

The Die 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.
 "Mysore," "Serangapatam," "Alubera," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Paninsular,"
 "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1900-02."
 The Great War—46 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marnes, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "La Bassée, 1914,"
 "Messines, 1914," "Ypres, 1915," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg,"
 "Bellewaarde," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "Albert, 1916," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood,"
 "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Flers-Courcette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "Bapaume,"
 "1917," "Arras, 1917," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "Arleux," "Pillcote," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road,"
 "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre,"
 "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrouck," "Bailloul," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Windenburg 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," "Landings at Suva," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915,"
 "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18,"
 "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murmur, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

Regular and Militia Battalions.

1st Bn. (57th Foot). 2nd Bn. (77th Foot).
 5th Bn. (Royal Elthorne Militia).
 6th Bn. (Royal East Middlesex Militia).
 Depot—Mill Hill. Records Office, Infantry Records, Warwick.
 Pay Office—Old Infantry Barracks, Canterbury.

Territorial Army Battalions

1/7th Bn. 2/7th Bn. 3th Bn. 30th Bn.
 1st Bn. 505 L.A.A., R.A., T.A.
 9th 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 Tararaki Regiment. New Plymouth.

Colonels of the Regiment:

Colonel M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P.

Officer Commanding Depot:

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

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
EDITORIAL	93	LETTER FROM THE ROYAL HOSPITAL	93
REGIMENTAL FIXTURES FOR 1948	98	THE LAND SETTLEMENT ASSOCIATION	103
MEDALS	98	NOTES FROM THE BATTALIONS	105
THE LATE COL. E. R. P. BOILEAU, C.B., C.B.E., C.I.E.	98	LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR	120
OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES	98	MR. J. GIBBONS	120
REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION NOTES	99	ROYAL MILITARY MEMORIAL CHAPEL, SANDHURST	120
O.C. GATHERING AT INGLIS BARRACKS	100	MIDDLESEX REGIMENT IN THE DEFENCE OF HONG KONG	120
DOCAI CELEBRATES	100	RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD SOLDIER—PART IV	125
WAR MEMORIAL	102	SENIORITY ROLLS	128

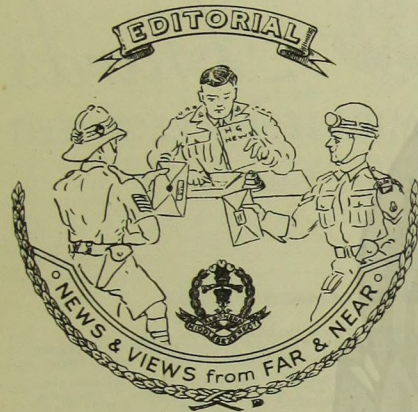
NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

"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.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 5/- (Post Free)



Editor: Bt-Major G. W. Kempster.

EDITORIAL

There are heavy tidings in store for us, it is feared. The present composition of the Regiment is to be changed, but as the details are not as yet known, we shall publish them in our next number. Whatever happens this Journal will do its utmost to provide you with news of the Regiment.

Space is short again, so we conclude this Editorial by thanking all our contributors and wishing them and our readers the compliments of the season.

Forthcoming Regimental Fixtures for 1948

It is regretted that owing to recent Government legislation it was found impracticable to hold the Old Comrades' Re-union on November 29 as planned. A meeting of *Die-Hards* Club Secretaries meet on November 19 to consider alternative plans for the coming year. These will be made known in this Journal and by circularising Old Comrades.

Die-Hards Clubs

Times and places 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.

Medals

It is notified for information to those concerned that a number of medals, including a number of Military Medals, are still to be claimed for the War of 1914-1919.

Applications should be made to the Under Secretary of State for War, The War Office, A.G.4 (Medals), Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Officers' Club Ties

Humphrey and Crook Ltd., 22, Suffolk Street, Haymarket, London, W.1, have Middlesex Officers' Club ties in stock, price 9s. 6d., and one coupon.

The Late Colonel Etienne Ronald P. Boileau, C.B., C.B.E., C.I.E.

We regret to announce the death of Colonel Boileau at the age of 77. Though most of his service was in India, where he held some very important positions on The Staff, he served for two years in the 3rd Middlesex (Militia), and those who knew him will regret his passing.

OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES

The Autumn Golf Meeting

This meeting was held at Hendon on October 16, and again the weather was kind to players. The same cannot be said of the bunkers or the greens.

Maj. Perkins' sixty-nine in the morning was a fine achievement and it broke the previous record of seventy-four held by Lt.-Col. Phillips for a number of years. We congratulate him and also Brig. Rackham and his partner, Lt.-Col. South, on winning the "Cooper Cup" for the 3rd Battalion in the afternoon.

Maj. Perkins put up two sets of wooden clubs for a sweep in aid of the Regimental Memorial. One set was won by Col. Brown, and the other by Col. Samuel, who put his up for auction, and they were bought by Col. Procter for twelve pounds. Altogether the Memorial benefited from this generous gift by twenty pounds and eleven shillings.

As regards the play—well, it varied! Col. Samuel played steadily enough and so apparently did Brig. Rackham and Col. South in the afternoon. Col. Procter, with us once again, showed that he can still swing a club even when set a zig-zag course by his partner in the afternoon. Maybe after the elephant grass and bush of West Africa it was easy work playing on to a green over a row of trees, several bushes, and a ditch or two. Anyway, we congratulate him and his partner, Col. Parker, on their good showing in the "Cooper Cup". Col. Green and Maj. Ormiston must have done fairly well in the afternoon. The former was on several occasions seen in the deepest of bunkers for which Hendon is justly famed, and on one occasion a cloud of sand testified to his ability in getting out.

In the afternoon Col. Phillips played most of his non-tee shots with a niblick as his partner, Maj. Kempster, insisted on putting him either into a bunker or a bad lie.

Maj. Beadwell and Maj. Bellers ought to have won the "Cooper Cup". The latter made some bad mistakes on the last few putting greens and so missed the boat.

Col. Brown was not at his best, but he returned an 87 gross in the morning, which, but for some bad holes, could have been a low score.

On the whole, however, it was a very enjoyable day, and we now look forward to the next Spring Meeting, which we hope to hold on May 6 and 7 next year. We trust our regular players will make a note of these dates in their diaries.

The Colonel of the Regiment was an interested spectator, and was present at the meeting held in the 19th hole in the evening. We were also pleased to have with us Mrs. Worton, Mrs. Beadnell, Mrs. Marsh, Mrs. Wollocombe, and Mrs. Crawford.

SCORES, MORNING ROUND (AUTUMN MEETING)

Maj. C. Perkins	69	—	scr.	—	69
Lt. Col. W. H. Samuel	91	—	16	—	75
Col. G. L. Brown	87	—	8	—	79
Lt.-Col. T. South	91	—	12	—	79
Lt.-Col. M. Crawford	88	—	9	—	79
Maj. J. W. G. Ormiston	97	—	18	—	79
Maj. G. B. Anderson	97	—	16	—	81
Lt.-Col. S. F. W. M. Delcourt	97	—	16	—	81
Col. N. P. Procter	87	—	5	—	82
Maj. L. C. Beadnell	90	—	8	—	82
Maj. R. C. H. Bellers	100	—	18	—	82
Maj. G. W. Kempster	94	—	9	—	85
Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe	106	—	20	—	86
Brig. G. P. L. Weston	102	—	16	—	86
Brig. B. B. Rackham	107	—	18	—	89
Lt.-Col. F. G. Parker	108	—	18	—	90
Lt.-Col. A. E. Green	110	—	16	—	94

Winner of Handicap and Scratch Cups:
Maj. C. Perkins.

AFTERNOON ROUND ("COOPER CUP"). FOURSOMES AGAINST BOGEY

Brig. Rackham and Lt.-Col. South, 3rd Battalion (winners)	5	down.
Col. Procter and Lt.-Col. Parker, 1st Battalion (runners-up)	6	"
Lt.-Col. Green and Maj. Ormiston, 1st Battalion	6	"
Brig. Weston and Lt.-Col. de Court, 2nd Battalion	7	"
Maj. Beadnell and Maj. Bellers, 1st Battalion	8	"
Maj. Perkins and Maj. Hunt, 11th Battalion	8	"
Col. Brown and Lt.-Col. Wollocombe, 4th Battalion	8	"
Lt.-Col. Samuel and Maj. Anderson, 11th Battalion	10	"
Lt.-Col. Phillips and Maj. Kempster, 1st Battalion	12	"
Col. Procter and Lt.-Col. Parker adjudged winners of runners-up cups on best last nine holes.		

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION NOTES

A Meeting of the Committee of the Regimental Association was held on October 30 at the Middlesex Guildhall.

Secretary's Quarterly Report

(a) *Benevolence.* The Secretary reported that 124 cases had been assisted at a cost of £660 4s. od. in the quarter ending September, £50 of which had been supplied by the 51st Highland Division Benevolent Fund. The Army Benevolent Fund, S.S.A.F.A. and the Sailors' and Soldiers' Help Society were mentioned as being strong financial supporters of the Association.

(b) *Employment.* He reported that the Regular Forces Employment Association had found work for 192 ex-Middlesex men in 1946.

(c) *Social.* Two more *Die-Hards* Clubs were reported as about to commence activities in Romford, Essex, and Hastings.

Report of the Memorial Committee

The Chairman outlined the progress being made with the Memorial. This is described at length elsewhere in this Journal.

Annual Subscriptions for 1947

These, totalling £136 15s. od., were authorised by the Committee.

Report of the Finance Committee

The Chairman reported that this Committee had met twice, that certain investments had been made and some money placed on deposit. He said that the Regimental account was being transferred to Lloyds Bank, Mill Hill, and that certain comprehensive policies had been taken out on behalf of the cottage homes.

He stressed the fact that a proportion only of our income was derived from our investments, and that it appeared likely that our income for 1947 was likely to be over-spent, though a supplementary grant had been asked for from the Army Benevolent Fund.

Report of Col. Rooke's Committee

Col. Rooke brought forward three proposals for adding to the existing Memorial at the Depot. These were referred to the Colonel of the Regiment and will be considered again at the next Meeting.

Tenancy of Cottage Recently Vacated by Mr. Faseby

The Chairman reported that the arrangements already made would stand for the present and until such time as the present occupant was able to obtain alternative accommodation.

Clerical Assistance

The employment of Mrs. M. K. Perkins as part-time clerk to the Memorial was confirmed by the Committee.

Contribution of a Day's Pay from Men in Units to the Association

It was decided not to press for a resumption of this pre-war practice, though to accept it where it existed, on account of the changing character of the Regiment.

O.C.A. Reunion

It was reported that, owing to catering difficulties and recent Government restrictions, it was now no longer possible to arrange a sit-down Dinner for Saturday, November 29. Three alternative proposals for future functions were submitted. It was decided to convene a meeting of Secretaries of social clubs to consider these proposals and any others they might make at an early date.

Secretary's Resignation

The Secretary tendered his resignation, which was received with regrets by the Committee, and a sub-committee was set up to consider the appointment of his successor.

Other Business

The Committee agreed in principle to care for the grave of Dmr. Stagpoole, V.C., at present uncared for in Hendon Cemetery.

The Meeting then closed.

OLD COMRADES' GATHERING AT INGLIS BARRACKS

A gathering of Old Comrades took place at Inglis Barracks on Saturday, September 13. It was well attended and it is believed that nearly a thousand—this figure includes families—were present.

Tea was served in tents on the football ground, and demonstrations of drill and P.T. were given by 57 P.T.C., who had earlier in the afternoon held their passing-out parade, which was inspected by Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C. The first function ran into the other in a manner which suited an occasion on which four generations of soldiers were present. The Museum was open and was much appreciated by all who visited it.

The Band played throughout the afternoon, though its performance was interfered with by rain. That fell fairly consistently throughout the afternoon. It was a great tribute to the members of the Regiment who attended that they braved the discouraging weather and it is not thought that many were deterred from coming on that account.

Unfortunately the Colonel of the Regiment was unable to be present, but Gen. Horrocks was able to remain for a considerable period of the gathering and renew old acquaintances. The "Cambridge" Club was very active and made a considerable sum of money for their funds out of a jumble sale.

It was a happy occasion—one it is hoped to repeat, if possible, on a fine day.

DOUAI CELEBRATES

Third Anniversary of Liberation Deliverance by 2nd Battalion Recalled

The ancient town of Douai in the north of France was recaptured by the 2nd Irish Guards, commanded by Maj. G. A. M. Vandeleur, D.S.O., on September 1, 1944. Twenty-six years earlier, on October 17, 1918, the town had been liberated by the 2nd Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), commanded by Brig. E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., A.D.C. A commemoration was held on Sunday, August 31, 1947. The principal event was the conferring of the title of Citizen of Honour upon the two

liberating commanders in recognition of the gratitude of the people of Douai.

This historic town, connected by so many links with Great Britain—among others the Douay English Bible, Douay College (near Reading), British 1st Corps Headquarters, 1939-40—provided a most noteworthy celebration. The streets and buildings were decorated with flags and bunting. Many Union Jacks were to be seen side by side with the Tricolour. Liberation Day began with a programme of patriotic airs on the carillon in the famous belfry. Then followed a band concert in the main square of the town.

The special visitors were welcomed during the afternoon by the officers of the Douais British Club—President, Monsieur Charles Warusfel; Vice-President, Monsieur le Capitaine Alfred Cordonnier; Secretary, Monsieur Marcel Devynck; Chaplain, L'Abbé De Roubaix. Brig. Baker was accompanied by Mrs. Baker and their three sons. Unfortunately, Maj. Vandeleur was unable to be present. The Rev. A. Montgomery Mann, T.D., Honorary Senior Chaplain to the Forces, who had been O.C. "A" Company under Brig. Baker, and who had been at Douai in 1940 with the 42nd Division, was asked to deputise for Maj. Vandeleur. Padre Montgomery Mann was accompanied by his wife, who is a native of Brittany, and their adopted son.

A full military and civic parade was assembled in front of the railway station. At 6 p.m. the Sous-Préfet, Monsieur Jacques Costes, the Mayor, Monsieur Paul Phalempin, Bishop Génie and many others welcomed the visitors. After the playing of "God Save the King" and "La Marseillaise" Brig. Baker inspected the units on parade—groups of veterans and members of the Resistance movement, military police, firemen, civil police, cadet corps, deported workers and Red Cross nurses.

Then followed a grand procession, with bands playing, through the crowded streets to the Town Hall. Constant cries of "Long live England," continual cheering and spontaneous applause bespoke the warmth and sincerity of the welcome given by the people of Douai. Brig. Baker cordially acknowledged the greetings all along the route.

At the Town Hall the chief commemoration ceremony took place. After the municipal band had played the two national anthems, the Town Clerk, Monsieur André Canivez, who was the first to speak, called upon all men of goodwill to establish the reign of brotherhood throughout the world. Monsieur Phalempin, Mayor of Douai, officer of the Legion of Honour, recalled the unforgettable dates which had marked the end of two long periods of oppressive occupation. The town of Douai, he declared, is happy to honour those who, at the risk of their lives, brought deliverance.

Brig. Baker, speaking in French and using local expressions, quickly won an appreciative hearing for what he had to say. Taking a small dictionary out of his pocket, he said he never leaves the white cliffs of Albion without this indispensable book, "but I cannot find in it any words to express my feelings of gratitude and high privilege to-day. Only through Franco-British solidarity can the United States of Europe be



BRIGADIER E. E. F. BAKER ACKNOWLEDGES ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME.

On Brigadier Baker's right is the Sous-Préfet, on his left the Mayor of Douai.

realised. On this rock of friendship we shall build the peace of the world." Brig. Baker then presented the Mayor of Douai with a new 2nd Middlesex flag to replace the one given in 1918, which had been destroyed by fire in the town museum. With the flag was also presented a copy of the order of the day issued by Brig. Baker just after the relief of Douai in 1918. One of the most cherished battle honours of the 2nd Battalion is the beautiful silk tricolour flag made by the ladies of Douai and inscribed "Douai Reconnaissant, 17 Octobre, 1918."

The Mayor, who had been regional leader of the Resistance, then recounted the dramatic story of the liberation of Douai in 1944, starting with the underground code message received on May 27: "The dice are on the table." Maj. Vandeleur had told him of the movements of his armoured formation, resulting in the sudden entry into Douai on September 1 at 7.20 p.m., the hour of liberation. When this moment arrived during the celebration all the bells of the town rang out in peals of jubilation.

The ceremony reached its climax when the Mayor, on behalf of the grateful people of Douai, formally conferred on Brig. Baker the title of "Citizen of Honour" and presented him with the official scroll. A similar parchment was handed to Padre Montgomery Mann to convey to Maj. Vandeleur. Again the stirring notes of the two national anthems marked the occasion.

After the Douai section of the deported workers had received a special flag from the Sous-Préfet, the whole procession re-formed and moved in the direction of the war memorial. Here a wreath of French flowers was

placed by the Mayor and alongside a wreath of Flanders poppies by Brig. Baker; and there followed a visit to the British cemetery.

Then began the more definitely social items in the celebration. First, the guests and the honorary members of the British Legion were entertained at the club of the French welcome committee. The national anthems were rendered and the Secretary, Monsieur Aubron, offered to everyone present a warm greeting and a toast to Franco-British friendship.

During the evening a banquet was held at the Taverne Liégeoise under the auspices of the Douais British Club. Bouquets of flowers were presented to Mrs. Baker and to Mrs. Montgomery Mann. Toasts to H.M. the King and to Franco-British friendship were received with acclamation. The President of the club, Monsieur Charles Warusfel, paid a moving tribute to the service of the Allies in achieving victory and the liberation of France. The Mayor, Monsieur Phalempin, explained how he became Mayor, thanks to the deliverance of the town. Maj. Vandeleur arrived at 7.20 p.m., and he and his administration took over the town at 7.21! The Town Clerk, Monsieur Canivez, added his word to the greetings. Brig. Baker returned thanks on behalf of all the guests for the wonderful reception and presented British Legion badges and cards of honorary membership to several who were present.

Later a torchlight procession, a public dance in the courtyard of the town hall and a conducted visit through its stately rooms, including a reception by the Mayor, and another reception in the Café de Paris brought to an end this most memorable Liberation Day.

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL 1939-45 WAR MEMORIAL

In Continuation

This report must again be brief, but we thank the senders of donations, large and small, whose names figure in the subscription list which follows.

Developing the Site

There are, of course, many difficulties—difficulties as regards building which have increased with recent Government legislation. Nevertheless, we mean to surmount them, and at least we had the satisfaction, at a recent well-attended meeting of the Memorial Committee which included Lord Latham and the Colonel of the Regiment, of seeing the plan on paper, and having it explained to us by the architect, Lt.-Col. B. L. Sutcliffe. The Estate is to be in the form of a "close" and will incorporate a children's playground. This lay-out has been approved in principle by the Enfield Urban District Council after lengthy negotiations, involving no less than four local committees.

Finance

At the same meeting a sub-committee was set up to consider two reports dealing with matters of finance in respect of developing and maintaining the estate.

Legal

Maj. Hardcastle, the legal adviser, submitted a trust deed, which, if accepted, will entitle the Memorial to apply for the Government subsidy. It is designed, in addition, to secure control of the Estate by the Regiment, with power to appoint our own Trustees, which is very important.

The Appeal

As you can see from the subscription list we have passed the half-way mark. We are well passed it really, as two gentlemen, whose names we shall not mention, have each promised us a cottage. The reason for not giving their names in this number is because the business of handing over the necessary covenants has not been completed.

As regards the Boroughs, now the mainstay of the appeal (we think the Journal has wrung the last penny out of the Regiment), Twickenham handed over the magnificent sum of £1,250, to be followed shortly by Willesden, who contributed the magnificent sum of £2,713 3s. 7d. to our funds. Alderman Scott's name has figured before in this account, but once again we must thank him and his helpers in Willesden for their magnificent service to the Regiment—one which will never be forgotten. Southgate also completed their appeal and handed over £635, whilst £246 9s. 9d. came from Heston and Isleworth.

We know that Harrow, Staines, Wood Green, Hendon, Feltham, and Friern Barnet are at present collecting for us, and others may have started, for it is not easy to keep touch with twenty-six boroughs and Urban District Councils. We have every reason to believe

that Acton will start in a big way soon (rumour has it with a target of £3,000).

Finally, the Lord Lieutenant himself has promised a further and very real measure of support, the details of which remain in his hands. It might be fitting at this stage to say how much we are indebted to Lord Latham. Without his support we could never have progressed so far, either in obtaining a site or with the appeal. His advice, encouragement and active support has always been and still is at our disposal.

In Conclusion

We think we can answer the question asked in the last number. The appeal is progressing. Even so, we have not yet reached our goal, so if any of our readers can help us we would ask them to, and now to conclude we again thank the undermentioned for their generous donations.

DONATIONS

(From August 6)

- £2,713 3s. 7d.—Borough of Willesden.
- £1,250.—Borough of Twickenham.
- £285 11s. 4d.—Borough of Southgate. This Borough in all collected £634 19s. 11d. Previous sums have been acknowledged.
- £246 9s. 9d.—Borough of Heston and Isleworth.
- £26 11s. 6d.—Proceeds from concert at Alexandra Palace.
- £25.—"B" Company, 12th Middlesex Battalion H.G., O.C.A.
- £21.—Maj. and Mrs. Dundas.
- £13.—Maj. Perkins.
- £12 15s. 11d.—Proceeds from concert at Alexandra Palace.
- £12.—Col. N. F. Procter, O.B.E., M.C.
- £11 5s. 1d.—M.G. Wing, H.C., B.T.C.
- £10 10s. 0d.—Mr. J. R. Walter Hyde, Lt.-Col. S. Cedric Smith, V. Wells, Esq., Ruislip Manor and South Ruislip Cricket Club, Maj.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C.
- £10.—Mr. M. May.
- £8 11s. 0d.—Sweep for golf clubs supplied by Major Perkins at Officers' Club Golf Meeting. (A second set won by Col. Samuel, who put them up for auction was purchased by Col. Procter for £13.)
- £8 10s. 0d.—Collection at O.C.A. gathering.
- £5 15s. 6d.—Handley Page, Ltd.
- £5 5s. 0d.—Mr. C. de Bosquet, Mr. Charles Howland, Mr. R. E. Hirsch, The Phillip Flooring Co., Maj. R. G. Bare.
- £5 2s. 0d.—Mr. B. J. Luckie.
- £5 0s. 7d.—Friern Barnet Parochial Church Council.
- £5.—Mrs. R. V. Tracey, Major A. E. Morris, Mr. E. T. Gibbs, Capt. T. W. Chattey, Capt. R. H. T. Boys.
- £4 17s. 4d.—7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).
- £4 13s. 1d.—The Cambridge Club, 57 P.T.C. and Depot Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).

- £4 13s. 6d.—Sergeants' Mess, 57 P.T.C. and Depot Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).
 - £4.—9th Battalion Old Comrades' Association.
 - £3 13s. 9d.—W.O.s and Sergeants, M.G. Wing, Crowborough.
 - £3 2s. 2d.—"B" Company, 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).
 - £3 3s. 0d.—Mr. W. F. Bishop.
 - £3 1s. 6d.—490 H.A.A., R.A. (proceeds of a concert).
 - £2 5s. 0d.—Roxeth Cricket Club, Mr. B. G. Meyer, Major V. G. Fuller.
 - £2 2s. 0d.—Mr. G. Goodall, Mr. G. A. Pfister, Maj. E. F. J. Rich, M.C., Mr. Bernard Green, Mr. O. V. Baldwin, Mr. P. S. Ingham, Mr. M. Morgan, Engineer Capt. and Mrs. T. W. Ross.
 - £2.—Roxeth Cricket Club, Mr. B. G. Meyer, Maj. V. G. Fuller.
 - £1 10s. 0d.—Maj. I. Taylor.
 - £1 8s. 4d.—Mr. J. Boen (collection ship, Die-Hards Club).
 - £1 1s. 0d.—Mr. A. S. Spear, 9th Battalion O.C.A., Mr. C. D. Matthews, Mrs. F. Cowan, Mrs. E. Whitford, Mr. C. Friend, Capt. R. W. Godden, Mrs. E. M. Nairn, Lastextile Ltd., Mr. P. Freeman, Sir Frederick Sellers, Mr. O. G. Johnson, Mrs. L. M. Cunliffe.
 - £1.—Mr. R. G. Burkitt, Lt.(Q.M.) E. F. James, Maj. P. L. Pearce-Gould, Mrs. Muggridge, 2/Lt. Suderbreck, Mr. J. M. Hazelton, Mr. P. Pratt, Mr. G. W. Rutter, Miss E. F. Christie.
 - 16s.—Mr. A. F. Huggins.
 - 15s.—Mr. F. J. Sadler.
 - 14s.—O.C. "B" Company, 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).
 - 11s.—O.C. "B" Company, 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).
 - 10s. 6d.—Mr. P. Pincus, Mr. E. P. Crook.
 - 10s.—Mrs. E. R. Cox, Mr. S. Sacki, Mr. S. J. Woolf.
 - 9s.—Bayham Ltd. Empire Works.
 - 5s.—Mr. D. L. Evans, Mr. J. A. Bott, Mr. J. T. Noad, Mr. J. R. Squires, Mr. W. Stephens, Mr. F. Woods, Mr. H. Waller, Mr. G. Barrett, Mr. J. Kerwin, Mr. James Cooper, Mr. J. Firth, Mr. C. Birthright, Mr. Y. L. J. Smith, Mr. H. D. Rae.
 - 2s. 6d.—Mr. G. Poole.
 - 2s.—Mr. A. E. Horne.
- The state of the Fund on November 4, 1947, was £13,140 8s. 7d. This includes a sum of £460 14s. 3d. due from a £500 Covenant given by McVite and Price.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL WAR MEMORIAL HOUSING REGISTER

Although the cottages in respect of our 39/45 War Memorial will take some time to build, the Committee would like to earmark the occupants before this work is completed, and any of our readers who are eligible and desire to benefit should make application now to the Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, Mill Hill Barracks, N.W.7, in the form given below.

It is as well to remember that the building estate will be developed in Enfield, Middlesex.

- (a) Name and present address (in block letters).
- (b) Age of applicant.
- (c) Nature of disability.
- (d) Units of The Middlesex Regiment applicant served in, stating periods and theatres of war.
- (e) Occupation followed at present.
- (f) Whether married and ages of children.

It should be borne in mind by intending applicants that the cottages are not likely to be ready for some considerable time yet, and they should therefore not count on any form of immediate housing as a result of the Memorial.

LETTER FROM THE ROYAL HOSPITAL

The Royal Hospital,
Chelsea, S.W.3.
September 10, 1947.

DEAR SIR,

I have to draw your attention to the fact that there will shortly be further vacancies in the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, for Army Pensioners who comply with the conditions stated in the attached Form 42 entitled "Admission to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea." I also add a sample form of application.

Applicants will be expected to be able to look after themselves and to be willing to undertake light work if physically capable. They will probably be accommodated during the next year or so with the Chelsea Hospital Detachment at Leatherhead, until such time as bomb damage at the Royal Hospital has been made good and the quarters affected are ready for their reception, when they will be returned to Chelsea.

It should be impressed on any of your members who are interested that the Royal Hospital is not a hospital in the medical sense, and that men whose condition would necessitate their immediate or early admission to the Infirmary as permanent bed patients would not be eligible.

Conditions of life, at the present day, at the Royal Hospital, are described in the accompanying article entitled "Life at the Royal Hospital", which may be of interest to editors of Regimental journals.

Applicants should write to the Secretary, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, S.W.3, stating their ranks on discharge, Regimental numbers, Regiments or Corps, and approximate dates of service, when a form of Application for Admission will be sent to them, if eligible.

Yours faithfully,

M. H. FITZGERALD,
Assistant Secretary.

(Editor: Further details may be obtained from The Secretary of The Middlesex Regimental Association, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.)

THE LAND SETTLEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Land Settlement Association's holdings were formed in 1937, and were intended to give employment to unemployed persons, who received training before becoming tenants. Since 1939, however, these estates

have provided employment to *Ex-Service Personnel*, provided that they have the minimum of capital, and have had some experience of farming or market gardening. Preference is *always* given to ex-service personnel, and if they do their job efficiently, it becomes in time a most satisfactory occupation.

In order to take and work a holding on the Estate, each tenant requires, under present conditions, some £500 to £600 capital. If the tenant cannot provide the capital required, arrangements can be made through the Association with their bank for the tenant to borrow money at the usual bank interest rate. For instance, if a tenant provides £150, the Association will provide £100, and the bank will provide £250. The capital is required by a tenant to purchase the poultry, poultry house, feeding stuffs, seeds, manures, etc., which he must have to stock and cultivate a holding. He also has to pay for tenant-right valuation, such as unexhausted manurial values and growing crops. Finally, the tenant is required to make a returnable deposit of £10 against orders placed through the Association.

If a tenant takes over a holding during a non-productive part of the year, he is loaned £100 for living expenses until production increases.

The type of man being recruited is one who is between the ages of 30-35 years, preferably with a family. At present on this Estate there are 87 holdings and 51 tenants. Each tenant has an average of about 4-5 acres to cultivate, although there are a few with as much as 8 acres. The total acreage of the Estate is 400. Commercial market gardeners are considered more suitable than those who have had experience as private gardeners, because it is thought that they spend much more money than they can afford on producing early crops and flowers and produce for exhibition purposes.

There is a tenancy agreement for 364 days which states (a) that the tenant must buy and sell through the Land Settlement Association. The Association produces all the plants the tenants require, on propagating holdings. There is also a Service Department which provides machinery and does the major cultivation for tenants. In addition to this there are two Technical Advisers in poultry and Horticulture, which are the main activities on this Estate, and they keep in constant contact with the tenants.

There is every kind of store provided and tenants can buy all the seeds, manure, tools, etc., which they require. A catalogue is issued every year for this purpose.

For the general use of all tenants there is a sterilising plant, and a high pressure power spray for tomatoes, etc.

All produce is dispatched to the markets daily, mainly to Covent Garden, but some produce is also sent to Worthing, Manchester, Andover, Portsmouth, and to local greengrocers in the immediate area. There is no difficulty in selling the produce at all.

Lorries are provided to dispatch the produce, and all of it is packed in the packing shed by specially employed men and women—nothing is done in this respect by the tenants themselves. The packing shed is opened twice weekly, and contains a tomato-grading

machine, an effort being made to mechanise the shed as much as is possible. There is a roller conveyor to the lorries which facilitates the dispatch being done quickly.

When a tenant sends in produce for dispatch, special crates are provided, with special packing material. Every tenant's produce is numbered, then it is graded, only one tenant's grading being done at a time, after which it is weighed and packed, each crate weighing 12 lb. The amount of produce sold is credited at the end of the month to the tenant, and the prices are pooled, so that every tenant has an equal amount of profit in the end.

In the case of eggs, they are collected by the Co-operative Poultry Packing Station. There is no breeding on the Estate, day-old chicks being bought, and after four months go to the Battery. The tenant receives about £1 clear profit per bird over a period of one year. Tenants are not allowed to keep turkeys or geese, but only seven ducks each, owing to the dread of a disease.

All accounts are dealt with by the Association. If a tenant buys something, or wants some ploughing done (this costs 10/6 per hour), he signs and sends in to the office a Requisition Note. At the end of the month each tenant has a sheet which shows him his requisitions, e.g., cultivations, manures, ploughing, sundries. All the necessary forms dealt with in conjunction with his holding are filled in by the office staff. The tenant's capital is worked out in budget form by the office on the Estate, and from that he has a complete idea as to how to spend his money, and this saves a great deal of unnecessary wastage, which might in time lead to bankruptcy.

The tenant's dwelling house is hired for £50 per year, and has three bedrooms, a living room, a lounge, and hot and cold water is laid on. There is also a spacious garden and is apart from the actual holding itself, and is usually in the form of a lawn with flower beds not for commercial purposes.

During a recent tour of inspection round the Estate, the Packing Station, the Propagating Department, and specimen tenant's Holding were seen. The Propagating Department measured 75 by 25 feet, in which were cucumber plants, tomato plants, etc. All the of plants were in boxes, 12 plants to each box. The Department is heated by an anthracite boiler. Also there are nine large enclosed frames for plants which have reached greater maturity.

One of the tenant's holdings contained poultry which are kept in cages, hygienically constructed. This tenant owned about 100 birds, nearly all of the Rhode Island Red type, with a few Light Sussex breed. There was also a tomato house, which contained about 500 plants, and under glass were cucumber plants. The tenant also cultivated self-bleaching celery, lettuce, beans, sweet corn, leeks, and potatoes. His output is high.

Another typical holding contained similar products, but in addition there were black-currant plantations, and two hives of bees. This tenant had bought a number of day-old chicks, and had a special run for

them. He was also much prejudiced against keeping poultry in cages, the tenant having complete freedom in this matter, no laws being laid down as to how his poultry is to be "accommodated."

A tenant's net profit over a period of one year varies from £150 to £1,000 and entirely depends upon how much the tenant is prepared to work. Tenants can be asked to leave if they are a liability to the rest of the tenants, but this very rarely happens. No compensation is given to the tenant for bad harvests, caused by natural means.

This plan is particularly intended for ex-service personnel, and it is the intention of the Surrey W.E.E.C. Chairman to endeavour to make the scheme familiar with men now serving. It is hoped to stimulate interest in farming, and for some military personnel to take advantage of these agricultural schemes on being demobilised.

The address of the Regional Administrator, for information purposes, is Good Hall, Ardleigh, nr. Colchester, Essex.

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

We are delighted to announce the arrival here of R.S.M. McLoughlin, who came from our 1st Battalion, and his arrival, together with that of 2/Lts. D. J. Harris and H. M. Spencer, has added new strength to the

Depot. We congratulate Sgt. Moody on his promotion to C.Q.M.S.

The Officers suffered a defeat in the cricket match against the Sergeants' Mess on August 17, but we are hoping to defeat them at soccer.

We combined with 10th Command Workshops, R.E.M.E., to hold two Army "at home" days for the public on September 11 and 12, and about a thousand visitors saw how the Army to-day is training and maintained.

A large Old Comrades' gathering took place here on September 13, which was combined with a passing-out parade of one of the G.S.C. intakes. Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., spent the day with us, and his visit was deeply appreciated by everyone. On September 26 Maj. G. W. P. Hodding commanded a guard of honour at Harrow formed from G.S.C. personnel of the Training Company, which he commands. The Colours and Regimental property of the 8th Battalion were handed over to the 11th Parachute Battalion (Middlesex) on Wednesday, October 15, at the Drill Hall, Hounslow. The following colour party from the Depot attended the ceremony: Lts. D. R. B. Mackay and D. J. Kimbley, C.S.M. H. Jennings and Sgts. A. Jones and J. Turner.

A most successful boxing meeting was held here on October 30, when we challenged our R.E.M.E. neighbours. We managed to defeat them, but are expecting to be challenged again soon. Capt. J. G. Stevens, our



PRESENTATION OF LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS BY THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE PASSING-OUT PARADE AT INGLIS BARRACKS ON AUGUST 12, 1947.

Back row (left to right): Bdmn. Hymas, Sgt. Perkins, Sgt. Hatcher, Sgt. Staveley, L/L/Cpl. Smith, L/Sgt. Bennett, A., Sgt. Jones, L/Cpl. Fletcher, Sgt. Housden.

Front row (left to right): C.S.M. Hammond, O.R.Q.M.S. Wright, M.B.E., Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L., R.S.M. Painter, C.S.M. Smith, J., Sgt. Ball, A.

Sports Officer, is now organising a most ambitious programme of rugby, soccer and hockey fixtures.

A very valuable group of medals has recently been obtained for the 1st Battalion by Capt. R. W. J. Smith, the energetic curator of the *Die-Hards* Museum. These medals were won by C/Sgt. Gardiner and include the V.C. and D.C.M., which he won in the Crimea. Capt. Smith has also found several other 57th and 77th medals available for purchase and would welcome offers from anyone who would care to purchase them for the Regiment.

L/Cpl. Moran is to be congratulated on winning the Home Counties District Heavyweight Boxing Championship.

News has just been received that this Centre and Depot will close down and cease to exist on April 17, 1948. It is understood that a very small Regimental H.Q. will remain here, but will be entirely dependent on the new unit that takes over these barracks. It is a tragic blow to all those who have worked so hard here to restore the Depot to pre-war conditions, and this decision must seriously affect all future Regimental activities, which are based on the Depot.

1st BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

Editorial

Now that everything is prepared and we are more or less settled in for the winter, clouds of uncertainty as to whether or not our work has been in vain are sighted on the horizon. Should these clouds disperse, however, we have the satisfaction of knowing that we shall be quite comfortable.

Since our last letter the Battalion had to administer the B.A.O.R. Rifle Meetings. This was executed in the usual "Die-Hard" fashion, the Battalion being congratulated by the G.O.C. for an excellent job. Apart from the duties performed by the Battalion, we entered for several matches, and under the guidance of our W.T.O., Lt. G. Shaw, and Sgt. Kendrick, the following results were obtained:

MATCH No. 8

Corporals' and Privates' Individual Rifle Match.—Pte. Matthew, "D" Company, tied for third place. Score, 91 points. Winner, 94 points. Prize awarded, £2 10s. od.

MATCH No. 9

Young Soldiers' Individual Rifle Match.—Pte. Mouldsall, "C" Company, seventeenth place. Score, 72 points. Winner, 90 points. Prize awarded, 10s. od.

MATCH No. 18

Young Soldiers' L.M.G. Pairs for Chetwood Bowl.—L/Cpl. Connah, "A" Company, Pte. Hurst, "A" Company. Score 130, less 13 deducted for penalties. Score 117 points, second place. Prize awarded, two medals, £2 10s. od.

Pte. Swallowell, "A" Company, Pte. Williams, "A" Company. Score 104 points, place sixth. Prize awarded, £1 10s. od.

MATCH No. 2

Young Soldiers' Rifle for Platoon Cup.—Team: L/Cpls. Armstrong and Connah and Ptes. Williams, Massey, Bestwick and Urwin (all of "A" Company). Winning team scored 230 points. Battalion team scored 202 points. Place fourth. Prize awarded, £2 8s. od.

MATCH No. 14

Rhine Army Young Soldiers' Shield (for the best aggregate for Matches Nos. 2 and 3b).—1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), second place. Score, 55 points. Winning team, 59 points.

We have built, in preparation for the winter evenings, an excellent cinema which compares favourably with those of the A.K.C. and have named it "The Albuhera Cinema." It possesses all of the ultra-modern appliances, such as sliding resistances for the gradual dimming of the lights and an excellent proscenium, thanks to Capt. Cutts and L/Cpl. I. Turner of "A" Company. There are five shows a week, with two changes of programme. Having a cinema of this nature it is, of course, a great advantage to training and is in use by day for cadres and education.

On a par with England, we have had excellent weather for training, although at times it was a shade too warm for machine gun handling. "A" and "C" Companies, with a platoon of "D" Company in each case, have been to Vogelsang and Paderborn, co-operating with brigades in training, and have well acquitted themselves in their tasks.

We hope, by the time this letter goes to press, that we have been able to welcome Maj. C. N. Clayden and R. E. Orr and wish them a happy and successful stay in the 1st Battalion.

"A" COMPANY

In our last few months as an M.M.G. Company we have been kept very busy training with various brigades at Paderborn and Vogelsang. In August a composite platoon, under Lt. P. R. Traxton, took part in a specialised armoured demonstration at Paderborn, which was watched by the Army Commander and a vast amount of "red," including many Allied representatives. Although the Company was nominally in station at Iserlohn during the B.A.O.R. Rifle Shoots, about half of our numbers found themselves at Paderborn engaged in administration duties. So we claim our share of recognition for the good work carried out by the Battalion in connection with the meeting. We heartily congratulate L/Cpl. Connah and Ptes. Hurst (411), Swallowell and Williams (61) for their excellent shooting at the meeting.

In September the entire Company went to Vogelsang for a final fling, and a lot of useful training was completed. Maj. A. R. Waller, M.C., was Detachment Commander and the composite platoon, which supported both 4th Guards and 5th Infantry Brigades during a rather hectic period of 20 days, was commanded by Lt. R. T. Smith. It was very disappointing to learn, on our return, that most of our work had been in vain and that at last the good old Vickers gun was to go.

Release goes on at an alarming rate and we wish every success in civilian life to those who have left our ranks this quarter. We also extend a most hearty welcome to 2/Lt. Kay, who has family connections with this Regiment, and all our other new members.

Sports

In the field of sport we have done reasonably well,



Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L., Colonel of The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), with "B" Company's cricket XI during his visit to Warminster.

finishing second in the Albuhera Cricket League, being narrowly beaten by a very strong "H.Q." Company XI.

CRICKET AVERAGES, 1947

Name	Batting		Runs	Average
	Innings	Not Out		
Lt. R. T. Smith	5	2	117	39.0
Pte. Allen	4	1	82	27.3
Pte. Denton	8	0	115	14.3

Name	Bowling		Wickets	Average
	Runs			
Pte. Allen	31		10	3.1
Lt. R. T. Smith	70		19	3.7
Cpl. Butler	94		15	6.3

We congratulate the four of the team who have played for the Battalion, Cpls. Butler and Parrott, Pte. Denton, and particularly Lt. R. T. Smith, who was a regular member of the team which won the Divisional Shield.

We received rather a bad blow at the Albuhera Swimming Meeting, but later redeemed ourselves by winning the Battalion Rifle Meeting. We congratulate especially Capt. J. Shipster, D.S.O., and Sgt. Kenrick for their part in this.

The switch to winter games finds us second to "H.Q." Company in the Albuhera Shield, and with a determination to win we are busily building up our soccer, hockey, rugby and boxing teams.

"B" COMPANY

At the conclusion of our last letter we were in the throes of moving to the School of Infantry. By now we are well settled in and the programme has gone on

according to plan. The quarters here are much better than at Sutton Veny and are ideal for the coming winter. Right in front of Swinton Block, which is our residence, there is a drill square which delighted the "tired old eyes" of C.S.M. E. Pike. Three mornings a week the Drill Competition Cup-winning company can be seen being put through their paces by the man who led them to victory in the competition, namely, our own C.S.M.

Training

Training has gone on quite well, but demonstrations sometimes break up the middle of a Company Cadre. However, that is something that cannot be helped, because, after all, the demonstrations are our prime job here. The Company goes from strength to strength in these demonstrations. The very sad news that the Vickers M.M.G. has to go has not in any way dampened the spirits of the men in "B" Company, who are firmly convinced that it cannot be done without. By the time this despatch is published we shall have completed our last demonstration for the School.

Weather

The weather has been very kind to us for the past few weeks, and for a change we have been able to carry out our shoots in sunshine instead of that very damp drizzle that seems to belong to Warminster alone.

Personnel

We have just welcomed to "B" Company Lt. D. G. Fry, who has taken over command of No. 7 Platoon.

This officer is already popular with all ranks and has fitted himself to "B" Company methods in record time. Lt. G. E. St. Clair now has command of No. 6 Platoon (Cadre Platoon), this change allowing Lt. P. W. Galvin to take over full-time duties of M.T.O. Demob. is still a prime factor. Old faces go to make way for new ones. Among the people who left us this quarter are Sgts. T. C. L. Watts and J. Miles, Cpls. Lanfear and Hawnt and many others. We have just sustained a severe loss to the Company; Capt. T. Tarmey has left us for the 2nd Battalion, and this very popular officer will be missed very much. In his place we welcome 2/Lt. Bailey, who takes over as 2 i/c Mortar Platoon. Recently the Company has been commanded by Capt. P. G. V. Bellers during the absence on a course and leave of Maj. G. O. Porter. At the time of going to press we learn that Lt. B. A. M. Pielow is returning to the Company here in Warminster, bringing with him No. 8 Platoon from Netheravon.

Sport

Football has got well into its stride and a very fine Company team has had quite a few successes against 1st Battalion East Lincs, 2nd R.T.R. and R.A.S.C., Corsham. Hockey is also going well. A couple of spirited games against the "Tanks" has resulted in two defeats for us, 6-4 and 3-1. That is no shame, as 75 per cent. of our own team have never played before.

The cricket season closed in a blaze of glory for the Company. We won our last five games of the season in grand style, beating the R.T.R. and 1st Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, 1st Battalion East Lincs and "M" Battery, R.H.A., and finishing the victors again in a return match with 1st Battalion East Lincs. Outstanding players this season were Sgt. J. Miles, Cpls. Bown and Jones and Ptes. Rees and Nemsley. The Colonel of the Regiment (Col. M. Browne, M.C., J.P.) was a very interested spectator at the game with the 1st Battalion East Lincs. He watched the entire four-hour game which took place during his one-day visit to the Company.

Entertainments

Dances are held in the Gymnasium every other Thursday and weekly dances are held in the Town Hall. The Company patronise these dances well. In the Sergeants' Mess Sgt. "Mick" Buckley and Sgt. "Bob" Cubitt are up to their eyes in arranging a Gala Dance night. Inside information has it that this will go down with a bang. Also Lt. D. G. Fry and Sgt. M. D. Buckley are busy looking for talent for the formation of a concert party. I understand plans have already been made.

As a slice of stop press news, we were honoured with a visit by our own Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. J. G. E. Reid, who addressed the Company and told them about the coming move of the Battalion. He also gave an insight as to what our new job would be.

"C" COMPANY

The main event during the last quarter was our visit to Lopshorn training area. The Company was organised as follows:

Nos. 9 and 10 Platoons, under the command of Lts. L. A. Hunter and J. A. Swarbrick, who were ably assisted by Sgts. Gould and Osborne. These platoons carried out training and exercises with the 6th (H.) Infantry Brigade, whilst the Training Platoon remained in Lopshorn Camp in an administrative capacity.

Immediately after the Brigade training the Company remained behind to make preparations for the B.A.O.R. Rifle Shoot. The great success of this event can be mainly attributed to the hard work put in by "C" Company and the assistance given by personnel of other companies.

Sport

We were very unfortunate to lose the Albuhera Swimming Shield, owing to the fact that many of our competitors were on other duties. As it was, we gained second place, "D" Company beating us by one point. Those who swam for the Company were Lt. Swarbrick, Sgt. Millross and Ptes. Dopson, Sykes, Currie, Teebut, Maxwell and Newman. But we were able to gain revenge by winning the Water Polo Knock-out Shield, beating "D" Company in the first round (score 5-0) and beating "H.Q." in the final (score 8-2). Lt. Swarbrick, C.S.M. Webb, Sgt. Millross and Ptes. Clough and Newman made up our excellent team.

The basket ball team is now undergoing strenuous training in preparation for forthcoming battles. Sgt. Farrow and Pte. Kitchener were members of the Battalion team which played in the Army finals, and we must congratulate them on their good work. Unfortunately, our hockey team is very young and green, as most of the players are inexperienced, but they are shaping very well and we hope to have good results shortly. Pte. Isenberg, one of our star players, is leaving us on Class "A" release on October 16, 1947. But our soccer team is very strong this year and we are confident of success. Pte. Highfield is a very good player and has gained a well-earned place in the Battalion team.

Lt. Swarbrick, the Battalion Boxing Officer, is busily engaged in getting our novices' team up to scratch. We are fortunate in having Pte. Shad of the A.B.A. with us and we are learning a great deal from his advice and experience.

General

We welcome into our Company Lt. Reilly, who has joined us from a G.C.L. unit.

Sgt. Bromfield and Ptes. Isenberg, Layzell and Thomas have left the Company on Class "A" release and we wish them, together with all the other demobbed personnel, the very best of luck in Civvy Street.

We regret to announce the death of 19040653 Pte. J. Peel, our Company Storeman, on the night October 8/9. He was a very cheerful, hard-working man, and his presence in the Company will be greatly missed.

"D" COMPANY

Since the last issue of the Journal great strides have been taken in the reorganisation of Epsom Barracks. Our own particular Inglis Block is now almost completed, with the addition of a new roof and interior decorating. The whole Company was very disturbed, however, at the announcement of our reversion to infantry, but, although it is with many heartaches that we have laid up our mortars, the Company has shown a determination to settle down into its new role.

Training

Our training is now divided into two phases: the winding up of our training as 4.2-in. mortar support company and infantry training in view of our future role.

The first phase saw the Company very busily engaged in support of 4th, 5th and 6th Brigades in the final phase of the B.A.O.R. Training Scheme for 1947. In this we were fortunate enough to be strengthened by large drafts from No. 54 R.H.U., who soon lent themselves to mortar training within the Battalion, and who largely made up No. 15 Platoon, who moved to Paderborn in July with Lt. R. F. Smith in command and 2/Lt. Hayman as 2 i/c. After supporting 6th Highland Brigade in their normal role, this platoon remained at Lopshorn to take part in the big B.A.O.R. armoured demonstration. After a fortnight's rest at Iserlohn a slightly re-formed No. 15 Platoon moved off to Vogelsang in support of 5th Infantry Brigade and 4th Guards Brigade. Here, still under the same command, but with Lt. Lander as 2 i/c, the Platoon took part in the Battalion attack exercises which wound up the training period for 1947.

On its return to camp the Platoon joined the rest of the Company in its new preparations phase of infantry training. Thus the last few weeks have seen the Company's first route march and an intense preparation for rifle and bren classifications, mixed up with a general reconversion programme in elementary infantry training.

Sports

The excellent weather has assisted in a very substantial sports programme in the Albuhera League Competition. The Company got away to rather a bad start in the cricket and water polo matches, but recovered magnificently to take first place in the swimming contest. Since then all our energies have been directed towards hockey and soccer and up to the moment the Company is holding more than its own, with a healthy determination to make up the lost ground.

General

Release and a reshuffle between the 1st and 2nd Battalions are still making a steady inroad into the Company strength, and it is with great regret that we say farewell to some of our stalwarts. In particular, such names as Sgt. McGluskie, Cpl. Gravenor and Ptes. Barber and Rees will be missed in their respective sporting spheres, not only in the Company, but also in the Battalion. Also the past two or three months have seen many changes in the Company Commander's



Maj. R. W. D. Sword, Capt. R. J. P. Cummins, Capt. P. Barclay, 2/Lt. R. Bailly.

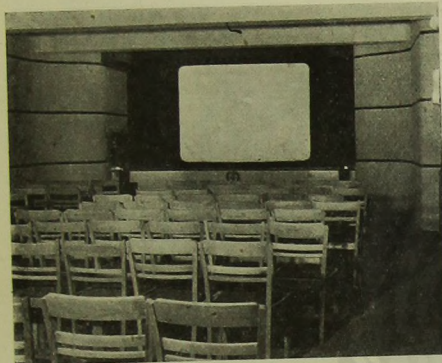
office. Capt. St. George held a short and very successful term, followed by Capts. Barclay and Leonard, all of whom have now left the Battalion with our best wishes for every success in their future activities. Maj. Gilbert took over for a short time and it was with great regret that we lost him to his new appointment as Battalion 2 i/c. Now we welcome Capt. Shipster, D.S.O., who is doing an excellent job in the face of many changes, while we await with some anticipation our new Company Commander's arrival from England. In spite of this, the Company has gone on from strength to strength both in its training and in its sporting activities and for these achievements we have largely to thank our new infantry intakes, who have settled down very quickly in new and unfamiliar jobs.

In conclusion, we would like to pass on our best wishes to 2/Lt. Bailey in his posting to Warminster and welcome 2/Lt. R. Chalk on his return from Catterick and 2/Lt. Coker, who has joined us from Shorncliffe.

"H.Q." COMPANY

One of the more pleasant duties which has to be performed is writing these notes each quarter. At this time the writer becomes quite nostalgic and could indulge in reminiscence, but, unfortunately, the ration of newsprint space allowed is very small and so the effort must be of the austerity type.

During the last quarter our activities and interests have been many and varied. The main event has been the inspection of the Battalion by the Divisional Commander, Maj.-Gen. P. M. Balfour, C.B., M.C., which took place on August 7, 1947. We had been given good warning of the inspection and the Commanding Officer's directive on standard of turn-out, discipline, drill, etc., required was clearly defined. The whole



The "Albuhera Cinema".

Company got down to their jobs when the great day came and one could safely say that all ranks of the Company put their backs into the job of producing a first-class turn-out in all respects. The effort was amply rewarded when the G.O.C. congratulated the Company on its high standard of turn-out.

Sport

In this sphere we have taken what we hope is a decisive lead in the Albuhera Shield Competition by our wins in the cricket league and knock-out. All matches were played in most beautiful weather at the "Oval," Iserlohn, with a star-studded team, among whom were seven Battalion players, namely, Cpts. Delaney and Whitehead, Lt. Phillips, A.S.M. Letchford, Sgt. Bailey, Cpl. Eve and Dmr. J. Cullen. They proceeded to register a series of brilliant wins against all companies to gain maximum points in the league and K.O.

Again in lovely weather a highly successful Albuhera Rifle Meet took place at Hemer Ranges, and the Company had practised hard to produce a team able to hold its own against the duty companies. The shoot quickly developed into a friendly tussle between "H.Q." and "A" Companies for the lead and the result was close right up to the end, when "A" Company produced the higher score to make them winners by a narrow margin.

August saw the Albuhera Swimming Shield and water polo events. The Company started off with a convincing win at water polo against "A" Company and went on to reach the finals, where after a very exciting game "C" Company were the winners. In the swimming events we came third against "D" and "C" Companies, and to Sgt. Davies goes the great credit for performing the feat of swimming "no hands," holding up the conventional garb for dear life.

Finally, we are looking forward to the results of the soccer, rugger and hockey fixtures with great interest. They are due to start very soon and enthusiasm and interest is very high in the Company, as the winning of

these events will decide where the Albuhera Shield will rest for the next year. We can therefore expect a very keen struggle.

General

Once again there is much to report in the arrivals and departures column.

First the departures, the most notable being R.S.M. McLoughlin, who left us to proceed to No. 57 P.T.C. We know that his familiar figure and his "Come here, boy!" will be missed in the Battalion, as will his prowess as a cricketer and rifle shot be missed in the Company sporting activities. We wish him good fortune in his future.

R.Q.M.S. Strachan left us to take up the duties of R.Q.M.S. Garrison Troops. He is also a loss to the Company's sporting activities, being a first-class hockey player and cricketer. We wish him luck in his new appointment.

To Class "A" release we have lost, among others, that very familiar figure of the Signals Section, Sgt. Davies. It was hoped that he would sign on, but an opportunity to take a three-year course in electrology at a technical school tipped the scale in favour of Clivy Street. To him, and to the many others who have departed on a one-way trip on the Munster Express, we say, "We are sorry to see you go, but good luck be with you all."

To the arrivals we say welcome to the Company and we extend them a hearty greeting. Four of the most familiar figures of the 2nd Battalion have joined us, namely, R.S.M. Weller, R.Q.M.S. Etheridge, C.Sgt. Taylor and Cpl. Davis. R.S.M. Weller, late R.S.M. of the 2nd Battalion, we hope to be able to call on for the Company's sporting programme, as his ability in the field is well known.

R.Q.M.S. Etheridge arrived just after the R.S.M. to take over from R.Q.M.S. Strachan. Here again we have a most valued member of the 2nd Battalion's sporting world in our midst. As a member of the Company's hockey team his stickwork will be quickly noticed.

C/Sgt. Taylor has joined us to take over C.Q.M.S. of "H.Q." Company. He is a hockey player of no mean ability and will give our Company team added strength.

Cpl. Davis has taken over the duties of a Battalion M.T. Sergeant, a formidable task, but one in which he is highly qualified. We congratulate him on his promotion to Sergeant, which rank he has attained since posting in.

Another familiar figure to join us is that of Cpl. G. Bailey. We offer him our congratulations on his promotion to Sergeant. He will be remembered by older members of the Regiment as the N.C.O. i.c. M.I. Room at Gosport in 1938.

CORPS OF DRUMS

The past quarter has been both a busy and eventful one, and it is unfortunate that restrictions of space prevent the recording in full of our activities.

On the Annual Inspection Maj.-Gen. Balfour, in his address to us, was highly complimentary on our turn-out and playing. With regard to the playing, there was no



CORPS OF DRUMS

Iserlohn, September 8, 1947.

doubt that B.M. Thirtle, during his short stay with us, improved our technique very considerably, and it was a big disappointment to have his period of attachment so drastically shortened.

We, too, have had our moments on guard mounting, Retreat, route marches and the like, and it is apparent that our growing pains are indeed nearly over. The weather, however, has been most unkind, forcing the cancellation of many ceremonies at the last moment. Wednesday, September 24, was a red-letter day, as the Corps beat Retreat for the first time since the tragic fall of Hong Kong. Two members of the old Corps took part, the Drum-Major and L/Cpl. ("Winnie") Winsborough. On October 18 we performed this ceremony in the main square of Iserlohn. It was witnessed by a very large crowd—a little terrifying to some of us—which included a fair sprinkling of the remainder of the garrison. From the many congratulatory remarks received by the Drum-Major, there was no doubt that all were tremendously impressed. We are very proud of helping to "show the flag" to the German population. A very enjoyable function was held later to celebrate the occasion.

On October 2 we spent an enjoyable and interesting day visiting the famous—or should we say infamous?—Krupps Works at Essen. The works, covering hundreds of acres, appear to be completely devastated by Allied bombing, but closer inspection reveals the versatility of the German, and it was amazing to witness the activity in machine shops, etc., which appear to be completely ruined. We are now eagerly awaiting a visit to and descent of a coal mine, which has been promised to us.

Sport continues to play a large part in our activities, and the numerous tussles between Drums and Fifes at basket ball, baseball, etc., are now being renewed at football and hockey. The Corps hockey team, with the Drum-Major, Cpl. Doe, L. Cpl. Winsborough and Dmr. Fred Cullen, all of whom have played for the Battalion, forming the backbone, is as yet unbeaten. We have beaten "C" Company twice, "D" Company and the Corps of Drums of 1st Royal Fusiliers. Fred Cullen has scored 14 of our 17 goals and the defence has conceded three.

With the setting in of the longer nights our Quiet Room, fitted as it is with radio, comfortable furniture, reading and writing materials, is proving a real boon.

Owing to the shortage of space not permitting us to give complete details of arrivals, departures and other items of domestic interest, we offer our portrait for the information and inspiration of all our readers.

In conclusion, we send our very best wishes to all our ex-drummers wherever they may be, and to them and all our readers greetings for Christmas and the New Year.

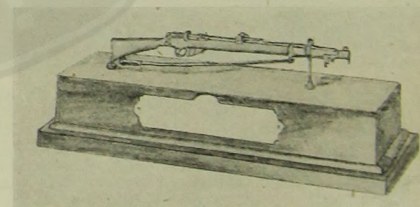
W.O.s' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

The past few months since our last contribution to the Journal have passed very quickly, with a number of events and changes.

A Sergeants' Mess Shooting Competition was held on Sunday, August 3, in which all members competed for the trophy as shown. The whole Mess was moved to Hemer Ranges for the day and, with the weather being good, a good day was had by all. The shooting was both good and close, but "Dead-Eyed Dick," C.S.M. Renwick, came out on top and will receive a silver medal and a name plate on the trophy. If he is good enough and remains unbeaten for three years, he receives a miniature replica of the trophy.

On the conclusion of the last Sergeants' Mess meeting, which R.S.M. McLoughlin presided over, he was presented with a barometer and an outstanding speech was given by the P.M.C., C.S.M. Reece, for this occasion. The officers were invited to the Mess, and it was a really enjoyable evening for everyone.

The next really big event was a Dinner, Dance and Cabaret, which was held on October 11. Owing to a lot of scraping and scrounging by our very capable Committee, the whole of the Mess was redecorated and now looks really cosy and is very comfortable. Due to the efforts of the Battalion Cook Sergeant, Sgt. Dixon, in conjunction with the Mess Caterer, Sgt. Warren, and his staff, a really excellent seven-course dinner was served. The Cabaret was really the highlight of the evening, with songs, etc., and the biggest turn was the "Middlesex Lovelies," who were eight beautiful members of the Mess. We regret that a photograph of these "beauties" is not available.



The Sergeants' Mess Shooting Trophy

We regret the loss of many old faces, such as R.S.M. McLoughlin, who is now R.S.M. of the Depot, R.Q.M.S. Strachan, who is now with Garrison Troops and is holding down a very steady job, and Sgts. McGluskie, Plant and Davies, who have now returned to Civvy Street. We miss the roaring voice of "Mac," the quiet efficiency of the R.Q.M.S., the melodious notes of McGluskie, the patter of Dave's tiny feet and the wise-cracking of "Plonk." To these we extend our hearty greetings and best wishes in the jobs they have undertaken.

The following members of the 2nd Battalion and the Depot we welcome with open arms; they have already made their presence felt: R.S.M. Weller, R.Q.M.S. "Chick" Etheridge and C/Sgt. "Spud" Taylor from the 2nd Battalion, and Sgts. "Bozzel" Bailey and Bill Davis from the Depot.

HOCKEY

Although the season has only just started, the Battalion hockey side is showing great promise, in spite of the fact that little new talent has been found. Such old hands as R.Q.M.S. Etheridge, Capt. R. J. P. Cummings and Delaney and C/Sgt. Waldron all still play an excellent and fast game. The two comparatively new members of the team are Pte. Briggs and Dmr. F. Cullen, both of "H.Q." Company. One other remarkable feature is the fact that nine of our present side are members of "H.Q." Company. This, of course, means, on the face of it, that "H.Q." Company should go a long way in the Albuhera League and Knock-out Competition.

CRICKET

As our last notes were sent to press before the completion of the Divisional Cricket Knock-out Competition, some mention of the Divisional final must be made. The Battalion side beat No. 139 Wing, R.A.F., in the competition in a two-day game on August 30/31 with an outstanding victory of an innings and 214 runs.

SCORES

1st Battalion

Cpl. Eve, c Brent, b Watkinson	53
Capt. Delaney, c and b Smith	0
Lt. R. T. Smith, b Bushall	3
Lt. Phillips, c Green, b Watkinson	3
Capt. Whitehead, c Weaver, b Dobson	60
Sgt. Bailey, c Collier, b Watkinson	33
Sgt. Raycroft, c Owen, b Watkinson	14
Pte. Rees, c Collier, b Dobson	19
A.S.M. Letchford, not out	44
Pte. Barber, c Weaver, b Dobson	7
Dmr. Cullen, b H. Smith	10
Extras	32
Total	331

No. 139 Wing

First Innings		Second Innings	
Capt. Whitfield, b Cullen	1	b Cullen	0
F/Sgt. Dobson, b Cullen	0	c and b Letchford	12
Sgt. Weaver, not out	15	b Cullen	27
F/Lt. Watkinson, c Smith, b Raycroft	4	b Raycroft	5
A.C. Bushall, b Cullen	2	b Cullen	6
S/Ldr. Brent, b Cullen	12	lbw, b Raycroft	8
A.C. Owen, c Smith, b Cullen	2	b Raycroft	0
F.O. Smith, c Bailey, b Cullen	0	b Cullen	1

A/C. Collier, c Whitehead, b Cullen	0	b Raycroft	3
F/O. Green, b Cullen	0	not out	3
A/C. Smith, lbw Raycroft	2	lbw, b Cullen	0
Extras	7	Extras	7
Total	45	Total	72

Bowling

First Innings					Second Innings				
O.	M.	R.	W.		O.	M.	R.	W.	
Whitehead	3	2	5	0	3	0	17	0	
Cullen	14	8	13	8	13.2	3	28	5	
Raycroft	12	4	20	2	7	3	12	4	
Letchford	—	—	—	—	4	2	8	1	

We heartily congratulate the Battalion cricket team on winning the 2nd Divisional Knock-out Competition.

RUGBY

Although we have not yet played any outside games, there have been two practice matches this season, which have been well attended. Talent scouts Maj. Gilbert and Capt. Shipster have watched these games, and as we go to press the first team of the season is playing against 5th Infantry Brigade H.Q. Of last year's team, Lts. Chipp, Collis and Philipps, Sgts. Kendrick and Millross and Cpls. White and Lovell are still with us.

Fixtures have been arranged with most of the teams in the vicinity, but a mishap occurred when the Rugby Officer left the fixture list on the ground during a practice and a goat found that it made an appetising meal.

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

Since the last issue of THE DIE-HARDS the 2nd Battalion has moved into Transjordan for the annual manoeuvres. Here we have taken part in numerous schemes with the 3rd Infantry Brigade, as well as a searchlight tattoo in honour of H.M. King Abdullah of Transjordan. One platoon of "C" Company M.M.G.s and one 4.2-in. mortar platoon of "D" Company each gave demonstrations. H.M. King Abdullah was very interested, particularly in regard to the mortars.

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Capt. G. M. Lanaway in a motor cycle accident on October 2 while in Transjordan. The funeral took place in Ramle Cemetery on October 4. The Commanding Officer, officers and personnel of the Battalion attended and wreaths were laid by representatives for the family and the various departments of the Battalion.

The Battalion is now taking part in a large number of sporting activities. Special mention must be made of the Battalion cricket eleven. After defeating the 15th/19th Hussars by 20 runs in the semi-final, we managed to defeat the 1st Battalion H.L.I. by six wickets, thus winning the 1st Infantry Divisional Cricket Challenge Cup.

The following officers have left us on release: Capt. D. K. Cattell and R. E. Hawes and Lt. S. C. Capon.

We welcome Maj. I. R. Burrows, M.B.E., to the Battalion as Second-in-Command, Capt. G. Kent as O.C. "C" Company, and other officers who have recently joined us.



1. The Education Staff. Left to right: Sgt. Coleman, Cpl. Wrake, Capt. E. A. Mongor, Sgt. Childs, Sgt. Daynes, Sgt. Skinner. 2. A happy band of warriors on the ranges of Givat Olga. 3. 1st XI, 1947, 2nd Battalion, Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), 1st Div. Cricket Champions. Left to right: Back row—Cpl. W. Streatfield, Sgt. E. Woolley, Pte. A. Atterbury, Cpl. A. Keyworth, Pte. B. Glaves. Centre row—L. Cpl. R. Dackombe, C/Sgt. H. Carlier, Capt. K. Clayden, the Commanding Officer (Lt.-Col. F. Walden), Cpl. R. Thorpe. Front row—Pte. A. Downs, Sgt. R. Brown. 4. "Fraternalism" in Palestine. 5. Sgt. Player, i/c "Ye Die-Hards Arms" during operation "Tiger". 6. The Corps of Drums, 2nd Battalion, Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), at Kefar Vitkin. 7. The Battalion Novices Boxing Competition held at Kefar Vitkin on August 13 and 14, 1947.

"H.Q." COMPANY

Since our last contribution our position has been the unhappy one of many farewells and too few welcomes. Among some of the notables who recently departed were R.Q.M.S. Etheridge and Sgt. Woolcott, who left early in July on completion of their Python tour. We were very sorry to see them go and wish them all the very best of luck in their new jobs.

Our best wishes also go to the many smiling truck loads of group-happy men whom we have seen off lately. They have been too numerous for us to name them all, but to mention a few: the M.T. section were well represented by L/Cpl. Johnstone and Ptes. Bush, Manzi, Read and Bowler (57); Ptes. Burch, Bason, Wright and Holland (58); and Sgt. Bibbs (60).

Our Company Office suffered a severe loss with the departure of Cpl. Smirthwaite (60) and the Corps of Drums was sadly depleted when Ptes. Meador, Merrett, Hodgkinson and Brown (10) returned to Civvy Street.

The situation was strained, therefore, to say the least, when we found that we should have to guard ourselves whilst the remaining companies were out on "Operation Tiger." C.S.M. Tarrant, who joined us early in July, was very soon deeply involved in guard and duty rosters. We were very pleased to welcome both C.S.M. Tarrant and Sgt. Lowe to the Company and would like to congratulate the latter on his promotion to C.Q.M.S. Cpl. Turner, now Sgt. Turner, and Pte. Langrish arrived at the same time to swell the numbers in our ever-growing Orderly Room staff. Sgt. Parkes has taken over M.T. Sergeant from Sgt. Bibbs.

When "Tiger" had ended we began preparations for the move to Transjordan and, although our Company lines were moved at the last moment, the main party arrived on September 19 and were not long in settling down, although at first the dust caused much consternation.

Maj. Raindle and Capt. Newman stayed behind at Kefar Vitkin to attend to the handing over of the camp, and from all reports they are kept very busy. Maj. I. R. Burrows joined us in August and has taken over Second-in-Command of the Battalion. 2/Lt. G. Dawe, who arrived at the same time, has taken over the duties of M.T.O. Capt. D. K. Cartell, once happy in the thought that he was 60 Group, is now awaiting the departure of 61 Group. It seems he did not have quite enough service to go out with the 60s. We congratulate Lt. E. A. Mongor and 2/Lt. B. K. Clayden on their promotion to Captain and trust the latter will be getting some signallers shortly.

Whilst all this activity has been going on we have not been idle in the field of sport. Our Drums and Signals team won the Inter-Platoon Cricket Competition, and the Drums basket ball team were third in the Battalion League.

In the Potted Sports Meeting that was held at Kefar Vitkin just prior to our departure we were third. When a second meeting was held shortly after our arrival here we narrowly missed beating "D" Company, and suffered the same fate in the Inter-Company Athletics, when we lost by the small margin of three points.

Nevertheless, we had a number of representatives in the Battalion athletics team and have managed to maintain a high standard in this respect.

In conclusion, we should like to mention two of the 11 entries in the Battalion Novices' Competition in August, namely, Ptes. Vandyke and Flanagan, who both put up very good fights in their respective classes.

"B" COMPANY

Time waits for no man, and least of all for the sub-editor of these notes on the activities of "B" Company. Three months have passed since our last message to you, and the Company has been up and down Palestine in that period, but is at the time of writing in Transjordan. No one can say the Arabs lack "grit"; there is simply miles of it!

The Company moved to Lydda Junction on June 21 to relieve "D" Company, and we had a pleasant but strenuous time searching the railway, guarding the junction and, as an afterthought, guarding ourselves. Whilst there we played numerous games of cricket against the Palestine Police and Movements personnel and won all but two games. Sgt. Brown and Ptes. Hayto (since released), Jewell and Bastock were our star performers.

We were all sorry to lose Capt. J. L. Gray, M.C., to the Arab Legion before coming down to Lydda, and we all wish him luck in his new venture. Capt. J. T. Stanyer came from Battalion H.Q. to command, and he is leaving shortly for L.I.A.P., and Capt. C. C. Close will then take over.

A multitude of thick heads were on parade at the time to say farewell to C.S.M. "Jimmy" Wilde, who left under the Python scheme; a great loss of a very popular Warrant Officer.

Back to the Battalion in August for a few weeks at Kefar Vitkin, and then a composite platoon, under Lt. D. N. Williams, left for Transjordan, to be followed by the Company at the middle of the month. Despite wind, sand, lack of water and living under canvas, everyone settled down quickly and at long last some basic training could be carried out. We have received reinforcements from Crowborough in small quantities, and from the Loyals and the Royal Hampshire. C/Sgt. Parnell and Sgts. Gosling and Preston have joined the Company from England and are very valuable additions to the Company.

Sport has been the mainstay in our existence in the past few months, and the Company has a good record in all events. The Company team for the Novices' Boxing Competition is now receiving intensive training under the safe eye of C/Sgt. Parnell. Capt. C. C. Close, L/Cpl. Southwell and Pte. Mead have all fought well in the previous competition and great things are expected from the next meeting.

Football has started for us with a win over "H.Q." Company, the score being 4-1.

Finally, we welcome to the Company Lt. V. A. L. Holding and 2/Lt. Arscott, newly joined from Crowborough.

"C" COMPANY

After spending some weeks in Palestine on internal security duties, the Company was glad to have a temporary relief when we moved to Transjordan at the end of August.

Here the Company, detached from the Battalion and reinforced by one platoon from "B" Company and another from "D" Company, took part in 2nd Infantry Brigade schemes, reassuming our M.M.G. role in contrast to the guard duties in Palestine. Despite the thick dust, the schemes were enjoyed by all, and happy hours were spent in finding new recipes for "compo" rations.

The Battalion joined us in late September, after the Company had erected a new camp in the Brigade area. Many new faces can be seen in the Company, the result of intakes from the Royal Hampshire, and these people are in training to form new M.M.G. platoons, thus replacing personnel who have left us for Civvy Street. Apart from training, the Company is engaged in demonstrating the characteristics of the M.M.G. to the battalions of the 3rd Infantry Brigade who have recently moved in.

Naturally enough, the lack of entertainment makes sport an essential in our activities. In 2nd Infantry Brigade Sports the Company came out with honours. The mile medley relay was taken in our stride, and we came out on top in the Small Units Football League. Entering the tug-of-war, we reached the final, but just lacked the finishing powers to pull it off completely. In the Battalion Potted Sports, held towards the end of September, we did worse than expected, coming in third behind "D" and "H.Q." Companies.

Maj. V. A. Thomas took over command of the Company during the 2nd Infantry Brigade activities, but has now relinquished it to Capt. G. Kent. Personnel who have left us on demob. include Capt. R. E. Hawes, Lt. S. C. Capon, Sgts. Bevin, Doak and Fogarty and Cpls. France, Kay, Morris and Lawford. We wish them and all the others the very best of luck in their new occupations.

"D" COMPANY

Since our last contribution we have made yet another move. There are now even fewer of the old familiar faces in the Company as demob. slowly saps our strength. However, we are glad to welcome many newcomers, some of whom have joined us from other regiments in Palestine, whilst others are seeing the country for the first time. Amongst the new faces perhaps the most well known is that of C/Sgt. "Discus Dan" O'Keefe, who has already excelled on the sports field. He is now our A.C.S.M.

The main event we have to report is "Operation Tiger," the cordoning and searching of Nathanya. Even though our part was not particularly in the limelight, everybody seemed pleased with the change from camp routine. Considerable ingenuity was seen in the building of bivouacs on the cordon, and in the way in which all made themselves as comfortable as conditions permitted.

One "bivvy," the work of Pte. "Chalky" White and others, was known as "Sten Gun Corner." Another, where Sgt. Hummerstone, Ptes. Strachan and Priest and the Lakeman twins held out, was most fortunately situated by a large water tank, which offered a refreshing dip at the close of day. One post in particular had a very good field of view, and Cpl. Davies was always to be found keenly observing the Jews, especially the females! At Company H.Q. a small "shanty town" sprang up and our "prefabs" were the envy of the Battalion. Cpl. Champkin was busy with Signals, but spent his spare moments collecting large peculiar insects and reptiles. Next door Pte. Bower continued to "push" his typewriter in spite of everything. On the other side of the Signals, the M.T. staff had a luxurious bed, accommodating them all. By the time the operation concluded some of us were reluctant to return to camp, as we had found life so agreeable.

After the operation we settled down to a relatively quiet spell at Kefar Vitkin before moving to Zarqa in Transjordan. Here we live in dust and heat by day and dust and cold by night. At the time of writing the new intakes are learning fast on cadres, whilst the older hands are taking part in Brigade exercises and demonstrations.

In sporting activities we have maintained a high standard. Cpl. Thorpe, L/Cpl. Dackombe and Ptes. Atterbury and Downes, in the Battalion eleven, helped to win the Divisional Cricket Cup. The Company did well in the Inter-Platoon Basket Ball, with No. 10 Platoon leading the league and "H.Q." and No. 11 close behind. Our team of 20 athletes can well be proud of having won a series of three Potted Sports Meetings in the Battalion. We are also represented in the Battalion team by Lt. A. Witterick, C/Sgt. O'Keefe, Cpl. Abbott and Ptes. Atterbury, Penter and Spinks.

SPORTS

Among numerous sporting activities of the Battalion this season cricket has been the most outstanding. The season opened with a match against 4th/7th Dragoon Guards, which we won by 50 runs. During the rest of the season we played 15 matches, losing only two, the first to the 2nd Battalion Royal Lincoln and the second to the 17th/21st Lancers. In the Divisional Competition the scores were as follows: 4th/7th Dragoon Guards, all out for 57 runs; 2nd Middlesex, 67 for six. Second game: 1st K.O.S.B., all out for 38 runs; 2nd Middlesex, all out for 122. We defeated the 15th/19th Hussars by 20 runs in the semi-final, and in the final, played at Sarafand, we defeated the 1st Battalion H.L.I. by six wickets, thus winning the 1st Infantry Divisional Cricket Challenge Cup.

Sgt. Brown, Cpl. Keyworth and Pte. Hayto bowled extremely well during the season and C/Sgt. Carlier, Cpl. Skinner and L/Cpl. Dackombe batted with great effect. Pte. Downs was a very sound wicketkeeper and at times played brilliantly.

The Battalion has had quite a good athletics team this season. Great interest was shown in the two Potted Sports Meetings held recently, in which "D" Company



1. The longest jump. 2. Start of the mile team race. 3. L/Cpl. Jary throwing the discus. 4. Pte. Padley competing in the high jump. 5. Cpl. Woolger putting the shot. 6. C.Q.M.S. O'Keefe throwing the javelin. 7. The Battalion on the move to Transjordan. A halt at the Palestine-Transjordan frontier, Sept., 1947. 8. 1st Battalion Cricket Team, 2nd Div. Cricket K.O. winners, 1947.

triumphed. On September 28 and 29 we held an Inter-Company Sports Meeting. "D" Company took first place again, with "H.Q." Company a close second.

We did quite well in the 1st Guards Brigade Sports, coming second to the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards after a heroic struggle. The positions were the same in the 1st Infantry Divisional Sports held on October 15, namely, 1st Battalion Welsh Guards first and 2nd Battalion Middlesex Regiment second.

Thanks to the 2nd Battalion Cheshire Regiment, who left us an excellent boxing ring when we relieved them at Kefar Vitkin, we were able to run a Battalion Novices' Boxing Competition in August. The winners were as follows: bantam-weight, Pte. Shandley; feather-weight, Sgt. Metcalfe; light-weight, Pte. Knight; welter-weight, Pte. Vandyke; middle-weight, Pte. Lakeman; heavy-weight, Pte. Nolan. Special mention must be made of Pte. Coyne, who was the best loser in the competition; he put up a courageous show.

In the past three months considerable progress has been made in the field of basket ball. Two leagues have been run, and after some really fine exhibitions of play, in which all teams showed great keenness and team spirit, "D" Company emerged with a double victory to its credit. On October 20 the Battalion team played the 4th/7th Dragoon Guards in the first round of the Divisional Knock-out Competition. This game was close the majority of the time; at half-time the score was 4th/7th D.G. 9, 2nd Middlesex 11. In the second half 4th-7th Dragoon Guards played excellently and gradually drew ahead until at the end the score was 4th/7th D.G. 23, 2nd Middlesex 17. An exciting, well-played game.

The Battalion entered a team for the Divisional Swimming Sports, but because of insufficient time for training, due to operational commitments, the team did not gain a place.

In the trial for the Divisional water polo team we were represented by the following: Maj. R. D. Hutchings, Capt. A. J. E. Burnett, C.S.M. Tarrant, Cpl. Smith and Ptes. Coccozza and Schotel. C.S.M. Tarrant gained a place and has played for the Division in several games.

Our teams are now preparing for winter sports and in these we hope to do even better than previously. Release and our commitments prove a never-ending source of worry to the team selectors, but we are optimistic about the future.

M.G. WING, THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.), HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE TRAINING CENTRE

GOOD-BYE, STATELY PYLONS,
GOOD-BYE, CROWBOROUGH LAPS,
WE WILL LEAVE YOU THE ECHO
"RIGHT AND LEFT, UMPTEEN TAPS."
Anon.

Since the last issue of this journal many changes have been brought about at Warren Camp, Crowborough, and this series of notes will be the last, as the Wing will close down during the month of November.

Unfortunately, on moving to Shorncliffe, we will lose our identity now that the Regiment has reverted to Infantry and instead of being a two-company strength with over three hundred personnel we shall be reduced to two Middlesex Platoons in a three Regimental Company—a vastly different state of affairs to what we have been used to during the past year.

The Middlesex Regiment will be sorry to leave Crowborough and its vicinity, as during the past year all ranks have got to like and admire the friendly people of Sussex. In return the Regiment has earned a good name in the neighbourhood as evidenced by the compliments that have been paid as to both its standard of turn-out and behaviour. The camp, which is situated on the top of the Sussex Downs, has been an ideal spot all through the summer months, although already it is possible to feel a slight coldness from the north-east winds which have the effect of chilling every quarter of the camp in an extremely short time. All ranks remember only too well what it was like here last winter. However, on the whole, we shall be sorry to leave the camp, which is only 40 miles from London, and yet gives the impression of being completely swallowed amidst the beauty of the surrounding country.

Probably the greatest shock that has been experienced over the past quarter was on one sunny afternoon in September, when the O.C. informed all ranks that the Middlesex were no longer to be a support Regiment with machine guns and 4.2-in. mortars, but instead would revert to Infantry. This came as a great blow to everyone and one could feel the numbness that descended on the camp for a few days. However, there was not a great deal of time to waste meditating over the change, as the powers that be had given the unit only 96 hours to complete the change-over and recommence training as Infantry. Immediately, therefore, everyone was organised and one saw guns and mortars being coated and smeared with preserving grease, watched grimly by hardened instructors, who thought that this was sacrilege after the months of time spent in cleaning these familiar weapons. Whilst this was going on instructors were being given a quick revision cadre on Infantry so that they would be fit to commence the new training. A word here must be mentioned about the Unit's many carriers which, from the afternoon of the announcement, have remained stationary in camp. These have, at various times, caused a certain amount of friction between the local inhabitants and the Unit. Articles have appeared in the local papers to the effect that the carriers on night drives were disturbing the rest of the villagers. Now, no doubt, the inhabitants will be able to enjoy their beauty sleep uninterrupted. The many carrier drivers, having got their carriers ready for disposal, are now to be seen sweeping the leaves and generally being employed in the complex admin. duties of the camp.

Platoons at the time of the changeover were in various stages of training. There were approximately 180 recruits in camp and all these had to be given further instruction in order that they could complete the full six weeks of Infantry Corps training. As 110 of these were to pass out together it meant that for several weeks the training staff were taxed very severely. However

all went well and the general impression was that Infantry training was a pleasant change, although not nearly so interesting as that of the support weapons. After completing training, this large output was drafted together and sent on embarkation leave from here. It is understood that their eventual destination is the 2nd Battalion. They were a smartly turned out and well-equipped draft. This standard was reached after many kit checks and various inspections and all concerned in their training felt much pride in seeing them ready to march off. We wish them the best of luck and hope they will have a pleasant stay abroad. Since the above went, there have not been any trainees in camp as intakes are now being posted direct to Shorncliffe; staff from this Unit being sent to look after them upon their arrival there.

Since the last issue of the Journal we have welcomed a new Wing Commander in Maj. D. C. L. Nolda, who has just returned to England after two years' service in India. We wish good-bye to Maj. I. F. Campbell, M.C., who, after spending six very pleasant months at Crowborough, has now resigned from the Army. All ranks wish him luck in his new civilian occupation. The staff of officers in the Unit has really been very static since the formation of the Wing in January and only now are some beginning to leave us on "Demob."—these, namely, Lts. Morris, Fergusson, Armstrong and 2/Lt. Barratt, who leave after comparatively long periods on the staff here. Wherever they may go we wish them the best of luck. In place of the above officers we welcome several new 2/Lieutenants who did their training as recruits in 26 M.G.T.C. at Crowborough, were posted to O.C.T.U. in Bangalore, India, commissioned and sent to join us here—we hope they will have a happy stay.

Several of our best training N.C.O.s have left us lately, namely, Sgts. Rout, McFall, Dawkes, Hobson, Hythe and Bartle; Cpls. White, Latham, Newton and Epps; and in passing we should like to take this opportunity of thanking them all for all the work they put in to make the training of this Wing of such a high level and we wish them luck in the future.

Several demonstrations have been provided, the most outstanding of which were as follows:

A demonstration of M.M.G. and 4.2-in. mortars was given at Chichester P.T.C. and at a Home Counties Brigade T.A. officers' week-end camp at Lydd. Both of these did well and were highly commended. For the period of one month a demonstration team was attached to an East Anglia recruiting column and from all reports this team did much to induce people to join the Army. This Unit has also, for a week in September, been the base for an Army Cadet Force Camp—the 4th Battalion The Buffs Cadet Battalion being stationed here. The cadets enjoyed themselves and it was rather a change to see young boys of 13 to 17 years of age wandering around the camp—some of them appeared to look rather lost and bewildered by the bustle, etc., that prevails in an Army camp. Also attached for a short period was an R.A. Demonstration Column, comprising such novelties as Tank Recovery Units, Radar installations and other weird and wonderful contraptions not normally seen by the Infantryman.

The admin. side of the Unit has been very hard put throughout the last quarter, although, under the able leadership of C/Sgts. Poulter and Selfe (Q side) and C/Sgt. Ure (Pay side), they have pulled through and handled things admirably. C/Sgt. Poulter, unfortunately, left us in September, after 21 years' loyal service with the Regiment and it was with regret that we finally said good-bye to him. We were fortunate in obtaining C/Sgt. Selfe to replace him.

Sport has played an important part in the life of the Unit during the past months, and cricket, football, hockey and golf have all had their turn. Unit cricket finished on rather a triumphant note as a day match with the Depot at Mill Hill resulted in a win for the Wing. Result: M.G. Wing won by 78 runs (Lt. Legge 70; Maj. Paterson 5 for 28, Pte. Haylor 4 for 16).

Considering the fact that no cricket pitch was available throughout the summer the results achieved were very promising.

With the passing of the seasons, football came along—some enthusiasts had been playing most of the summer and the Unit football officer, Lt. Harris, was quite hard set to choose a team from the galaxy of talent that surrounded him. However, he overcame the difficulty and produced one which over a period had been a credit to the Unit. One or two of the finer players have played regularly for Tunbridge Wells and have helped that team recover slightly after a bad start to the season. Notable among the more outstanding members of the team has been Sgt. McFall, Cpls. Cole, Newton, Wimbury and Jones.

Match results:

v. Tunbridge Wells	..	..	H.	Drawn	2—2
v. 163 O.C.T.U.	..	..	A.	Lost	2—5
v. Tunbridge Wells	..	..	A.	Drawn	1—1
v. 163 O.C.T.U.	..	..	H.	Drawn	3—3
v. G.S.D. Bakery	..	..	A.	Won	4—0
v. 6 W.O.S.B.	..	..	H.	Won	3—2
v. 6 W.O.S.B.	..	..	A.	Lost	1—4

When the supply of boots has allowed it, hockey has been played, although here we have been rather handicapped by the fact that we have been forced to use 163 O.C.T.U. ground as we do not possess one of our own. The hockey, although not of a brilliant standard, was good fun and enjoyed by all. When it came to getting a team together, however, it was another matter, and in the only match of the season the team was beaten. However, the captain and organiser, 2/Lt. Sanders, feels sure that given our own pitch and sufficient practice a creditable team could have been produced.

Match result: 163 O.C.T.U., 7; M.G. Wing, nil.

The last of our sports, and the one with a small but enthusiastic following, is golf. The Unit have been lucky in having such a pleasant, although somewhat difficult, course adjacent and throughout the summer months members of the Unit have been religiously practising, although it is felt that in some cases the results achieved were somewhat negligible and the number of balls lost very high. However, an inspiring thought which reaches us as we write is that Capt. Bywaters has just holed out on a short hole in one—

quite a creditable feat, although not surprising, considering that he has beaten the course professional on several occasions.

From sport to entertainment is but a short step and in this respect during the autumn the Unit entertainment officer, Lt. Harris, managed to raise several Unit dances which were appreciated by all ranks and also provided a welcome chance to repay some of the hospitality that has been received from various organisations in Crowborough. Unofficially, the Wing has had move scares at irregular periods during the past year and under this pretext has held at least three grand farewell dances, and all in Crowborough are now used to this and consider that the excuse is wearing rather thin and that we shall never move. However, move we must and leave the many friends made at Crowborough behind. Already two marriages to local girls have been made and it is believed that several more are pending.

When these notes are published the members of the M.G. Wing will be scattered far and wide—many to different units, as the establishment at Shorncliffe is small for Middlesex personnel—some probably to Battalions of the Regiment and many in a short time to Civvy Street. Wherever they go we wish them and past members of the Wing who have preceded them the very best of luck in everything that they do and trust that they will remember with pleasure their stay during 1947 as members of the M.G. Wing at Crowborough, Sussex.

7th BATTALION NOTES

The Battalion came out of "suspended animation" and was reconstituted in the new T.A. on March 1, 1947, under the command of Lt.-Col. A. K. Johnson, T.D., and formed the M.G. Battalion in the 44th (H.C.) Infantry Division, T.A. Originally the War Office ruled that the designation of the unit should be the 44th (H.C.) Divisional M.G. Battalion (Middlesex). Representations were immediately made through the usual channels for the proper designation to be restored and, with the combined backing of Brigade, Division, Middlesex T. and A.F.A. and the Honorary Colonel, the War Office finally relented and the 7th Battalion lived again. Recruiting was not allowed by the War Office to commence until May 1, and so there was a period of two months in which to put our house in order. During this time parts of the H.Q. were redecorated, priority being given, very rightly, to the various messes and changing rooms.

Shortly after March 1 the permanent staff began to arrive. Capt. H. M. F. Langley, of the 2nd Battalion, has been posted as Adjutant, and Maj. C. Denton, T.D., makes a very welcome reappearance with the Battalion as Q.M. As we all know, Maj. Denton has some 38 years' service in the Regiment and has been Q.M. of this Battalion from 1931. The R.S.M. is R.S.M. R. Overy, who spent three and a half years as a P.O.W. in Japanese hands after Hong Kong fell. The two P.S.I.s posted are C.S.M. A. Wray and Sgt. T. Perry, and the

H.Q. staff is completed by Ptes. F. Barry and K. Rump as storemen and Pte. P. Cosgrove as driver-mechanic. The Chief Clerk, Sgt. R. Colbourne, is also an old member of the Regiment.

By almost superhuman efforts on the part of both the Adjutant and the Q.M., the necessary stores to enable the Battalion to commence training were obtained by May 1.

Recruiting, which commenced on May 1, has been very slow, and at the time of writing these notes (October 31) the total strength of the Battalion is only nine officers and 21 other ranks. The reasons for this apparent lack of enthusiasm for the T.A. are many, but it must be realised that the new regulations do not allow us to accept the young men who have not done their national service, and also do not allow us to accept any man over 40 years of age, or with more than a 20 per cent. disability. This precludes the Battalion from having back some of our finest pre-war N.C.O.s and key personnel.

On June 20 the Battalion entertained all the local Mayors and notabilities and many of the retired officers in this H.Q. The Honorary Colonel, Col. Sir Edwin King, K.C.B., C.M.G., presided and our guests heard a most excellent lecture by the Second-in-Command, Maj. A. J. Hughes, M.C., on the activities of the Battalion from the outbreak of war until the end of hostilities in Europe. It was hoped that this talk would be listened to by a considerable number of the general public, but, in spite of advertising locally, only a handful of people turned up.

It was decided by higher authority that annual camp would not be held this year in view of the very short time which had passed since re-forming the T.A. The Middlesex T. and A.F.A. organised a recruiting drive for all units in the county over the period September 8 to October 26, and the week allotted to this Battalion was from September 22 to 27. In spite of a very full programme organised for the week in the way of guards of honour, demonstrations, exhibitions and social events, very few men were enrolled, and it is hoped that recruiting will improve during the winter months, when outside attractions are fewer.

The Hornsey "Die-Hards" Club

The club is still flourishing in spite of the natural tendency to drop off after the bulk of the members who had seen service with the Battalion had been demobbed and at present 86 members have paid their subscriptions for 1948.

In June we moved our H.Q. from "The Nightingale" to the Drill Hall, Hornsey, the C.O. of the 7th Battalion having kindly given us the use of the club room on Wednesday evenings.

A most successful dance was held on June 14 to raise funds for the Regimental War Memorial and the club was able to forward the sum of £25 towards this very deserving cause.

A concert was arranged for El Alamein Day and proved a huge success, with over 130 members and guests present. Collecting boxes were passed round during the evening and the sum of £4 17s. 4d. was raised for the Memorial Fund. The artists and instrumentalists gave their services free, and our thanks are

pue to all concerned for such an excellent evening. The success of the entertainments arranged must be very gratifying to our worthy Secretary, Lt. J. W. Badham, M.B.E., who does most of the work behind the scenes, and we take this opportunity of thanking him for all he has done to keep the club going.

LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR

c/o Hydro Electric Commission,
Hilltop,
Waddamana,
Tasmania,
Australia.
August 1, 1947.

DEAR SIR,

I hope you will excuse my writing to you, but I would like you to do me a favour. I would like you to trace a L/Cpl. Battono, H., who was with me in "A" Company, 1/7th Middlesex Regiment, in Sicily, 1943. The last time I saw him was at Rometta, near Spadafora, just after you left us all, for your new appointment.

I don't know what happened to Sgts. Riddick and Mulcaby, but, if possible, I would like to get into touch with them, too. I was sorry to hear of the death of Capt. Macpherson. He was one of the best.

I remain, Sir,
6206481 L. C. VENN, Cpl.
(late Middlesex Regt.).

29, Gloucester Road,
London, W.5.
September 24, 1947.

DEAR SIR,

Please allow me to congratulate you on the very excellent new issue of THE DIE-HARDS. I think the new cover is an improvement and can hardly be bettered. My young brother in The Buffs always admired our magazine; now he will be obliged to admit that it sets a standard that will be hard to beat. Please excuse my taking up your time, but I felt I should show my appreciation.

Yours sincerely,
PETER BENSON-COOPER.

P.S.—I very much enjoy reading the Battalion notes and Hugh Doherty's articles. I hope you will be giving further accounts of the Regiment's doings in the last war, especially the reconstituted 1st Battalion.

(Editor: We hope this high praise is deserved.)

Lloyd's,
London, E.C.3.
October 6, 1947.

DEAR MAJOR KEMPSTER,

As Hon. Secretary of Middlesex I write to thank you for your kind message to my side and myself on winning

the Championship. It is indeed satisfying after so long a wait.

Yours sincerely,
R. W. V. ROBINS.

(Editor: The reply to our message of congratulations to Middlesex on winning the Championship.)

Mr. J. GIBBONS

Mr. J. Gibbons, of 13, Ranston Street, Marylebone, London, N.W.1, has recently corresponded with the Editor. He served in the 2nd Battalion and was present with that Battalion in the Retreat to Dunkirk. Old, well-remembered names, such as Cpl. Potter, Pte. Parvot, and Thomas appear in his letters. We are sure he would appreciate news and letters from them or for that matter any of his old comrades.

ROYAL MILITARY MEMORIAL CHAPEL, SANDHURST SECOND WORLD WAR MEMORIAL

It is intended that the proposed Memorial should commemorate all the Officers of the British Commonwealth and Empire who gave their lives in the Second World War, whether they were trained at Woolwich, Sandhurst or one of the War-time Officer Cadet Training Units, and whether they held Regular, Territorial or Emergency Commissions.

His Majesty the King has graciously signified his approval of this plan, which is to be carried out in the following form:

- A Book of Remembrance containing the names of the fallen.
- Oak pews to replace the present chairs in the main body of the Chapel. These pews are to bear on the panels and ends the carved crests of Regiments and Corps.
- A new Organ in place of the present unsatisfactory one.

A collection is being made by the Secretary of The Middlesex Regimental Association, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7. Any of our readers desirous of subscribing should forward their subscriptions to him at the address given. A sum of £40 has been collected to date from Units and members of the Regiment.

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

By Col. S. F. Hedgecoe
PART II

The Japanese Landing

During the night of December 18/19 the Japanese effected their landing on Hong Kong Island, east and west of Quarry Point. 5/7 Rajput had taken over from

2 Royal Scots and "Z" Company on December 15, but P.B.s 53, 54 and 55 were still held by "Z" Company. The Japanese followed up their advantage rapidly, advancing straight on Mount Butler and Jardine's Lookout and westward down the King's Road towards North Point. So serious did the situation appear that Fortress H.Q. ordered the C.O. to send out as soon as possible a mobile platoon of M.G.s and any other personnel he could collect to stop further penetration west. This force of 24 O.R.s, under Lt. E. C. Graham, was despatched to occupy the area north and south of P.B. 50 and, if possible, establish a road-block. The force reached North Point, but was heavily fired on, losing some men. Meantime Lt. Carruthers, with an armoured car of the H.K.V.D.C., had reported to Battalion H.Q. and was placed at its disposal. This officer was sent with his car to get into touch with Lt. Graham at P.B. 50; to proceed eastward along the King's Road in order to contact the Japanese; and, if possible, obtain accurate information as to the point of advance reached by them. The car did not get beyond the point reached by the Middlesex party and was blown up, Lt. Carruthers alone escaping. The mobile platoon, under Lt. Graham, had left in three 15-cwt. trucks, all three of which were knocked out. The parties dispersed, and, leaving their M.G.s in the trucks, proceeded independently down side streets, so as to get away from the main road in an endeavour to out-flank the obstacle from which they had been fired on. One party, under Sgt. Miller and Cpl. Meakin, succeeded in getting into a building in the North Point Power Station, from which point they claim to have knocked out an enemy M.G. which had caused the initial damage. They also established the fact that a Japanese 2-pdr. gun was in position on the south side of the road, protected by a civilian truck.

What remained of the parties now joined Maj. J. J. Paterson of the H.K.V.D.C. in the North Point Power Station. Under his orders they remained and occupied positions, and next morning inflicted severe casualties by M.G. fire on the Japanese, who continued to land to the east of North Point. Finally, at about 1600 hours on December 19, the remnants of the party, 12 in all, were overwhelmed and captured. Sgt. Miller and Cpl. Meakin did excellent work throughout, and the men under them worked and shot well. About five had escaped and rejoined at Leighton Hill. Fortunately Lt. Graham and Sgt. Fox managed to reach P.B. 53 and got into touch with 2/Lt. Harris and Battalion H.Q., as also did Lt. Carruthers of the H.K.V.D.C. Throughout the remainder of the night Battalion H.Q. were on the alert and all positions were fully manned.

There is little doubt that the Japanese selected as their point of attack a sector of the island which was lightly held at the time, and their landing was a success in every way. The P.B.s on this front were not fully manned; the Indian Battalions had had a very stiff time on the mainland; the majority of the P.B.s and L.L.s they were to occupy had been rendered untenable by shell fire; and most of the crews were located that night in very second-rate alternative M.G. positions.

It is reported that many Japanese swam the Lyemun Channel towing their equipment and arms on floats. A remarkable feat! In their carefully worked out plan, they had selected the one sector to land on from which a successful and rapid advance would enable them to occupy the commanding heights of Mount Parker, Mount Butler and Jardine's Lookout; and this they accomplished in a very short time. By the morning of December 19 they had nearly reached the crest of Jardine's Lookout, the occupation of which at once threatened the east and west communications of the island, and enabled them to overlook the Wong Nei Chong Gap.

On December 19 Capt. Course, "B" Company 5/7 Rajput, withdrew the remainder of his Company to the Chinese Cemetery Ridge, thereby prolonging the right of 1 Middlesex from the Red House, which was taken over by "Z" Company. Later, owing to the thinness with which this line was held and the unfortunate death of Capt. Course, Fortress H.Q. was notified that further strengthening of this part of the front was necessary. The G.S.O. 1 promised assistance, and 2/Lt. Hamilton and 16 men, 2 Royal Scots, were sent. In addition, Lt. Carruthers and 16 men from Battalion H.Q. were also added. South of the Cemetery Ridge the line was prolonged by one Company 2/14 Punjab.

During the day P.B. 53, which had put up a stubborn resistance, was demolished by shell fire, and 2/Lt. T. C. Harris and some members of his crew were killed in the alternative position. Lt. K. E. Young and his crew occupied P.B. 54, where they experienced much shelling, fortunately losing only one gun. Owing to their very exposed position, they were withdrawn to a position at the junction of Caroline Hill Road with Perceval Street and Leighton Hill Road, thereby acting as an outpost to the Leighton Hill position.

With the death of Capt. Course it was now obvious that a British Urdu-speaking officer was urgently required to deal with the 5/7 Rajput Company, which had been depleted and was without reliable leadership. This was represented to Fortress H.Q. and resulted in the arrival of Lt.-Col. Cadogan-Rawlinson (O.C., 5/7 Rajput) and Lt. Offer, both of whom were of invaluable assistance. Unfortunately Lt. Offer was wounded the following morning, but the C.O. of 5/7 Rajput remained with 1 Middlesex throughout the remainder of the operations.

On December 20 the Japanese made rapid headway, seizing Wong Nei Chong Gap and the lower S.W. slopes of Jardine's Lookout. Throughout the day there was much shelling of Happy Valley, Stubbs' Road, the Jockey Club stables and houses on The Peak; but no attack developed on the front held by "Z" Company and 5/7 Rajput. As a precaution, Lt. Carruthers and his men were not withdrawn, in spite of a further Rajput reinforcement, but remained in position until December 21 and then withdrew. The night was wet and rather foggy and the men suffered much discomfort.

We must now follow the actions of the M.G. Companies.

"A" Company

During the period December 8-18—the day of the Japanese landing on the Island of Hong Kong—"A" Company, under command of Capt. J. H. S. Hudson, experienced intermittent shelling and heavy air raids in their sector. The Aberdeen area in particular received a great deal of attention from the enemy owing to the presence there of the subsidiary dock and Naval Base. Mount Davis, Mount Austin and Aberdeen all came in for a good deal of shelling and bombing. On Tuesday, December 16, P.B.s 1, 3 and 9 had a severe time, but no casualties. The next day air raids and shelling were general in the Company area and P.B. 7 at Pellett Bay was narrowly missed by a stick of bombs.

Friday, December 19, the day after the landing, was a quiet day for the Company, except for air raids on Aberdeen. One section of guns, under 2/Lt. Winter-Blyth, took up a position on Bennett's Hill, in support of "C" Company, Winnipeg Grenadiers, to check the advance of the Japanese from the direction of Wong Nei Chong Gap. Another section, under 2/Lt. Newton, occupied a position east of Pok Fu Lam in support of "A" Company, Winnipeg Grenadiers. On Saturday, December 20, "B" Company, Winnipeg Grenadiers, were withdrawn from the sub-sector in order to carry out a counter-attack. "A" Company, 1 Middlesex, were thus without infantry support. The forward sections, under 2/Lt. Newton and 2/Lt. Winter-Blyth, were withdrawn.

At 1200 hours on Sunday, December 21, in consequence of orders from Fortress H.Q., the Company concentrated at Company H.Q. They were to be prepared to move to any part of the island. Two sections, under 2/Lt. Newton, were sent for the defence of Aberdeen Industrial School, and two other sections were placed under command of Commander Miller, R.N., for the defence of Aberdeen on the east. On Monday, December 22, one platoon, under 2/Lt. Winter-Blyth, was ordered to report at Battalion H.Q., and later, Capt. Flood with all the available remainder of the company, was also ordered to report there. From then the Company was employed in supporting a mixed force of R.N. and R.A.F. personnel in the defence of Aberdeen.

On Tuesday, December 23, an attempt to mount a section of guns on Bennett's Hill to N.E. of Aberdeen was unsuccessful, owing to very heavy enemy mortar fire. However, the R.N. personnel were able to maintain their position in that area with the assistance of the Company's guns from a position on the flank. The following day a section, under Cpl. Johnson, moved position to deal with enemy moving on Brick Hill. Another section, under Cpl. Cox, was sent at 2200 hours to join "C" Company, 1 Middlesex, in the defence of Little Hong Kong. During the night December 24/25 the enemy attacked Bennett's Hill. But the attack was beaten off, chiefly as a result of flanking fire from Cpl. Johnson's section.

On Christmas Day the enemy succeeded in gaining a footing on the eastern end of Bennett's Hill and Cpl. Johnson was ordered to support a counter-attack by R.N. personnel. The counter-attack was only partly

successful, however, and enemy pressure was kept up until well after midday. Finally, at 1600 hours, the order "Cease fire—Cease hostilities" was received, and the Company was withdrawn to Aberdeen Industrial School. The following day they joined Battalion H.Q. in Murray Barracks.

"C" Company

During the period December 8-18 "C" Company, under command of Maj. H. Marsh, experienced a number of air raids, and after December 11 there was occasional shelling which at times interrupted road communication on the Company's front. During one of the air raids, on December 10, L/Cpl. Bennett and three others were wounded.

On the night of December 18/19, when the enemy landed, the Company of Canadians whose H.Q. were also at Little Hong Kong were moved to Wong Nei Chong Gap. The following day, in view of the rapid enemy advance across the island, Company H.Q. and the crews of P.B.s 12, 13 and 15 were ordered to a position on Bennett's Hill. That evening, however, Company H.Q. returned to Little Hong Kong, leaving the P.B. crews at Bennett's Hill under 2/Lt. Mace. All other P.B.s remained manned.

The next day, December 20, 2/Lt. Mace was wounded and the command of his six guns was taken over by Sgt. Bedward. During the day an enemy patrol penetrated to the road south of Company H.Q. and fired on passing vehicles, but that night it withdrew to Brick Hill.

On December 21 the enemy were astride the road in strength, and an attack by 2/14 Punjab and R.N. personnel failed to dislodge them. The C.O. of 2/14 Punjab was killed and his unit suffered heavy casualties. The result was that "C" Company H.Q. was cut off from communication with the P.B.s in Repulse Bay, except by telephone. 2/Lt. Grounds was killed during an attack on an enemy position at Repulse Bay Garage, leaving 2/Lt. Cheesewright in isolated command of P.B.s 16-20.

On December 22 the six guns on Bennett's Hill did some good work against enemy detachments on Mount Nicholson, Shouson Hill (east of Little Hong Kong) and Brick Hill. So effective was their fire and that from Company H.Q. that it was possible during the night December 23/24 for a convoy of six trucks to fill with much-needed ammunition from the Little Hong Kong Magazine. That night, also, 2/Lt. Cheesewright was ordered to withdraw the personnel of his five P.B.s to Stanley Peninsula. As the enemy had already penetrated to the P.B. areas, this operation was carried out in stockinged feet, starting at midnight. It must stand for ever to the credit of 2/Lt. Cheesewright and his men that every gun, with its equipment and some ammunition, was safely evacuated to Stanley. With badly cut feet, after over five hours of very rough going, they reported their arrival, and twenty-four hours later were in action again. Sgt. Manning particularly distinguished himself by his cheerfulness and devotion on this occasion, as indeed he did during the remainder of the fighting.

At Company H.Q., on December 24, Maj. Marsh found that the road to the Magazine was subjected to a greater volume of fire than formerly. During the evening his H.Q. were strengthened by the arrival of Cpl. Cox with two of "A" Company's P.B. crews and 16 O.R.s from 2 Royal Scots. Sgt. Rich was wounded in P.B. 14 and three of his men killed. That night another ammunition convoy was served.

On Christmas Day the enemy numbers in the neighbourhood had obviously increased. At dawn, Sgt. Bedward's position on Bennett's Hill was very heavily shelled and he and Sgt. Pearce, with the majority of their men, were killed. Later on the position was overrun by the enemy. A local truce had been ordered between 1000 hours and midday in order to allow some civilians to pass through to the town—an amazing situation! Later that afternoon the Company H.Q. area was surrendered.

"B" and "D" Companies

Until the landing on the island these two Companies experienced little interference from the enemy other than air raids and, in the case of "D" Company, shelling of some P.B. areas. In "B" Company's area bombs were dropped on Stanley Fort, the Gaol and Chung-am-Kok Fort. On December 16 "D" Company's P.B. 39 received a good deal of the shelling intended by the Japanese for Pak-Sha-Wan Fort, in preparation for the landing.

On December 19, when it was seen that the landing was successful, the two affiliated Canadian Companies were ordered to take part in counter-attacks and "B" and "D" Companies, 1 Middlesex, were ordered to positions in the Stanley area. There they became one detachment under command of Capt. Weedon. "D" Company only just succeeded in passing through Tytam Gap before it was occupied by the enemy. H.Q. were established near P.B. 24. The crews of P.B.s 21, 22, 23, 29 and 30 were moved to positions covering the narrow neck of the Peninsula, and two "D" Company platoons occupied the Maryknoll Monastery area. That night was very wet and the men suffered much discomfort in their new positions.

The following day, Lt. Falconar and four of his men were lost and two others wounded during an attempt to force a junction with the troops remaining in the Repulse Bay area. When approaching Middle Spur his advance was held up by heavy M.G. fire and the attempt had to be abandoned. The approach to Repulse Bay was particularly difficult as the only possible routes were by the road just above sea level, or by the water catchment some hundreds of feet up on the steep hillside. The Japanese found it easy to block both these narrow defiles.

On December 21 the Japanese did not press their advance towards the Stanley Peninsula except in the Red Hill-Notting Hill area. Here No. 1 Company, H.K.V.D.C., had lost all their officers, and 2/Lt. Blackaby, "D" Company, 1 Middlesex, was sent to take command. Later that day, however, he was relieved by a H.K.V.D.C. officer and the Volunteer

Company was withdrawn and placed under command of Capt. Weedon.

The following day, December 22, the commander of the Stanley area gave orders to form a second main line of defence immediately south of the narrow neck of the Peninsula. A forward O.P. was established at the road junction west of Stanley View, under command of Capt. West, "D" Company, 1 Middlesex. During the morning Cpl. Goddard's section, in a temporary position above the P.B. 29, received casualties and was forced to withdraw by an enemy party which attacked with rifles and hand grenades from the hillside above. An immediate counter-attack organised and led by Capt. West recovered the position, however.

The next morning, at 0700 hours, a Canadian Company was supported in its attack on Stone Hill and Stanley Mound by the fire of eight M.G.s mounted in P.B. 27 and St. Stephen's College area. Later in the day, during the enemy's retaliatory bombardment, Sgt. Robins and a number of men became casualties. The Canadians reached their objective, but later in the day withdrew again to the neck of the Peninsula. The result of the day's fighting was that the enemy were in possession of all the hills overlooking the Peninsula.

At first light on December 24 a Japanese flag was seen flying over the house formerly occupied by Capt. West's O.P., and it was feared that Capt. West and his party had been overcome during the night. They had, however, realised that the house was surrounded and had withdrawn to an upper room unknown to the Japanese, who had planted a mortar section on the verandah below. When they were ultimately discovered they used hand grenades to fight their way out, killing the Japanese officer and inflicting casualties on his crew. In the subsequent confusion they made good their escape through the front door.

Throughout that day intermittent shelling took place, and a few casualties were incurred, particularly in P.B. 28, where a gun was disabled by a shell penetrating the loop-hole. It was here that Pte. Foley distinguished himself in evacuating the wounded under fire. At dusk the Canadian Battalion was withdrawn to Stanley Fort, and their positions astride the ridge south of St. Stephen's College were taken over by a party of H.K.V.D.C. gunners under Capt. West.

Soon after dark, preceded by half an hour's artillery bombardment, the Japanese attacked the narrow neck of the Peninsula, using a number of light tanks. The enemy commenced to infiltrate to the west of P.B. 28, whose remaining gun continued firing until finally put out of action by grenades. Pte. Foley was the only member of the crew to escape, Sgt. Sheehan and the remainder being killed to a man. To the left two more guns had been disabled and the platoon, under 2/Lt. Cheesewright, withdrew to a position covering the road west of Stanley Gaol. After a strong resistance the position at P.B. 23 was captured, owing to a shortage of ammunition. Some of the crews managed to escape by swimming across the bay to Chung-am-Kok, however.

At about 0300 hours, December 25, the enemy launched another attack, using grenades and flame-throwers, on the St. Stephen's College position, and a

good deal of infiltration occurred. By 0800 hours only two officers—2/Lts. King and Whitham—remained to command “B” and “D” Companies. Capt. West, “D” Company, Capt. Williamson, “B” Company, and 2/Lt. Blackaby, “D” Company, had been killed, and Capt. Weedon, “B” Company, had been wounded. Therefore, when the order was received to clear the enemy from the houses between St. Stephen’s College and the Gaol, two parties, under C.S.M.s Tibble and Overly, were sent forward. Some initial success was obtained, but owing to heavy automatic fire from the houses, these parties were withdrawn to a position west of the Gaol.

No attack appears to have been made on the Maryknoll position. Lt. Scantlebury and 2/Lt. Newman held on until it was obvious that they were cut off from the remainder, when they decided to withdraw towards Repulse Bay. But their position was surrounded and it was virtually impossible to get away. Both officers were killed and with them the bulk of their men, there being only one or two survivors of the two platoons which had originally occupied the position.

During the latter part of Christmas Day, owing to the severe drubbing the Japanese had received from the tired and hard-pressed British troops, the enemy did not press a further attack on the Stanley Peninsula position, and operations finally ceased when the surrender was ordered at the end of the day. A few weeks later, during the period of captivity, the Japanese expressed their admiration for the troops taking part in the defence of the Stanley Peninsula, among whom the men of “B,” “C” and “D” Companies played so conspicuous a part.

We must now turn our attention to what happened at Battalion H.Q. after December 20.

Battalion H.Q. and “Z” Company

December 21 passed off fairly quietly except for some heavy shelling west of Leighton Hill. The following day portions of “A” Company, under Capt. Flood and 2/Lt. Winter-Blyth, arrived and were ordered into position—Capt. Flood and one platoon to the Mount Parish area to cover any hostile approach to Happy Valley, and 2/Lt. Winter-Blyth and the other platoon to “Red House” just south of Leighton Hill. Enemy shelling increased in volume, and during the day the men of 5/7 Rajput swung back, leaving Battalion H.Q. in the front line. There was an intense and heavy bombardment and it was evident that Leighton Hill would be attacked. Battalion H.Q. therefore was ordered back late that afternoon to a position in Gillman’s Garage in Hennessy Road, which runs parallel to the water front. “Z” Company remained in position on Leighton Hill, with the “Red House” as its southern flank, and Lt. Young and the crews of P.B.s 54 and 55 on the north. A new position was organised along the Bowrington Canal astride Hennessy Road. This was manned by Battalion H.Q. and a few remaining “A” Company personnel.

The next day, December 23, Capt. Webber, 1 Middlesex, released from his duties at the Vehicle Collecting

Centre, reported with 50 more men (30 Middlesex and 20 Canadians). This party also occupied the new line. At 1200 hours that day orders were received to send out an officer’s patrol to ascertain whether the enemy were at the northern end of Stubbs’ Road. Capt. Flood volunteered, and he and ten men of 1 Middlesex, supported by an H.K.V.D.C. armoured car, made the reconnaissance. They succeeded in establishing that the Japanese were at the point named and also were on the eastern slopes of Mount Cameron. The patrol returned with one man wounded.

Shortly after their return very heavy shelling, mortaring and M.G. fire were directed on the “Red House”. During the subsequent Japanese attack 2/Lt. Winter-Blyth and his platoon were driven out with the loss of four men. They were then ordered to strengthen the gap between Leighton Hill and Lt. Young’s position to the north of it.

Later that afternoon, at 1530 hours, H.E. the Governor of Hong Kong, accompanied by Col. L. A. Newnham, the G.S.O.1, visited Battalion H.Q. and expressed his great satisfaction with what had been done by the Battalion.

During the morning of the following day, December 24, Battalion H.Q. again experienced heavy shelling and mortar fire and looked like being once again in the front line. That afternoon, after further heavy shelling, it moved to a new position in the Sailors’ and Soldiers’ Home, near the Dockyard. No sooner was the move completed than Capt. Man reported that he was being heavily attacked at Leighton Hill. The Japanese came forward in large numbers and succeeded in getting round the south flank of Leighton Hill, but Capt. Man and “Z” Company held their position on the Hill itself. In view of the isolated position of “Z” Company the C.O. now ordered Capt. Man to hang on as long as possible and then withdraw to reinforce the Bowrington Canal line. Towards evening, “Z” Company slipped away, incurring 16 casualties in so doing.

The defence of the Leighton Hill position must stand out as one of the more important incidents on the northern flank of the island. The Japanese attack was stubbornly met and every inch of ground was contested. Flanking fire of “Z” Company’s M.G.s sited on the northern slopes of the hill was largely responsible for the enemy’s heavy casualties. As a result of the mauling he received there was no further enemy advance for at least four hours.

At Fortress H.Q. it was realised that if this northern flank was not adequately held the Japanese would be in the main town within a very short time. That evening, therefore, Military Police, Royal Engineers and Royal Signals personnel, under command of the D.A.A.G., were sent as reinforcements. At 0130 hours on December 25, a patrol of R.E. personnel was sent out to the north end of Happy Valley. It evidently came to grief, because nothing more was seen of it during the operations. Lt. Mackinlay, attached 1 Middlesex, was mortally wounded when he went forward to meet them in anticipation of their return. By his death the Battalion lost a very gallant and energetic officer.

RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD SOLDIER

By Hugh Doherty

PART IV

The Drums

The Regiments forming our Brigade, taking it in turn and on their own drill grounds, would parade their “Drums” on alternate weeks and give an evening display. We would watch our own and other Units, just as others would come and see our show. In this way we “discovered” our Drums. So did others, as was to be seen by the general increase of visitors to our parade ground.

In some way our display was quite different and much more attractive by comparison. Those with the necessary knowledge could no doubt have analysed and explained the difference. I myself cannot, but certain it is we had something the others had not. Would it possibly have been, say, a definite suggestion of syncopation years ahead of its time? Anyhow, D.M. Jim Deacon knew what it was and his bearing suggested that he owned Aldershot. Incidentally, in 1895, Deacon was the oldest non-com. in the Regiment, and when I took my discharge, seven years later, he was still Drum Major and by repute the oldest in the Army. Again, seven years after I had left the Army, I heard of him. He had been deputed to visit and advise various Regiments whose Drums were likely to be taking part in the Coronation Durbars (Delhi, 1911), when King George V visited India. Surely sufficient confirmation that our Drum Major was an exceptional man.

The Band

At that time our Band was just ordinary, good enough, but, unlike the Drums, nothing outstanding. In one respect it was lacking; I refer to what I can only describe as drum-stick show off.

When the Battalion reached Aldershot from abroad, the Drummers of all military bands were able to do, and did do, wonderful tricks in the swinging of their sticks, fascinating to watch. We had not seen this before and apparently it was new to our Band; however, the big drum man soon got going to acquire the art. It was a slow job and though he improved as time went on he had a long way to make up when I left with a draft for India later in the year.

Incidentally, I wonder if it is known to-day that at the time I write of, the Bandmaster of practically every Regiment was a German. A square-headed, cropped-headed Teuton engaged and imported for the purpose. That was before Kneller Hall had been taken over and the Royal Military School of Music established for the training of bandmen for the Army. Also, I wonder if it is known, that at that time (and long before) itinerant German bands came over every year and roamed from town to town playing in the streets for what they could collect. Small boys took great delight in gathering round such a band and sucking oranges, with results which can be imagined. Oranges were then cheap and plentiful.

At 0530 hours the G.O.C. telephoned the C.O. for a report on the situation. The C.O. gave details of the dispositions of the troops and pointed out that the loss of sleep and intense physical fatigue of the men were having their effect, after almost 16 days’ continuous fighting with little food and rest. Christmas Day dawned, with the confused line of the previous night still held. With the light came a heavy concentration of Japanese fire on Morrison Hill, a rocky mound to the north of Happy Valley. There two of the four Middlesex M.G.s were knocked out and 2/Lt. Winter-Blyth and a number of his men were killed.

By midday the C.O. learned that 5/7 Rajput in the Mount Parish area had been forced to withdraw, thereby leaving a gap on “Z” Company’s right. “Z” Company telephoned to say that enemy pressure had increased on their front, and it was feared they would find it difficult to withstand a heavy onslaught. In consequence a fresh rearward line was organised by Lt. Graham. This lay N.W. of Mount Parish, and ran north and south through the densely populated Wanchai area. When it was reported that owing to the withdrawal of 5/7 Rajput the Japanese were able to enter the A.R.P. tunnels and so get behind our existing line, an 18-pdr. gun was hurriedly dispatched to fire on the tunnel exits. Nevertheless, the enemy continued to push steadily on in other portions of the line.

Battalion H.Q. now moved to Murray Barracks and was established there at 1425 hours. Just as this time there was a lull in the fighting on the front occupied by “Z” Company and troops to the south, which appeared to indicate that the Japanese were uncertain of the exact whereabouts of their forward bodies.

At 1515 hours the G.O.C. personally telephoned the C.O. saying that he had to make a very grave and important decision, and it would be based largely on the C.O.’s replies. The G.O.C. asked, “How long do you think you can hold your present line, and what is the state of your troops?” The C.O. replied, “I do not think this line can be held for more than one hour with the enemy pressure as it is at present. I could, if not too heavily pressed, hold on till nightfall. After that I fear it would be difficult, due largely to the sheer exhaustion of the troops. They are very tired.”

At 1523 hours the G.O.C. again spoke to the C.O. and stated, “We are going to surrender so as to stop further bloodshed and wholesale slaughter. You are authorised to raise a white flag”. At 1605 hours two officers from Fortress H.Q. arrived at Battalion H.Q. with a message from the G.O.C. ordering the C.O. to proceed with them to the Japanese H.Q. under a flag of truce; to surrender; and to try to stop the fighting.

There remains little more to be told. All firing gradually died away, and both defenders and invaders remained in their positions that Christmas night. For many of the exhausted British troops it was the first chance of rest after many weary days and nights of action. The Battalion had lost eleven officers and 122 Other Ranks killed in action. The following day commenced those long years of captivity from which many others—over 230 of the Middlesex Regiment—were never to return.

Annual Manœuvres

The period for manœuvres, for which all arms had been training, was about due when I was called on for Telegraphy. I was posted to Tweezledown Camp and attached to the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues), who were at that Camp under canvas. I remained with this famous Regiment until the exercises were over, occupying a small tent, where I carried out my duties. For messing I was with one of the Squadrons and can say these fine fellows made me very welcome and did me well.

Incidentally, some time prior to this I had deputed for a week in the Telegraph office of another Cavalry Regiment (Hussars), where they were very different. Manœuvres in those days provided some marvellous displays by the mounted arms. Exceptionally stirring was to see the Royal Horse Artillery (right of the line) in action. These famous Batteries, with their wonderful horses and superb riders did everything at the gallop, taking hedges and ditches in their stride; a breathless experience to watch, now a spectacle of the past.

Drafts

Shortly after this a notice appeared in Regimental Orders that a draft would be transferred to the 2nd Battalion in India. This caused the usual buzz of speculation and my little coterie of pals did some hard thinking. We had been at the Depot together, then Gibraltar, now Aldershot, and did not want to be separated, but might be. Volunteers were not asked for, but any who did were reasonably sure to be included. Some of us had a talk with one of the "old sweats" who had been in India and he, after we had lubricated his dry throat, told us plenty. We were reassured and satisfied by his tale, which included everything he knew we would like to hear, omitting anything that might damp our spirits. As a result, we asked the Colour-Sergeant to put our names down for the draft, which he did.

So it was that with about 125 others of the 1st Battalion we shouldered our kit bags one cold morning in December, 1895, marched to the station and entrained for Southampton.

S.S. "Dilwara"

With drafts for several other Regiments, all in India, we boarded the troopship *Dilwara*, which was to be our very congested barracks for about four weeks.

The first part of the voyage was as unpleasant as we expected, though there was some little advantage to those who had done it all before and had learned some of the tricks. A hammock can be quite a comfortable bed after you have acquired the knack of getting in without promptly falling out the other side, and provided there is enough room between them to allow free swing. When they rubbed together, as they always did, it was not too good.

We were fortunate in going through the Straits by day and thus getting a good view of Gib. from the sea. Also, our sea legs came back with the sun and fair

weather. So did our appetites. In fact, by comparison, we were comfortable.

On going aboard at Southampton I was detailed as batman for the voyage to Mr. Trotter. He saw little of me till out of the Bay and probably didn't want to, owing to the usual Bay weather and its effects.

2nd Lt. Trotter must have joined the Battalion just before we left Aldershot; I had not seen him until I met him on board. He was considerate and easy to work for; all I had to do was polish his buttons, brush and fold his clothes. There was a chair in the cabin over the back of which he always threw his trousers, and every morning my first job was to retrieve sundry silver coins from the floor which I would place in a neat pile on his table. I have no recollection of his ever speaking to me, but I do remember that he paid me generously.

After arrival in India I saw this officer only once at Kirkee, where I was attached for a time to "E" Company. I never heard of him after and wonder how he fared. I still remember his face well, and while at 19 I knew not the significance of jaw, chin or forehead, I'll hazard a guess now that he did well in his profession.

The First Milk Bar

The *Dilwara* made only one stop, which was (of necessity) at Port Said. In the Red Sea the weather was very hot and here I had my first lesson in private enterprise. Among the drafts on board was one for The Royal Scots and, I believe, a Scotch father's advice to a departing son is always: "Mak money, ma boy, honestly if ye can but—mak money." We used to sit about on deck during the day and one thirsty morning were startled by a tall lanky Scot appearing in our midst carrying a pail and shouting, "Mulk, mulk, nice mulk!" He had decanted a tin of condensed milk into a bucket of water, which he sold at so much a pannakin, and he continued to make his bawbees daily until competitive imitators spoiled the market.

Gambling

I recall this was strictly forbidden in barracks or troopship, with the one exception of a game called "House." This, I expect was a very mild flutter. It did not interest me and I don't know the rules, but to many it whiled away the time on deck in the afternoons.

The One Lady

The troops on board were well isolated from the officers' quarters and it was not until we were in the Red Sea that I saw the lady. I had no idea there were any on board and only saw her on this one occasion. It was evening. I had gone into Mr. Trotter's cabin by my door, and found the second door open for the first time. This led to the officers' deck and beyond it she stood, a vision in a wine-coloured gown, young and, to me, so pleasantly startling I have never forgotten. Who could she have been? I never saw her again.

Christmas Day, 1895

On the eve of Christmas we were beyond Aden and to mark the occasion ingredients were handed out to each Mess for the purpose of making plum puddings. We had, however, to find the pudding cloths; this presented no difficulty, towels (in use) were volunteered and those looking the cleanest accepted and used. We knew not the word "hygiene" and it would have made no difference anyway. Next day each got a liberal portion of roly poly. My piece I sliced into two, keeping one as a souvenir and, believe it or not, I have the memento now! Like a piece of rock, and with one raisin embedded, it is still in a state of good preservation.

The Gateway of India

To the western world Bombay is the gateway. It is an island with one of the finest harbours in the world and came to us from the Portuguese about 300 years ago as a dowry with the bride of Charles II. It contained a fort and the present city of Bombay grew round this fort. The *Dilwara* tied up in the docks; there was little fatigue duty in connection with disembarking, this being done mostly by the dock coolies. Troop trains were on the spot to take the drafts to their various destinations; all we had to do was to carry our kit bags through the sheds and get in. The gauge of the Indian railways is, in most cases, broader than in England and the carriages bigger consequently; with only six to a compartment we found comfort in comparison with our cramped quarters on the troopship.

The Great Indian Peninsular Railway took us over the Western Ghats and Poona was our first stop. An important rail junction and military station about 125 miles inland from Bombay; also a transit camp. There we spent our first night in India.

A few miles from Poona is Kirkee, where a Detachment (one Company) of the 2nd Battalion was stationed. A number of the lads had come through to meet us, looking for friends or just to give us the once over and perhaps to see the fun of our first meal. This, which we had in the open, consisted of excellent white bread, each slice topped by a portion of freshly-cooked meat. Hovering above us were the Kites (a bird of the falcon tribe) and these birds must have inspected many drafts and knew they were always green. Silently they dived, expertly taking in their sweep and with their talons the meat from our bread. The lads from Kirkee roared with laughter. We didn't think it at all amusing, other than a few who managed to save their portion. My old pal, Dellow, whom I referred to earlier in these recollections, was greeted by a friend from the Kirkee Detachment. His name, I remember, sounded like "Muller Greg." Dellow, if he reads this, will perhaps remember that peculiar greeting just as I remember Charlie's wry face on hearing it.

Ahmednagar

Next day's rail journey was double the distance of the first and brought us at last to our destination (pronounced Ahmednuggar). The railway station is about five miles from the barracks and this we marched, for

the first time without kit bags. The latter were unwieldy things to carry. Horribly awkward, they could not be taken under the arm and refused to remain on the shoulder. What do they carry to-day? Natty little "grips" with zip fasteners, I suppose!

A mile from barracks we were met by the Band of the Regiment, who played us in. We were soon dispersed to the various Companies and here that fickle jade "memory" is playing a trick on me. I cannot, as I write, remember whether it was "A" or "B" Company I was posted to. What I do remember is that it was Capt. Scott-Moncreiff's Company.

Our new comrades were friendly and helpful, advising us on many things—the sun, the body belt, fruit, drinking water, etc. (The latter, I remember, was kept in a large water butt and coloured pink with a disinfectant.) Sunstroke and cholera were the main things covered by the warning advice given us. We soon settled down.

Every morning, just before reveille, a native barber arrived and shaved (in bed) any man who wanted his services; this for the small sum of two pence weekly. At the same time a pail of tea came to each barrack room for those who liked it. Known as Gun Fire tea it had neither milk nor sugar, but was hot and refreshing. Fruit was plentiful and very cheap. Regarding the latter, we were warned to eat only that which had to be peeled. But the old sweats forgot to tell us everything they knew (or *did* they forget?). A little knowledge is dangerous. We had heard of, but never seen, bananas, and here they were in abundance, so we stuffed our selves, little thinking of the Gun Fire tea and early morning parade! Experience brought discretion.

Shooting

The C.O. 77th, in 1896, was Lt.-Col. Garstin, a martinet and stickler for straight shooting. As encouragement to marksmanship he introduced a novel idea. The Company with the best results, whenever mentioned in Battalion orders, was always followed by the words "best shooting Company." Battalion orders were read aloud every evening to all Companies in one of their barrack rooms and the daily reiteration by spoken word is the reason I can affirm, half a century later, that in 1896 "H" was our best shooting Company. It had the desired effect; though we scoffed at "H" the spirit of rivalry was aroused and every man did try harder. The Instructors, too, were keener; also very patient and helpful. All-round results were excellent—the 2nd Battalion could shoot straight.

Guards

In Ahmednagar guards were few and, apart from the Regimental, I can only remember one, on a large fort in the vicinity. Infested with big, venturesome and hungry rats, there was never a chance of shut-eye when off sentry. During the night we spent most of the time trying to trap them with weird Heath Robinson contraptions of our own, but with little success.

(To be concluded)

Rank	Name	Location	Date of present promotion	Rank	Name	Location	Date of present promotion
Sgt.	Lumma, L.	H.C.B.T.C.	11/2/47	Cpl.	Greenhill, J.	Depot	19/11/45
Sgt.	Morris, J.	1st Middlesex	6/2/47	Cpl.	Evans, J.	Depot	19/11/45
Sgt.	Wood, K.	X List	17/2/47	Cpl.	Carpenter, R.	H.C.B.T.C.	19/11/45
Sgt.	Burford, M.	E.R.E.	26/2/47	Cpl.	Jennings, V.	H.C.B.T.C.	19/11/45
Sgt.	Black, A.	X List	18/2/47	Cpl.	White, H.	1st Middlesex	15/12/45
Sgt.	Unstead, I.	6/3/47	10/3/47	Cpl.	Brigden, C.	H.C.B.T.C.	14/2/46
Sgt.	Westray, W.	1st Middlesex	10/3/47	Cpl.	Cole, S.	H.C.B.T.C.	25/2/46
Sgt.	Burgess, C.	1st Middlesex	10/3/47	Cpl.	Collingbone, G.	H.C.B.T.C.	25/2/46
Sgt.	Pear, J.	1st Middlesex	10/3/47	Cpl.	Dyer, A.	Depot	3/3/46
Sgt.	Bromfield, J.	1st Middlesex	10/3/47	Cpl.	Skinner, F.	2nd Middlesex	13/3/46
Sgt.	Hawkesley, P.	1st Middlesex	10/3/47	Cpl.	Bennett, E.	2nd Middlesex	2/5/46
Sgt.	Luke, G.	1st Middlesex	10/3/47	Cpl.	Chappell, W.	1st Middlesex	4/5/46
Sgt.	Osborne, A.	1st Middlesex	10/3/47	Cpl.	Enticknap, J.	2nd Middlesex	5/5/46
Sgt.	Dodkins, R.	1st Middlesex	10/3/47	Cpl.	Hollingsworth, G.	1st Middlesex	10/5/46
Sgt.	Watts, T.	1st Middlesex	10/3/47	Cpl.	Pullen, J.	Depot	13/5/46
Sgt.	Drapers, F.	1st Middlesex	10/3/47	Cpl.	Fixon, W.	E.R.E.	13/5/46
Sgt.	Walmesley, E.	1st Middlesex	10/3/47	Cpl.	Masters, E.	1st Middlesex	17/5/46
Sgt.	Gray, K.	1st Middlesex	14/3/47	Cpl.	Eaton, R.	H.C.B.T.C.	3/6/46
Sgt.	Turner, P.	Depot	15/4/47	Cpl.	Newton, R.	H.C.B.T.C.	3/6/46
Sgt.	Crittenden, L.	H.C.B.T.C.	5/4/47	Cpl.	Latham, C.	H.C.B.T.C.	5/6/46
Sgt.	Baron, R.	H.C.B.T.C.	12/5/47	Cpl.	White, R.	H.C.B.T.C.	5/6/46
Sgt.	Throton, S.	H.C.B.T.C.	12/5/47	Cpl.	Duncombe, G.	Depot	5/6/46
Sgt.	King, R.	2nd Middlesex	23/5/47	Cpl.	Urmon, J.	1st Middlesex	7/6/46
Sgt.	Sale, C.	2nd Middlesex	23/5/47	Cpl.	Ashdown, N.	E.R.E.	7/6/46
Sgt.	Reed, A.	H.C.B.T.C.	16/4/47	Cpl.	Frapwell, D.	2nd Middlesex	7/6/46
Sgt.	Sharp, C.	2nd Middlesex	12/6/47	Cpl.	Fairbrass, A.	E.R.E.	11/6/46
Sgt.	Buckley, M.	1st Middlesex	11/7/47	Cpl.	Emm, R.	E.R.E.	21/6/46
Sgt.	Thoroughgood, J.	1st Middlesex	11/7/47	Cpl.	Williams, W.	E.R.E.	2/7/46
Sgt.	Perkins, P.	1st Middlesex	13/7/47	Cpl.	Bushnell, W.	1st Middlesex	9/7/46
A/Sgt.	Young, R.	2nd Middlesex	14/2/47	Cpl.	Hill, R.	E.R.E.	11/7/46
A/Sgt.	Bibbs, J.	2nd Middlesex	2/4/47	Cpl.	Farrow, R.	E.R.E.	11/7/46
A/Sgt.	Woolley, E.	2nd Middlesex	8/4/47	Cpl.	Smithwaite, F.	2nd Middlesex	15/8/46
A/Sgt.	Farrow, R.	1st Middlesex	11/4/47	Cpl.	Woodger, J.	1st Middlesex	16/8/46
A/Sgt.	Forgham, D.	1st Middlesex	11/4/47	Cpl.	Rolle, J.	2nd Middlesex	21/8/46
A/Sgt.	Gould, J.	1st Middlesex	11/4/47	Cpl.	Thomas, A.	Depot	25/8/46
A/Sgt.	Morris, R.	1st Middlesex	11/4/47	Cpl.	Rae, J.	Depot	29/8/46
A/Sgt.	Sheldon, D.	1st Middlesex	11/4/47	Cpl.	Wimbury, J.	H.C.B.T.C.	23/8/46
A/Sgt.	Dramer, D.	E.R.E.	11/4/47	Cpl.	Epps, C.	H.C.B.T.C.	23/8/46
A/Sgt.	Hounslow, R.	2nd Middlesex	26/4/47	Cpl.	Kennedy, R.	1st Middlesex	24/8/46
A/Sgt.	Cooper, G.	2nd Middlesex	5/5/47	Cpl.	Murray, J.	2nd Middlesex	24/8/46
A/Sgt.	Beyan, W.	2nd Middlesex	5/5/47	Cpl.	Didymus, C.	2nd Middlesex	27/8/46
A/Sgt.	Dodridge, J.	1st Middlesex	7/5/47	Cpl.	Warburton, W.	2nd Middlesex	8/10/46
A/Sgt.	Mercalf, H.	2nd Middlesex	17/5/47	Cpl.	Wells, R.	Y/2 List	8/10/46
A/Sgt.	Doak, S.	2nd Middlesex	17/5/47	Cpl.	Birch, K.	1st Middlesex	20/10/46
A/Sgt.	Wagstaffe, K.	2nd Middlesex	17/5/47	Cpl.	Whitfield, G.	2nd Middlesex	21/10/46
A/Sgt.	Maclean, J.	2nd Middlesex	17/5/47	Cpl.	Dixon, J.	1st Middlesex	25/10/46
A/Sgt.	Price, W.	2nd Middlesex	17/5/47	Cpl.	Bishop, W.	Depot	27/10/46
A/Sgt.	Swift, J.	2nd Middlesex	17/5/47	Cpl.	Herbert, E.	E.R.E.	29/10/46
A/Sgt.	Atrill, W.	1st Middlesex	22/5/47	Cpl.	Smith, M.	H.C.B.T.C.	29/10/46
A/Sgt.	Raycraft, J.	1st Middlesex	22/5/47	Cpl.	Chandler, S.	Depot	30/10/46
A/Sgt.	Cubitt, R.	1st Middlesex	22/5/47	Cpl.	Neal, R.	H.C.B.T.C.	1/11/46
A/Sgt.	Bloom, G.	2nd Middlesex	22/5/47	Cpl.	Woodage, G.	H.C.B.T.C.	1/11/46
A/Sgt.	McGowan, T.	Depot	4/6/47	Cpl.	Amor, S.	E.R.E.	18/11/46
A/Sgt.	Hubbard, M.	2nd Middlesex	6/6/47	Cpl.	Wright, L.	E.R.E.	19/11/46
A/Sgt.	Smith, T.	2nd Middlesex	6/6/47	Cpl.	Waldie, J.	E.R.E.	4/12/46
A/Sgt.	Lewis, W.	2nd Middlesex	6/6/47	Cpl.	Charlett, S.	Depot	11/12/46
A/Sgt.	Miles, J.	1st Middlesex	13/6/47	Cpl.	Epps, T.	H.C.B.T.C.	14/12/46
A/Sgt.	Law, R.	1st Middlesex	13/6/47	Cpl.	Harvey, H.	E.R.E.	27/12/46
A/Sgt.	Anderson, L.	1st Middlesex	13/6/47	Cpl.	Clark, D.	Depot	17/1/47
A/Sgt.	Dorgan, D.	1st Middlesex	13/6/47	Cpl.	Dudek, P.	Depot	18/1/47
A/Sgt.	Platt, E.	2nd Middlesex	17/6/47	Cpl.	Akhurst, G.	E.R.E.	19/1/47
A/Sgt.	Fogarty, P.	2nd Middlesex	17/6/47	Cpl.	Gravenor, T.	1st Middlesex	19/1/47
A/Sgt.	Curtis, F.	2nd Middlesex	17/6/47	Cpl.	Parkes, J.	1st Middlesex	6/2/47
A/Sgt.	Dyson, J.	2nd Middlesex	17/6/47	Cpl.	Tripp, R.	Depot	11/2/47
A/Sgt.	Jenkins, J.	2nd Middlesex	17/6/47	Cpl.	Morton, W.	H.C.B.T.C.	11/2/47
A/Sgt.	Pederson, E.	2nd Middlesex	17/6/47	Cpl.	Ellis, D.	H.C.B.T.C.	11/2/47
A/Sgt.	Rainford, J.	2nd Middlesex	17/6/47	Cpl.	Fisher, W.	H.C.B.T.C.	11/2/47
A/Sgt.	Brodey, J.	2nd Middlesex	17/6/47	Cpl.	Eycars, R.	H.C.B.T.C.	11/2/47
A/Sgt.	French, G.	E.R.E.	17/6/47	Cpl.	Faers, A.	H.C.B.T.C.	11/2/47
A/Sgt.	Moore, J.	2nd Middlesex	17/6/47	Cpl.	Keefe, F.	H.C.B.T.C.	11/2/47
A/Sgt.	Bucknill, J.	1st Middlesex	20/6/47	Cpl.	Kerslake, B.	H.C.B.T.C.	11/2/47
A/Sgt.	Milross, H.	1st Middlesex	20/6/47	Cpl.	Dackombe, G.	H.C.B.T.C.	11/2/47
A/Sgt.	Fredericks, G.	1st Middlesex	20/6/47	Cpl.	Adams, J.	H.C.B.T.C.	11/2/47
A/Sgt.	Dew, P.	Depot	23/6/47	Cpl.	Wright, W.	H.C.B.T.C.	11/2/47
A/Sgt.	Bromley, K.	2nd Middlesex	27/6/47	Cpl.	Cross, F.	H.C.B.T.C.	11/2/47
A/Sgt.	Cumbers, L.	X List	28/6/47	Cpl.	Fieldings, J.	H.C.B.T.C.	11/2/47
A/Sgt.	Walters, A.	2nd Middlesex	6/7/47	Cpl.	Saunders, D.	H.C.B.T.C.	11/2/47
A/Sgt.	O'Connor, W.	E.R.E.	17/7/47	Cpl.	Stafford, J.	H.C.B.T.C.	11/2/47
Cpl.	Bailey, W.	1st Middlesex	6/5/40	Cpl.	Neaves, R.	H.C.B.T.C.	11/2/47
Cpl.	Turner, T.	2nd Middlesex	24/4/41	Cpl.	Ward, R.	H.C.B.T.C.	11/2/47
Cpl.	Wetherley, W.	1st Middlesex	18/10/43	Cpl.	Slade, D.	H.C.B.T.C.	11/2/47
Cpl.	Dickenson, J.	Depot	4/6/44	Cpl.	Davis (M.M.), W.	1st Middlesex	24/2/47
Cpl.	Browne, W.	1st Middlesex	27/9/44	Cpl.	Woolcott, E.	E.R.E.	11/3/47
Cpl.	Cooper, G.	H.C.B.T.C.	26/5/45	Cpl.	McAuslan, H.	Depot	12/3/47
Cpl.	Smith, W.	1st Middlesex	25/7/45	Cpl.	McPate, T.	Depot	14/3/47
Cpl.	Baker, R.	1st Middlesex	3/8/45	Cpl.	Rolls, E.	Depot	14/3/47
Cpl.	Maple, S.	H.C.B.T.C.	9/10/45	Cpl.	Biggs, K.	2nd Middlesex	14/3/47
Cpl.	Wilmot, B.	Depot	19/11/45	Cpl.	Smythe, B.	2nd Middlesex	14/3/47
Cpl.	Conway, A.	Depot	19/11/45	Cpl.	Black, J.	Depot	14/3/47
Cpl.	Stocker, R.	E.R.E.	19/11/45	Cpl.	Woolger, H.	2nd Middlesex	20/3/47
Cpl.	Morris, D.	Depot	19/11/45	Cpl.	Griffiths, T.	H.C.B.T.C.	20/3/47

Rank	Name	Location	Date of present promotion	Rank	Name	Location	Date of present promotion
Cpl.	Haylock, K.	Depot	21/3/47	A/Cpl.	Keyworth, A.	2nd Middlesex	11/5/47
Cpl.	Burghall, J.	1st Middlesex	27/3/47	A/Cpl.	Carter, F.	2nd Middlesex	11/5/47
Cpl.	Jones, M.	1st Middlesex	7/4/47	A/Cpl.	Morris, J.	2nd Middlesex	17/5/47
Cpl.	McIntyre, D.	1st Middlesex	7/4/47	A/Cpl.	Shelton, J.	2nd Middlesex	17/5/47
Cpl.	Salmon, S.	1st Middlesex	7/4/47	A/Cpl.	Summers, J.	2nd Middlesex	17/5/47
Cpl.	Lanfer, R.	1st Middlesex	7/4/47	A/Cpl.	Collinson, F.	2nd Middlesex	17/5/47
Cpl.	Penfold, A.	1st Middlesex	7/4/47	A/Cpl.	Matthew, J.	2nd Middlesex	17/5/47
Cpl.	Collingbone, G.	2nd Middlesex	26/4/47	A/Cpl.	Thorpe, R.	2nd Middlesex	17/5/47
Cpl.	Player, S.	2nd Middlesex	29/4/47	A/Cpl.	Brown, R.	2nd Middlesex	17/5/47
Cpl.	Stimson, S.	1st Middlesex	30/4/47	A/Cpl.	Stubbs, S.	2nd Middlesex	17/5/47
Cpl.	Vallance, R.	1st Middlesex	12/5/47	A/Cpl.	Davies, B.	2nd Middlesex	17/5/47
Cpl.	Boucher, A.	1st Middlesex	12/5/47	A/Cpl.	Horne, P.	2nd Middlesex	17/5/47
Cpl.	France, W.	2nd Middlesex	16/5/47	A/Cpl.	Simpson, R.	2nd Middlesex	20/5/47
Cpl.	Carter, P.	2nd Middlesex	29/5/47	A/Cpl.	Warr, P.	2nd Middlesex	20/5/47
Cpl.	Hummerston, D.	2nd Middlesex	29/5/47	A/Cpl.	Abbott, S.	2nd Middlesex	20/5/47
Cpl.	Savill, D.	2nd Middlesex	29/5/47	A/Cpl.	Kennedy, L.	2nd Middlesex	20/5/47
Cpl.	Witchalls, G.	2nd Middlesex	29/5/47	A/Cpl.	Smith, R.	1st Middlesex	20/5/47
Cpl.	Housey, G.	Y/1 List	31/5/47	A/Cpl.	Stanley, F.	2nd Middlesex	22/5/47
Cpl.	Tye, L.	2nd Middlesex	1/6/47	A/Cpl.	Holley, E.	2nd Middlesex	22/5/47
Cpl.	Buckle, E.	H.C.B.T.C.	5/6/47	A/Cpl.	Williams, J.	2nd Middlesex	23/5/47
Cpl.	Kay, H.	2nd Middlesex	7/6/47	A/Cpl.	Phillips, H.	1st Middlesex	23/5/47
Cpl.	McIntyre, J.	Depot	9/6/47	A/Cpl.	Roberts, T.	Depot	30/5/47
Cpl.	Wright, L.	H.C.B.T.C.	16/6/47	A/Cpl.	Heap, C.	2nd Middlesex	2/6/47
Cpl.	Jones, W.	H.C.B.T.C.	16/6/47	A/Cpl.	Stanley, E.	2nd Middlesex	2/6/47
Cpl.	Fawcett, H.	Depot	26/6/47	A/Cpl.	Watson, P.	2nd Middlesex	6/6/47
Cpl.	Eve, J.	1st Middlesex	27/6/47	A/Cpl.	Morton, W.	2nd Middlesex	11/6/47
Cpl.	Anderson, J.	1st Middlesex	2/7/47	A/Cpl.	Howard, B.	1st Middlesex	13/6/47
Cpl.	Belton, W.	1st Middlesex	19/7/47	A/Cpl.	Miller, H.	1st Middlesex	13/6/47
Cpl.	Bown, V.	1st Middlesex	19/7/47	A/Cpl.	Clift, A.	1st Middlesex	13/6/47
Cpl.	Burland, J.	1st Middlesex	19/7/47	A/Cpl.	Groves, S.	1st Middlesex	13/6/47
Cpl.	Harrington, J.	1st Middlesex	19/7/47	A/Cpl.	Ferguson, T.	1st Middlesex	13/6/47
Cpl.	Hawnt, S.	1st Middlesex	19/7/47	A/Cpl.	Hanlon, J.	1st Middlesex	14/6/47
Cpl.	Jones, C.	1st Middlesex	19/7/47	A/Cpl.	Phillips, E.	1st Middlesex	14/6/47
Cpl.	Kindred, R.	1st Middlesex	19/7/47	A/Cpl.	Phillips, C.	2nd Middlesex	17/6/47
Cpl.	Sibley, P.	1st Middlesex	19/7/47	A/Cpl.	Ellis, E.	2nd Middlesex	17/6/47
Cpl.	Mansfield, J.	1st Middlesex	19/7/47	A/Cpl.	Proctor, F.	2nd Middlesex	17/6/47
Cpl.	Mitchell, K.	X List	28/8/47	A/Cpl.	Coleman, J.	2nd Middlesex	17/6/47
A/Cpl.	Richardson, W.	1st Middlesex	11/4/47	A/Cpl.	Osborne, R.	2nd Middlesex	20/6/47
A/Cpl.	Baker, J.	2nd Middlesex	25/8/46	A/Cpl.	Bassett, J.	E.R.E.	27/6/47
A/Cpl.	Champion, W.	2nd Middlesex	26/4/47	A/Cpl.	Soper, F.	Depot	30/6/47
A/Cpl.	Parker, T.	2nd Middlesex	5/5/47	A/Cpl.	Swinner, W.	2nd Middlesex	11/7/47
A/Cpl.	Miller, R.	2nd Middlesex	5/5/47	A/Cpl.	Wheatley, J.	Depot	14/7/47
A/Cpl.	Lawford, J.	2nd Middlesex	5/5/47	A/Cpl.	Whiteley, H.	2nd Middlesex	23/7/47
A/Cpl.	Smith, G.	2nd Middlesex	5/5/47	A/Cpl.	Hanlon, D.	Depot	11/8/47
A/Cpl.	Baker, H.	2nd Middlesex	5/5/47				

It would be greatly appreciated if subscribers would bring to the notice of O.C. Depot, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7, any omissions, errors or corrections considered necessary.



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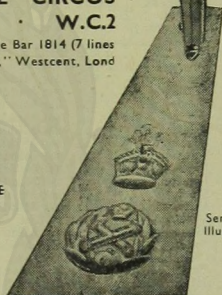
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