

# 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.

"Myosore," "Serlingapatam," "Albuhera," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vitoria," "Pyrenes," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsular," "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1900-02."

The Great War—46 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "18," "La Bassée, 1914," "Messines, 1914," "17," "18," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "17," "18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Bellewaarde," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "18," "Albert, 1916," "18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Fiers-Courcette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancrè Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "18," "Bapaume, 1917," "18," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "18," "Arleux," "Pickem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrouck," "Bailleul," "Kommel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doinan, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Buvla," "Landing at Suvla," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughhar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18," "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Muran, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

#### Regular and Militia Battalions.

1st Bn. (57th Foot). 2nd Bn. (77th Foot).  
3rd Bn. (Royal Elthorne Militia).  
6th Bn. (Royal East Middlesex Militia).  
Depot—Mill Hill. Records Office, Infantry Records, Warwick.  
Pay Office—Old Infantry Barracks, Canterbury.

#### Territorial Army Battalions

1/7th Bn. 2/7th Bn. 8th Bn. 30th Bn.  
9th Bn. 305 L.A.A., R.A., T.A.  
1st and 2nd Bns. Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment.  
1st, 2nd and 3rd Independent Coys.  
No. 1 Heavy Support Coy.

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

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

Agents—Lloyds Bank Limited, 127 The Broadway, Mill Hill, N.W.7.

#### Allied Regiments of Canadian Militia.

50th H.A.A. Regiment (Prince of Wales Rangers).  
Peterborough, Ontario.  
The Wentworth Regiment Dundas, Ontario.  
The Middlesex and Huron Regiment London, Ontario.

#### Allied Battalion of Australian Infantry.

57th Bn. Preston.

#### Allied Regiment of New Zealand Military Forces

The Taranaki Regiment New Plymouth.

#### Colonel of the Regiment:

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

#### Officer Commanding Depot:

Major A. S. J. de S. Clayton

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### NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

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

All contributions intended for publication should reach the Editor not later than the 1st of the month previous to that of issue. CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE TYPED IN TRIPLICATE, AND BE ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY, and signed, stating whether it is desired to publish the contributor's name or not. Rejected manuscripts, etc., will only be returned if accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope. The Editor will thankfully receive Contributions from past or present members of the Regiment or others interested, but necessarily reserves to himself the right of publication. All communications concerning the paper, including Advertisements, should be addressed to the Editor, "The Die-Hards" Journal, The Middlesex Regiment, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

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

## EDITORIAL

### Armistice Day

A short service will be held at the Regimental War Memorial, Mill Hill Barracks, on Thursday, November 11, commencing at 10.45 a.m. All relations and friends of the fallen are invited to attend. It is hoped that battalions will send representatives and wreaths.

Some older "Die-Hards" might be interested to hear that ex-R.Q.M.S. G. E. Duffield has been elected Chairman of the Urban District Council of Penge for the second successive year.

### Presentation of Medals

A parade of Old Comrades will be arranged at the Depot, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7, for presentation of campaign stars and medals for the 1939-45 war should any Old Comrades like to receive them in that way.

Those interested please write to the Secretary. The Colonel of the Regiment, Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L., will be pleased to make the presentations from time to time as medals and stars are received.

\* \* \* \*

Information has been received that the newly-amalgamated Battalion of the Regiment is in the near future to proceed to Chelsea Barracks to relieve one of the Battalions of the 2nd Guards Brigade now under orders to proceed to Malaya. It is hoped that the departure is only of a temporary nature and that the Battalion will soon return to the home of the Regiment.

The Battalion's main duty will be to share with the Welch Guards and the 1st Battalion The King's Shropshire Light Infantry the public duties in London. These include the finding of guards for Buckingham and St. James's Palaces, the Tower of London and Bank. This will be the first time that any Regular Battalion of the Regiment has ever been selected for this duty, and so the new 1st Battalion begins the first few months of its career by breaking new ground in the history of the Regiment, which is surely a most auspicious start.

### Officers' Club Ties

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

## OBITUARIES

It is with deep regret that we have to record the sudden death of Major C. H. P. Perkins, M.C., in Hammersmith Hospital on August 10, 1948, at the age of 62 years.

His body was cremated at Mortlake Crematorium on Tuesday, August 17, 1948, at 3.30 p.m. The Colonel of the Regiment, Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L., accompanied by Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., and Capt. R. W. J. Smith attended the service, and Majors G. B. Anderson, M.C., and J. G. P. Hunt, represented the 11th Battalion.

Bearers and pall bearers were provided by the O.C. 57/77th Battalions from the Warrant Officers and Sergeants, and two buglers sounded the Last Post and Reveille.

By his untimely death the Middlesex Regiment Golfing Society has lost one of its most popular members.

Among other "Die-Hards" who attended the cremation were ex-R.S.M. and Mrs. Furniss and ex-Pte. and Mrs. Pearce (6661).

The service was conducted by the Rev. Stevens who was Chaplain to the 3rd Battalion at Salonika in the First World War.

### LT.-COL. DOUGLAS CYRIL PERCY-SMITH, D.S.O., O.B.E.

BY COL. M. BROWNE, M.C., D.L., J.P. (COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT)

Douglas Percy-Smith was the eldest of three brothers born in a famous military family. His father was Maj.-Gen. Percy Wyndham Percy-Smith of the Indian Army, who took part in the Afghan War of 1880 and saw service on the N.W. Frontier in 1863. Douglas was born in India on November 14, 1875. Like many officers of the Regiment he was educated at Cheltenham College, and never lost touch with his old school throughout the long years which were to pass before he was taken from us to that glorious life beyond the grave. I feel sure he entered upon that rest without fear, just as he faced all the troubles and dangers of this mortal life and, I have no doubt, all the trumpets greeted him on the other side as they do all brave soldiers who cross the threshold of life into that future world about which we know so little but in which we believe in accordance with our Christian faith.

He joined the 3rd Militia Battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment in March, 1893, and to the Army he doubtless brought those qualities of leadership, unselfishness and comradeship which he had inherited not only from his family traditions but also imbibed in that famous Public School where so many officers start their military service and learn the elements of the military art.

In April, 1896, he left the Army and proceeded to India to join the Bengal Police, in which he served until the outbreak of the South African War in 1899. We may infer that the memory of his father's service in

India drew him to our Indian Empire, as was the case with so many sons of Indian Army officers who trod the self-same road as their fathers.

P.S.—to call him by the initials by which he was always mentioned by all his brother officers—was ever ready and eager for active service, and at once decided that he must go to South Africa, and enlisted as a Trooper in Lumsden's Horse with which Cavalry Regiment he proceeded to that war. Whilst on service on April 4, 1900, he was gazetted as 2/Lieutenant in the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment)—our Regimental title at that time. He was attached to the Oxfordshire Light Infantry Mounted Infantry Company in the 8th M.I. Serving in the 8th M.I. 2/Lt. Percy-Smith was present at the fighting in the Orange Free State, including actions at Houtnek, Zand River, Johannesburg and Pretoria. In August, 1900, he was promoted Lieutenant. Subsequently he was present at the action at Bathaville, and for his brilliant services there was awarded the D.S.O.—a most unusual and high honour for an officer of that rank to gain. He was slightly wounded in the course of these operations and was sent to Cape Town, and thence joined the 2nd Battalion of his Regiment at Newcastle in Natal on Christmas Day, 1900, and remained with the Battalion until the war was over, being awarded the Queen's Medal with four clasps and the King's Medal with two clasps.

From thence he joined the 1st Battalion at Secunderabad, India, in August, 1902, and was later appointed Station Staff Officer there, being subsequently transferred to Bellary and later served in a similar appointment at Lucknow after the Battalion had proceeded to Burma.

In May, 1904, he was promoted Captain and was again posted to the 1st Battalion.

In November, 1904, he was appointed A.D.C. to the G.O.C. 8th Lucknow Division, where he remained till selected in 1908 to be Assistant Military Secretary to the G.O.C. Northern Army to whom P.S.'s elder sister was married. In 1909 he was again posted to the 1st Battalion at Allahabad, and at once proceeded on a tour of duty to the Depot at Mill Hill (now called Inglis Barracks), where he remained until he joined the Egyptian Army in March, 1911. On joining that force he was posted to the 11th Sudanese in which he served for two years, and was then detached to raise a new Corps in the Nuba Mountains in Southern Kordofan. From here he was promoted to command the Equatorial Battalion on the Southern Sudan frontier. During this period he took part in four expeditions, being himself Supreme Commander in two of them. Thus P.S. earned the Sudan General Service Medal with three clasps, was Mentioned in Despatches and awarded the Order of the Nile, 4th Class.

In October, 1914, being on sick leave in Cairo when war was declared against Turkey, he was given command of an armoured train on the Suez Canal Railway with which he served during the first Turkish attack on the Canal in February, 1915. On September 15, 1915, he was promoted Major under the then new war-time 15 years' service rule. In 1916 he was transferred to command the 1st Battalion The Egyptian Army, which

he took to Palestine in July, 1917, and joined the army commanded by Lord Allenby on that front, where he served until the conclusion of these operations. For his services in Palestine Lt.-Col. Percy-Smith was thrice Mentioned in Despatches and awarded the O.B.E. After the Armistice he was present in Cairo when the Egyptian Revolution broke out in January, 1919, and was then given command of an area. From here he was promoted to the command of the Khartoum District—a first-class district where he was given the rank of Lewa (Major-General) and the title of Pasha. He served as such until the conclusion of his ten years' service in the Egyptian Army. On leaving to rejoin once more the 1st Battalion of his Regiment he was awarded the Order of the Nile 3rd Class. In the 1st Battalion he commanded "A" Company and served in Ireland, Silesia, the Rhine (Kalk Barracks, Cologne) and Aldershot at Corunna Barracks, where the 1st Battalion formed part of the Guards Brigade. Having reached the age limit of 50 years he retired as a Major and was promoted to a half-pay Lieutenant-Colonelcy on September 15, 1925, retiring on the next day. On retirement he was appointed D.A.A.G. for the Guernsey Island Militia and was placed on the Regular Army Reserve of Officers as a Lieutenant-Colonel.

The foregoing is a cold epitome of the career of a truly well-loved officer. When I was approached to write this obituary notice I felt reluctant to do so for it would take a writer like Winston Churchill or Arthur Bryant with their command of our language to do justice to an officer like P.S. At the same time I know he would have wished me to take on the task for he had cared for me ever since I first met him as a very junior subaltern at Allahabad some 40 years ago. From that time onwards I had a true and generously-minded friend. His advice and counsel were ever ready at my call and I often consulted him both whilst serving with him and after he had retired and married. At Little Ballands, Fetcham, I was always welcomed and cared for by Mrs. Percy-Smith and his daughter Nell, the latter a constant joy to him of which he was so proud, and of whom he told me about as his tiny baby girl during a visit to me at Colchester, where I was commanding the 2nd Battalion in 1932-1933 and was able to entertain him there in my own house and talk over the happy years I had spent in his company on the Rhine and at Aldershot where, as bachelor Majors, we occupied adjacent quarters and were always together on every possible occasion. All those who knew him will remember how wonderful he was as a host in the Mess—never fearful of Generals nor of high Staff Officers. Such personages meant very little to P.S. for he had himself, as a younger officer, entertained countless Generals and superior Indian Civil Service officials at Northern Army Headquarters in India or, in the same way, in Khartoum had done so as a District Commander with the rank of Major-General and with his own State motor launch to traverse, as a Pasha, the waters of the Nile. His lavish entertainment in Khartoum was a byword in the years he was Commander there, and young officers of his Regiment who happened to pass through Khartoum or were stationed there (like Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall) related to us years afterwards



the magnificence of his hospitality and his unending kindness, which were never equalled and never lacking.

There is another aspect of him which those who knew him will always remember him by and treasure, and that was his amazing number of apt expressions, which would be unexpectedly produced during some tense moment in military training operations or during some fearful inspection by a G.O.C.-in-Chief. One hears those remarks related to this day, and even in the last few years he coined others equally amusing and so essentially typical of him.

To sum up, he was in the truest sense of the expression an officer and a gentleman. He had to be only just himself to bring happiness to all those gathered around him and to display all those qualities all ranks admire. We shall always remember him with affection and with honour. Few officers ever called forth and held the love of all ranks as he did, and I have lost a true friend no one can ever replace in my life here on earth.

## COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT'S NOTES

### General News

Since my last issue of this letter I am relieved to write that the Regular portion of our Regiment, after many alarms and misgivings, is now concentrated at Inglis Barracks, and in a very few days from now the amalgamation of our remaining two Regular Battalions, the former 57th and 77th, will be carried out and the future 1st Battalion and the only Regular Battalion of our Regiment will be put into effect. This Battalion will, as the term infers, combine the two former Regular Battalions into one unit. In the Army List the title will include both our historic Regimental numbers, the 57th and 77th, the former first raised in 1757 and the latter in 1787. To many of us and especially to the older generation of past officers, this transformation is a real tragedy and our only consolation is that all other Regiments of the Infantry of the Line have suffered a life blow in that all have lost one Regular Battalion.

To the ranks of this new unit are entrusted the glorious traditions of both Regiments, and I am confident they are borne in trusty hands. A large number of those who will compose the new unit have served with distinction in the 1939-1945 war, and we can be sure they will faithfully carry on that torch of the "Die-Hards" hitherto borne in full flame by ranks filled with courage and constancy, and that its light will never flicker nor grow dim by any unworthy action on their part. I am especially fortified by having Lt.-Col. Mervyn Crawford, D.S.O., in command. He led our 8th Battalion throughout the final glorious campaign in N.W. Europe, and did so with distinction and gallantry.

Many of our ranks have been taken from the Regiment to serve elsewhere on account of the heavy reduction in establishment numbers. None more than myself realise their sorrow and pain, and I can offer no consolation which can ease the blow. I can only exhort each one never to forget that he remains always a "Die-Hard," for no order can ever remove that dignity from him. Wherever "Die-Hards" serve they always bear

with them our traditions and use that unconquerable spirit for the good of the unit or service they are called upon to enter.

Since the return of the two Battalions I have derived much joy from seeing many old faces of ranks I know, and have heard with pride the Regimental Marches played by our Band. Such are always an inspiration and a call to me to fresh efforts to promote the welfare and spirit of all ranks. They remind me of countless stations and friends with whom I have served, and are tinged with all those incidents the chords of which in one's memory are struck, and again tell one the stories of past days, the pleasures and the sorrows which we all meet in the course of our service in the Regiment.

On June 12 the Freedom of the Borough of Hornsey was presented to the 7th Territorial Battalion of the Regiment by the Council. The Hon. Colonel of the Battalion, Sir Edwin King, K.C.B., C.M.G., T.D., D.L., received from the Mayor the beautifully coloured emblazoned record of this rare honour on behalf of the Battalion, and with his accustomed dignity in chosen language accepted the honour. This Battalion has already received the Freedom of Wood Green, another of its recruiting areas in the county, and I was fortunate to be present on that occasion.

### News from Battalions

Now that our two Regular Battalions are at the Depot there is little news. On July 15 the officers at the barracks gave a farewell dinner to Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E., in the Mess. The Band played and I was asked to dine in and propose the toast to this officer who has served continuously for some 42 years in our Regiment.

Major Clark served mostly in the 1st Middlesex and at the Regimental Depot. Before the Second World War came he was Q.M. at the Depot, and under my command was responsible for the clothing, equipping and quartering of many thousands of all ranks in the first two years of the war. The expansion from a Depot of some six officers and 250 other ranks to a number which reached nearly 250 officers and 2,000 other ranks was a task of great magnitude. He fulfilled it with distinction and efficiency, and no one ever wanted for anything. On the reduction of Regimental Training Centres he carried out that task which reduced the unit to two officers and some ten other ranks with equal efficiency, and to indicate my complete satisfaction I must add that I was never called upon to pay even a penny for losses, etc. That was a remarkable effort for which he received the O.B.E., an honour seldom given in this war to an officer below the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. I am glad to say he remains with us as Secretary of our Regimental Association and the Officers' Club. His duties also include the task of Secretary to our War Memorial Committee, and that duty is a heavy one, entailing much clerical work and constant journeys to all parts of the county.

I myself owe a great debt of gratitude to his family. Mrs. Clark looked after me for some four years, and I was fed in a manner never repeated since. Their kindness and care for me was constant and daily, and I was never failed all those long and dreary years of the war.

On July 13 I had the honour of presenting medals and campaign stars to members of the Regimental Depot and other ranks attached. Many were well known to me, in fact all who were actual members of our Regiment.

### Dominion Alliances—Regimental Alliances with Dominion Forces

His Majesty The King has been graciously pleased to approve alliances between our Regiment and the unmentioned units of the Dominion forces:—

CANADA  
31st Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, Ontario.  
21st Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery.  
50th H.A.A. Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery.  
102nd (Wentworth) Field Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery.

The Royal Rifles of Canada.

In connection with the above, part of the batteries of the 31st Field Regiment, R.C.A., had a previous alliance with our Regiment as the then Middlesex and Huron Regiment. This remark also applies to the 21st Anti-Tank Regiment, R.C.A.

The 50th H.A.A. Regiment, R.C.A., was formerly allied to our Regiment as the Prince of Wales Rangers.

The 102nd (Wentworth) Field Battery was formerly allied to our Regiment as the Wentworth Regiment.

The alliance with the Royal Rifles of Canada is new and is derived from the close co-operation between this Rifle Regiment and our 1st Battalion in Hong Kong during the Japanese attack on the island.

Arrangements are being made for our News Letters and Journals to be sent to all these allied units, and a hearty welcome to visit our Depot has been extended to all their ranks.

### Regimental Functions

On May 7 last I attended an Officers' Reunion Dinner of the 10th Battalion (afterwards numbered 30th) in the Criterion Restaurant. Lt.-Col. H. Cook, M.C., was the Chairman, and some 40 attended. Amongst them were Brig. E. W. C. Flavell, D.S.O., M.C., Lt.-Col. F. C. Bishop, M.C., and Capt. H. S. Whitlock. The last-named proposed the toast to "The Regiment," to which I replied. Brig. Flavell proposed "The Guests," and the Rev. R. F. V. Scott, D.D., a former Chaplain of the Battalion, replied.

Some 40, inclusive of guests, were present, and I spent a very happy evening.

### Functions Attended by the Colonel

On July 8 I was commanded to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. As I went as Colonel of the Regiment, Lt. Cpl. Snell drove me there and, knowing all the ropes, fetched me away with great skill and rapidity. Lt. Cpl. Snell drove all the C.O.s of the 2nd Battalion both before and throughout the war, and since has driven the O.C. 57 P.T.C., and O.C. Depot. I find great comfort in being driven by one who has safely conducted all his C.O.s during those perilous years of 1939-1945.

### Historical Records

I have just heard from Lanceray Newnham's widow (since remarried) that a very beautiful memorial has been placed in the R.M.A. Chapel at Sandhurst. It is placed on the same pillar near to our very lovely marble memorial to those officers who fell in the 1914-1918 war. The inscription below the Regimental Crest is as follows:—

In loving memory of  
Col. Lanceray A. Newnham, G.C., M.C.,  
Middlesex Regiment

Who was shot by the Japanese as a prisoner of war on  
December 18, 1943, at Hong Kong  
True to the end

This statement is a very understated one, for he was brutally tortured before being shot in order to get from him the names of those officers who were at work with him to escape from their Japanese guards. All these cruel efforts failed to compel him to betray anyone, and having failed he was murdered by the Japanese in revenge. The motto is a family one, and he certainly continued to carry on their tradition. His wife's name is Mrs. Lindley Smith and she lives in Cornwall.

### General Regimental News

This letter will mainly consist of Regimental celebrations in connection with our principal battle honour awarded for the heroism of the 57th Foot on the field of Albuhera, from which battle we derive the laurel wreath and the word Albuhera now depicted on our Regimental Crest. We also owe to that remarkable and historic battle the well-known title of "Die-Hards." The 57th Foot on May 16, 1811, fought a most glorious, stubborn and bloody action in which the casualties far exceeded any sustained by any Battalion of our Regiment in this last war—the term "last" is possibly rash, and I should have used the expression "recent." In earlier times only members of the 57th considered themselves "Die-Hards," but now the sobriquet is generally used and we are all proud to use it, and it has sustained all our Battalions in two Great Wars when faced with great contrary odds, and our men have held their positions against overwhelming numbers and have equally attacked apparently impregnable hostile positions inspired by the name "Die-Hards."

This year I was able to pay a visit to our 1st Battalion at Wansbeck Barracks on the outskirts of Hamburg, and Col. J. G. E. Reid, who had only just vacated command, very kindly returned to his house in Hamburg and I was able to stop with him. I am glad to say that after a most successful command of both Regular Battalions in turn he has been promoted Temporary Colonel and is in charge of approximately 25,000 foreign Labour Corps in Germany with a staff which includes six Lieutenant-Colonels. His area not only covers the entire British Zone in Germany, but he has also detachments in Brussels and in our main port at the Hook of Holland.

I left Liverpool Street on the evening of May 12 and was escorted by young Capt. Peter Bellers. The return journey was made with Capt. Bob Cummins, the Adjutant, who equally cared for me like a child and



delivered me to my home. I owe a debt of gratitude to both these officers which, as nearly always happens, I cannot repay, and their only reward is the satisfaction of having looked after their Colonel, and that duty comes seldom in the life of a Regimental officer. I never experienced it myself, and had I done so I should certainly have fallen far short of the skill and patience displayed by both, for I cannot imagine many things more boring than having to spend some 26 hours with an elderly Colonel whose interests are far from one's own. However, both concealed their feelings very cleverly.

I reached Hamburg just before midnight on May 13, and was met by Col. Reid and the acting C.O., Major Norman Gilbert, both old friends with whom I have served in the Regiment and know well. A huge car, similar to that one used by H.R.H. The Princess Royal (who was visiting the B.A.O.R. at the same time), with a driver from the R.A.S.C., was placed at my disposal throughout my visit. L/Cpl. Males, Col. Reid's own driver whilst commanding the Battalion, acted as escort to me during my visit, and Col. Reid's young soldier servant took charge of me in the house. Both carried out their duties splendidly, and it was very pleasant for a few days to be looked after hand and foot after doing so for myself since I gave up command of the 2nd Middlesex.

On Friday, May 14, I visited the Wansbeck Barracks and was very pleased with the comfort of the barrack rooms, institutes, dining halls and Messes. The sitting rooms provided for the men were well furnished and comfortable. The barrack rooms were designed to hold only a few men, four to six each, and were well provided with cupboards, etc. The dining halls were splendid rooms with concealed lighting, and it was pleasant to see flowers on every table. The kitchen and the meals that I saw were very good. The Messes were comfortable, and though the 1st Middlesex have none of their silver or other 1st Battalion property, the Messes were adorned with pictures and shields won in the B.A.O.R. (there were several) and B.A.O.R. challenge cups. That evening I was taken by Col. and Mrs. Reid to a Country Club for tea, a place with a magnificent garden containing the most varied and lovely flowering shrubs and trees. Later we dined at Col. Reid's house.

Saturday, May 15, a ceremonial parade was held in my honour, and arrangements were also made for me to address the Battalion. That night I dined at the Officers' Mess, and after dinner visited the Sergeants Mess, where there was a dance and cabaret show in progress.

On Saturday, May 15, after the parade the Officers' Mess provided a truly gigantic buffet lunch for a large number of guests from the Royal Naval, Military, Royal Air Force and Civil Government Services, including Rear-Admiral S. M. T. Arliss, C.B.E., D.S.O., Flag Officer Commanding British Naval Forces in Germany, Rear Admiral Horan, C.B., D.S.O., K.R.O., of East Hamburg, Brig. Underhill, O.B.E., Commander Hamburg Sub-Area and Wing Commander R. Peel, Senior Admin. Officer, R.A.F., Hamburg. In nearly all cases their wives were present, and there were a large number

of other guests. Officers of the Regiment, past and present, included Brig. A. C. Taylor, D.S.O., Indian Army, Lt.-Col. Andrew Man, O.B.E., Major W. H. Pilley, Capt. J. S. C. Flavell, serving in the Parachute Regiment and Capt. R. D. Finnis. Mr. H. Vaughan-Berry, Regional Commissioner in Hamburg, and the senior Government official were also present.

On Sunday, May 16 (Albuhera Day), an open-air Church parade was held on the barrack square, at which I was asked to read the lesson. The Rev. Lt.-Col. Hillborne, Asst. Chaplain-General, conducted divine service and preached a most inspiring sermon.

Prior to the service Col. J. G. E. Reid spoke to the Battalion and asked all ranks to maintain the Regimental traditions of "Die-Hards" both in the ranks and on returning to civil life, where the country was in sore need of behaviour of that nature in the grave difficulties which beset our nation in industry and in foreign affairs.

The Chaplain related two stories which were of interest to us all and unknown to me. The first was that he had been a cadet in Middlesex and had worn our badge, but on joining he was made to file out the word Albuhera from it because cadets were not worthy when so young to wear such an honoured name. He also related that when a design for the new badge for the Royal Army Chaplains Corps was sent for approval to H.M. King George V, His Majesty would not permit the Royal Cypher to be included on the badge which bore his Lord and Master's Sign, the Cross, and so wrote in his own hand on the paper bearing the design, which was to have included the Royal Cypher in the central portion of the badge below the Cross.

On Monday and Tuesday, May 17 and 18, the Battalion sports were held in a most delightful setting in a public park with a cinder race track, etc., and the Hamburg Police Band played very well. Tea was provided on both days. "H.Q." Company won the Albuhera Sports Shield (a small wooden shield), and Drum Major Holford, formerly in the 1st Middlesex in Hong Kong, and P.O.W. for some four years, contributed many points to their victory.

It was noticeable that most winners belonged to the older generation of Regular pre-war soldiers. I think the younger men are still too immature to give account of the young entry, but if they continue to train will do so in two or three years' time. The success in the field events was largely due to the world famous javelin thrower, Herr Stoek—an Olympic champion in 1936 when he threw the javelin 279 ft.—who trained our athletes in all the field events. He is even at the age of over 40 a magnificent figure. After R.S.M. Weller had won the javelin with a fine throw, Herr Stoek threw this weapon some 100 ft. further, and even then was far short of his 1936 distance.

I left early on the morning of May 19 to return to the U.K. and reached my home at about 11 a.m. after a very smooth crossing.

#### Acton Carnival

The Mayor of Acton (Alderman E. J. Lewis, J.P.) organised a most admirable carnival fortnight in aid of

the Regimental War Memorial Fund from May 15 to May 30. The carnival was an outstanding success in every way, including financial, and this success is directly attributable to the magnificent drive and enthusiasm shown by the Mayor, who has not spared himself on our behalf. Our most grateful thanks are due to him and his staff.

#### Brentford and Chiswick Carnival

The Mayor of Brentford and Chiswick (Alderman Sinclair, J.P.) has also started a drive in aid of the Memorial Fund and hopes to raise £1,000 through a carnival on August Bank Holiday.

#### 9th Middlesex

I attended on May 5 a very pleasant dinner of the 595th Lt. A.A. Regiment R.A. at Kingsbury Drill Hall, formerly 9th Middlesex headquarters, and afterwards saw the training of the Regiment in progress and also that of the R.E.M.E. at the same headquarters. It was very interesting, and I was shown modern Radar Equipment at work by an officer who knew the instrument by heart. I must admit that thrilled as was my heart by such skill, and the machinery which worked out such intricate problems, my head was quite bewildered, and I felt relieved that I had passed out of all chances of command in these days.

I am sorry to say that Col. J. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., is still laid up as a result of being struck by a cycle some six weeks ago. He has already spent a week in hospital and returned there again on June 5. The wound has healed but the skin has been affected, and has not yielded to treatment. Lt.-Col. Fox's son Geoffrey has joined the Regiment and is stationed at the H.C. Brigade Training Centre at Moore Barracks, Shorncliffe, where he is in the Company commanded by Major Henry Marsh.

#### Albuhera Day in Freetown

Whilst Albuhera Day was being celebrated by units of the Regiment, a very small party met at the United Service Club, Juba, Freetown, Sierra Leone. There should have been seven, but unfortunately Major "Tony" Hewitt was on a trek exploring darker Africa and Capt. Cutts is now with the Depot Company at Daru.

As a result the party consisted of Col. N. P. Proctor, C.B.E., M.C., Capt. P. W. Galvin, Lt. G. E. Sander, Sgt. W. Milington and W.O. J. Carvel, R.E. Some may wonder why a Sapper was included, but although not in the Regiment now his claims to be of the Regiment are strong. He was born in the Regiment, his father being Orderly Room Colour Sergeant of the 3rd Battalion. He remembers many well-known 3rd Battalion personalities, including Capt. Blackman, who is well known to older soldiers and whose sons will be known to nearly all serving now.

W.O. Carvel's connection does not end there as he was attached to the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong and in consequence has many friends in the Regiment of a later generation. Messages were sent to the Colonel of the Regiment and the 1st Battalion, and a reply

from Col. Browne was received in time to be read out at dinner.

The Club put on a good dinner and a pleasant evening was spent despite a strike or two by Capt. Galvin's car. Principally owing to the strain of assisting with disciplining this car one of his passengers was quite overcome. However, all's well that ends well, and eventually all reached their beds, and one more Albuhera Day had come and gone.

#### 2nd Battalion

I was delighted to go down to Southampton to meet the Battalion, which reached the port in the troopship *Strathnaver* on Tuesday, June 3. I was in the charge of Col. W. H. V. Jones, O.B.E., who served for many years in the Regiment and is now the principal Staff Officer charged with all sea transport arrangements and holds the rank of full Colonel.

He arranged for myself, Lt.-Gen. Sir Evelyn Barker, G.O.C. Eastern Command, Colonel, R.R.C., and the Colonel of a Cavalry Regiment (R.A.C.) to board the ship with him as soon as the medical staff declared the ship free of disease. There I spoke to Lt.-Col. Henderson, in command of the 2nd Middlesex, and all ranks (approximately 200 inclusive of some 15 officers) on their troop deck. I reminded them that the last time I saw the Battalion was just before "D" Day in the woods outside Rowlands Castle, where the Battalion lay concealed from the air.

On conclusion of operations in N.W. Europe, the Battalion were sent to the Middle East, where it was largely engaged in the Palestine operations until their departure from Haifa on May 22. The Band was present with the Battalion. On arrival at the quayside it was splendid to see our Regimental Flag flying at the masthead, and it was the best and most outstanding flag of all those flying. We have been very proud of the behaviour of the Battalion in Palestine, where they have earned the praise of all their commanders. I met many old friends in the ship and was deeply moved, but speaking was somewhat stilted due to numerous interruptions on the loud speaker, now a feature of all ships and doubtless very useful for command and instructions, but disconcerting to anyone trying to welcome home a Battalion he has himself served with for nearly 12 years and had the honour of commanding. However I managed to do so and, being few in number and below deck, speech was easy to throw out.

The Battalion reached Inglis Barracks on the evening of Friday, June 4. During the week-end all ranks proceeded on well-earned leave, and the cloud of anxiety of many relatives was raised after a period of endurance for nearly three years. The stories of murderers and their acts in Palestine must have been a source of deep fear to many relatives, who never knew when the dread telegram telling of death by foul means might arrive. Only those who have friends and relatives in such countries can realise their feelings and the patient endurance demanded of them.

Mrs. Tidbury also visited the port to meet her son Charles, serving as a Captain in the K.R.R.C., who arrived in the same ship as did the 2nd Middlesex.



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

## "H.Q." COMPANY

Too many young soldiers these days do not have the opportunity of appreciating to the full the meaning of the words "Regimental spirit." Transferred from one Regiment to another in what appears to be haphazard fashion they never really settle down before they are demobilised.

Many who were with us on Albuhera Day have suffered thus, and it was with mixed feelings that they entered upon the annual Regimental celebrations. When all was over there was not one who had not been deeply stirred by our Colonel's inspiring words and not one who did not feel that he would remember the day for the rest of his life.

It is a pity that such occasions as this occur all too rarely nowadays. Many, perhaps for the first time, began to realise what is meant by the "Regimental spirit" of this Regiment. They felt they were part of something of which they were immensely proud, and that their Regimental history and traditions somehow assumed a new meaning and significance. To the younger soldier this may have come as a surprise, but to the older it was so overwhelming that many had a lump in the throat and a tear in the eye.

It was proof, if further proof is ever needed, of the value of that indefinable strength of the British Infantry, *Regimental esprit de corps*. It was proof to us that the Middlesex Regiment is second to none in this respect. We must see to it that it never weakens while we try, dutifully, to foster the "group spirit" in the future.

To the Company the celebrations were made even more memorable by our winning the inter-Company sports by the handsome margin of 23 points ahead of "C" Company, our nearest rivals. To win ten events and be second in three out of a total of 14 is a good performance, and we heartily congratulate those whose efforts went towards the achievement.

Altogether it was a happy and successful end to Capt. Peasley's command of the Company. His efforts were well rewarded, and it is with regret that we hear that he will not be going home with us. We thank him for his excellent leadership and wish him and Mrs. Peasley the very best of luck in the Rhine Army. He has been with the Regiment for 17 years and may be assured of a warm welcome to Mill Hill on visits home.

We welcome Major R. C. H. Bellers as our new Company Commander. He is no stranger to the Company, having left it in 1938 after four years as Signal Officer. It has not taken the Battalion scribes long to confuse his initials with his nephew in "B" Company!

C.S.M. Reece has left for a job in B.A.O.R. and we wish him and Mrs. Reece all good fortune.

We congratulate Drum Major Holdford on his "mention" in the Colonel of the Regiment's letter after his visit, an exceptional and well-deserved merit for any soldier, and him and Mrs. Holdford on the birth of a fine daughter. He should be a proud man.

Dmr. Cullen has added further laurels to his cricketing

career by being selected to play for B.A.O.R. This is a great honour for the Regiment. Both he and Capt. Orr played in the Depot cricket week at Mill Hill.

The cricket league has just started and we have beaten "B" Company by 136 runs to 70, but lost to "A" Company by a narrow margin. Both were most enjoyable games played on our ground at Hammer Park, a pleasant enough ground were it not for the all too familiar scarred and blackened ruins around it.

After many rumours, orders for our move home seem firm at last. We shall leave Hamburg with regret for the many excellent amenities and, let's admit it, the "cushy" life in B.A.O.R. which we exchange for the more austere conditions at home. This is more than compensated for by the fact that we are going to our Depot almost intact as a Company, and we are confident that we shall soon settle down and enjoy our new role under our old friend and new C.O., Lt.-Col. Crawford.

Duties have been heavy for the last month or two owing to our "run down" and "special operation," and few will regret leaving the drab ruins of this once fine city for the green fields of England on one side and the view of the gasworks on the other at Mill Hill.

## "A" COMPANY

The last few months have for us, as with all Companies, been rather disappointing. Heavy guard commitments coupled with civil security tasks have made it impossible to put out a representative Company side in any field of sport.

The inter-Company athletic meeting held during the visit of the Colonel of the Regiment was keenly contested, and we won with distinction the 800 metres relay. Sgt. Salmon and Pte. Stanton were the mainstay of our team. We have at present, in what promises to be a most excellent Battalion athletic team, Sgt. Salmon, Ptes. Stanton, Holding and Harvey.

Cricket has only just recently started on a Company level, and we should be able to field a fairly strong team. Capt. J. N. Shipster, D.S.O., and L.Cpl. Raybould have played for the Battalion 1st XI, and Lt. K. J. Carter and Cpl. Aylward for the Battalion 2nd XI.

It now seems definite that this will be our last contribution to the Regimental Journal before we finally break up here in Germany. We wish all those of the Company who will not be accompanying us home to England all the best of luck in their new units, and we hope they will not forget us as we will assuredly not forget them and all they have done.

## "B" COMPANY

If there has been any time at all during this last quarter in which to pursue our various pleasures and to keep our "house in order" it is entirely due to the praiseworthy efforts of the senior officers of the Battalion coupled with the extraordinary capacity of all ranks for hard work.

As these notes are written it is nearly six weeks since operation "Coral Island" (and subsequently "Ice-

boat") commenced. Virtually all that can be said of them is that they did demand the maximum effort from everybody until last week, when the responsibility for both operations was passed to another unit. Notwithstanding the occasional frayed tempers, forever attendant upon an exacting task over a prolonged period (not infrequently was the day's work for many of us, brought to a close by the sounding of Lights Out), throughout the operations there was ample evidence of that particular brand of humour peculiar to the soldier. On such occasions as these, when officers and men of a Battalion are called upon to work in close unison with a set task, and more particularly when broken down to smaller teams introducing a competitive spirit, one finds a spirit barely surpassed in wartime, and only equalled on the sports field in peace.

## Albuhera Sports

It is not proposed to furnish the reader with details of the programme for the Albuhera Day celebrations since they have already been set down elsewhere in this issue. We would not, however, go on from here without recording the honour we felt and pleasure we all knew in having the Colonel of the Regiment over here to lead the celebrations.

What of our part in the athletics meeting? We have again, as in the last issue of THE DIE-HARDS, to thank a number of individuals for their extremely gallant efforts, which brought us from the privately anticipated fourth to third place. Without doubt the finest exhibition of stamina was given by Pte. J. Beadle of the Company in the 5,000 metres. For the first lap he was apparently content to stay with the "field." He went up front in the second lap and there he stayed holding the lead, even against S.S.I. Loveday who is the holder of the B.A.O.R. Cross-Country Championship, and who was running for "H.Q." Company. S.S.I. Loveday succeeded in "taking" Pte. Beadle with half a lap to go, but Beadle made up his mind not to have this and in a magnificent spurt took the lead from Loveday. From this point the battle was on but in the terrific finish Beadle cut the tape with a ten yards lead. Ptes. Mills and Bennett also ran extremely well. The combined efforts of these three in a really gruelling race gave the Company a tie with "H.Q." Company for first place.

As for the rest of the meeting, during the first day we seemed to lose ground on the score board, but on the second day the Company team did very well indeed, and there was a point when the prospects of second place in the meeting loomed up. Perhaps it is unfortunate that the 110 yds. hurdles were not run.

## General

It is just a month ago now since Capt. V. G. Fuller came to the Company as 2 i/c.

Capt. P. G. V. Bellers rejoined us recently from leave and honeymoon.

Lt. K. W. Sherriff whom we all remember very well, wrote recently to wish us all the best. He is now with the B.B.C. in Glasgow.

Before these notes are published we shall be once

again in England, but this time sadly depleted. There will be a good many old faces departed; some to civilian life and others to extra Regimental employment. We hope they will keep in touch by writing us from time to time. We always are most interested to hear from "old boys." To all of you who are gone we wish every happiness and success.

## "C" COMPANY

On May 18, 1948, Major C. N. Clayden handed over command of "C" Company to Major D. Sax. The officers of the Company are now:—Major Sax, Capt. Clayden and Eales, Lt. Baily and 2/Lt. Alford.

At the end of May the Company was taken off duties for 10 days to give them a refresher course in weapon training before firing their annual classification. Unfortunately, owing to the heavy commitments of the Battalion during June, we have been unable to hold the classification. However, the men enjoyed the break from the normal routine of duties and the course undoubtedly did them a lot of good.

We made a very good start in the Inter-Company Cricket League, beating both "H.Q." and "B" Companies. We are now endeavouring to fit in the rest of our matches before the Company breaks up and we lose our star performers.

We shall proceed to the U.K. a sadly depleted Company. The men who are going with us are, for the main part, eagerly looking forward to going home but will be sorry to leave so many of their comrades who are being posted to various units in B.A.O.R.

## "D" COMPANY

If variety is the spice of life then the activities of "D" Company in the past quarter have more ingredients than a Madras chutney! What with Guards of Honour, unloading parcels, cricket, loading parcels, athletics, tying up parcels, Albuhera Day parades, counting parcels, weapon training, recounting parcels, garrison duties, less parcels and garrison duties with them, we now consider that the Army is the most versatile of all professions.

Once again faces have changed, and we welcome C.S.M. Mitchell, D.C.M., who joined us from the Royal Fusiliers. He has been a tower of strength, especially over the Albuhera Day festivities. Another most welcome "recruit" is Lt. J. Livemore, M.C., who is, in fact, one of the original officers of this Company, and was decorated whilst serving with it in Belgium. He has taken over sports and welfare, both of which have made great strides under his direction. Our famous all-round athlete, Pte. McCrudden, has gone on release, and our loss is shared equally with the Battalion, who will find it difficult to replace him in the M.T. Section as well as in the rugger and athletic teams. His try in the last minute of the Hamburg District Seven-a-Side was the *pièce de résistance* of an extremely exciting day in which the Battalion team covered itself with glory.

We also wave good-bye to Lt. Dick Reilly, who actually walked out of the barracks alone, no mean feat



as those who know him will realise! The rumour that he has accepted the job of supervisor of fruit machines in a "speak easy" is quite unfounded!

The big event of the quarter, in fact of the year, was the Albuhera Day celebration. The weather was ideal and the many parades and festivities were carried out with clockwork precision. There is no doubt whatsoever that the thrill and pride in taking part in a successful ceremonial parade is well worth the effort required to reach the standard it demands. Especially so is this true when the object of the parade is to commemorate the Battle of Albuhera and dedicate ourselves to the immortal memory of the men who fell there. The words of the Colonel of the Regiment are still ringing in our ears, and have been an inspiration to a number of younger soldiers who were finding their soldiering rather futile. There has been an increase in the number wishing to sign on and in those of other Regiments who want to transfer. Similarly did we pride ourselves on the Guard of Honour which "D" Company provided for the new Army Commander. He congratulated the Guard on its turnout and drill, and spoke to a number of the men including the Drummers.

For one week we were able to forget menial duties and get down to some soldiering on the range. Un-



The Army Commander inspecting "D" Company's Guard of Honour.

fortunately the "parcel game" prevented us from following this up by classifying on the open ranges. However it was a pleasant break from guards and duties and an excellent refresher for the N.C.O.s.

Of course games and sports have taken their share in the daily routine, especially athletics and cricket. In the former we were beaten, but not disgraced in the Battalion athletic meeting, and Major Ayre, Lt. Livemore, Sgt. Bignell and Pte. Parsons are now regular members of the Battalion team. Tremendous strides have been made in all field events under the expert tuition of our German trainer.

Our cricket team has surprised one or two Companies and ourselves, too, when Pte. Walters scored 68 again "B" Company. He and other players are members of the Battalion 2nd XI.

These notes would be incomplete without reference to the social which was held recently, and which embodied a drawing and verse competition. Some amazing talent was discovered and only shortage of paper prevents the publication of a complete anthology of Company verse.

During these last few hours in Germany our thoughts turn to those who are not returning to England with us. To all the Die-Hards who are joining the Queen's in Berlin we say good luck and God bless you, and may the 57th be as proud of you as you were of it on May 16. We say good luck and *au revoir* to our Company Commander, Major Ayre, who is leaving the Battalion to command the mission to the Danish Army. Lt. Livemore expects to be posted to an E.R.E. appointment, but we hope he will rejoin the Battalion again before long. C.S.M. Mitchell is returning to his parent Regiment, the Royal Fusiliers, and he goes with the best wishes of all the Company. How we all wish he could stay. Sgt. Ellis, a veteran of Hong Kong, is also being posted to an E.R.E. appointment and we wish him the best of luck.

#### RIDING CLUB

Out of the total of 36 pupils on the April Riding Cadre, 19 were passed out. These have joined the Riding Club and go out hacking whenever they get an opportunity, arrangements being made for them to be escorted either by an officer or by the head German groom.

The first Riding Cadre being so popular, it was decided to start another one at the beginning of June. Sixteen names were received and most of the students have worked about half-way through the Cadre. Unfortunately, with the heavy Battalion commitments during the month, some members of the Cadre have found it difficult to fit in the riding lessons with their normal duties, but it is hoped that everyone will be able to complete the course before the end of the month.

Susan Ayre had an unfortunate accident in May. She fell off her horse which accidentally kicked her in the face. This necessitated her going into hospital and having several stitches put in. She is now fully recovered and out of hospital looking none the worse for her accident.

Partly as a result of this accident, Major Ayre has relinquished his duties as Officer i/c Horses and has handed them over to Major Sax.

#### CRICKET

A considerable amount of keenness has been shown towards cricket this year. Unfortunately the move to the U.K. will rather disrupt playing for a while. Five Battalion matches have been played so far, resulting in three being won and two lost.

The batting has been fair if a little inconsistent; Major Gilbert, Capt. Clayden, 2/Lt. Savill, Sgt. Sturgess and Sgt. Jones have all made good runs on occasions.

Bowling has been steadier and averages to date are as follows:—

	O.	W.	R.	A.
Capt. C. N. Clayden	.. 18	8	36	4.5
Capt. R. E. Orr	.. 49	24	116	4.8
Dmr. Cullen	.. 27	11	108	9.8

Dmr. Cullen was selected to play for the Rhine Army and he has bowled well this season.

Company Albuhera Shield matches have provided some entertaining cricket, and we are looking forward to completing the league at Mill Hill.

#### RUGGER

Many of us were glad when the season closed on April 21, as at this time of the year we were feeling the effects of a hard season. The ground was hard and cricket was far more appropriate.

Our opponents in this last match were the 2nd R.T.R., a side with a high reputation. From the kick-off it was apparent that we would have to tackle hard and often. The score was opened by Capt. C. N. Clayden kicking a penalty, and this was followed by a try by the opposition from an obvious knock-on; we had a chance of going further ahead when Capt. C. N. Clayden broke through and kicked ahead on reaching the full back; in the sprint for the touch down the ball bounced awkwardly and a 25 ensued. Our opponents were now winning all the set scrums and we were on the defensive for the rest of the game, losing at full time by 18—3. We missed the services of Capt. P. G. V. Bellers and Pte. Holding, our regular wing three-quarters, and 2/Lt. Kay at full back. The 2nd R.T.R. went on to win the B.A.O.R. Cup.

We learned much during the season but have still much to learn both in forward and three-quarters play. We are far too keen in losing sight of the ball and consequently much effort is wasted in playing blindly, and tackling is not nearly hard enough, but all without exception enjoyed the season and can be well satisfied with the result.

#### ATHLETICS

Rugby football ended on April 21, and on April 22 we commenced athletics training. We were very fortunate in acquiring the services of Gerhard Stoeck, former Olympic javelin champion of 1936 and third best shot putter in the world in that year. His handling of the individuals in the team was magnificent, within a

week the ice was broken and he had without exception the complete confidence of all members. His coaching was in great detail and on these three weeks before the Battalion athletics meeting training and coaching was open to all members of the Battalion. Interest increased as time went on and more than 80 individuals made use of this specialist training.

The Battalion Sports were held on May 17-18 in perfect weather. Results, compared with last year, were a great improvement.

#### RESULTS

4 x 100 Metres: "C" Company, 45.4 secs.  
 4 x 200 Metres: "C" Company, 1 min. 40.4 secs.  
 4 x 400 Metres: "H.Q." Company, 3 mins. 58.4 secs.  
 4 x 800 Metres: "A" Company, 9 mins. 54.4 secs.  
 1,500 Metres: "H.Q." Company, 4 mins. 37.6 secs. Winner, S/Sgt. Loveday.  
 5,000 Metres: "H.Q." Company, 17 mins. 53 secs. Winner, Pte. Beadle ("B" Company).  
 Long Jump: "H.Q." Company, 17 ft. 8 ins. Winner, L/Cpl. Windborough.  
 High Jump: "H.Q." Company, 4 ft. 10 ins. Winners, Capt. Clayden, Dmr. Leat and Pte. McCrudden.  
 Discus: "H.Q." Company, 106 ft. 1½ ins. Winner, Capt. Clayden.  
 Weight: "H.Q." Company, 33 ft. 1 in. Winner, Pte. Jenkins.  
 Hammer: "D" Company, 90 ft. 4 ins. Winner, Pte. McCrudden.  
 Javelin: "H.Q." Company, 129 ft. 10 ins. Winner, R.S.M. Weller, M.M.  
 Hop, Skip and Jump: "H.Q." Company, 38 ft. 5½ ins. Winner, L/Cpl. Windborough.  
 Pole Vault: "H.Q." Company, 8 ft. 6 ins. Winner, Drum Major Holford.

#### FINAL PLACINGS

"H.Q." Company, 90 pts.; "C" Company, 67 pts.; "B" Company, 56 pts.; "A" Company, 48 pts.; "D" Company, 38 pts.

"C" Company's sprint team of Cpl. Walsh, Ptes. McCall, Moulds and Capt. C. N. Clayden won comfortably. Sgt. Salmon won a very fine 800 metres relay for "A" Company, and the distance races went to "H.Q." Company and "B" Company, S/Sgt. Loveday being outstanding in both. Pte. Beadle produced a great show of stamina to win the 5,000 metres.



Winners of the javelin, R.S.M. Weller and Drum Major Holford.





Play in the match v. 15th B.O.D.



1ST BATTALION ATHLETIC TEAM, WINNERS OF HAMBURG SUB-AREA ATHLETICS

Back row (left to right): Dmr. Woodworth, Pte. Stanton, Dmr. Dandy, Pte. Jenkins, Pte. McKeever, Pte. Bryant, Pte. Parsons, Dmr. Mundy, Dmr. Leat, L/Cpl. Windsborough, Pte. Ratten, Sgt. Hughes.

Middle row (left to right): G. Stoeck, Sgt. Salmon, S/Sgt. Loveday, Major Ayre, Major Clayden, Capt. Bellers, R.S.M. Weller, Lt. Livemore, Sgt. Bignall.

Front row (left to right): Pte. McCall, Cpl. Shane, Pte. Harvey, L/Cpl. Manser, Pte. Beadle, Cpl. Harrington.

The meeting v. Hamburg University on June 10 was arranged to give us competition practice, and a really most enjoyable day ensued, with Hamburg running out the winners by 16 points. Progress had been made as the results show.

100 Metres: 2, Capt. C. N. Clayden; 4, Major G. B. Ayres. Time, 11.8 secs.  
200 Metres: 2, Capt. P. G. V. Bellers; Time, 23.8 secs.  
400 Metres: 3, Dmr. Dandy; 4, Pte. Holding. Time, 52 secs.  
800 Metres: 3, Cpl. Crowther; 4, Cpl. Harrington. Time, 2 mins. 13.5 secs.  
1500 Metres: 1, Dmr. Mundy; 2, Sgt. Salmon; 3, S/Sgt. Loveday. Time, 4 mins. 23.7 secs.  
4 x 100 Metres: 2, 1st Middlesex. Time, 43.2 secs.  
4 x 400 Metres: 1, 1st Middlesex. Time, 3 mins. 58.9 secs.  
Long Jump: 3, L/Cpl. Windsborough, 19 ft. 4½ ins.; 4, Dmr. Leat, 18 ft. 3½ ins.  
High Jump: 2, Pte. Parsons, 5 ft. 1 in.; 3, Capt. C. N. Clayden, 4 ft. 11 ins.  
Discus: 2, Capt. C. N. Clayden, 101 ft. 10 ins.; 3, Drum Major Halford, 101 ft. 4 ins.  
Weight: 1, Pte. McKeever, 37 ft. 1 in.; 2, R.S.M. Weller, 34 ft. 5 ins.  
Hammer: 2, Lt. P. J. Livemore, 93 ft. 2 ins.; 3, Pte. McKeever, 89 ft. 9 ins.  
Javelin: 4, Pte. Stanton, 130 ft. 2½ ins.; 5, R.S.M. Weller, 116 ft. 4½ ins.  
Hop, Skip and Jump: 1, L/Cpl. Windsborough, 40 ft. 11 ins.; 3, Dmr. Leat, 38 ft. 11 ins.  
Pole Vault: 1, Lt. P. J. Livemore, 8 ft. 6 ins.; Pte. Stanton, 8 ft. 6 ins.  
Pte. McKeever, 37 ft. 1 in. in the Shot, with L/Cpl. Windsborough's 40 ft. 11 ins. in the Hop Skip and Jump were the best achievements.

Training intensified and results were improving in practice. Pte. McKeever had reached 39 ft. with the shot, Pte. Parsons 120 ft. 6 ins. with the hammer and Capt. C. N. Clayden 116 ft. 3 ins. with the discus, and we were satisfied that we were producing some reward for our trainer, Gerhard Stoeck.

In the Hamburg Sub Area individual sports on June 21 and 22 we had eight firsts, 12 seconds and eight thirds.

S/Sgt. Loveday ran a good 5,000 metres in 16.54 secs., McKeever threw the hammer 98 ft. 5 ins. and Jenkins reached 104 ft. 10 ins. with the discus. This was a good warm up for the Inter-Unit Sub Area Sports on Saturday, June 26. At this latter meeting we won every event except the high jump (second), the 4 x 400 metres (second) and the hurdles (third).

Results from this meeting were the poorest yet, partly due to the bad weather conditions and partly due to the fact that the team needed resting.

On Monday and Tuesday, June 28 and 29, a few members were entered for the Hamburg District Individual Championships with the following results:—

Shot: 1st, Pte. McKeever, 38 ft. 1 in.

Hop, Skip and Jump: 1st, L/Cpl. Windsborough, 42 ft. 1 in.

Long Jump: 2nd, L/Cpl. Windsborough, 19 ft. 6 ins.

On June 30 the Hamburg District Inter-Unit Championship took place. Conditions were poor, it rained off and on and it was cold. Nevertheless the spectators saw a grim tussle between the 5th Parachute Battalion, the 1st R.S.F., the 2nd Rifle Brigade and the 1st Middlesex. Competition was very keen and the result depended on the last race, the 4 x 400 metres. The team as a whole did well but we were up against good material and we ended the day in the third place, by a means disgraced, the 5th Parachute Battalion

winning by four points from the 1st R.S.F., with the 1st Middlesex third, one point behind.

### Reports

Pte. McKeever was the outstanding pupil, reaching 39 ft. with the shot. L/Cpl. Windsborough did well in the hop, skip and jump and long jump. S/Sgt. Loveday won all his 5,000 metre races very comfortably. Sgt. Salmon and Dmr. Mundy ran well in the 5,000 metres and 1,500 metres. Pte. Jenkins put plenty of effort into all his events but he must develop his style, and that, coupled with his natural explosive ability, will make him outstanding. Pte. Parsons, with more concentration, would be by far the most talented of all the team.

We have 11 of the Battalion team who are Regular soldiers who have reaped the benefit of first-class tuition. This they must remember and pass on in seasons to come. The Battalion continues to uphold its fine sporting record. We now await the results of our six competitors entered for the B.A.O.R. Championships. These are S/Sgt. Loveday, Sgt. Salmon, Dmr. Mundy, L/Cpl. Windsborough, Ptes. McKeever and Parsons.

### OFFICERS' DINNER CLUB

The Regimental Officers' Club Dinner was held at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, W.C., on Wednesday, June 16, 1948. The Band of the 2nd Battalion were present and played during dinner.

The Colonel of the Regiment, who was the only speaker, pointed out that this was the last Regimental dinner where under the present organisation of the Army both Regular Battalions were separate entities and therefore he had arranged that the Regimental Marches of both Battalions should be played when the toast to the Regiment was proposed.

The following telegram was sent to H.M. the King from the officers of the Regiment both past and present:—

"The Equerry to H.M. the King, Windsor Castle. The officers of the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own), dining at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, W.C.2, on June 16, 1948, present their humble duty and loyal greetings to His Majesty the King. M. Browne, Colonel, The Middlesex Regiment."

The following reply was received:—

"Col. M. Browne, The Middlesex Regiment, Connaught Rooms, W.C.2. Please convey to the officers of the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own), dining together tonight, the sincere thanks of the King for their message of loyal greetings. Private Secretary."

Due to ill health Gen. Sir Brian G. Horrocks, Maj.-Gen. F. W. Ramsay, Brig.-Gen. F. G. M. Rowley and Col. G. Beach were unable to be present, and an apology for non-attendance was received from Lt.-Col. M. Crawford who had recently taken over command of the 1st. Battalion.





OFFICERS' DINNER, 1948

See page 209



The following 139 members, whose names are printed in alphabetical order, attended:—

Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L. (Chairman).  
Brigs. E. E. Baker, E. W. C. Flavell, G. H. C. Pennycook,  
H. G. L. Prynn, B. B. Rackham, O. H. Tidbury, G. P. L. Weston.  
Cols. G. L. Brown, W. D. Coles, S. F. Hedgcock, J. N. Lamont,  
A. M. O. A. Passingham, J. G. E. Reid, R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker,  
Lt.-Col. H. W. Claydon, A. d. Chimay, J. H. Clowes, H. Cook,  
A. S. J. de S. Clayton, G. L. Fox, A. H. Farley, R. A. Gwyn, H. A. A.  
Howell, T. A. Hall, J. James-Crook, C. Jarrett, A. K. Johnson,  
W. D. Kenyon, J. L. Marks, A. M. Man, S. Mirams, W. E. Pringle,  
F. G. Parker, W. L. Roberts, C. P. Rooke, J. D. Robbins, T. H.  
Reddy, J. W. A. Stephenson, W. H. Samuels, S. H. Short, E. C. H.  
Sadler, B. L. Sutcliffe, E. N. Trevor, T. S. Wollcombe, J. E. F.  
Willoughby.

Majors G. B. Anderson, P. B. Allott, H. W. Brighton, R. G. Bare,  
L. R. Burrows, A. W. Clark, L. E. Clark, C. N. Claydon, L. O. M.  
Collingswood, J. M. Cossar, I. Campbell, J. T. Dear, W. D. Ellis,  
J. F. Fryzer, P. A. Fishbourne, H. N. Grey, J. H. Green, H. D.  
Hardcastle, T. A. Hamilton, L. H. J. de la M. Herepath, E. L.  
Heywood, G. Hartley, T. G. P. Hunt, G. H. Owen-Josephs, O. C.  
Johnson, A. T. Jones, T. C. M. Johnson, D. R. A. Kaye, A. F. Lock-  
wood, F. A. Lawrence, G. Lerwill, N. H. B. Lyon, D. V. Little-  
john, H. Marsh, I. D. McLean, P. D. H. Marshall, C. M. M. Man,  
J. B. McKelvie, P. A. Mann, A. E. Morris, H. N. McLeod Martin,  
H. A. Neal, D. C. L. Nolda, P. F. Newman, J. W. G. Ormiston,  
H. T. Pennell, H. P. Perkins, D. R. Partison, P. D. H. Powell,  
E. F. J. Rich, H. Sherwood, P. L. C. Tuckey, L. Travis, A. R.  
Waller, M. P. Weedon.

Capt. J. D. P. Broadbent, I. Binder, I. Battye, S. R. Bonnamy,  
D. A. Chipp, R. J. P. Cummings, D. K. Cartell, L. C. D. Dodge,  
R. W. Dawe, J. W. Dowling, R. E. Guest, A. J. F. Gold-  
man, R. D. Hutchings, P. Hodge, E. A. H. Jeffcoat, G. Kent,  
H. M. F. Langley, M. E. W. Morton, A. Neeter, R. E. Orr, P. L.  
Pearce-Gould, D. Rendell, J. R. C. Riseley, R. W. J. Smith,  
W. A. W. St George, J. Taverner, C. G. Webber, C. E. Watson-  
Taylor.

Lt. L. F. Baker, A. E. Brett, R. T. Douthet, E. C. Graham,  
D. S. Haig, B. H. Kerr, J. Millard, J. R. Spooner.

(A photograph of the Officers' Club Dinner appears on  
pages 210 and 211.—ED.)

## OFFICERS' CLUB

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE  
MIDDLESEX REGIMENT OFFICERS' CLUB HELD AT  
THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL ON THURSDAY, JULY 29,  
1948, AT 2 P.M.

Present: Brig. B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C. (Chairman), Col.  
M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P. (Colonel of the Regiment), Lt.-Col.  
C. P. Rooke, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollcombe, M.C., Lt.-Col.  
M. Crawford, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., Lt.-Col.  
W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., Lt.-Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton and  
Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from:—Brig. E. E. F.  
Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., A.D.C., Col. G.  
Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., Major N. H. B. Lyon, M.C.,  
Major H. Marsh and Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D.

1. *Minutes.* The Minutes of the last meeting, having been circulated, were signed by the Chairman as correct.

2. *Secretary's Report.* The Secretary reported that the paid membership of the Club was 353, and that the amount of £394 16s. 6d. had been received for entrance fees and subscriptions for 1948. He also reported that a net saving of £36 12s. 10d. had been effected during Cricket Week against the amounts authorised by the Committee.

The Committee considered that the report was very satisfactory. The Committee approved of a donation of £2 2s. 6d. to the Royal School for Daughters of Officers from the Officers' Charitable Fund.

3. *Election of New Members.* The Committee approved six applications for membership of the Club as presented by the Secretary, and approved of Lt.-Col. A. D. Henderson being elected as an Honorary member of the Club.

4. *Officers' Club Fixtures, 1949.* The Committee approved of the proposed programme for 1949, and decided that no cricket should be arranged for Saturday, June 25, 1948, and that the Old Comrades' Reunion for 1949 should not be held on the Officers' Club "At Home" day.

(Details of the Old Comrades' Association Reunion Meetings are shown in the Minutes of the Regimental Association Meeting.)

5. *6th Battalion Funds.* The Committee resolved that Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P., be authorised to sign the request to the

Official Trustees of Charitable Funds for remittance of dividends in respect of the funds of the 6th Battalion.

Col. Browne agreed to this resolution.

The Committee also expressed the desire that the legal position of these funds should be explained at the next meeting on October 21, 1948.

6. *Winter Cocktail Party.* The Committee approved that a Winter Cocktail Party be held in the Officers' Mess of the Depot on the evening of October 28, 1948, after the conclusion of the Autumn Golf Meeting. The party to be self-supporting and to be held under the Chairmanship of Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., with powers to co-opt a Committee.

Details of this function are to be circulated to all members of the Officers' Club by the Secretary.

7. *Other Business.* The Chairman reported to the Committee that he had received a letter from Col. R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker, T.D., D.L., stating that owing to his commitments with the Cadets and Territorial Army he regretted that he must resign from the Chairmanship of the Officers' Club Dinner Committee. His resignation was accepted by the Committee with regret, and the Secretary was instructed to accept his resignation and thank him for his past services which made the dinners the success they turned out to be.

Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts was nominated by the Committee to take over the duties of Chairman of the Dinner Committee and he accepted.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 3.5 p.m. (Owing to the Autumn Golf Meeting taking place on October 28, 1948, the next meeting will take place on October 21, 1948.)

## REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE  
MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT  
THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1,  
ON THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1948, AT 3 P.M.

Present: Brig. B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C. (Chairman), Col.  
M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P. (Colonel of the Regiment), Lt.-Col.  
C. P. Rooke, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollcombe, M.C., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, R.S.M. S. Weller, M.M., R.S.M. R. Overy and Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from:—Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., Brig. E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., A.D.C., Major N. H. B. Lyon, M.C., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., and Major H. Marsh.

1. *Minutes.* The Minutes of the last meeting, having been circulated, were signed by the Chairman as correct.

2. *Secretary's Report.* The Secretary reported that the sum of £1,197 7s. 2d. had been dispersed in grants during the half-year ending June 30, 1948, and the number of cases assisted was 248. He also reported that the sum of £28 3s. 6d. had been recovered from loans, these recoveries had been shown in the accounts as donations to the Charitable Fund. The Committee approved that a sum of £600 0s. 0d. be allocated for assistance for the quarter ending September 30, 1948.

3. *Memorial Committee.*—In the absence through sickness of Col. Beach, Lt.-Col. M. Crawford spoke on his behalf. He informed the Committee that Major Hardcastle had informed the Secretary that the Middlesex County Council will, subject to the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture, allow occupation very soon, and that Col. Sutcliffe is awaiting submission of new tenders for construction of roads, due to the change of plans for the cottages, he hoped to receive these at an early date. His representative had consulted all departments of the Enfield Urban District Council, and all approved verbally of the revised plans, but written approval is not yet to hand. The revised plan was submitted to the Committee—no comment was made.

## STATE OF FUNDS

Investments, etc.	£
21 <sup>st</sup> National War Bonds, 1949-51 .. .. .	10,000
21 <sup>st</sup> Defence Bonds .. .. .	1,500
Post Office Savings .. .. .	3,500
National Savings Certificates .. .. .	500
Current Account .. .. .	480
<b>Total</b> .. .. .	<b>£15,980</b>
<b>Covenants</b>	
Messrs. McVitie & Price .. .. .	£
Mr. Hillman .. .. .	1,500
<b>Total</b> .. .. .	<b>£2,000</b>

Acton. The Committee were informed that the Borough of Acton's Appeal on behalf of the Cottage Homes would result in the sum of approximately £4,000 being handed to Col. M. Browne on October 11, 1948. A magnificent effort.

Chiswick. This borough was holding a fête and gala on August Bank Holiday and the results are not yet to hand.

The Committee approved of a number of N.C.O.s and men being taken over the site when the building of the cottages commences.

## DONATIONS TO WAR MEMORIAL FUND

FROM MAY 14, 1948, TO JULY 31, 1948, INCLUSIVE

£100 13s. 5d., Uxbridge District "Die-Hards" Club, further donation.  
£117 17s. 6d., Mr. A. Hillman, first payment on covenant.  
£64 10s. 0d., Borough of Wood Green, further donation.  
£39 5s. 9d., McVitie and Price, second payment on covenant.  
£34 10s. 0d., 210th Middlesex Branch Social Club, further donation.  
£13 17s. 4d., 595 L.A.A. Regiment R.A. (Middlesex) T.A.  
£10 10s. 0d., Mr. T. A. Womersley.  
£8 0s. 0d., Major J. G. P. Hunt, sale of stamp collecting cards.  
£6 0s. 0d., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, sale of stamp collecting cards.  
£5 5s. 0d., Quadratic Lodge No. 1691; Major J. T. Dear: Lt.-Col. S. W. Cranfield.

£5 0s. 0d., Major V. Holt; Mr. W. Greville Collins, Lt.-Col. A. Chimay, further donation.  
£4 0s. 0d., Major N. H. B. Lyon, sale of stamp collecting cards.  
£3 3s. 0d., 10th (H.D.) Battalion Middlesex Regiment Officers' Dinner Funds.

£2 12s. 6d., Diligence Lodge, M.M.M. Pinner.  
£2 10s. 0d., O.C.A. 9th Battalion, further donation.  
£2 7s. 0d., Messrs. Crane, Ltd., Brentford.

£1 1s. 0d., Col. H. C. Smith; Capt. Edward Davies; Capt. H. Glyn Jones; Mr. A. E. Chidley; Lt. T. A. Moller.  
£1 0s. 0d., Major A. W. Clark, stamp collecting card; Lt.-Col. A. H. Farley, stamp collecting card; Capt. J. G. Chiverall, donation; Col. A. M. O. A. Passingham, stamp collecting card; Lt.-Col. T. A. Hall, stamp collecting card.

10s. 6d., Lt. D. Champion, ex-25th Middlesex Battalion Home Guard.

10s. 0d., Col. N. P. Proctor, further donation.

5s. 0d., Mr. C. D. Goddard.

3s. 0d., Mr. C. Reed.

2s. 6d., Mr. A. F. Page; Mr. P. R. Hickman.

The Chairman of the Appeals Committee would appreciate it if any readers would assist in the Appeal by endeavouring to complete a stamp collecting card amongst their friends or neighbours.

These cards represent a cottage showing forty blank bricks, immediately beneath are forty sixpenny stamps which, when sold, are placed over the blank bricks by the purchaser. Stamp collecting cards may be obtained from the Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7. Upon completion of cards, the card and revenue would be sent to the Secretary, who will, if desired, send further cards on application.

## ADDENDUM

The amount of 10s. shown as a donation from the 20th Battalion Middlesex Regiment Home Guard is a misprint and should be amended to read 25th Battalion Middlesex Home Guard donation from Mr. A. F. Cook.

4. *Finance.* The Chairman of the Finance Committee reported that all investments in respect of the War Memorial Fund approved at the last meeting had been carried out.

The policy of charging rent for new occupants of the existing Cottage Homes, after discussion, was deferred until the next Committee Meeting.

The Committee decided that no expenditure against the Social Account would be made unless authorised by the Executive Committee. It was also approved, on the recommendation of Col. Robbins, that the Social Fund be merged into the Association Charitable Fund.

The Committee were informed that a grant of £600 for the current year had been approved by the Middlesex County Council from the Sunday Entertainments Fund, and that the Charity Fund had now been placed on the County Council's approved list of Charities. This is solely due to the efforts of Col. G. Beach, and the Committee passed a vote of thanks to Col. Beach for his untiring efforts on behalf of the Regimental Association Charitable Fund.

5. *Colonel Rooke's Committee.* The Committee having reviewed the estimates for the additional inscriptions to be placed on the War Memorial at Inglis Barracks, it was decided that the estimate of Kelly's of £9 17s. 0d. be accepted.

6. *O.C.A. Reunions, 1949.* The Committee approved of the following functions in respect of the Old Comrades' Reunion—Saturday, June 18, 1949, "At Home," Inglis Barracks, and a Reunion Dinner to be held on a Saturday not before November, 1949. Further details in connection with these functions to be issued at a later date.

7. *Gordon Memorial Fund.* The Committee having discussed this Appeal decided not to make a grant in this case, the sum of £5 having been sent from the O.C. 2nd Battalion.

8. *Annual Subscriptions for 1948.* The Committee approved of the following subscriptions for 1948:—

	£	s.	d.
Royal Soldiers Daughters' Homes .. .. .	8	8	0
Family Welfare Association .. .. .	5	5	0
Regular Forces Employment Association .. .. .	100	0	0
S.S.A.F.A. .. .. .	10	10	0
I.S.S. & A. Help Society .. .. .	10	10	0
<b>Total</b> .. .. .	<b>£134</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>

## WAR MEMORIAL APPEAL

A meeting of the Publicity Committee of the War Memorial Appeals Committee was held at the Middlesex Guildhall on Friday, August 20, 1948, under the chairmanship of the Right Hon. Lord Latham.

It was agreed, with the approval of the Associated Cinematograph Exhibitors, to hold collections in all cinemas throughout the County of Middlesex during the week November 1-7, 1948, in aid of the War Memorial Appeal.

Will any "Die-Hard" who can and would be willing to assist the appeal by helping to take collections at the evening performances during the week, kindly write to the Secretary, War Memorial Appeals Committee at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7. The Secretary will then notify him to report to the local representative nearest his home.

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

On August 1, 1948, the 77th Foot ceased to exist as an independent unit, and the unbroken tradition of 161 years came abruptly to an end. We must hope that these may not be the last 2nd Battalion notes to appear in THE DIE-HARDS and that at some not too far distant date the battalion of Seringapatam, El Bodon, Alma, Inkerman, Spion Kop and other victories too numerous to mention may be re-formed and may again bring credit to the Regiment.

The past four months have been marked by the interest and stimulus which always arise from change and transition, by the joy of home-coming, by sadness at having to say good-bye to many old and trusted friends and by regret that the Regiment will in future no longer have two Regular battalions.

Palestine already begins to seem remote, and it is almost difficult to believe that when the last 2nd Battalion Notes were written we were still under canvas north of Acre, short of water and without electricity. There were many minor operations of considerable interest before



the battalion left Camp 253. On four days, late in April, escorts were provided for convoys of Germans evacuated from the colony of Waldheim, upon which Jewish terrorists had attempted to wreak revenge for Nazi anti-Semitism, and for four days also the Battalion protected parties of Jewish electrical engineers while they repaired electric cables in Arab territory. As a result of their efforts we enjoyed the luxury of electric light and pumped water again for 24 hours, until our neighbours, a Railway Operating Squadron, R.E., sheared through the cables once more when evacuating a railway engine by road on a transporter.

Early warning was received of a Jewish coup to eliminate Arab domination of certain parts of Haifa, and two platoons of "B" Company were sent at very short notice to protect the railway workshops and the oil refineries. During a battle which lasted for two days "B" Company only had to open fire once. Finally the Arabs found themselves obliged to accept the Jewish terms, which included evacuation of all Arab areas of Haifa. As a result a very great influx of Arab refugees into Acre took place. The fact that these refugees were penniless and desperate probably accounted for the increase in armed hold-ups in Acre sub-district during the ensuing weeks; operations were undertaken to cordon off and search certain orange groves, but the culprits were not caught.

On the night of April 25/26, the Jews attacked Acre in approximately two-company strength, supported by 2 in. and 3 in. mortars and automatic weapons. "D" Company, still on detachment there at Caesar's Camp, spent an uncomfortable night in slit trenches and, owing to the Brigade ruling that operations were not to be attempted by night, it was not until first light that the Battalion (including "D" Company) could launch operations to restore order. At 0500 hours Napoleon's Hill, the main Jewish position, was shelled by the 1st R.H.A., and the carrier-borne infantry platoons from Camp 253 and from "D" Company, under 2/Lts. Temple and Ibrahim respectively, were quickly on the scene, followed by the rest of the battalion. The Jews withdrew rapidly, but considerable damage had been done in Acre; three houses had been destroyed by explosives, some mortar bombs had landed in the prison (resulting in the escape of the majority of the prisoners), and the morale of the whole Arab population had been severely shaken.

Whether the subsequent outbreak of paratyphoid in Acre was due to Jewish action connected with this attack, or whether it was the result of insanitary conditions in the town owing to the large refugee influx from Haifa, or whether it was caused by pollution of the water supply when Arab labourers "cleaned" the aqueduct under the 2nd Middlesex protection, will probably never be known. The outbreak most seriously affected "D" Company and the Palestine Police, and a total of nearly 55 men of "D" Company were admitted to B.M.H., Haifa. Some of the patients fortunately only suffered slight attacks, but for many it was only the skill and devoted nursing of all ranks of B.M.H., Haifa, which saved their lives. It is with the deepest regret that we record the deaths of Sgt. Price

and L/Cpl. Staples. They will be greatly missed, and we send most sincere sympathy to their families in their tragic loss.

The majority of the prisoners remaining in Acre Goal were Jewish criminal lunatics, and it fell to the 2nd Middlesex to transfer them to the custody of Jewish authorities at Qiryat Haiyim. Capt. Jeffcoat, who had returned to the Battalion after his operation for appendicitis, carried out this tricky commitment with "S" Company with complete success. Minor operations at this time included the recovery from the Gaaton area of a Palestine Police armoured car containing a wounded policeman and his three dead companions, the impounding in Sumeiriya of two R.A.S.C. lorries found to be carrying stores for the beleaguered Jews in Nahariya, and the recapture of a white scout car of the 1st Grenadier Guards from the Arabs.

By May 1, 1948, preparations for evacuating Acre sub-district were under way. In view of the paratyphoid epidemic "D" Company left for a quarantine camp near Haifa Airport, where they were shortly joined by the remaining British Palestine Police from Acre. The 1st R.H.A. moved to Egypt, leaving one self-propelled troop which moved into Camp 253 with the 2nd Middlesex, thus placing the final seal on three months of most helpful co-operation which culminated in a final joint operation on May 3, 1948, to secure the safety of an Arab refugee column moving north to the Lebanese frontier. It was to be the last of such convoys for many a day, for that night some Arabs, fearing a new Jewish attack, blew up the Naamin Bridge, the last remaining safe road link between Acre and Haifa.

Capt. Jeffcoat and the Battalion advance party left on the first stage of their journey to the U.K. on the following day, and we were relieved to find that the detour round the blown bridge (reconnoitred by Capt. C. H. Mieville, M.C., and including about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of sandy beach and 50 yards through the sea itself) proved passable for their loaded three-tonners.

With the main coast road cut the Battalion's continued presence north of Acre was now no longer necessary or desirable, and on May 6 we moved to Haifa Airport, detaching one platoon of "C" Company to the railway workshops (where "B" Company had been relieved by the 1st Grenadier Guards some days previously, as also at the oil refineries) and a section to protect the British representatives at the headquarters of the Shell Petroleum Company. The Arabs near Camp 253, with their uncanny instinct for loot, gathered like vultures in the surrounding area, waiting for the final withdrawal; a difference of opinion between representatives of two local villages as to who should take possession caused a sharp exchange of shots, which eventually died down when those responsible discovered that the guns of the 1st R.H.A. were trained in their direction and that the Arab Liberation Army in any case proposed to dispossess both contesting parties. That Army's representative (who, it proved, had won two British decorations as a Warrant Officer in H.M. Forces during the 1939-1945 War) finally took over the camp from Lt.-Col. A. D. Henderson with such formality that "long rolls" and an Arab Garrison



Lt. G. A. Dawe (left) and Capt. G. Kent (right), escorted by members of the Battalion and of the Arab Liberation "Army" protecting a Jewish electrical engineer during the mending of the electric cables near Acre



Haifa Bay from Mount Carmel, showing the 2nd Middlesex location at Haifa Airport on the extreme right in the middle distance.



Engineer and Barrack Officer were almost expected to appear at any moment.

Immediately the rearguard reached the airport the very large party of all ranks destined not to accompany the Battalion to the U.K. were marshalled for their move to 163 Transit Camp, south of Haifa. This and May 10 (when we saw them off, with the Band playing the Regimental March when their convoy left the Transit Camp for Rafah *en route* for Egypt) were sad days. It was with the most heartfelt regret that we said good-bye to Capt. Chiverall, Lt. Chandler, 2/Lts. Temple and Hargrove, R.S.M. Painter, C.S.M.s Williams and Hastie, and a host of other trusted and proven members of the Battalion, including all too many of our valued Regulars, some of whom had never in all their service served outside the Regiment. Capt. Chiverall's convoy was delayed by mined roads on the way to Rafah, and we owe a debt of gratitude to the 2nd Royal Lincolns (old and good friends of the Battalion) who accommodated and rationed the very large party at Sarafand for the night at the shortest possible notice. The convoy reached Rafah on the following day without mishap, and all ranks were very happy to be welcomed there by Col. F. Walden.

With "D" Company in quarantine and our remaining strength so depleted by the loss of this draft the battalion was no longer in a position to undertake mobile operations, and our duties at Haifa Airport consisted almost entirely of station defence. While the C.O. was reconnoitring the defence, a jeep speeding across the tarmac brought him news that a party of Jews had arrived with the intention of declaring the airfield to be under joint British-Jewish control, and of hoisting their flag, the Star of David. A quick turn out of every available man and the manning of 4 M.M.G.s which the Battalion had been able to retain convinced the Jews that any such attempt might prove unwise, and they withdrew leaving their spokesman to be taken by the C.O. to H.Q. Palestine (by then located in Haifa) for discussion of the position of the civilian airlines on the airfield. H.Q. Palestine subsequently permitted the flag to be hoisted shortly before the Battalion finally left Haifa Airport.

The British Mandate in Palestine ended at midnight on May 14/15, and on the preceding day the High Commissioner, Lt.-Gen. Sir Alan Cunningham, flew from Jerusalem to Haifa Airport, accompanied by the G.O.C.-in-C., Lt.-Gen. G. H. A. MacMillan, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., prior to embarkation on H.M.S. *Eurus*. The Battalion was responsible for the safety of the High Commissioner and the G.O.C.-in-C. during the farewell ceremony, and manned the defences of the airport. The end of the Mandate passed off extremely quietly in Haifa (although marked by invasion of Palestine by the Arabs on the northern, eastern and southern frontiers), and apart from the fact that the Battalion was able to withdraw "C" Company's guard from Shell House, the local situation was substantially unchanged. This was fortunate in that it permitted the Battalion to celebrate Albuhera Day with customary festivities. The Band played at Reveille and a team of Corporals, L./Corporals and Privates defeated the Officers,

Warrant Officers and Sergeants at cricket during the morning, mainly owing to a stalwart innings by Cpl. Ryder of the Band. The Sergeants' Mess was entertained by the officers on a small lawn behind the Officers' Mess before lunch, and during the afternoon all ranks thoroughly enjoyed an excellent fun fair planned by Major V. A. Thomas, M.C., and C.S.M. H. J. Parnell. Sgt. Michel, Cpl. Entwistle and other members of the Signal Platoon ran a most successful electric roulette wheel, Sgt. Stone and Sgt. Callaghan operated a dice den, L./Cpl. Iddon challenged all comers on the greasy pole, C/Sgt. Griffiths proved that throwing the cricket ball on a chip flint wicket makes googly bowlers of most of us, C/Sgt. Carlier organised a spectacular financial coup somewhat disguised as a dog race, and there were a number of other good side shows. In the evening the dance band visited "D" Company, a film show was given in one of the airport hangars for the remainder of the Battalion, and the officers were entertained by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants in the Sergeants' Mess. It was particularly appropriate that G.H.Q. 2nd Echelon should have decided upon May 16 as the effective date for Capt. P. F. Newman's promotion to Major, and this gave the Battalion an additional cause for celebration. We congratulate him again most heartily, and also Capt. P. Collins, G. Kent and J. G. Chiverall, whose retrospective promotions to Major were authorised by H.Q. Palestine shortly afterwards.

Maj.-Gen. H. C. Stockwell, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. (G.O.C. 6th Airborne Division) visited the Battalion before he left for the U.K., and Lt.-Gen. MacMillan and Brig. G. F. Johnson, D.S.O. (Commander, 1st Guards Brigade) also visited us before our departure. Maj.-Gen. Stockwell, to commemorate the Battalion's service in the 6th Airborne Division from December, 1947, to May, 1948, presented to the Battalion a Pegasus statuette, which will always be treasured with pride in memory of those five eventful and exceptionally interesting months. The Battalion was also very grateful to H.Q. Palestine for their gift of the stone Regimental badge from Allenby Barracks, Jerusalem, which H.Q. Palestine brought with them to Haifa when the capital was evacuated. This stone badge, which some readers of *THE DIE-HARDS* will doubtless remember being set in position at Allenby Barracks in 1932, has now been placed in the Regimental Museum.

On May 19, 1948, "D" Company were released from quarantine. Those members of the company destined for the U.K. (including 2/Lt. Ibrahim and C.S.M. McMillan) joined the rest of the Battalion at the airport, and to the remainder we had most regretfully to say good-bye. For five months on detachment at Acre under Major R. D. Hutchings, Capt. R. Young and finally Major P. Collins, "D" Company had coped with outstanding success with every emergency in that troubled and trouble-making town. When attacked by paratyphoid, an enemy far worse than any Arab knife or Jewish bullet, their morale had been beyond praise. Under Major Collins the non-U.K. party moved via 163 Transit Camp to join the previous party of non-U.K. personnel at the Base Transit Depot, Suez. We learned with the deepest regret that Pte. Long (66) of that

previous party (and formerly of "H.Q." Company) had died as the result of acute appendicitis a short while after reaching Egypt, and we offer our most sincere sympathy to his parents. News has recently been received from Capt. Collins who, with a large draft of our Regulars, joined the 2nd Buffs in Hong Kong, and it was very cheering to hear that that unit has made our men very welcome and that their first impressions are most pleasant.

On May 21 the Palestine Police relieved the platoon of "C" Company under Lt. Holding at the railway workshops, and the 1st Grenadier Guards took over responsibility for defence of Haifa Airport. On the following morning the Battalion embarked at Haifa on H.M. Troopship *Strathnaver*. It was fortunate (from our point of view, at least) that an Egyptian Air Force attack intended for Haifa Airport (at approximately the time of our departure) was put in on the nearby R.A.F. airfield of Ramat David instead, owing to what the Egyptian communique subsequently described as "a pilot's error." The R.A.F. shot down four Egyptian planes.

Although the berthing on the *Strathnaver* was very cramped and the Sergeants in particular had most inadequate accommodation, all ranks thoroughly enjoyed the voyage home via Salonica, Piræus, Malta (where shore leave was permitted) and Gibraltar. The Band was very popular with all on board, and even a stormy passage of the Bay of Biscay did not damp the spirits of the homeward bound.

The Battalion was visited on board the ship at Southampton on June 3, 1948, by the Colonel of the Regiment, and all ranks very much appreciated his presence and the warm welcome which he gave us. No less warm a welcome awaited the Battalion at Mill Hill, and every officer and man will remember with gratitude all that Lt.-Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton and all ranks of the Depot did to make our arrival and our stay so smooth, comfortable and happy.

On July 30, 1948, Lt.-Col. A. D. Henderson left the Battalion for a course at the School of Air Support, after which he is to take up an appointment at the War Office. His departure was most sincerely regretted by all ranks, and we shall not soon forget his infinite care for our Regimental customs and traditions, and his tremendous sense of humour which seemed unquenchable by any Palestinian situation, however difficult or dangerous. All ranks are glad to know that Lt.-Col. Henderson has become an honorary member of the Regimental Officers' Club, and hope that his affiliations with the Regiment may grow with the years.

The 2nd Battalion now no longer exists. It is the consolation of all who served in the 77th Foot that if the Battalion could not remain as an independent unit there could be no happier or more welcome solution than amalgamation with the 1st Battalion. We look backwards to the past with happy memories of true comradeship and forward to the future with confidence that all that is best in both Battalions will be preserved and enriched in the 1st Battalion (57th and 77th) The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).

## HOME COUNTIES GROUP TRAINING BATTALION SHORNCLIFFE

The main item of news has been the visit of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent to the Training Battalion at Shorncliffe on June 8.

Her Royal Highness, accompanied by Lady Rachel Davidson, was first entertained to lunch in the Officers' Mess and afterwards proceeded to Risborough Stadium where she inspected the Battalion, drawn up by Companies in line under command of the following officers:—No. 1 Company, Major C. H. Keenlyside, R.W.K.; No. 2 Company, Major P. Kealey, Queen's; No. 3 Company, Major S. Rose, R.F.; No. 4 Company, Major H. Marsh, Middlesex; No. 5 Company, Major D. C. Nolda, Middlesex; No. 6 Company, Major P. Lewis, Buffs; No. 7 Company, Major B. Wills, Buffs.

Also on parade was Major R. C. Guy (2 i/c), Capt. D. N. Court (Adj.), a Colour party of the 50th Foot, the Band and Drums of the Queen's Own and R.S.M. McLoughlin. After walking down the lines and speaking to a number of men, Her Royal Highness returned to the saluting base and the Battalion, headed by Lt.-Col. P. H. Macklin, O.B.E., then marched past in column of platoons. After the march past members of the Queen's Own formed a hollow square in front of the saluting base for the presentation of a diamond Regimental brooch to Her Royal Highness to commemorate her recent appointment as their Colonel-in-Chief.

Later, before returning to London, Her Royal Highness was entertained to tea on the lawn of Moore Mess, after which the wives of the senior officers and Warrant Officers were presented to her. Finally Her Royal Highness was photographed with the officers and Sergeants to bring to a close a very pleasant and entertaining day.

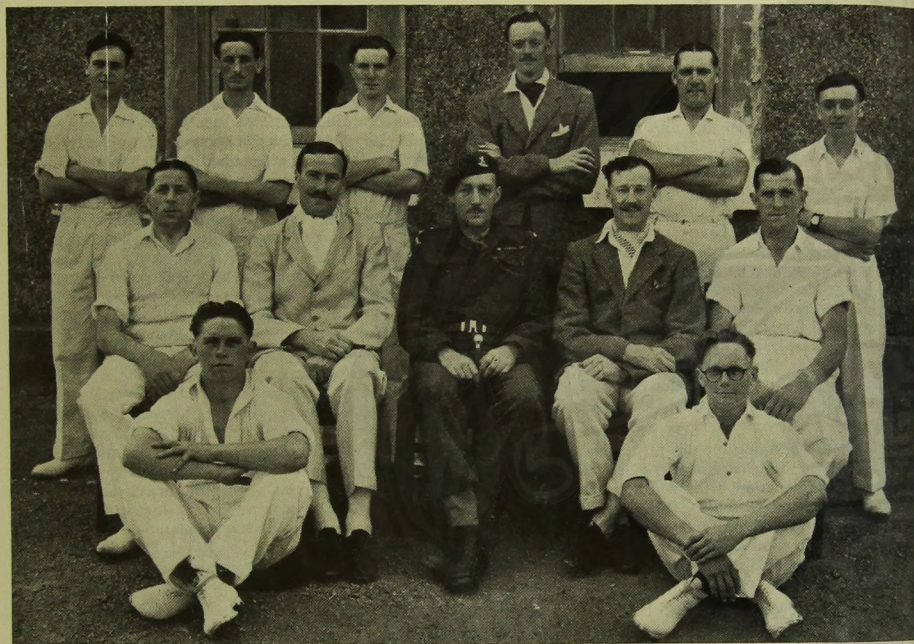
The Battalion Sports took place on May 19, when a large crowd watched some keen and interesting events. Times were necessarily slow in view of the grass track, while field events were affected by a strong wind that was blowing. Tea was provided at the stadium for all ranks, while during the interval the Band played selections of music. At the conclusion of the events the prizes were presented by Mrs. Macklin.

On June 2 the District Sports were also held at Risborough Stadium and the Battalion were narrowly beaten into second place by the Royal Engineers after an exciting afternoon's sport. However, as a compensation, it is pleasing to note that some 15 members of the Battalion have been selected to represent Home Counties District in the Eastern Command Sports.

The Battalion cricket team has made a good start to the season and to date have played nine matches without defeat.

In conclusion it is to be noted that in view of the fact that the 1st and 2nd Battalions The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment have now completed their amalgamation with effect from June 1, the Home Counties Brigade Training Battalion has now been redesignated 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (50th and 97th).





"C" Training Company Cricket Team, 1948.



"C" Training Company (Middlesex) Quiet Room.

### THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT NOTES

The Company cricket team are leading the Inter-Company League, being undefeated to date. Congratulations, this is no mean feat, especially in view of our floating strength. Present position, played six, won five, drawn one.

The Company rifle team were also successful in the Battalion Company Shield match. Cpl. Moran (Middlesex) and Cpl. Ward tied for second best individual score. This competition meant a lot of hard work after hours on the parts of members of the team. The Company will now represent the H.C.B.T.C. in the A.R.A. Company Shield match.

A Middlesex platoon trained by Lt. Legge and Sgt. Finnis once again won the honours for the Company in the inter-platoon competition.

Serving in the Training Centre are numerous "Mids," including:—"H.Q." Company, Major D. C. L. Nolda (O.C.), W.O.I. J. McLoughlin (R.S.M.), Sgts. Crittenden and Whitfield; No. 3 "H" Company, C/Sgt. Ure, Sgts. Cleland and Stacy (son of ex-C.S.M. Joe Stacy); No. 2 "D" Company, "Happy" Fred Waterfield, Sgts. Faber, Hyde and Bartle; "C" Training Company, Major H. Marsh (O.C.), 2/Lt. Butler, C.S.M. Donovan, Sgts. Burrell, Palmer, Webb, Finnis, Cpls. Kent, Morton, Moran, Betts, Parson, L/Cpl. Walden, Ptes. King, Cox, Mulligan and Bradley.

A "Die-Hards" Club branch has now been formed here and meetings take place the last Thursday of each month in the Regimental Room. The Club is being managed by Major H. Marsh assisted by Sgt. Palmer.

The first meeting was held on June 24, 1948, and was a great success. Our next meeting will be a ladies' night.

The Regimental Room, which is very ably run by Pte. King, is open daily for members of the Regiment serving in the Station, and we also extend a hearty invitation to any member of the Regimental Club who may be visiting Folkestone.

Finally, we send our good wishes to all ranks of the Regiment wherever they may be serving.

### 7th BATTALION

The most important event in the Battalion's history during the past quarter was the conferring of the Freedom of the Borough of Hornsey on the Battalion, which took place at the Town Hall on Saturday, June 12.

The parade consisted of two guards, one of the Battalion and 3rd Cadet Battalion combined, and the second composed of Old Comrades. The Colours were on parade and the 2nd Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment most graciously loaned their Band for the ceremony as the Regimental Band had only recently returned from service abroad and were not available. The parade was commanded by Major A. J. Hughes, M.C., and the Colours were carried by Capt. Rawles and Lt. Dowling. The ceremony took place in the forecourt of the Town Hall before a distinguished

company of guests, and the Hon. Colonel of the Battalion (Col. Sir Edwin King, K.C.B., C.M.G., T.D., D.L.) accepted on behalf of the Battalion the scroll from the Mayor, Alderman Mrs. Cave, who paid generous tribute to the part played by the Battalion in the recent war.

Sir Edwin King, in an excellent reply, briefly outlined the proud history of the Battalion to the assembled company.

Following the presentation ceremony the Battalion marched back to headquarters through the main streets of the borough with bayonets fixed, drums beating, Colours flying and bands playing in accordance with the terms of the citation of the Freedom.

Later the parade was entertained to tea by the Council, and the officers and guests attended a reception at the Town Hall.

The Battalion is indeed proud that the two boroughs adjacent to its headquarters in Priory Road, Hornsey, should have seen fit to confer on it the Freedom of their boroughs in recognition of its achievements in the recent war.

Annual training this year is to be carried out at Dibgate Camp near Folkestone from August 29 to September 5, and as these notes are written preparations for the move are in full swing. It is a great pity that the number of recruits who have come forward to join the Battalion is so disappointingly small, but of the small numbers at present serving 95 per cent. are attending camp, which is most satisfactory in these days of production drives.

The Battalion has recently lost the services of R.S.M. Overy, who has been chosen to fill the same position in the newly-constituted 1st Battalion, and in congratulating him on this appointment we thank him for all the help he has given the Battalion and the hard work he has put in during the past 15 months since the Battalion was re-formed. We wish him every success with the 1st Battalion and hope he will still find time to come down to Hornsey and see us at frequent intervals.

We extend a very sincere welcome to Mr. Overy's successor, R.S.M. F. A. Britton, who has been posted to us from Northern Ireland.

The Hornsey "Die-Hards" Club continues to flourish and new members are continually arriving. A darts club has been formed under the captaincy of Mr. Ferguson, one of the Ferguson twins very well known in the 2nd Battalion—and several home and away matches have been played with varying results.

A dance is being held at Hornsey on September 18, at which it is hoped to see many old faces.

A mixed outing has been arranged for Saturday evening, September 25, to see a very old member of the Regiment, Lt. R. Douthet, ex-Q.M. of the 2nd Battalion, who is now "mine host" at the North Star, Welwyn.

These events will, of course, have taken place by the time these notes appear and more will be said about them in the next issue.

All members will extend their sympathy to our worthy Secretary, Lt. J. W. Badham, M.B.E., who recently lost his stepfather.



## DEPOT NOTES

The major event in the life of the Regimental Depot has been the return of both Regular Battalions and their amalgamation. This has been fully reported elsewhere, but this opportunity of wishing the new 1st Battalion the very best of luck and good fortune must not be missed. All our hopes and life are centred round the Battalion and we know that they are in safe keeping.

The interim period between disbandment of 57 P.T.C. and the return of the two Battalions has been difficult, to say the least. This can be well understood when it is realised that the entire Depot staff consists of a mere 22 all ranks, including attached A.C.C. personnel. However, every man did three men's jobs with a will and a smile and the flag remained flying.

The organisation within the barracks has undergone various changes which were the natural outcome of the return of the elder and bigger brother. The Depot continues to administer the actual barracks themselves, whereas the Battalion acts as tenant and runs the internal side, including the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. However, the Messes will revert to the Depot when the Battalion is relieved by another Regiment.

Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E., and Major C. V. U. S. Bilbrough have both retired recently and our very best wishes go with them. Happily we still see Major Clark daily hard at work with Association and Officers' Club matters.

It was most unfortunate that Major Clark met with an accident and fractured three ribs in July, but he is about again now, though the injury is still most painful. It is hoped most sincerely that he will be completely cured in the very near future. It is rumoured that Major Bilbrough intends emigrating to Australia but so far nothing concrete has happened and he seems to spend his time learning to fly near the New Forest.

Capt. Denis Binder, late Adjutant to 57 P.T.C. and the Regimental Depot, was released in July and leaves for the Colonial Service in Nigeria this month.

R.Q.M.S. Blackman and L/Cpl. Snell have both been transferred to the Battalion and are great losses to the Depot, but it is a great consolation to be able to see them still in the barracks. We welcome R.S.M. S. Weller, M.M., to the Depot and hope that his stay will be a long and happy one.

## REGIMENTAL CRICKET WEEK

The Regimental Cricket Week was held at the Depot from June 13 to 20, during which period five matches were played against Hampstead Heathens, The Cryptics, Incogniti, IZ and Romany—that is to say all our pre-war opponents except the Free Foresters appeared on our fixture list again and we hope that the latter will resume fixtures again with us next season.

The week was a great success and the weather was kind enough to allow us to reach a decision in four out of the five matches, the other being drawn without interference from rain, though the quick drying propensities of the ground were fully tested, particularly in the Cryptics fixture when the wicket was under water at midday but play was possible by 2 o'clock.

The thanks of all who took part are due to Majors Clayton, Heywood and Clark, and also to the groundsman, all of whom achieved administrative miracles with very little assistance. For the first time in the memory of the writer the catering was entrusted to N.A.A.F.I., who did us extremely well at a very reasonable cost.

As regards the results, the Regimental side, unlike the English Test team, started brilliantly but fell sadly from grace in the last two fixtures. The week started with a draw against our old friends the Hampstead Heathens, which we would have probably won had we at that stage discovered that we had two most excellent bowlers in the persons of Capt. Orr and Dmr. Cullen, of whom more later. We then achieved two excellent victories against the Cryptics and the Incogniti; suffered a bad beating at the hands of a very strong IZ side, when we definitely had the worst of the wicket; and finally disgraced ourselves against the Romany who, due to the excellent bowling of the Navy player, Lt. Gilmour, shot us out for the miserable total of 28.

Contrary to the expectations and hopes of the selection committee the batting of the side throughout the week was most unreliable—in fact one of our Army batsmen, on whom we were relying for a great number of runs, scored only nine runs in five innings! The bowling, on the other hand, achieved a surprisingly high level and was eventually almost entirely entrusted to the hands of Capt. Orr and Dmr. Cullen, who took between them all except seven of our various opponents' wickets. Their figures are worth quoting:—

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Av.
Capt. Orr	81	24	201	24	8.37
Dmr. Cullen (4 matches only)	60.2	11	184	14	13.02

Both bowlers were unknown quantities and had only arrived from B.A.O.R. for the Cricket Week. Capt. Orr is a right-handed in-swinging, who is extremely hard to score off, and Dmr. Cullen is a left-handed bowler of almost medium speed with a very telling ball which makes great pace off the pitch. As a result of the success of these two bowlers, the older and more senile members of the side were spared many aches and pains, though Lt.-Col. Clowes took a wicket immediately in his one allowed spell of bowling. It is worth noting that no single batsman succeeded in scoring 50 runs against our bowling throughout the week—surely a record for the Regimental Cricket Week?

On the Sunday against Hampstead Heathens we had probably our strongest side in the field, with Lt.-Col. Stephenson and Leslie Compton available to open the bowling against the visitors who won the toss and who scored 216, due mainly to a not out 49 by their captain, F. Mennim, and experimental bowling chances by our side—Dmr. Cullen was not playing in this fixture. When our turn came to bat no one except Lt.-Col. Stephenson showed any confidence and we ended up by scoring 159 for 8, of which Lt.-Col. Stephenson got 104 not out.

Against the Cryptics the Regiment won the toss and, batting first, lost five wickets for 22. As a result of a good innings of 55 by Capt. Clayden and help from the later batsmen our total eventually reached 156. We had

little difficulty in disposing of the first nine Cryptics batsmen for 79 runs, but a valiant last wicket stand on their part raised the score eventually to 122.

Winning the toss against the Incogniti, the Regiment for once made a good start, thanks to Major Weedon and R. D. Jupp. The tail end batsmen did not press home this advantage and the side were all out for 169. When the Incogniti batted Capt. Orr was in his best form, and in a twelve a side match came out with the figures of 9 for 54, our opponents being dismissed for a total of 125.

In the next match the IZ won the toss and put the Regiment in. We made a comparatively good start with 29 on the board before the first wicket fell, but despite the presence of Lt.-Col. Stephenson in the side, we were finally dismissed for a total of 64 on rather a green wicket. This total the IZ had little difficulty in passing for the loss of two wickets, being eventually dismissed for a total of 156. This defeat was no real disgrace as the opposition included a wartime Test player, two Blues and three Army players.

Finally to our disaster of the closing Sunday. Our captain won the toss and after some deliberation decided to bat—with disastrous results. In a very heavy atmosphere the Romany new ball bowlers made the ball swing late and sharply, Lt. Gilmour taking 6 for 11 in 12 overs, and C. R. Browne, the old West Indian Test player, 3 for 2. The Regiment were dismissed just before lunch for a total of 28, Major Man being the only player to reach double figures. The Romany knocked off the necessary runs for the loss of one wicket, and finally ended up with a score of 129 for 9.

Next year we hope to play seven matches over a nine-day period, including a two-day match against IZ and a Saturday fixture against Hampstead as the last match of their Cricket Week, at Hampstead. The writer feels that we can look forward with some confidence to the future of the Cricket Week as we are building up a nucleus of members of the Regiment who are now back in civil life and who should be available for some years to come, irrespective of the possible posting to inclement parts of our serving cricketers. The most notable of these are Col. Stephenson, Major Weedon, Capt. St. George and R. D. Jupp.

The following players took part:—Brig. G. P. L. Weston, Lt.-Cols. J. W. A. Stephenson, R. A. Gwyn, J. H. Clowes, Majors J. W. G. Ormiston, C. M. M. Man, M. P. Weedon, Capt. C. N. Clayden, K. Clayden, W. A. W. St. George, R. E. Orr, J. Bywaters, J. Riseley, Messrs. D. K. Cattell, R. D. Jupp, P. C. Kay, L. Compton and Dmr. Cullen.

v. Hampstead Heathens, 12 a side					
Hampstead Heathens					
G. F. R. Perk, c Kay, b Compton	..	..	..	..	2
A. L. Birn, b Stephenson	..	..	..	..	1
T. B. Stafford lbw Orr	..	..	..	..	35
M. J. Hardy c Compton b Orr	..	..	..	..	23
A. L. Warr b Orr	..	..	..	..	37
C. M. Meade-King c Kay, b Orr	..	..	..	..	16
A. Rush c Kay, b Compton	..	..	..	..	0
W. B. Smith, c Man b Cattell	..	..	..	..	0
F. Mennim, not out	..	..	..	..	49
N. M. S. M. Atkinson, c Man, b Weston	..	..	..	..	9
S. Hake, b Orr	..	..	..	..	13
Major F. I. Heywood, not out	..	..	..	..	0
Extras	..	..	..	..	31
Total (for 10 wickets)	..	..	..	..	216

Bowling—L. Compton, 3 for 18; Lt.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson, 1 for 38; Capt. C. N. Clayden, 0 for 17; Brig. G. P. L. Weston, 1 for 51; Capt. R. E. Orr, 5 for 49; D. Cattell, 1 for 12.

Middlesex Regiment					
Major J. D. Ormiston, b Atkinson	..	..	..	..	2
Major M. P. Weedon, b Hake	..	..	..	..	0
Capt. W. A. W. St. George, c Park, b Hake	..	..	..	..	1
L. Compton, c Mennim, b Atkinson	..	..	..	..	16
Lt.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson, not out	..	..	..	..	104
Lt. P. C. Kay c Smith, b Hake	..	..	..	..	5
Major C. M. M. Man, lbw Smith	..	..	..	..	1
Capt. C. N. Clayden, b Hake	..	..	..	..	12
Brig. G. P. L. Weston, c Warr b Atkinson	..	..	..	..	0
D. N. Cattell, not out	..	..	..	..	2
Extras	..	..	..	..	16
Total (for 8 wickets)	..	..	..	..	159

Capt. R. E. Orr and Capt. J. Bywaters did not bat.

Bowling—J. Hake, 4 for 45; N. M. S. M. Atkinson, 3 for 24; F. Mennim, 0 for 8; N. B. Smith, 1 for 30; C. M. Meade-King, 0 for 11; G. F. R. Park, 0 for 25.

Result—Match drawn.

v. Cryptics					
Middlesex Regiment					
Lt.-Col. J. H. Clowes, b Toynbee	..	..	..	..	4
Major M. P. Weedon, b Seth-Smith	..	..	..	..	10
R. D. Jupp, b Seth-Smith	..	..	..	..	0
Major J. D. Ormiston, c Marrable, b Seth-Smith	..	..	..	..	0
Capt. W. A. W. St. George, b Seth-Smith	..	..	..	..	4
Capt. C. N. Clayden, c Wakeley, b Toynbee	..	..	..	..	55
Major C. M. M. Man, b Buckingham	..	..	..	..	24
Brig. G. P. L. Weston, c Buckingham, b Toynbee	..	..	..	..	9
Capt. R. E. Orr, not out	..	..	..	..	3
Capt. J. Bywaters, c Runacres, b Seth-Smith	..	..	..	..	8
Dmr. Cullen, st. Runacres, b Toynbee	..	..	..	..	10
Extras	..	..	..	..	29
Total	..	..	..	..	156

Bowling—L. L. Toynbee, 4 for 41; D. T. Seth-Smith, 5 for 31; B. J. Wakeley, 0 for 29; V. Buckingham, 1 for 19.

Cryptics					
B. J. Wakeley, lbw Orr	..	..	..	..	1
A. J. Brown, c Bywaters, b Orr	..	..	..	..	0
J. W. Runacres, c Bywaters, b Orr	..	..	..	..	4
S. S. Pearsall, c Clowes, b Cullen	..	..	..	..	29
V. Buckingham, b Cullen	..	..	..	..	15
A. B. Pemberton, b Orr	..	..	..	..	4
L. L. Toynbee, b Cullen	..	..	..	..	6
G. D. W. Watney, not out	..	..	..	..	15
C. M. Simpson, lbw Cullen	..	..	..	..	2
Pte. Marrable, b Cullen	..	..	..	..	0
D. J. Seth-Smith, b Cullen	..	..	..	..	35
Extras	..	..	..	..	11
Total	..	..	..	..	122

Bowling—Dmr. Cullen, 6 for 64; Capt. R. E. Orr, 4 for 31; R. D. Jupp, 0 for 16.

Result—Match won by 34 wickets.

v. Incogniti, 12 a side					
Middlesex Regiment					
Major M. P. Weedon, b Barnett	..	..	..	..	38
R. D. Jupp, c Straw, b Paffard	..	..	..	..	26
Capt. W. A. W. St. George, c Paffard, b Giles	..	..	..	..	9
Major J. D. Ormiston, c Snell, b Giles	..	..	..	..	24
Major C. M. M. Man, b Giles	..	..	..	..	1
Capt. C. N. Clayden, c Barnett, b Greer	..	..	..	..	10
Lt.-Col. J. H. Clowes, c Barnett, b Greer	..	..	..	..	8
Brig. G. P. L. Weston, c Giles, b Greer	..	..	..	..	1
Lt. P. C. Kay, c Young, b Melhuish	..	..	..	..	4
Capt. D. Cattell, not out	..	..	..	..	0
Capt. R. E. Orr, b Greer	..	..	..	..	0
Dmr. Cullen, b Melhuish	..	..	..	..	10
Extras	..	..	..	..	169
Total	..	..	..	..	169

Bowling—J. G. Cook, 0 for 7; Greer, 4 for 45; Barnett, 1 for 14; Paffard, 1 for 19; Giles, 3 for 75; Melhuish, 2 for 1.



Incogniti		
J. C. Cook, b Orr	5	
K. C. Melhuish, c Clowes, b Orr	27	
Fullbrook, b Orr	0	
Commander Shaw, lbw Orr	7	
Bavin, c Weedon, b Orr	5	
Giles, c Clayden, b Orr	25	
Barnett, c and b Orr	8	
Atkinson, lbw Orr	2	
Greer, not out	28	
Paffard, b Orr	0	
Young, b Cullen	1	
E. S. Snell, b Cullen	17	
Extras	0	
Total	125	

Bowling—Dmr. Cullen, 2 for 38; Capt. R. E. Orr, 9 for 54;  
Brig. G. P. L. Weston, 0 for 5.  
Result—Won by 44 runs.

v. Zingari		
Middlesex Regiment		
Major M. P. Weedon, c Holmes, b Lyon	15	
R. D. Jupp, b Lyon	11	
Major C. M. M. Man, b Linton	1	
Lt.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson, b Linton	8	
Major J. D. Ormiston, c Peet, b Linton	0	
Capt. C. N. Clayden, c White, b Lyon	1	
Brig. G. P. L. Weston, lbw Linton	0	
Lt.-Col. J. H. Clowes, c Kingsley, b Linton	4	
Capt. J. Bywaters, c and b Lyon	7	
Capt. R. E. Orr, b Linton	1	
Dmr. Cullen, not out	9	
Extras	8	
Total	64	

Bowling—M. Linton, 6 for 24; W. Lyon, 4 for 32.

Zingari		
C. Clover Brown, b Orr	12	
P. E. Holmes, run out	25	
J. R. White, c Orr, b Cullen	40	
P. G. Kingsley, b Stephenson	13	
R. H. Hewartson, b Stephenson	10	
C. R. Isherwood, not out	1	
M. Tennyson, b Cullen	1	
F. Peet, b Orr	19	
M. Linton, lbw Orr	0	
J. H. Marshall, b Weston	1	
W. G. Lyon, c Bywaters, b Clowes	8	
Extras	0	
Total	156	

Bowling—Lt.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson, 2 for 39; Capt. R. E. Orr, 3 for 30; Dmr. Cullen, 2 for 45; Brig. G. P. L. Weston, 1 for 23; Lt.-Col. J. H. Clowes, 1 for 11.  
Result—Lost by 92 runs.

v. Romany		
Middlesex Regiment		
Brig. G. P. L. Weston, b Gilmour	1	
Major J. G. E. Ormiston, b Fitzgerald	0	
Major M. P. Weedon, b Gilmour	2	
Capt. K. Clayden, b Gilmour	12	
Major C. M. M. Man, b Gilmour	0	
Lt. P. C. Kay, b Fitzgerald	0	
Capt. J. Bywaters, b Gilmour	2	
Lt.-Col. R. A. Gwynn, b Gilmour	1	
Capt. J. Riskey, b Browne	0	
Capt. D. Cattell, b Browne	0	
Dmr. D. Cullen, not out	2	
Capt. R. E. Orr, b Browne	1	
Extras	7	
Total	28	

Bowling—P. C. Gilmour, 6 for 11; R. C. O. Fitzgerald, 2 for 15;  
C. R. Browne, 3 for 2.

Romany		
E. N. Evans, lbw Orr	7	
P. B. Browne, run out	15	
A. S. Nunn, b Cullen	13	
A. Gould, b Cullen	16	
Pte. P. Marrable, b Cullen	5	
D. T. A. Hamlin, b Orr	0	
C. R. Browne, c Weston, b Cullen	30	

R. C. A. Fitzgerald, run out	0
P. C. Gilmour, st Bywaters, b Orr	3
A. A. Muir, not out	10
D. A. Watney, not out	16
Extras	10

Total (for 9 wickets) 129

A. S. Young did not bat.  
Bowling—Capt. R. E. Orr, 3 for 37; Dmr. Cullen, 4 for 27;  
Brig. G. P. L. Weston, 0 for 35; Capt. J. Riskey, 0 for 14; Capt. K. Clayden, 0 for 10.  
Result—Lost by 101 runs.

## 11th PARACHUTE BATTALION (MIDDLESEX) T.A.

In making our first contribution to THE DIE-HARDS, it was felt that a few words of introduction must precede our news.

When recruiting for the Territorial Army commenced in May, 1947, the general area covered by the 8th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment pre-war was allotted to the 11th Parachute Battalion; we were, however, happy to learn that this Battalion, though parachute, was to carry on the traditions of the 8th Middlesex, and for this purpose Middlesex was inserted in the naming of the Battalion. Application has, however, been made for it to be changed to 11th Parachute Battalion (8th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment) A.A.C., T.A.

Lt.-Col. C. F. H. Gough, M.C., assumed command of the Battalion, with Capt. Peter Bates as adjutant. Drill Halls were opened at Hounslow (Battalion H.Q. with "H.Q." and "S" Companies), Ealing ("B" Company), and Wealdstone ("C" Company). Later in the year "D" Company started at Finchley. Tribute must be paid here to Capt. Bates and P.S.I.s Roberts, Grey, Corby and Quinn for all the hard work they have put in for us.

Q.M.s have come and gone but Major "Danny" Wilson, M.B.E., M.M., T.D., has now stayed with us for nearly a year. We also say hail and farewell to R.S.M. Grainger and welcome in his place R.S.M. Milner, M.M., who has joined us from Upper Heyford.

A new establishment in the T.A. allows for a Regular C.O. or Second-in-Command, and though he has now left us we are grateful to Major Chris Lee, M.C., for all his hard work as Battalion 2 i/c, and we welcome Major Neil Boys, who joined us in April this year and who has done much to improve our social activities.

This year we have concentrated on parachuting and weapon training, and Saturdays or Sundays have been spent at Bushy Park jumping from a balloon. A very enjoyable week-end was spent at Netheravon, jumping from aircraft.

The annual range classification was carried out in the Guildford and Aldershot area, and both places proved popular.

A large number of the Battalion who joined, without previous experience of parachuting, have been attending courses at Upper Heyford, where we have almost a 100 per cent. record of passes.

Camp this year was only for a week and was spent at Bulford Field Camp as the guests of the 9th H.A.A. Regiment (Mixed). We were most fortunate in having

them as our hosts, since their administrative arrangements were excellent and much appreciated by all ranks.

Owing to a large number of the Battalion undertaking parachute courses in lieu of camp, our numbers were not very great; however, parachuting from balloon and aircraft was arranged for us by the R.A.F. and Demonstration Company at Netheravon in spite of inclement weather.

To return to our Drill Halls, we have, apart from training evenings, held some very successful socials and dances. One of the more memorable occasions was the handing over of the Colours by the 8th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, T.A., to this Battalion, at which Maj.-Gen. R. E. Urquhart, C.B., D.S.O., Brig. E. E. F. Baker, C.B., D.S.O. M.C. (Honorary Colonel of the Battalion) and Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L., were present.

Two cocktail parties were held in the Officers' Mess, the first to welcome Brig. Baker, who we are most pleased to have as our Honorary Colonel, and the second to say farewell to Lt.-Col. Gough, who had to give up command on account of business. His loss is a severe one to the Battalion since it was through his inspiration that the Battalion has gone forward despite the usual difficulties. We welcome in his place Lt.-Col. B. Tyrell from the 10th Parachute Battalion.

## 10th (H.D.) BATTALION OFFICERS' DINING CLUB

The members of the club held their second reunion dinner at the Criterion Restaurant on Friday, May 7, 1948. Lt.-Col. H. Cook, M.C., was in the chair. The principal guest was the Colonel of the Regiment, Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P. Other guests were:—

Major C. Elliott, Lt.-Col. Fletcher, Capt. Graham Kay, Capt. N. B. McIvor, M.C., Mr. M. Pegg, Rev. R. F. V. Scott, D.D., and Lt.-Col. H. G. Vaux, C.I.E., C.S.I., M.V.O.

The sons of three of the members were also present, viz. Capt. V. S. Bolton, R.A., Capt. D. K. Cattell, Middlesex Regiment, and Major J. R. Reid, M.C., R.T. Regiment.

Those who subscribed to the dinner were:—Capt. T. H. Baker, Major R. Bare, Major G. E. A. Beazeley, Capt. S. F. Belsham, M.C., Lt.-Col. F. C. Bishop, M.C., Capt. S. P. Bolton, Major L. C. Brothers, M.C., Major B. K. Cattell, Lt.-Col. H. Cook, M.C. (Chairman), Capt. F. J. Delbridge, Brig. E. W. C. Flavell, D.S.O., M.C., Major N. Gilbert, M.C., Capt. D. B. Gray, Major A. Greig, Major L. W. Griffiths, Capt. H. W. F. Hamilton, Capt. S. J. Harris, Capt. E. Hines, Major T. N. F. Houston, M.C., Major P. A. James, Major S. C. Jay, Capt. H. C. Killingsback, Major F. C. Larkworthy, Capt. R. H. Last, Capt. R. Lea, Major C. W. Lundgreen, M.C., Major E. W. Mayhew, M.C., T.D., Capt. N. A. Moore, M.C., Lt.-Col. M. A. Prismatic, M.C., Capt. R. Reid, Major A. E. Sheldrick, Capt. S. Skipper, Capt. H. J. Stegals, Lt.-Col. F. W. Weston and Capt. H. S. Whitlock.

After the toast to "The King," Brig. E. W. C. Flavell proposed that of "The 10th (H.D.) Battalion," to which the Chairman replied. "The Regiment" was proposed by Capt. H. S. Whitlock (late 3rd Battalion), and replied to by the Colonel of the Regiment, and "The Guests" was proposed by Lt.-Col. F. C. Bishop and the Rev. R. F. V. Scott replied. Letters were received from Capt. A. A. Clarke, Major W. G. Clifford, Major H. K. Longman, D.S.O., M.C., Capt. C. L. Milligan, Major A. E. Morris, Major R. W. Russell-Walker and Capt. G. L. Walter, M.C.

The evening was much enjoyed and another dinner will be arranged next year. A surplus of subscriptions amounting to £3 3s. 0d. was sent to the Regimental War Memorial Fund.

New addresses should be notified to Major B. K. Cattell, 54, Brewer Street, W.1.

## 2/10th BATTALION BRANCH MIDDLESEX REGIMENT O.C.A.

On Saturday, May 8, 1948, the 2/10th Branch of the Old Comrades' Association held their annual gathering at the Goat and Compasses, Euston Road. The Chairman was Mr. B. K. Cattell, and some 80 Old Comrades turned up. To the accompaniment of refreshments, the party developed into a well-debated General Meeting.

The Chairman elected for the ensuing year was Mr. Len Tones. The Committee, which has been functioning for more than 20 years, was again elected en bloc. Its members are Messrs. McIvor, Rush, Brockis, Warren, Reeves, B. K. Cattell (Hon. Treasurer) and A. H. Cumming (Hon. Secretary), whose address is 21, Hounslow Road, Feltham, Middlesex.

Capt. R. Smith came from Mill Hill and, besides bringing the Regimental news, brought "Porky's Drum" for the company to see.

Considerable discussion took place as to what was to be done with the money collected for replacing the drum which, for the time being, was believed to have been lost when Hong Kong was captured by the Japanese. The drum was eventually found in a safe at Mill Hill. It was decided to send the sum of 30 guineas to the Regimental War Memorial Fund, and this has been done.

"Porky's Drum" is a silver drum presented in 1939 to the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment by the Old Comrades of the 2/10th Battalion in memory of Brig.-Gen. V. L. N. Pearson, D.S.O., who commanded them in 1916/17, and whom they will always remember with pride and affection.

## ROYAL SOLDIERS DAUGHTERS' SCHOOL, HAMPSTEAD

(The School receives the Daughters of Soldiers of His Majesty's Regular Army)

PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION

AGE OF ADMISSION  
Girls are admitted between the ages of five and 11 years, but under special circumstances the Committee have power to admit girls of any suitable age.

ORDER OF PREFERENCE  
Preference generally is given to candidates in the following order:—

- (1) Total orphans.
- (2) Motherless.
- (3) Fatherless.
- (4) Girls whose parents are living; provided:—
  - (a) The Father is disabled or incapacitated from work;
  - (b) The Father is on active or foreign service;
  - (c) Other suitable cases.

Each case is considered on its merits and is placed on the waiting list accordingly.



## RECOMMENDATION

Candidates must be recommended by Regiments, Regimental Associations, or by one of the Societies which look after the interests of the soldiers' dependants, or by a Governor or Life Governor, and brief reasons for the recommendation should be given.

## MEDICAL EXAMINATION

A medical certificate of general mental and bodily soundness (on the form supplied by the School) is required at the time of application for admission. After approval girls are admitted only subject to satisfactory examination by the Medical Officer of the School.

## AGREEMENT

On applying for admission of girls to the School, parents or guardians are required to give an undertaking that—

Such children, if admitted, may remain there only as long as the Governing Body think fit, and may be placed, when of proper age, in any employment for which the particular girl shall have shown aptitude and the Governing Body may select in consultation with parents where possible. Provided always that the Governing Body will not withhold their consent to the child's removal by the parents on reasonable grounds at any time.

## APPROVAL

Parents or guardians are notified as soon as a case has been investigated and approved.

## ADDRESSES

It is essential that the Secretary of the Royal Soldiers Daughters' School should be kept informed of any change of address.

## VACANCIES

A week's notice of vacancies for their children will be given to parents or guardians. Acceptance of vacancies must reach the Secretary within three days of notification.

## CLOTHES

Girls on leaving the School to take up training or employment approved by the Governors will be provided with an outfit.

## EDUCATION

The School is an independent boarding school, and provision is made for instruction in domestic science. After girls reach a suitable age, the Governors can arrange for them, amongst other things, to be trained as hospital nurses, children's nurses, cooks, shorthand typists or for other suitable occupations.

The Governors also reserve the right to transfer a girl to another School or Home for further instruction or training, where this appears desirable in the girl's interest. In such cases the consent of the parent or guardian will be obtained, whenever possible, and the expense will be borne by the School.

Religious instruction is given by the School teachers and the Chaplain in the principles of the Church of England.

## HEALTH

The health of the girls is looked after by the Medical Officer of the School, and a Dental Surgeon is in regular attendance.

## VISITS

Parents and Guardians can visit the children once a month by arrangement with the Headmistress, but children are not allowed to sleep away from School during term time.

## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

The School is closed approximately for six weeks in the summer and four weeks at Christmas and at Easter.

## PROBATION PERIOD

Children on arrival are accepted for a probationary period of six months.

## MUSEUM NOTES

In response to the appeal for a uniform of an officer of the 1914-1918 period, we have received a promise of the complete uniform, Sam Browne belt, etc., from Col. Rooke. Two other jackets have been received, one from Lt.-Col. C. D. Drew, and the other from Major Emary.

Now that the red jacket with yellow infantry cuffs is no longer the Mess kit of an officer, it is hoped to show a figure dressed in the kit worn by officers from 1902-1939. Any uniforms presented for this purpose would be greatly appreciated by the Curator.

Only one new exhibit has been received this month, that is the attachment wire cutter. This wire cutter was made to fit down the groove of the long No. 1 bayonet so that the ring portion fitted over the muzzle of the rifle. In the forward end is a "V" cut. In application, the "V" cut was thrust against a strand of wire bringing the wire in the middle of the muzzle. On firing the round the bullet should cut the strongest wire then in use.

This useful exhibit was sent with a small amount of other ranks collar badges and buttons by an Old Comrade. It is surprising the number of relics that people keep in junk boxes, etc., that are of great interest to the Regiment.

We now have in the museum a complete uniform of a Lieutenant of the Light Company, 77th Foot, 1812. The uniform is that worn by Lt. Thomas Tayloe, who retired in 1815. Complete with epaulettes and Regency shako it is a very interesting exhibit. The yellow plastrons, white dress pantaloons and silver facings are in excellent condition.

A number of our models were loaned to the Service section of the Bath and West Exhibition, where they caused much favourable comment. The last will and testament of Hitler and his private telephone exchange were also loaned to the same exhibition.

## OLD COMRADES' SOCIAL CLUB (DEPOT)

Among our social activities during the past quarter, two meetings were outstanding and deserve special mention. The first was the visit of the 7th Battalion during June, when we were victorious at darts, winning three "legs" out of four. This was surprising as one or two of our visitors scored over the "ton" mark. Much of our success, however, was due to the confident throwing of "Doughy" Baker, who must be congratulated. It was a well spent and very pleasant evening, and we are looking forward to the return visit to Hornsey.

The second function was a visit from the "Done Our Bit" Club during the Bank Holiday week-end. A cricket match took place during the Saturday afternoon followed by a dance in the Gymnasium in the evening. Little can be written of the cricket, for two of our visitors got their eyes in and really thrashed our bowlers, Mr. Knight in particular scoring 129, and then declared at the tea interval. Our batsmen met with no more success than the bowlers, and were all skittled out for a total of 35, in spite of one member of our team trying to "fox" them by having the screens moved.

Well, once again it can be recorded in the annals that a grand time was spent, with the emphasis laid on the pleasure at seeing so many old faces.

In the near future we have to look forward to a visit from the Old Contemptibles, when once again the "arrows" will be in evidence and a trip to the sea by "chara," so more of these in the next issue.

As regards the more immediate domestic news, members are again reminded that general meetings are

held on the Sunday morning at 12 noon following the last Saturday of each month, and the greater the number attending, the better will be the understanding by the Committee of the wants of the members.

## MR. LUSCOMBE

Information has reached the Editor from the Secretary of the Torquay Navy and Army Veterans' Association that a very old and probably the oldest living Die-Hard is seriously ill. He is Mr. G. Luscombe, who was born on November 6, 1852. He enlisted at Devonport on November 8, 1870, his Regimental No. being 1280, and he served in Devonport, Ireland, Ceylon and South Africa, and was awarded the Zulu War Medal.

Until recently Mr. Luscombe has been fairly active and was escort to the King's Colour at a Veterans' parade held on March 13 this year.

The Secretary of the Regimental Association is keeping in touch with his relatives.



Mr. Richard Luscombe, Middlesex Regiment, leftscoot to the Standard, 96 years of age on November 6, 1948.

## REMINISCENCES OF THE LATE BRIG.-GEN.

F. D. LUMLEY, C.B., C.B.E.

By Mrs C. E. SAMUEL

Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, the forerunner of the A.T.S. of the last war, was started in the spring of 1917 for service in France. Early in June of that year I was sent to Boulogne in charge of two officers and 200 women. In those early days officers received no training whatever in their own duties or military ways generally, as no one really knew at that stage what would be expected of them. I was naturally very apprehensive when I was told that in a few days I was to take my unit into No. 3 Large Rest Camp at Henriville on the cliffs above Boulogne docks. This camp contained 15,000 men and included men of the English Labour Corps, departmental personnel, German prisoners and Egyptian and Chinese labour. This motley collection, which must have been very difficult to handle administratively, were under the command of Brig.-General Lumley. A couple of days before moving in I went up to see the Camp Adjutant, and the first impression I got was of extreme orderliness. The paths, gardens, huts, etc., were all absolutely immaculate. I was told later that the General had enormously improved the camp.

Gen. Lumley was not one to jump at innovations, and it must have been a great shock to him when he was told that he was to have women in his camp. As I heard him remark to the R.E. officers who were going round planning our dug-outs, "I don't approve of women in the Army but I am not going to have them killed in my camp if I can help it!" Needless to say he did not realise that I was within earshot.

However, no one could have been kinder or more considerate, especially when he quickly discovered that my future husband was an old friend of his. He knew him very well and had often visited his parents' home in London, and when stationed at Chatham early in the war he used to shoot over his uncle's place in the neighbourhood. He was thus able to place one of these queer women socially! Shortly after our arrival he invited us to a tennis party to meet various heads of departments and officers he wished us to know. The Officers' Mess was a very rough and ready affair and the officers mostly under-employed, and there was very little of anything in the way of amusement to be had. Consequently an invitation to our Mess, which we had furnished and decorated with dainty things from home, was greatly prized. In fact at the beginning we had trouble with unwanted visitors. One day we were having a concert and three officers of a not very prepossessing type asked to come in. As we had borrowed their Mess piano, our promised gift from the Y.W.C.A. having not yet arrived, I could not well refuse them. I always asked a couple of officers when the women had a party in case there was any trouble with any of the other rank guests, and one of them said to me, "What are those fellows doing here?" I explained the situation and nothing more was said. Next day the following appeared in the General's Camp Orders, "Officers are forbidden to enter the Q.M.A.A.C. Camp except on duty or when specially invited." In fact I have never



been so well or unobtrusively chaperoned before or since. He himself set an example by never paying me a social visit without being invited, though he loved coming into a civilised Mess and eating my head cook's famous home-made scones. Only once did he break this rule and the occasion forms one of the most poignant memories I have of the war. The Germans had just broken through the 5th Army and we were sitting glumly round the table having tea when in walked the General and flung himself into my best easy chair and exclaimed, "I could not help coming. I can't talk to the fellows in the Mess and no one knows what it means to an old soldier like myself who has served all these years in the Army to have a thing like this happen and to be able to do nothing to help!" Truly military catastrophes bear hardly on soldiers who are too old to take an active part.

In official matters he was as official with me as with any other of his subordinates, and on more than one occasion I was on the mat. I particularly remember during an Alert he was riding hell for leather past my camp on the way to his headquarters when he spotted some of my women, who should have been in their dug-out, dancing on the top of it. I was for it and so were they, and I did not hear the end of the matter for a long time!

Orders came from G.H.Q. that units must grow their own vegetables as far as possible. Many did not bother particularly, but Gen. Lumley was as keen as mustard, and the vegetable gardens all over the camp were a sight. One day he found me digging the very heavy clay soil and, declaring that it was too much for me, sent two of his men to do the job. He was probably right, but as I very rarely left the camp digging was my only form of exercise and I suffered accordingly.

Officers and men who served under Gen. Lumley will remember his remarkable flow of language, but he never forgot he was a gentleman where women were concerned, so I never heard it. On one occasion he had to reprimand his camp Sergeant Major in front of me for some dereliction of duty with regard to my camp. It was a most feeble effort, and the Company Sergeant Major who, no doubt, was used to something very different, was shaking with ill-concealed mirth. On another occasion, however, he was very rightly annoyed with my immediate superior on the Base Commandant's staff, and let her "have it" over the phone, forgetting it was a woman at the other end. The result was that though usually as brave as a lion (she was Lord Kitchener's niece), she was much too frightened

ever to visit him on official business without me to protect her.

One day he took me round with him while he was inspecting the camp. The sentries were mostly old soldiers of the Labour Corps and very far from smart. Fixing a very slovenly looking specimen with his eagle eye he remarked loudly, "Sergeant Major, who is that awful looking fellow there, what unit does he belong to?" I thought the "awful looking fellow" would sink through the ground!

One day he was told that for reasons of economy his car would be taken away. His was a large area to cover on horseback and he was very annoyed. He remarked to me, "I am going to advertise for a donkey and cart so that everyone can see how they treat an old soldier." Of course he did nothing of the kind!

During Christmas, 1917, we gave an officers' party. The General was the life and soul of it and insisted in playing "high cockalorum" and all the other old Mess games.

I was at Henriville for a year and would have found life much more difficult if I had not been serving under a Camp Commandant who was both helpful and correct, and set an example which those under him followed.

I was then transferred to Calais and early in 1919 went to Cannes on sick leave. Some relations living there took my sister and myself to Monte Carlo and on the steps of the Casino I ran into Gen. Lumley, who suffered a good deal with rheumatism and had generally to spend part of the winter at the Officers' Convalescent Home at Cap Martin. To our chagrin he and I were not admitted to the rooms as they were forbidden to officers in uniform, so we cooled our heels outside while the rest of my party had their little gamble. His annoyance can well be imagined!

One last recollection. Gen. Lumley came to our wedding in 1920, having given us a lovely old Chinese plate as a present. At the reception, in a jocular way, he attacked me for having pulled some radishes in camp which, he said, were his property. Not being a subordinate any longer I just told him I had not time to be worried with such a trifle and he had better have it out with my boss who was also present.

A few years later I had a letter from him saying he had been laid up with phlebitis but was better and was shortly paying his annual visit to Mentone. He hoped to stay with us on his way home. A few days later I saw the news of his sudden death in *The Times*. A great gentleman and a great character was lost to the Regiment and the country.

## TO OUR READERS

Considerable inconvenience is caused to both the Editor and to the Reader owing to the fact that changes of addresses are not notified at once. If you change your address please let us know and so be sure of receiving your Journal regularly