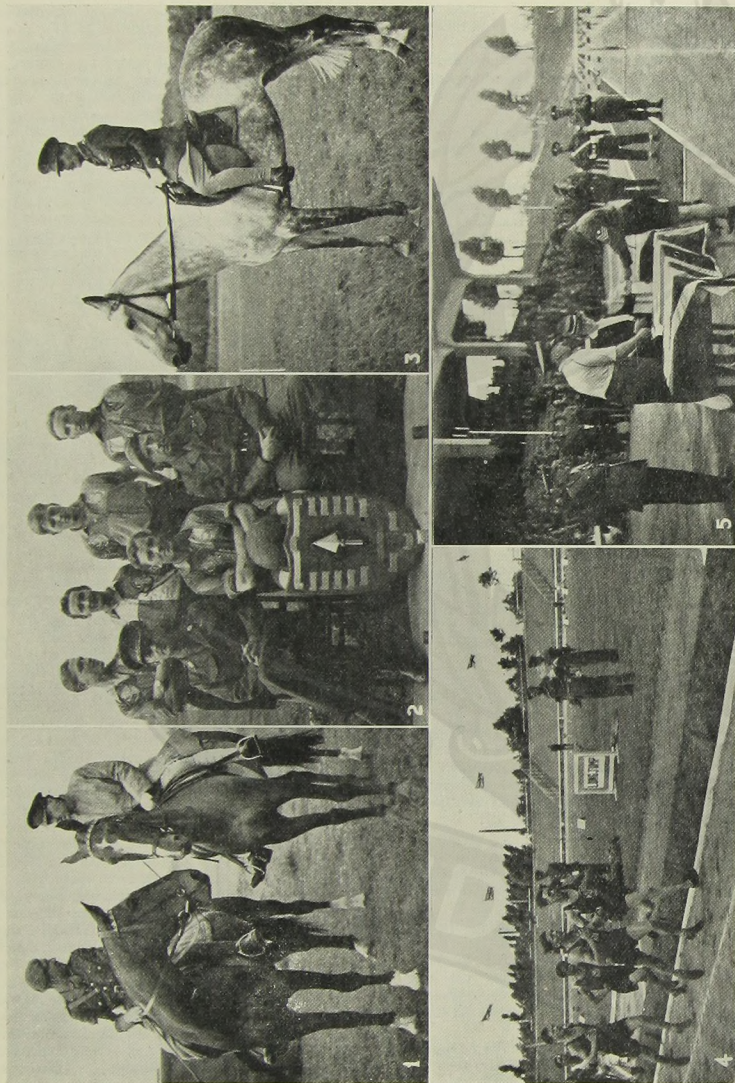
His assistant, Cpl. Beauchamp, is also included in the never-ending list of departures. He will also be a loss to the Company hockey team. Sgt. Hore, B.O.R. Ser-

geant, Cpl. Lowth, R.A.O.C., attached 1st Middlesex, who served in "H.Q." Company as N.C.O. i/c shoemakers for such a long time, Pte. Armstrong, of the Signals, and many others all departed to resume what we all hope for them is a happy, peaceful and fruitful future in Civvy Street. We wish them all the very best of luck. Postings out have deprived us of Lt. J. Giles, the Battalion M.T.O., who has gone to Hamburg to take up a supervisory appointment in connection with M.T. We wish him every success in his new venture.

Fortunately there also is a bright side to this state of flux which goes on in the Company these days. I refer to postings into the Company. Once again it is our pleasure to welcome newcomers to the Company. Lt. D. F. Cutts joined us from "C" Company to assume the duties of I.O. and E.O. We extend our warmest congratulations to him on his promotion to Captain, which rank he attained soon after arriving in the Company.

Lt. D. A. Chipp, from "A" Company, was appointed M.T.O. *vice* Lt. J. Giles, and joined us for a short while before being sent off on an M.T. Course. We wish him AX's. Lt. G. H. Shaw, after a long course at Netheravon, arrived back in the Battalion during June and was appointed W.T.O. and posted to the Company. He has already given us a definite uplift to the interest taken in shooting in the Company, and we hope that we will justify his efforts by getting a high place in the forthcoming "Albuhara" Shield Rifle Meeting, which is being held on July 23, 1947. We also welcome in Sgt. Instr. Callard, A.P.T.C., posted to the Battalion as P.T. Instructor. Although small in stature, Sgt. Instr. Callard proved himself to be a "veritable giant killer" in the sporting world, his efforts in being first man home in the mile and three miles in the Inter-Company Athletic Meeting being most commendable.

Our sporting efforts have been maintained. After winning the Inter-Company Basket Ball, we went on to reach the semi-finals of the 1 Corps Inter-Unit Championships, the Black Watch beating the Company team after a very hard-fought contest. Our success in winter sporting events infused in us a determination to keep our flag flying high up the top of the mast in the various summer sporting fixtures. After a series of eliminating events and a period of training in which all concerned put their backs into it 100 per cent., we produced a Company athletic team to compete in the "Albuhara" Shield Athletic Meeting, which proved itself to be worthy winners. Out of 14 events the placings for the team were nine firsts (with one disqualification in the 4 x 200 metres), three seconds and one fourth—a most creditable performance. Many of the team represented the Battalion in the Brigade and Divisional Championships. Cpls. Burland, Eve and Lovell, Dmr. Winsborough Munday, Pte. Fieldhouse, C.Q.M.S. Bignell and Sgt. Callard were all members of the team which won the Brigade Athletic Championship and were runners-up in the 2nd Division Championships. Unfortunately we were deprived of the services of Capt. Delaney and D/M Holdford, both having injured themselves at practice. Capt. Delaney fell heavily when his pole broke during pole vault practice, and the Drum-Major twisted his knee whilst practising



(1) Maj. A. R. Waller, M.C., and Capt. J. Shipster, D.S.O. (2) Battalion Basketball Team. (3) Maj. G. B. Ayres, Riding "Worick." (4) Battalion Three-Mile Team winning the 2 Division Inter-Unit Sports. (5) Battalion Team Captain receiving his medal from the wife of the Regional Commissioner of Westphalia.

the hammer turn. Both were hospital cases. Capt. Delaney soon got on his feet, but we were sorry to know that the Drum-Major will have to spend some weeks in hospital and will also have to undergo an operation. We wish him a full and speedy recovery.

Our wins to date in the cricket league are not surprising, as we have a large majority of the Battalion side in "H.Q." Company. In our first match, versus "C" Company, we won by a large margin. Maj. Sword and Capt. Whitehead put on 168 for the third wicket in very quick time and Dmr. J. Cullen, A.S.M. Letchford and Capt. Whitehead, three Battalion bowlers, proved far too strong for "C" Company. Against "A" Company, unfortunately deprived of the services of Lt. R. Smith, we made "A" Company bat first. They amassed only 45 runs, Capt. Whitehead and Dmr. Cullen doing the damage. We went in and were easily able to knock up the necessary runs to register another win.

We look forward to a stern tussle with "D" Company and many pleasant games throughout the season. Our congratulations go to Maj. Sword, Capt. Delaney, Capt. Whitehead, A.S.M. Letchford, Cpl. Eve and Dmr. Cullen, all members of the Battalion side who have had their successes this season. News reaches us that Lt. D. Philipps will shortly be joining the Company as I.O. and whilst pleased to see him as yet another Battalion cricketer, we assure "C" Company that we realize that what is our gain is very much their loss.

"A" COMPANY

The Diehard

Since our last report we have got well and truly settled in Browne Block, and, after much hard work, things are beginning to look quite shipshape.

Training

Most of the new drafts into the Company were untrained, and we have been very busy with M.M.G. Cadres. Much credit is due to Lt. Chipp, and to Sgts. Burgess, Luke and Anderson for their work in this connection.

Major Waller, M.C., commanded the composite company which went to Paderborn for field firing, where 3 Platoon, under Lt. Chipp, made a good name for itself.

Capt. Griffiths, M.C., took another composite company to Vogelsang, where 4 Platoon, under Lt. Collis, also did extremely well.

Release

Of the many who have drawn up "Hats, Bowler," we have only space to mention Ptes. Yeoman and Cheshire, who have done so much for the Company in the field of sports, and, also, Capt. J. O. Dare, late of "A" Company, who, after a brief spell as I.O., went to Vogelsang, and then went out on release so quickly that most of us never saw him to say "good-bye."

To all ex-"A" Company civilians we extend our very best wishes.

Large numbers have, of late, been posted to us from the Cheshires, the East Lancs, and other units, and we welcome them, and hope that they will enjoy their stay with us.

We also welcome to the Company Capt. Shipster, D.S.O., as our new Second-in-command; Lt. D. G. Fry, as our M.T.O.; Lt. R. F. Smith, as O.C. 3 Platoon; and Lt. P. R. Traxton, as O.C. 5 Platoon.

It is with great regret that we lose the services of Lt. D. A. Chipp on his appointment as Battalion M.T.O.

Sports

The "Albuhera" Shield Competition is now in full swing, and we are all out for glory on the sports field.

"A" Company came second to "H.Q." Company in the Battalion Athletic Meeting. Also, Lt. Traxton, Cpl. Salmon, L/Cpl. Niven, and Ptes. Brown, Bryan, Drench, Saffin and Stanton represented the Battalion when we won the Brigade Inter-Battalion Competition at Dortmund, and we came second to the Grenadier Guards in the 2nd Infantry Divisional Sports at Dusseldorf.

We especially congratulate Cpl. Salmon on coming fourth in the 5,000 metres when competing in the Divisional Individual Finals.

In the cricket world "A" Company beat "C" Company in the first of the "Albuhera" Matches, and lost to "H.Q." Company in the second.

We are now busily engaged in training a swimming team for the Inter-Company Swimming Knock-out.

At the moment it looks as though the "Albuhera" Shield is going to be very strongly contested for, and we are looking forward to a fierce battle.

"B" COMPANY

With the advent of the fine weather the Company set about the enormous task of renovating Sutton Veny Camp. This has been our home since our arrival in England in January. Owing to the very severe weather conditions we were not able to bring the Camp up to the usual high standard on which "B" Company prides itself. However, with the spring, came the better weather and over a period of five weeks the gardens were dug, paths improved, and white borders painted. German P.O.W.s, working under the direction of the R.E.s, have redecorated each hut, and living in this very charming part of Wiltshire became very pleasant, despite what we said about it during the cold weather.

Our demonstrations are going well, and the improved weather conditions have intensified our interests in this sphere of our activities. Our show demonstration, which depicts two M.G.s and a 4.2-in. mortar mounted (one M.M.G. mounted on a carrier and one on the ground), has earned us high praise, both from the staff of the School of Infantry and from the students.

Our show piece is the demonstration of M.M.G. and mortar where the students come right up to the gun positions. They see an M.M.G. section dug-in and a carrier-borne section firing hull down. Then they see a platoon of mortars in action and move over and study

the control of the platoon from the O.P. From a lecture given by Maj. G. O. Porter and colourful commentaries from Lt. P. W. Galvin for the M.M.G.s, and Capt. T. Tarmey for the mortars, the students are able to see and hear for themselves how machine-gun and mortar fire is controlled and its effect. The school of Infantry held a "Generals' Week" in June, which most of the Generals of the British Army attended. A special performance of the School's star demonstration, "Battalion in Attack," in which we took part, was laid on for their benefit. During this week we were honoured with the visit to Sutton Veny Camp by Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks, himself an old Middlesex officer. He addressed the assembled Company and spoke to each individually, his visit lasting one and a half hours.

Another visitor to us during this period was our own R.S.M. McLoughlin. His stay lasted three days, during which time he drilled the Company at Sutton Veny and the Detachment at Netheravon. Most important of all was the visit of our own new Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. Reid. He visited the Company before leaving England to join the Battalion. His stay was very brief, but he addressed the N.C.O.s of the Company.

Sporting activities have increased with the fine weather and we have played two good games of cricket with the 2nd Battalion Seaforths. Recently, however, we have had to curtail our sporting events as the Seaforths are busy handing over to the East Lincs.

Albuhera Day was celebrated by the whole Company at Sutton Veny Camp, and a good time was had by all. A brilliant sports programme organised by Lt. G. E. St. Clair, and side-shows organised by C.S.M. E. Pike, kept everyone busy during the morning. This was followed by a really first-class lunch laid on by our Messing Officer, Lt. K. W. Sheriff, and in the evening a grand Albuhera Dance was held in the N.A.A.F.I. Canteen, starring the 12 piece R.A.F. Band, with music in the bar by Pte. Reason on his piano accordion.

During this period the Company has suffered two very sad losses—sad in different ways. First we lost Capt. E. D. Lloyd Thomas, who left us to join the Welch Regiment. We welcome in his place Capt. P. G. V. Bellers, who is no stranger to "B" Company. Secondly, it is with deep regret that we announce the death of Pte. Clifford Colk, who fell victim to a road accident. His many friends will be grieved to hear of this tragic loss.

Recently the Company provided a party to escort the Colours from the Depot to the Battalion. Lt. P. W. Galvin, C.S.M. Pike and Sgt. Walmsley were among those who performed this pleasant duty.

The social life in the Sergeants' Mess at Sutton Veny has improved greatly as we have now as our companions "M" Battery, R.H.A., who relieved "K" Battery. Socials and dances were held in the Mess every fortnight and these found Sgt. "Mick" Buckley at his brightest as M.C. and, assisted by Sgt. Bill Mort, he succeeded in putting over a spirited performance of the Sid Field's famous "Golfing Sketch."

Demob.—yes, that is still taking a very heavy toll. No. 53 Group relieved us of Sgts. Porterfield, Kemp,

Collins, and Cpls. Brooker, Joyce and Ecott, and many others too numerous to mention. We wish them all the very best of luck.

At the time of going to press we are in the throes of moving to the School of Infantry. We are no strangers here and we shall appreciate our new quarters a good deal during the coming winter.

"C" COMPANY

General

One could write much about the activities which have occurred during the past three months, but time and space being limited—time, probably, is the most scarce thing these days as you will see later—we will not bore you with details of all our activities.

Suffice it to say, not only this Company, but as no doubt all the others will also, one of our first tasks since our arrival in the new barracks was undertaking the arduous and even formidable task of clearing up the barracks and transforming them into a place one would be proud of, as opposed to the shambles which made one shudder to think of as a home.

The task is now almost completed, the result reflecting great credit on all who have toiled to turn the barracks into a place really worth looking at and acknowledging as one's own.

Whilst all this has been progressing, much has been done to train our newly-joined members. The Battalion M.M.G.s, potential N.C.O.s and Driving Cadres have produced quite good results which, we hope, will not be wasted in the months ahead.

At the present time our main "headache" is preparing for the G.O.C.'s inspection next month. I have no doubts at all we will prove ourselves, once again, to be maintaining our very high reputation and standard of efficiency.

Personalities

We were all very sorry to lose our Company Commander, Maj. N. G. Gilbert, when he left us to take over command of "D" Company. However, in his place we welcome Maj. P. L. Crutchfield, whom we have known for nearly a year as our Company Second-in-command. We wish him every success.

We also heartily welcome Lts. Hunter, Philipps, Bailly, Swarbrick and Chalker, who have recently joined us, but who have already been taken to carry out other duties in the Battalion, namely, Lt. Philipps, who only this week has been appointed I.O.

We are also very glad to announce the promotion of the following Corporals to the rank of Sergeant: Cpls. Dorgan, Bucknill and Millross. In addition, L/Cpls. Howard and Jones to Corporal, and Pte. Hanlon to Technical Corporal, not forgetting our old storeman, Judkins, who is now also a Lance-Corporal.

To the considerable number of fellows who have now left us on their return to civil life, we say "Thank you and the very best of luck in your new jobs."

Sports

Without a doubt the main interest and concentration during the past three months has been training and preparing for the Battalion, Brigade and, finally, the Divisional Inter-Unit Athletic Championships.

"C" Company, whilst not faring quite so well as we did last year, nevertheless produced some very valuable material, especially for the track events in the Brigade and Divisional Meetings.

Our congratulations go to Sgts. Hawkesley and Bucknill, Cpl. Parkes, and Ptes. Doran, Enever, Lewis and Tickner (69), for their very valiant efforts and sporting attitude.

In the Battalion Meeting we were unfortunate in gaining third place, without a doubt falling far below the required standard in the field events. However, no one will deny the fact, without the efforts of the above N.C.O.s and men, the Battalion would not have secured second place in the 2nd Infantry Divisional Inter-Unit Championships held last month.

Cricket

Another good reason why we are very sorry to lose Lt. Philipps is because of his prowess as a cricketer. However, we will do our best, but it will be a bit hard meeting him as an opponent when we next play "H.Q." Company.

So far this season we have only won one match of three played. This was against "D" Company. Four runs decided the game and it was a very enjoyable match.

Swimming

At the moment we are training hard to raise a better team for the future—by concentrating on the younger members of the Company we hope to be in a better position than previously, when older fellows have left us in mid-stream to go on release.

Again we congratulate Lt. Philipps and Sgt. Millross for the prominent part they played as members of the Battalion team which entered for the Divisional Inter-Unit Championships.

In conclusion, we must add we have high hopes of securing not just a good place in the forthcoming "Albuhera" Shield Rifle Meeting, but of winning this event. Like all other companies we have not had the practice we should have had, owing to the very numerous commitments on hand at the present time, but we are not lacking in good shots; so "Here's hoping."

"D" COMPANY

The whole of April was spent in cleaning up the barracks and the change is remarkable. Our block, "Ingis" Block, is slowly but surely taking shape. It is a very long process, and will not be finished for at least another three months. We hope to have the new roof, and also the top floor, finished before the winter sets in. Some members of the Company are optimistic about it, but our C.Q.M.S., C/Sgt. Thom, is not very hopeful and says that the Germans are very slow. (I could not agree with him more.)

Training

No. 13 Platoon spent three weeks at Paderborn with the 4th Guards Brigade, under Capt. Leonard, and all ranks greatly distinguished themselves. No. 15 Platoon have just come back from Vogelsang, having spent four weeks training with the 5th Brigade. It was commanded by Capt. Barclay. At the moment we have just started a month's Mortar Cadre, under Lt. R. F. Smith, whom we welcome to the Company from "B" Company.

Release

We say farewell to our Company Commander, Maj. G. B. Ayre, who has gone to command No. 2 Lumber Group on the Elbe, approximately 80 miles from Celle. We wish him the best of luck in his new job, but hope he will not stay away too long. We also say farewell to Lt. de Gaye and Sec. Lt. Bodimeade, posted to 57 P.T.C., Mill Hill.

We welcome to the Company our new Company Commander, Maj. N. G. Gilbert, who has come from "C" Company.

Losses by release include Sgts. Porterfield, Wethmar, Wynveldt, Foster, Garner and Nichols, Cpls. Frankland, Drury, Marsh, Bryant and Stone, L/Cpl. Willis, and Ptes. Burgess (71), Greep, Hunt, Mellor, Kimber, Kerr, Sadler, Wager, Woodhead and Wakeford. To all of them we wish the best of luck and success in Civvy Street.

To offset the losses to the Company by demob. we have had drafts from the Cheshires, East Lincs, and Shorncliffe. We welcome, also, Sec. Lts. Bailey and Lander from the I.T.C. at Shorncliffe.

Sport

So far this season we have only played two "Albuhera" Shield matches, versus "A" Company, losing by seven wickets, and "C" Company, by four runs. On both these occasions we were without the services of Capt. St. George, Maj. Gilbert and Sgt. Raycraft. We look forward to the return matches and feel very confident in two quick victories.

CORPS OF DRUMS

We have pleasure in opening these notes by extending a warm welcome to Lt.-Col. J. G. E. Reid and we sincerely hope that his tenure of command will be a successful and happy one. We were very proud of his flattering remarks on our turnout and playing when he inspected the Corps immediately on his arrival. We will always endeavour to maintain this high standard.

On Albuhera Day the Corps beat Reveille and as a result were the recipients of many congratulatory remarks, both official and unofficial. It is doubtful if "H.Q." Company appreciated to the full the honour we paid them afterwards. The B.O.R. Staff, in particular, appeared to be rather resentful as they were removed from their beds. Unfortunately, the Orderly Room Colour Sergeant must have been forewarned, as we found his room locked and barred. Later in the day our basket ball team, consisting of L/Cpl. Doe,

Dmrs. Brown, Toplass, Vincent and Winsborough, put up a great fight in the first round of the knock-out competition, but were eventually beaten 3-0 by "A" Company Privates, the eventual winners of the competition. Whilst on the subject of this sport we wish to congratulate the Battalion basket ball team on their great achievements in the Rhine Army Competition. The plaque presented to us by the team on account of our vocal support will remain one of our most treasured possessions.

In the realm of sport the Corps has been well represented. D.M. Holdford and Dmrs. Munday and Winsborough were in the Battalion athletic team. We think Winsborough's hop, step and jump of over 41 feet in the Brigade Sports a particularly fine effort. Dmr. Cullen is an established member of the Battalion cricket side and continues to take wickets with monotonous regularity at very small cost. He has also been selected to play in the Divisional Cricket Trial.

Our sympathies go out to the Drum-Major, who has been admitted to hospital with cartilage trouble, particularly in view of the fact that his wife had only recently joined him out here. We hear it will be a lengthy job removing it, but trust he will return to the fold ere these notes appear in print. His admission was doubly unfortunate as it coincided with the receipt from U.K. of the very fine Drum-Major's mace and sash belonging to the 3rd Battalion. This has been kindly lent to us by the Colonel of the Regiment until such time as our own is manufactured and issued. We are all looking forward to the day when he appears on parade with them for the first time.

Cpl. Phillips and Dmrs. F. Cullen, Kimber, Toplass and Woodgate have all departed for civil life. We hope to hear from them in due course how the world is treating them and, in the meantime, our best wishes for success go with them. In particular will Fred Cullen be missed as he played a great part in the training of the five players. We shall also miss the N.A.A.F.I. Cowboy, surely the biggest one ever known. In their place we welcome Ptes. Butcher, Clarke, Gracey, Holland, Leat, Oakley, Wood and Woodworth. We hope their stay will be an enjoyable one.

In conclusion our congratulations appear to be due to: Cpl. Philipps on his promotion. It might be added here that he has had sole charge of the Corps since the Drum-Major's admission to hospital at the beginning of July.

L/Cpl. Doe on his appointment and both to him and L/Cpl. Aylward for having successfully withstood the rigours of the R.S.M.'s drill cadre.

J. Cullen on his marriage and having a wife who is prepared to share Flossie.

Finally, with regret we say good-bye to R.S.M. McLoughlin. He always took the keenest interest in all our activities and it is the sincere wish of all members of the Corps that he prospers in his new life.

W.O.S' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Before we commence with an account of our activities, we would like to forward our greetings to the W.O.s' and

Sergeants' Mess of the 2nd Battalion who, we are sure, are having a very trying time in the Middle East.

Outstanding amongst the events in which the Mess was primarily concerned has been the Officers' and Sergeants' Shooting Matches. In the first match, held on April 27, we beat the officers by 272 points to 202. The return match, which was held in June, again resulted in a win for the W.O.s and Sergeants, who were victors by 195 points. Outstanding scorers were R.S.M. McLoughlin and Sgt. Kendrick. The officers were entertained in the Mess after this match, and, having been beaten at darts, an officer was heard to say, "Oh, well, they can not beat us over these pints."

Albuhara Day was celebrated in the usual regimental tradition. In the morning a Basket Ball Knock-out Competition took place, but the two teams entered by the Mess left the field quite early.

At mid-day W.O.s and Sergeants were entertained at the Officers' Mess and an Officers' and Sergeants' Dance was held later. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Entertainment also generally takes place on Saturday evening in the Mess, when A.T.S. and married families are invited to a social evening. Several junior members of this Mess have played a prominent part in making these ladies welcome.

But our social meetings have not been entirely confined to indoors. The Mess has given its support to the Battalion cricket team, and on one or two occasions has turned up in force at the cricket ground in order to give encouragement to the players.

We have said good-bye to many old friends, among them being Sgts. Nichols, Nicholson, Foster, Wethmar, and Grazier, and we welcome many new members. Space does not permit our publishing the names of all members, but we hope that the names of several of the more senior members will be recognized: R.S.M. J. McLoughlin, R.Q.M.S. Strachan, C.S.M. Reece ("H.Q."), C.S.M. Pike ("B"), C.S.M. Fuller ("A"), C.S.M. Renwick ("D"), C.S.M. Webb ("C"), C.Q.M.S. Soden ("B"), C.Q.M.S. Bignell ("H.Q."), C.Q.M.S. Redpath ("C"), C.Q.M.S. Lomax ("A"), C.Q.M.S. Thom ("D"), C/Sgt. Waldron (Orderly Room).

BATTALION ATHLETICS

For reasons which will not be elaborated here, our athletic season was crammed into six short weeks. In order to save time, the companies' sports were centralised and run off over a period of four days. A week later the Inter-Company Championship took place. The result was a win for "H.Q." Company, with 67 points, the other placings being in strict alphabetical order, with 55, 48 and 36 points respectively.

Immediately after the Inter-Company Team Championship, the Individuals were held and the Battalion team and reserves were discovered. The talent was very promising indeed. We had recently received a considerable draft from our old friends and rivals, the Cheshire Regiment, and amongst them were quite a number of their athletic team which had won the B.A.O.R. Cham-



Sergeants' Mess, 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), Iserlohn, B.A.O.R. 24th July, 1947.

pionship in 1946. We settled down to training in real earnest and the enthusiasm was tremendous. We procured the services of a German Olympic trainer who, very soon, became a firm favourite with the team. Even in the very short time at his disposal he improved the team a hundred per cent. Above all, when we competed in the Brigade Sports it was evident that we were completely fit.

At the Brigade Sports we competed against the 40th Field Regiment, R.A., 2nd R.S.F., 1st R.F., 2nd Queen's and the R.H.G. We finished easy winners by a large number of points. Although our team had confidence we were more than surprised when we won every single track event. Our distance runners, S/I. Callard, Sgt. Hawkesley, Cpl. Salmon and Pte. Doran ran magnificently and actually dead-headed for the first place in the 5,000 metres team race. It would be unfair to mention individuals since the whole team did so well.

Three days later, at Dusseldorf, we competed in the divisional finals. Our opponents, this time, were the 2nd Grenadier Guards, 1st R.W.F., 2nd Division R.E. Regiment, 1st Gordons and the R.H.G. After a very thrilling match the Grenadier Guards beat us into second place. They certainly have a wonderful team and we all hope that they win the B.A.O.R. finals at Hannover in August.

We entered quite a number of our athletes for the Divisional Individual Championships. Cpl. Lovell distinguished himself by breaking the B.A.O.R. pole vault record, clearing 9 ft. 9 in. S/I. Callard, Pte. Stanton and Cpl. Hall gained second place in the 5,000 metres, javelin, and 400 metres respectively. We wish them the very best of luck in the Army finals next month.

It is sad to think that the majority of this grand team will have left the Army before next season, but we feel certain that their distinguished performances this year will inspire our younger soldiers to emulate them next year.

CRICKET

We have started the season well, having won nine of the eleven matches played to date, and lost two. The disbandment of H.Q., 1st Corps was a blessing as we were able to obtain their ground which, although not in any way comparable to the race oval, is a treasure in this cricket-less country. We have managed to get the grass cut and a square rolled in the middle, but matting is still essential. Well situated next to the Iserlohn Officers' Club, the ground has the air of a cricket festival when our two marquees are set up in an enclosure.

The side itself is most enthusiastic and, if murmurs have been heard to the effect that the captain wishes to run the side on a Lancashire League basis, it is to all but a very few of us more desirable than to run it on a happy-go-lucky one.

We admit to a grave shortage of bowling, aggravated by the absence of Sgt. Raycraft in hospital since our first match. Pte Cullen, with his left-hand medium-paced bowling, has been a brilliant mainstay, taking "so far" 62 wickets at the cost of only five runs apiece. Capt. Whitehead, our captain, slings the ball down the slope with very varying degrees of accuracy, often obtaining an early wicket and being comparatively inexpensive. Our third bowler is the A.S.M., A.S.M. Letchford, who bowls his slow breaks in determined fashion; occasionally he is expensive when bowling up the hill, when the boundaries in front are short. He bowled brilliantly down against 2 G.G., on July 12, taking five for 30.

Our batting is strong, letting us down only once against 14/20 Hussars, when we could only amass 9 runs to their 14. We bat down to No. 10 and the captain is finding great difficulty in finding the most suitable order.

Capt. St. George has shown us how really well he can bat, if concentrating sufficiently at the Club, an innings. Cpl. Eve, Lt. Philipps, Capt.

Whitehead, Lt. Smith, Maj. Sword, Maj. Gilbert, Capt. Delaney and Pte. Rees have all made runs and we are sorry to be so shortly saying farewell to Pte. Rees.

The fielding leaves a little to be desired, even accounting for the "bumps." Capt. Whitehead, at "mid-off," and Lt. Philipps, at "cover," have somehow mastered these and set a high standard. Too many catches have gone on to the carpet and we hope for an improvement in this department.

Colours have been awarded, so far, to Capt. Whitehead, A.S.M. Letchford, Lt. Philipps, Pte. Cullen, Cpl. Eve, Maj. Sword, Capt. St. George and Pte. Rees, and we look forward to the arrival of the maroon caps to help complete a real picture.

We have had a lot of fun so far, although always taking the games seriously, and Maj. Sword's catch at third man (and, dare we say, a blow on the head from the 2nd Grenadier Guards fast bowler) have been the subject of many stories.

Our thanks go out to 2nd Grenadier Guards, R.H.G., and 1420 Hussars for grand all-day matches which we shall all remember for a long time.

The 2nd Division Knock-out has "just" started and we won our first round match on July 13, beating the Provost by 120 runs. Capt. Whitehead (83) and Maj. Sword (60) made light of some very weak bowling and Pte. Cullen shot the Police out for 33. We hope to be one of the teams in the final at Hilden on August 31.

BASKET BALL

To start cricket in a big way in the American Army would be a very big undertaking and it has been no easy job to start basket ball in the British Army. After the ignorant murmurs and odd comments about "girls' games," the Battalion side were a little hurt to find, after reaching the semi-final of the Divisional Competition, that the basket ball notes had been turned down by the Editor of THE DIE-HARDS as there was no room for them. We are certain that the Battalion, at any rate, from the support they have given us, feel that we are now worthy of inclusion in these notes. A walk-over in the semi-final took us into the final against the much-vaunted R.H.G. Many of us were in doubt as to the result until the game started, when our side lived up to the reputation it had acquired by a great 24-12 victory. This victory led us to Bielefeld, to play in the 1st Corps finals against 13/18 Hussars of 5th Division and 105th Refit Group of 7th Division. Both these sides were easily defeated and the 1st Corps shield was ours. Our side had tremendous support, although playing 50 miles away. The Adjutant was there, with "his" Drums, giving loud and enthusiastic support. Maj. Sword was there, and it was grand to welcome Col. Reid, who had been in the Battalion for less than 24 hours.

The next day we met the Belgian Army team in the B.A.O.R. final and, here, the lack of knowledge of the rules of the game in the British Army undoubtedly lost us the match. Let us have no excuses. We were not allowed, throughout the competition, to use substitutes. We played with a soccer ball. In the final we were forced to use a basket ball, twice the weight and size,

and we found the Belgians, with 10 men, switching over throughout the game. It was astonishing to find ourselves with a good lead half-way through the second half, but the pace was telling and we had no trained substitutes. In spite of a great fight we were narrowly beaten 21-18.

The blow was softened by the news that we would represent the B.A.O.R. in the Army finals at Aldershot on September 30-October 1. Col. Reid immediately demanded a first-class coach and, on July 12, Maj. J. Hows, of the U.S.A.A.F., arrived for a ten-days' stay. We are most grateful and assure him he is most welcome. His enthusiasm and skill have already still further imbued our team with a determination to win and we say again, as Capt. Delaney, our captain, said throughout the competition, that "it will be a good team that beats us."

Maj. How's visit has shown us how little we know of the finer points of the game. Throughout the competition we met teams who knew these points better than us and spectators were amazed at our continued successes. The team itself is convinced that its success was largely due to the team spirit, which was most evident when we had a "celebration tea" in the N.A.A.F.I. We combined with this celebration the painful duties of saying good-bye to Pte. Yeoman, our incomparable inside-right, and we did so with very heavy hearts. Capt. Whitehead, the O.C. basket ball, in a short speech, thanked the team for their whole-hearted support on and off the field, and particularly thanked Capt. L. J. Delaney for his brilliant captaincy throughout the competition.

The following represented the Battalion throughout the Rhine Army Competition: Capt. Whitehead (R.B.), Pte. Perry (76) (L.B.), Pte. Yeoman (I.R.), Capt. Delaney (F.), Ptes. Wilson and Cope (I.L.); Reserves—Ptes. Cook and Warner.

We wish the team a pleasant and successful visit to England in September. We shall all eagerly await the result.

HOCKEY NOTES

As the movement of the Battalion to Iserlohn more or less coincided with the end of the hockey season, only one match has been played in our present location. This was in the 2nd Division Inter-Unit Knock-out Competition against the 1st Cheshires, at Krefeld, in April. As a result of the move and of bad weather, we had been unable to have much practice before the game, and this possibly accounts for our lack of form. We also missed our inside-right, Sgt. Pople, and we, as a result, lacked co-ordination. Although we scored first, through Capt. Delaney, we could not hold this lead, and, after a really good game, were beaten 3-1 by the eventual winners of the B.A.O.R. final. It was a pity we met them so soon.

Our prospects next season are pretty good. Of the regular team only Capt. Barclay will have left before the season starts. Capt. Cummins and Delaney and Cpl. Eve are due to leave during the season, but of the remainder Maj. Porter and Capt. Bellers will be at Wat-

minster with "B" Company. The others, A.S.M. Letchford, C/Sgt. Waldron, D.M. Holdford, Sgt. Pople, and Pte. Doe, will all be with the Battalion.

Our team, therefore, should be good. We did hope to win the B.A.O.R. final last season. Let us hope that we shall achieve our ambition to win it in 1947-48.

SWIMMING NOTES

This season has been an enjoyable one, even although the team has not had any glorious successes. We were fortunate in having the Iserlohn indoor bath at our disposal. We started training early, and we trained hard, but we were always faced with the seemingly insoluble problem of getting the whole team on training at one time.

The Brigade Championship was cancelled as a result of various commitments at Vogelsang; and thus we went through automatically, together with the Royal Horse Guards, to the Divisional Championships at Dusseldorf Stadium. Nine teams were entered originally, but three scratched on the day. The weather was glorious, and after a most enjoyable day's swimming the Battalion gained fifth place.

The Individual Championships were held on the next day. D.M. Holdford must be congratulated on winning the diving; he has been awarded Battalion Colours, and we all wish him the best of luck in the B.A.O.R. finals. S/I. Callard must also be congratulated on gaining third place in the marathon 1,500 metres free-style event.

Finally, our thanks are due to Mr. D. A. Chipp for his invaluable assistance as non-swimming captain.

WATER POLO

This season the Battalion produced a very useful water polo team which, given more opportunity for intensive training and team work, might well have achieved success at Dusseldorf. We played a more or less friendly match against the Royal Horse Guards in the Brigade Championship (both teams were to go through to Division whatever the result) which we won by three goals to one. In the Divisional Championship we were beaten in the second round by the Royal Welch Fusiliers, the eventual winners of both the water polo and the swimming.

SQUASH

In February Capt. St. George entered for the B.A.O.R. Squash Championship at Hannover, losing in the first round. In the B.A.O.R. Plate he did very much better, being beaten in the semi-final by the winner, Lt. J. R. Greenwood, by three games to one (9-7, 4-9, 9-7, 9-7).

THE LATE MR. HAZELTON

Mrs. B. Hazelton of High Street, Blockley, Glos., lost her husband recently. He died as a result of a motor cycle accident in the late war. She would like to hear from any of his friends who may see this announcement. The late Mr. Hazelton served in the 2nd Battalion in the early part of the war.

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

The Battalion is once again united, except for one company which is permanently on detachment at Lydda, guarding the important railway junction. Life in our new camp at Kefar Vitkin is infinitely better than when the companies were on detachment in the Sarafand Area, although we still have our now proverbial "heavy commitments."

Recently we lost a large number of stalwarts—Majs. C. N. Clayden and R. E. Orr, M.C., R.S.M. Weller, and many more senior N.C.O.s. They left on completion of their Python tour and we were all sorry to see them go.

A welcome addition to the strength of the Battalion is a Padre. The Rev. H. Wyndham Lewis, R.A.C.H.D., has already done much good work here, including the leading of two religious tours to places of Biblical interest.

Capt. J. T. Stanyer is now in command of "B" Company and Maj. R. D. Hutchings has taken over the duties of Adjutant.

As we write these notes the Battalion is once again on operational duty. We were called out literally at a moment's notice on July 12, to cordon off the Nathanya area in an effort to find two kidnapped British sergeants. We have come to expect this sort of thing as a part of our routine, and all ranks accept it cheerfully in spite of somewhat trying conditions.

"H.Q." COMPANY

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new..." As in the rest of the Battalion this has been sadly true, for we have lost most of our "old hands" on Python. R.S.M. Weller, C.S.M. Hammond, C/Sgt. Selfe, Sgt. Knowles, L/Cpl. Taylor, Ptes. Munday, Gray (88) and Overton have all left us, not to mention the never-ending stream of releases—too numerous to quote by name. We send them our best wishes and apologise for not immortalising them in these pages.

To breach the gap thus made, we have had a few replacements, a very few, however. Last week heralded the arrival of some "old Regulars" of the Regiment—Cpl. Walters, L/Cpl. O'Donnell, Ptes. Nash, Flanagan and Swatton—to whom we send a hearty welcome, as we do to all other new members of the Company.

Company activities have not been numerous, due to the amount of work required to get our new camp shape, not to mention the heavy guard duties. We have been able to enjoy a certain amount of sports, however, and the Company were the runners-up in the inter-platoon basket ball knock-out. Our pillar of strength in this respect, C.S.M. Hammond, left before the semi-final, but the torch was ably carried by the rest of the team. We did not do so well in the cricket, all four of our teams being knocked out fairly early in the proceedings. Swimming has been a great stand-by and a large number of the Company can be seen bobbing about in the waves every afternoon.

The Drums, under the able direction of Sgt. Woolcott and Cpl. Horn, have won their spurs, and have become a familiar sight at guard mounting, retreat and tattoo. In passing, congratulations to Sgt. Woolcott on his third



12 Platoon, "D" Company, in action.



EXERCISE "OBLITERATION." "AMONG THE OLIVE TREES."
Left to right—The Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. F. Walden, Capt. D. A. Hawkins, Maj. R. D. Hutchings,
Lt. J. Scrivener.

stripe. Undoubtedly the *piece de resistance* was the route march, when the Drums led the rest of the Battalion for 14 miles on a June morning, blowing and beating with all their will, and none the worse for wear.

The Signals and M.T. departments have been carrying on with their work quickly and are running cadres, which we hope will eventually help out the manpower situation. The Education Centre is now running smoothly and is a hive of activity at the oddest times of the day and night.

All in all, the Company has done very well during a rather difficult period, and, although local leave does not come round as often as one would wish, everybody remains cheerful and ready for all eventualities.

"A" COMPANY

This first article on the newly re-formed "A" Company must of necessity be rather short, as the time which should have been devoted to sports, guards and the normal duties of a company's everyday life has been spent purely and simply in getting the Company running. This, under the able direction of Maj. V. A. Thomas, M.C., has been easier than was at first expected. The reason being that a large percentage of the present Company consists of old "A" Company personnel who served with the Company on its last Palestine tour of duty and who know all the questions and most of the answers.

At the moment we are awaiting reinforcements to make the Company up to strength. We have not had a great deal of luck in the recent Battalion sporting events, but our lack of success has not been for want of trying, but rather because of our small numbers. Nevertheless, although the Company has not achieved wonders, we are all confident that the future will see us with a record unexcelled.

"B" COMPANY

Since the last issue of THE DIE-HARDS the Company has left Tel Litwinsky, where they were on detachment, and rejoined the Battalion.

Our camp is ideally situated on high ground, overlooking the Mediterranean. Most of the Company are billeted in huts in which electric light has been installed—a pleasant change from the usual Army tents.

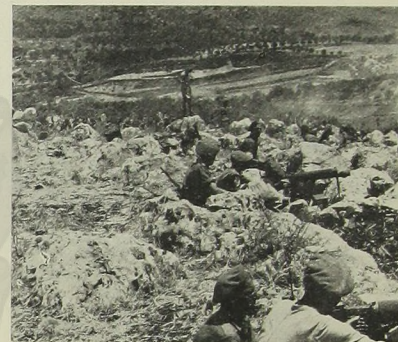
All platoons won through the first round in the platoon basket ball knock-out competition. In the cricket competition 4 and 5 Platoons still remain. The Company is fortunate in having four 1st XI cricketers—Cpls. French and Brown, Ptes. Hayto and Foley. Pte. Hayto has done extremely well this season and has played for the Brigade.

Release has robbed us of many familiar faces, some of them being: 51 Group, Capt. G. W. Opperman, L/Cpl. Connor, Ptes. Anderson, Little and Pither; 52 Group, Cpls. Day and Liney, Ptes. Dunn, Gibert, Lavender and Munro; 53 Group, Cpl. Tilling, Ptes. George, Spriggs, Whittingham and Harvey; 54 Group, Cpl. Baldry, Ptes. Brown and Nichols.

By the time this goes to print the Company will be on detachment at Lydda, in relief of "D" Company, and will be commanded by Capt. J. T. Stanyer vice Capt. J. L. Gray, M.C., who is leaving the Battalion to

take up a post in the Arab Legion. We wish him the best of luck in his new life and feel sure that he will never forget "B" Company of the 2nd Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).

Last month saw the departure of Lt. D. J. Kimbley and Lt. R. J. Avery. Among a large number of reinforcements we welcome Lt. D. N. Williams. On June 17 C/Sgt. Freshwater, Sgts. Jones, Thompson, French, M.M., Finnis, Watson, and L/Sgt. Jacobson left us on completion of their Python tour.



EXERCISE "OBLITERATION" AT ACRE

No. 1 Section in foreground—No. 1 Cpl. Stubbs, No. 2 Pte. Ainsworth. No. 2 Section—No. 1 Cpl. Baldock, No. 2 Pte. Andrew. Section Commander, Sgt. Millington. Capt. Gray standing in background.

"C" COMPANY

Since our last Journal notes, the Company has successfully carried out its first commitment in Palestine, that of guarding a certain railway line. The work was not easy, but it was a change from life in Egypt.

Albuhera Day was a great success even though we were still on detachment at the time. Each platoon built one or two stalls on the car park and produced a miniature fair ground.

On arrival at Kefar Vitkin, it was to many of the Company their first sight of the Battalion together. We soon settled down and took an energetic part in all Battalion activities. As with "H.Q." Company, swimming was the order of the day until organised sports came into being.

Cricket is well under way and it is with great confidence that we face the Company knock-out competition. Cpl. Kay and Pte. Streatfield are no doubt looking forward to the football season and, needless to say, we expect great wonders from them during next winter. There are also a few "dark horses" in the Company, but we are biding our time before mentioning their names.

We welcome Lt. West to the Company and trust that he will enjoy his stay with us. As to departures,



"PADRE'S TOUR." TAKEN ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES.

Left to right (back row)—L. Cpl. Holley, Pte. Drew, Pte. Humphrey, Cpl. Smith, Rev. R. E. Price, Cpl. Moore, Capt. Skinner, Pte. Smart, Pte. Ryan. Left to right (front row)—Pte. Mankelov, L. Cpl. Hawkins, Pte. Allen, Pte. Gonzalez, Pte. Beton, Cpl. Jenkins, Pte. Bunyan, Pte. Wilson.



The "Demo" Platoon at Nathanya.

52 and 53 Groups have left and with them went two of the Battalion's ace motor-cyclists, Ptes. Columbus and Hampton, whilst in the sporting sphere we will no doubt feel the loss of Pte. Tedder, who has run many brilliant races for the Company and Battalion.

By the time these notes are published, we will have bid adieu to C.S.M. du Heaume, Sgts. Pell and Webb, who have completed their Python tour. We wish them the very best of luck wherever they go, and to their replacements the Company say "Welcome and happy days."

"D" COMPANY

As mentioned in our last Journal notes, "D" Company has been on detachment at Lydda. Our stay was from March until the end of June, 1947. The primary role of the Company was guarding the railway station and certain areas of the line. On June 21 we were relieved by "B" Company and rejoined the Battalion at its new location.

After over a year's wait, a platoon of the Company has been able to fire its mortars. 12 Platoon, commanded by Capt. D. A. Hawkins, with Lt. A. Witterick acting as Second-in-command, accompanied by Sgts. Swift, Maclaren, and Turner, took part in "Exercise Obliteration" given by the Royal Artillery of the 1st Division, on June 3, at Acre. This exercise was attended by Gen. Cunningham and many high ranking officers of the British and Turkish Armies.

We send congratulations to the following on their promotion: Capt. D. A. Hawkins, Capt. A. J. E. Burnett, Sgts. Swift, Maclaren, Hubbard and Rainford, and the numerous corporals and Lance-Corporals.

Capt. D. A. Hawkins is now in command of the Company with Capt. A. J. E. Burnett as Second-in-command. Sgt. Sharp is A.C.S.M. and Sgt. Rainford is A.C.Q.M.S. Amongst the numerous officers that the Company has lost is Lt. T. Warr. He was transferred to "A" Company with a large number of the Company to help re-form it.

Sports within the Company have suffered considerably during the last few months, owing to the heavy commitments. However, we managed to play two games of football with the Palestine Police, both of which we won.

As with other companies, demobilisation and Python have taken great toll of late, and we have lost quite a few of the "old" Company—Capt. J. P. Jarrett, C.S.M. Murphy, C/Sgt. Taylor, Sgts. Phillips, Faber, Turner, Waterfield and Ross, L/Cpls. Hughes, Ptes. Bowery, Dewick, Scott and Parsons.

SPORTS NOTES

Throughout April and May the Battalion was able to do little in the way of sport, due to the Companies being on detachment. Towards the end of this period the Battalion moved to its new location.

On arrival at Kefar Vitkin every effort was made to resume sports within the Battalion. Facilities already in existence at the new location were negligible; the ground was in a deplorable condition, but it was not long before first-class basket ball and cricket pitches had been built.

A Central Sports Committee has now been formed. Maj. C. N. Clayden was elected President and Maj. R. E. Orr, M.C., was appointed Secretary. Officers were appointed in charge of each game or activity and the system of champion company was reinstituted.

The first competition for the championship, which was inter-platoon basket ball, was won by 8 Platoon, "C" Company, beating "H.Q." Company, H.Q. by 8 points to 2. The final placings towards the champion company were:

"B" Company	..	..	..	5	points
"H.Q." Company	..	..	..	3	"
"C" Company	..	..	..	3	"
"D" Company	..	..	..	2	"
"A" Company	..	..	..	1	"

The Battalion is now running an Inter-Platoon Basket Ball League, also an Inter-Platoon Cricket Knock-out.

At cricket the Battalion has also been doing well, although the games have all been friendly. A full list of the games played and results is as follows:

1st XI v. 4/7 Dragon Guards	..	Won by 50 runs
v. 1 K.O.S.B.	..	Won by 70 runs
v. 1 K.O.S.B.	..	Won by an innings and 48 runs
v. 20 A.Tk. Regiment	..	Won by 80 runs
v. 20 A.Tk. Regiment	..	Won by 6 wickets (2 innings)
v. 1st Suffolk Regiment	..	Won by 4 wickets (2 innings)
v. 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers	..	Won by 1 run
v. 2nd Royal Lincolns	..	Lost by 3 wickets
v. 3 Brigade	..	Won by 30 runs
2nd XI v. 2nd Battalion Lincolns	..	Won by 40 runs
v. 2nd Battalion Lincolns	..	Won by 58 runs
v. 1st Battalion Suffolks	..	Won by 80 runs

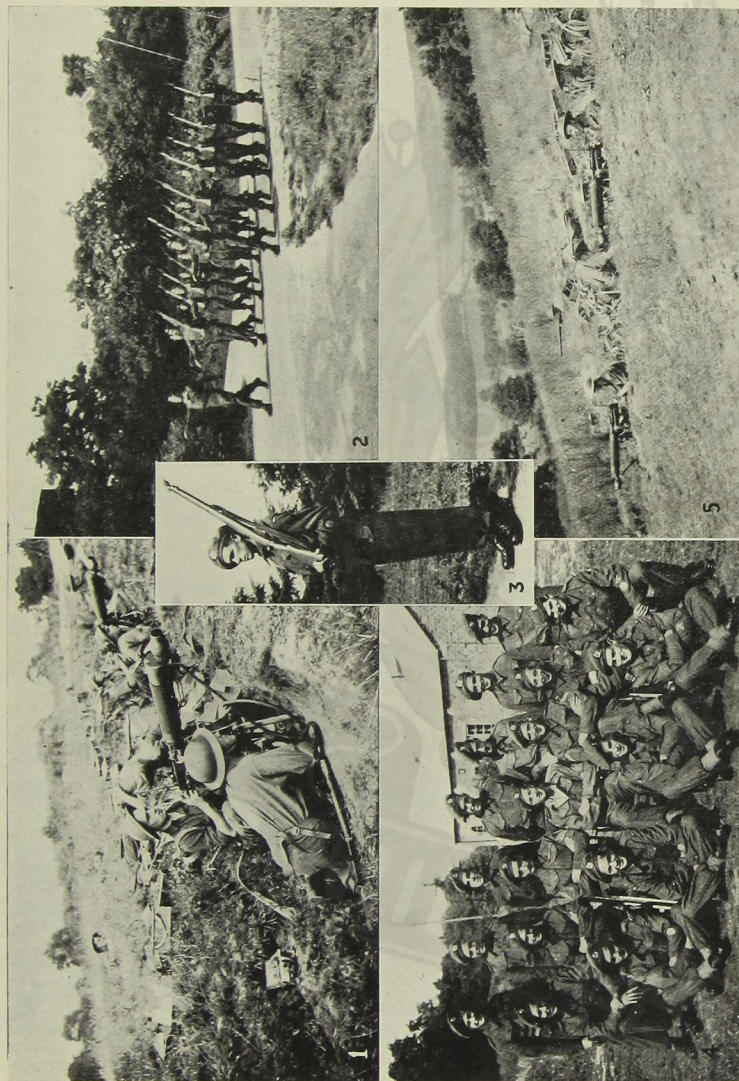
Last, but not least, the Battalion Tennis Club is now in full swing under Lt. A. Witterick, and we hope to be able to produce a good team for the Division Tennis Competition.

MACHINE-GUN WING (THE MIDDLESEX REGT.) H.C., I.T.C.

This quarter has been an extremely busy one for the Machine-Gun Wing. Intakes have been maintained at full strength. In addition to the normal monthly output from P.T.C.s we have been receiving a quota from both the 28th and 30th Training Battalions. These additional intakes have stretched our instructional staff to its utmost capacity.

During the quarter three Platoons (Albuhera, Mons and Ypres) have passed out. Ceremonial passing-out parades were held in each instance. The standard of drill and turn-out on each of these parades has been extremely high and is a credit to all concerned.

During the school holidays Army Cadet Camps have been established all over the country. The calls on this Wing to provide demonstration teams in both machine-gun and mortar has been very heavy. Teams have been attached to cadet camps at Colchester, Southwold and Walton-on-Naize and in addition teams in both weapons have been sent out from Crowborough to cadet camps at West Camp, Stanmore Park, Brighton, and Denton Camp, Newhaven. A demonstration column from the Royal Artillery, R.A.O.C. and R.E.M.E. have been



(1) Albuhera "Battle of V.T. Ridge" (2) Albuhera "Marching" (3) E. Bacon; Best recruit of his intake "Albuhera" (4) Albuhera "Group" (5) Albuhera "Battle of V.T. Ridge"

attached to this Wing during July and August to assist at these cadet camps.

During September we are providing a demonstration team for the Eastern Command Recruiting Draft. We hope that many men may be encouraged to join the Regiment as regular soldiers as a result of this draft.

In the near future we are losing some of our senior N.C.O.s to the 2nd Battalion. So far Sgts. Hyde, Burrell, Hobson, Barron, and Thrower are under orders. We wish them luck and many of us envy them their opportunity of getting back to service with one of our regular Battalions. Replacements for these N.C.O.s are due to join the Wing from the 2nd Battalion—we take this opportunity of extending a hearty welcome to them on joining the Wing and hope their stay will be a pleasant one.

MONS PLATOON

During the nine weeks of machine-gun training the Platoon has been very lucky in that it has only rained for one day—truly a miracle in our fickle English climate. All training has been done out of doors and when the members eventually reach Battalions of the Regiment no doubt they will already be reasonably bronzed. The training of the Platoon has proceeded fairly uneventfully and, although not outstanding in any way, has reached a fairly high standard of training consistent with the outputs from this Wing.

The Passing-Out Parade, however, was a truly great occasion and was taken by Lt.-Col. Green, who came up from Netheravon for the occasion. The Platoon was complimented on both its turn-out and its standard of drill.

During the first week of continuation training a 24-hour exercise was held. The scheme started with a trip to the sea and a very pleasant bathe. From there we advanced inland, occupying various positions and carrying out various tactical operations, finishing up with a long-carry of some miles. The night was very warm and although most of the time was spent in digging and being harassed by infantry patrols under the able leadership of Lt. D. Ferguson and the guidance of Capt. J. Bywaters, the whole Platoon thoroughly enjoyed the exercise.

The Platoon has now split up and already six men are on their way to the 1st Battalion. Others will follow in due course, as drafts are detailed.

YPRES PLATOON

During the past quarter, Ypres has progressed its way through carrier and 4.2 mortar training with great success. Quite recently the Platoon spent a few days at Netheravon and put up a jolly good show. In fact, so accurate were the bombs falling on the target area that the N.C.O.s were heard to remark that one would imagine the school demonstration platoon were firing and not a corps training platoon.

Our heartiest congratulations go to Pte. Lyon who was presented with the "Best Recruit" Medal by Maj. Guy from Shorncliffe. Also to Ptes. Brooker, Casey, Ede, Cooper, Penn, Crunden, Burgess, Clayton and Lyon for passing the skill at arms test, which wins for them a layer's badge.

CAMBRAI PLATOON

Cambrai, now in their fourth week of machine-gun training, are progressing very well. Their main objective at the moment is to win for this Wing the Machine-Gun Cup for which they are practising very hard. It is a mixed Platoon consisting of lads from all parts of England, but they all pull together and when they eventually pass-out will be a credit to the Wing. Some first-class machine-gunners will definitely appear before we have finished and with the present keenness and spirit the medal competition will be hard to judge. Once again Sgt. Bartle and his team of N.C.O.s are engaged in knocking off the rough edges and polishing up the finished article in readiness for another passing-out parade. The Machine-Gun Cup teams, under Cpls. Epps, Woodage and Bishop, now literally live and sleep with the Vickers, and no matter what the eventual result of the competition may be, Cambrai Platoon will most certainly have done their best to win this coveted trophy.

NORMANDY PLATOON

This Platoon came into being early in July when the first seven men arrived at Warren Camp. Whilst waiting for the remainder of the intake the Platoon, if it could be called that at that stage, was directed to construct an assault course. This the Platoon did with admirable results, showing much ingenuity and an eye for any existing mud patches. Of the 26 men expected from the 28 Training Battalion only four arrived in the second batch and, reluctantly, Normandy started training only eleven strong. Surely the smallest Platoon in the history of the Machine-Gun Wing, or even the old 26 M.G.T.C.! At present the Platoon is learning to drive carriers, at which they are showing much progress.

ALBUHERA 1 PLATOON

At present there are only 12 men of this Platoon still at Warren Camp, the remainder having been drafted at the end of June. As a Platoon they reached a very high standard of training and turn-out, and the 12 still with us have for several weeks now been passing on to the cadets of East Anglia District the mysteries of the Vickers Machine-Gun and the 4.2 Mortar. Three parties set out for cadet camps under L/Cpls. Bacon, Goodman and John, who gained their promotion in July. Fortune smiled on them by producing a really warm English summer and we are sure that the experience gained at these camps will be of extreme value during their future service. L/Cpl. Bacon, as the best recruit in the Platoon, received from Maj. I. F. Campbell, M.C., the "Best Recruit" Medal on the Passing-Out Parade. He was a worthy winner, although he was hotly pursued in the competition by both Goodman and John. The standard the Platoon reached would never have been attained without the invaluable aid of Sgt. Bartle and his N.C.O.s who were always ready to help and guide at the right moment.

Wherever the lads are now, and wherever they go in the future, the word "Albuhera" should be sufficient to remind them of the days spent at Warren Camp and

to encourage them to give of that little extra effort as given years ago by those members of the Regiment who earned for us that immortal name.

ALBUHERA 2 PLATOON

This Platoon has just completed its first three weeks of infantry training and are already proving themselves worthy successors to Albuhera 1 Platoon. They excelled themselves on a night infantry patrol against the senior platoon and succeeded in taking a prisoner. The Platoon are still wondering how Pte. Siney, whose height is 6 ft. 5 in., managed to remain unobserved during the exercise. More will be heard from this Platoon in the next quarter's issue.

M.T. SECTION

This quarter has been an uneventful one for the M.T. generally. Since our last issue Lt. Butterfield has received his third "pip" and we offer him congratulations on his well-deserved promotion. We are sorry to say we are losing several of our senior N.C.O.s in the very near future—Sgts. Morgan, Baron and Hobson are going out to join the 2nd Battalion, and Sgt. Dawkes to civilian life. With them all we send our best wishes for the future and hope it will not be long before we are able to meet again.

D. and M. training continues steadily and with constant intakes arriving in the Wing all carrier instructors are kept very busy with very little break between cadres. We have great difficulty in keeping our carriers on the road, but with a certain amount of re-organisation within sections sufficient vehicles are usually found to meet our training commitments. The M.T. Section are all looking extremely fit and brown owing to the grand weather of the last three months—may it continue during the holiday season.

SPORTS

Cricket

It happened at the beginning of July that news of the cricket season arrived at Crowborough—due to the fact that we have no ground upon which to play this ancient English game. Soon after, from an obscure part of the camp, came the sound of pick, shovel and rowler. It was rumoured that a pitch and nets were under construction.

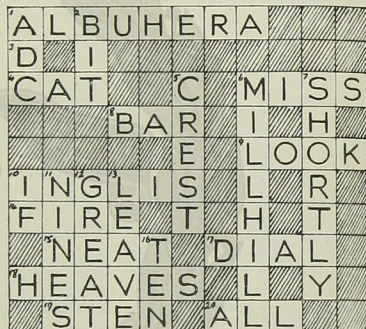
This rumour, unlike many others, proved to be well founded and very soon a practice was commenced. After practising for a while on this somewhat Heath-Robinson and unpredictable wicket a team to represent the Wing was selected.

The first match fell on July 16 and it must have been with some trepidation that Bywaters sallied forth with his team against the renowned 163 O.C.T.U. The result of this match was distinctly encouraging and augured well for future games. A list of matches and results are appended.

- v. 163 O.C.T.U.—lost by two wickets. (Pte. Manser 24, Pte. Haylor 5 for 13.)
- v. Hartfield C.C.—won by three runs. (Cpl. Smith 8 for 20.)

- v. Maresfield C.C.—won by eight runs. (Pte. Manser 33, Pte. Haylor 5 for 19.)
- v. Hartfield C.C.—lost by 13 runs. (Lt. Legge 36 and 3 for 11.)
- v. Frant C.C.—match drawn. (Cpl. Newton 21, Cpl. Jones 20.)
- v. 163 O.C.T.U.—lost by 14 runs. (Pte. Haylor 23 not out, Lt. Armstrong 5 for 28.)

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 1



Scene : The Editor's Office at Mill Hill.

Actors : Editor and Assistant Editor.

Editor : "I cannot think what has happened. We have not received a single complaint about the June number. I cannot believe all our readers received their Journal safely!"

Assistant Editor : "Well, nobody has written in."

Editor : "That does not necessarily mean there are no complaints. I wish they would write to me about them. It is curious also that so few of our readers correspond with us. They must want to sometimes. If we knew what they wanted we might be able to supply their needs."

Assistant Editor : "Perhaps everyone is satisfied."

Editor : "That I do not believe. If they were we should have a higher circulation."

Assistant Editor : "Why not ask them in the next number?"

Editor : "Excellent idea. I will."

Assistant Editor : "It will mean extra work of course."

Editor : "Never mind, we have got a new type-writer and filing cabinet, and we may as well use them."