

# 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.  
"Mysora," "Serlingapatam," "Alubera," "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," "La Bassée, 1914,"  
"Messines, 1914," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "17, 18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg,"  
"Bellevue," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "18," "Albert, 1916," "18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood,"  
"Pozières," "Ginchy," "Flers-Courcellette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "18," "Bapaume,"  
"1917," "18," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "18," "Arleux," "Pückeren," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road,"  
"Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Gambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre,"  
"Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrück," "Bailleul," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal  
du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy,"  
"1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suva," "Landing at Suva," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915,"  
"1917-18," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18,"  
"Rumani," "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murman, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

### Regular and Militia Battalions.

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

### Territorial Army Battalions

1/7th Bn. 2/7th Bn. 5th Bn. 30th Bn.  
9th Bn. 595 L.A.A., R.A., T.A.  
1st and 2nd Bns. Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment.

### 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.

### Dominion Alliances of Canada

31st Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, Ontario.  
21st Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery.  
50th H.A.A. Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery.  
202nd (Wentworth) Field Artillery, Royal Canadian Artillery.  
The Royal Rifles of Canada.

### Allied Battalion of Australian Infantry.

57th Bn. Prescon.

### Allied Regiment of New Zealand Military Forces

The Wellington Coast and Taranaki Regiment  
Toku, Taranaki, New Zealand.

### Colonel of the Regiment:

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

### Officer Commanding Depot:

Major R. C. H. Bellers.

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## NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

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

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

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

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The late Brigadier-General F. G. M. Rowley, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.



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

The Editor wishes to apologise to readers for the lateness in printing this issue, due to the fact that the notes of the 1st Battalion were not received until Christmas Eve. The Committee felt that with the move of the Battalion to Hong Kong these notes would be the main interest, and decided to delay this edition in order that they may be included.

#### EDITORIAL

As the printers are harrying the Editor for material to get on with, and he, "Nobby," is chivvying me to produce, sort, cut, amend and pass on the material to him, all in an attempt to get this number of the Journal to you by Christmas, it seems only suitable to begin by wishing everyone A Very Happy Christmas and Good Fortune in 1950.

To our comrades in Hong Kong with the 1st Battalion, in particular we would stress that although Christmas is the festival of home and family, absent friends and relations are always very much in our thoughts at that time and they will be remembered in many thousands of gatherings with gratitude and sincere good wishes and hopes that they too will not be separated from their own families for long.

It is cheering to find that not only did quite a number of persons read the last number but some were stirred to action. One wrote to us and followed up with some reminiscences, whilst we have had other contributions as a result of people going through their old papers. Some of these links with the past appear in this number and will, we hope, be of interest and even encourage others to beat "old so and so" by producing something from their memories.

Elsewhere there will be found accounts of various gatherings which have taken place. We are afraid that all too often in these reports the story is of disappointment that more did not attend.

There are, unfortunately, very good reasons why many people find that they must, at least, restrict themselves to attending far less reunions than they did before the war, but there are equally a number of bad excuses made. Needless to say, the subscribers to the Journal and those who contribute to it and read it and help us with their criticism and suggestions, also support the efforts of those who bear the burden of organising the various social functions—as far as the ravages of taxation allow—and nobly they do it. The attendances, however, we feel can only be truly representative if these stalwarts, male and female, can make the less stalwart "realise that great pleasure it gives to meet again," to quote Mr. Harry Cross's letter, which appears in this number.

Perhaps, too, the following lines, extracted from a

little book of 1914-18 poems may strike a note in tune for someone:—

"Old comrade, are you living, do you hear me, can you see ?

If they print this stuff in Blighty will you guess it comes from me ?

I never wrote, I own it, and I've not so much as tried To find if you're in England yet or on the other side; But I never knew your number and I lost your home address

With my pack and all inside it when I clicked for C.C.S.

But I haven't quite forgot you, and my only souvenir That I wouldn't sell for sixpence is the thought of you, old dear."

On Sunday, November 6, that wonderful bunch of "old dears," the 10th Middlesex, held their annual service in Chiswick Parish Church, and although officially dead 30 years they won't lie down—95 at the last reunion and half a hundred each year at this annual service—and every time some rarely-seen, but not forgotten friend arrives to add an unexpected spice of interest and enjoyment. The Regimental Old Comrades' gathering at Slater's Restaurant, Kensington, will probably be too late for an account in this number, but we hope that in the next issue we shall have news of a gathering sufficiently representative to make all absentees regret that they were A.W.L.

N.P.P.

#### OBITUARIES

Brig.-Gen. Frank George Mathias Rowley, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

By the Colonel of the Regiment

On July 28, 1949, this gallant officer of the Regiment passed to his rest. He was born on January 4, 1866, and after passing through the Royal Military College gained his first commission in the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) on January 30, 1886. He had previously been educated at Elizabeth College, Guernsey, and was the son of Thomas Rowley of De Beauvoir, Guernsey.

He was twice married, his first wife being Agnes, daughter of Capt. J. Dalgairns Travers of the Leicestershire Regiment; this lady died in 1927. He then married Frances Helen, daughter of Arthur Law of Silverdale, Lancashire, who was the widow of James Henderson of North Gate, Regents Park, N.W. There were no children of either marriage.

He was essentially a regimental officer, although he had seen staff service in Burma at Rangoon.

I first met him when passing through Rangoon early in 1906 on my way to join the 1st Battalion at Thayetmyo, and did so again in December, 1906, when the Battalion embarked for Calcutta. On both occasions I was impressed by the warmth of his hospitality for no officer ever passed through Rangoon without being invited to his delightful home. From that time onwards I was always offered without stint his friendship and the help which so experienced an officer could give to a young man.



Early in the Great War of 1914-18 he obtained command of the 1st Battalion when Lt.-Col. B. E. Ward gave up command and was about to proceed home to command a Brigade, but Col. Ward was actually mortally wounded at that very time. His Battalion command came at a critical period of the war when the Battalion was holding a position at La Boutillerie with all its Companies in the forward trenches continually being attacked, and the reserve consisted only of cook and transport personnel, less than 50 in number, which came up at dusk and returned to the transport lines after the morning stand-to was completed and the situation was quiet. During this time he was present during a night attack on "C" and "D" Company front, and himself led forward the reserve to eject a small party of Germans who had broken into our line at the junction of the Companies. He was severely wounded in the thigh and narrowly escaped death. He returned to command the Battalion early in 1915 and by that time I was Adjutant. Then was established a friendship which never ceased until his death, and I had many opportunities of seeing him as a brave and efficient soldier who never spared himself and was ever forward where danger was greatest.

In 1916 he became a Brigade Commander and so continued until the end of the war. He retired in 1919 and was appointed Commandant of the Ceylon Defence Force in 1920, which post he held until 1927. It was while in Ceylon that his first wife died.

He was a most faithful member of the Regimental Officers' Club and Association and never failed to appear at every Regimental Dinner and Festival and always kept close touch with me throughout the years of his retirement after leaving Ceylon, and during his time there, when I was serving at Ahmednagar after leaving the 1st Battalion at Aldershot to join the 2nd Battalion in India.

He was buried in Chiddingfold Parish Church on July 30, 1949, and I was very proud to represent the Regiment he had loved so dearly and served so well. His grave is in a lovely church cemetery and the service was held in the church he had since retirement always attended. He was President of the local British Legion, and they attended in full force with their banners.

His home was in a lovely old cottage with a spacious garden and a perfect tennis court overlooking the village cricket ground which he could see from the garden. Up to the age of 80 he had played tennis, and those who served with him remember his skill and hard service which made him superior to many young officers. He continued to work in his garden until his last illness laid him low.

We shall miss his stalwart, straight and soldierly figure for he never showed his great age and never ceased to take a deep interest in the Regiment and all its activities.

I have lost a great friend and can never forget his kindness and help. Beneath his austere manner beat a very fond and generous heart. He will ever rank as one of our most distinguished soldiers and one in whom comradeship burnt in full flame.

### Capt. M. W. Farrow

It is with deep regret that we also have to record the death after a long illness of Capt. M. W. Farrow on October 23, 1949 at the age of 80.

Capt. Farrow enlisted at Hounslow in 1886. He served in the following stations in the U.K. up to 1895: Ireland (Buttevant, Waterford, Kilkenny); Aldershot, with a brief period of those years at Gibraltar. In 1896 he served in South Africa (at Cape Town, Wynberg, and Kings William Town). In 1898 he served in India (at Calicut, Wellington, and Secunderabad) where he was promoted R.S.M., and at Thayetmyo in Burma in 1904. All this service was in the 1st Battalion of this Regiment. In 1906 he was transferred to the 4th Battalion and went to Londonderry, and he moved to Tidworth in 1908. Three years later he was promoted to Lieutenant and Quartermaster, and the following year he went to Devonport. In 1914-18 he served in the Great War with the 4th Middlesex as Quartermaster and later with the 5th Middlesex at Chatham, whilst in 1919 he became Quartermaster of the Regimental Depot in the present Inglis Barracks and there remained until retirement in 1923 after some 37 years with the Regiment.

Capt. Honeybun attended the funeral on behalf of the Regimental Association and laid a wreath on his grave.

The Committee extend their deepest sympathy to the family in their sad bereavement.

### E. Boulton

An In-Pensioner of Chelsea Hospital, Mr. Boulton died on August 18 and was buried on August 23, 1949, at Brookwood Cemetery. Sgt. Jones from the Depot attended as representative of the Regiment and laid a wreath on his grave. The only other mourner was Miss Betty Boulton, a daughter. The deceased was 72 years of age and was admitted to Chelsea Hospital in April, 1948. He served with the Regiment for over 15 years and had the South African, Queen's, Great War and Victory Medals.

### Sgt. A. J. L. Finch

We also regret to announce the death on October 13 of No. 4277 ex Sgt. A. J. L. Finch, aged 76. He served for many years with the Regiment, enlisting in 1893. He had the Queen's South African Medal and two Clasps, and also the 1914 Star, War and Victory Medals. Besides members of his family the funeral was attended by Mr. Doherty, a comrade of the Boer War, and the Regiment was represented by Sgt. Frolic, who laid a wreath on behalf of the Association.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1949, AT 2.45 P.M.

Present: Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C. (Chairman), Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P. (Colonel of the Regiment), Brig. B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., Brig. N. P. Procter, C.B.E., M.C., Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe, M.C., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major R. C. H. Bellers, R.S.M. S. Weller, M.M., Mr. A. Todman, Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary). In attendance: Lt.-Col. T. L. Marks.

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., Lt.-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. A. K. Johnson, T.D., Sgt. E. Fletcher.

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

2. Addendum. Minute No. 4 of the meeting held on July 28, 1949, should have read:

"And it was proposed by Brig. Rackham, seconded by Lt.-Col. Wollocombe and carried unanimously, that the resolutions as proposed by the War Memorial Committee be adopted."

The Secretary was instructed to amend this minute.

3. Secretary's Report. The Secretary's report, having been circulated with the agenda, was accepted by the Committee without comment.

4. Finance Committee's Report. Lt.-Col. Robbins explained the balances of the various accounts as at September 30, 1949, and the Committee approved of the following:—

Officers' Club Charitable Fund		
Royal School for Daughters of Officers	£	s. d.
Association Charitable Fund	£	s. d.
Royal Soldiers' Daughters' Home	8	8 0
Family Welfare Association	5	5 0
Regular Forces Employment Association	100	0 0
S.S.A.F.A.	10	10 6
Forces Help Society	10	10 0
Gordon Boys' Home	2	2 0
	£136	15 0

(b) GRANTS. The sum of £573 11s. 9d. expended in grants during the quarter ending September 30, 1949, and that the Secretary be authorised to expend a sum not exceeding £700 in grants during the current quarter ending December 31, 1949.

(c) COTTAGE HOMES. That a sum of at least £100, at the discretion of, and on the authority of, the Finance Committee, be made to the Cottage Homes Account as a grant on account of repairs to be executed.

(d) BONUS—ASSISTANT SECRETARY. That a bonus of £15 be given to Mrs. Brooks for the year ending December 31, 1949: £10 for additional work whilst the Secretary was sick and £5 as a Christmas bonus.

(e) INVESTMENTS. That a sum of £750 be invested on behalf of the Association Charitable Fund in 2% National War Bonds, 1951-53.

(f) INVESTIGATION OF GRANTS. The Chairman informed the Committee that he would draft a letter to members of the Executive Committee inviting them to attend the Secretary's office to ascertain the nature and amounts of grants made, in order that their recommendations, if any, may be considered by the Committee.

4. Agreement with Enfield Urban District Council. Major Hardcastle reported that he had at last obtained a draft agreement from the Enfield Urban District Council in connection with the site for the War Memorial Cottage Homes.

He read a copy of a draft letter to the Ministry asking for approval on the tender for the erection of the cottages and applying for the subsidy of £16 10s. 0d. per cottage for 60 years, and for the loan of £7,000 from the Office of Works.

Major Hardcastle requested that he be permitted to obtain counsel's advice in respect of the clause re charges of rent, and the Committee approved of this action.

The Committee also approved that, should it become necessary, the Chairman be authorised to call an emergency meeting of the Committee to approve of the agreement when completed.

5. Name of Road of New Housing Estate. The Committee approved that the selection of the name of the road be further postponed to the next meeting.

6. O.C.A. Reunion. The Chairman explained to the Committee the arrangements for the O.C.A. Reunion on November 26, 1949, and the Committee approved.

7. Cemeteries, Pakistan—Upkeep of Graves. The Committee considered an appeal from the Hon. Treasurer of Baluchistan Christian Cemeteries Committee, and the Secretary was instructed to acknowledge receipt of the application and to ask for further information as regards income, cost of upkeep and, if possible, names of those buried. Col. Browne promised to take up the case of the upkeep of the graves in India and Pakistan with the War Office.

8. O.C.A. Clubs. The Secretary was instructed to write to Secretaries of all O.C.A. Clubs asking them how their clubs are progressing, and if accommodation is ample for their requirements, etc.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.45 p.m. The next meeting will take place at the Middlesex Guildhall, Westminster, S.W.1, on February 23, 1950.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT OFFICERS' CLUB HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1949, AT 2 P.M.

Present: Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C. (Chairman), Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P. (Colonel of the Regiment), Brig. B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., Brig. N. P. Procter, C.B.E., M.C., Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe, M.C., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major R. C. H. Bellers, 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., Lt.-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. A. K. Johnson, T.D., Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.

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

2. Secretary's Report. The Secretary's report, having been circulated with the agenda, was accepted by the Committee, and the Secretary was instructed to inform those members who have not paid their subscriptions for 1949 that their names would be struck off the register and should they desire to rejoin at a future date a new proposal form would have to be submitted or their behalf.

3. Election of New Members. The Committee approved that the officers enumerated below be elected as members of the Club:

Capt. L. Honeybun, 2/Lt. J. H. Hedgely, 2/Lt. B. M. Devine, 2/Lt. A. W. Dix, Lt. D. Lloyd, 2/Lt. B. H. Marciandi, Capt. P. L. Crutchfield.

4. Resignation of Members. The Committee acknowledged with regret the resignation of Mr. V. E. O'N. Owen and Capt. J. H. S. Hudson.

5. 6th Battalion Funds. Major Hardcastle reported that he had received a draft agreement from the official trustees, which he read over at length to the Committee. After a short discussion the Secretary was instructed to write to Secretary, Official Trustees, to arrange an interview for Col. Browne and Lt.-Col. Roberts to visit his office.

6. Other Business. The Chairman explained to the Committee that the attendances at the "At Home" and Cocktail Party were very low in comparison with the previous year. This minute to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting to ascertain the wishes of Club members.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.45 p.m.

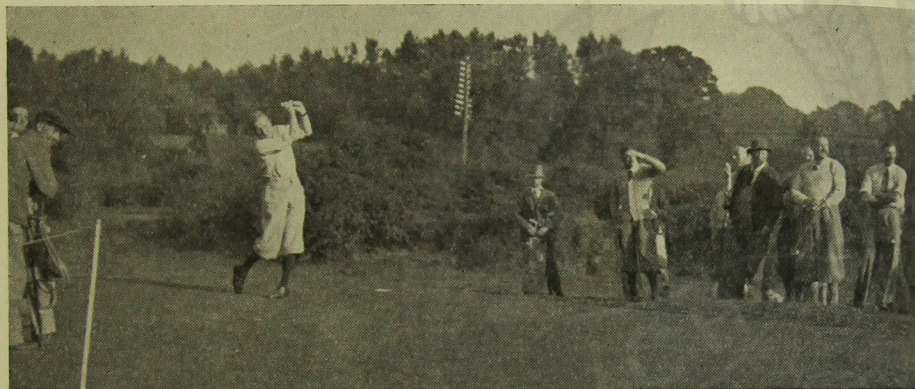
The next meeting will take place at the Middlesex Guildhall on Thursday, February 23, 1950.

### THE AUTUMN GOLF MEETING

It was something of a shock to those intending to take part in the autumn golf meeting when Friday, October 28, found Hendon and Mill Hill swathed in fog. Fortunately the fog was local and no one was put off. The sun was trying to shine too and, as figure after figure emerged from the mist, everyone was quite cheerful and optimistic. Time went on however and, if anything, the fog seemed to get thicker. A few enthusiasts went out and had a practice swing—a fog beautifies even the worst of swings—but others contented themselves with trying to remember whether any previous meeting had ever been upset or curtailed by the elements. There were rumours that this had once occurred, and on my return I turned to my DIE-HARDS to verify this. Unfortunately I never finished my search because in the course of it I found so much else that I enjoyed re-reading that I only succeeded in tracing the first meeting, April 13, 1931. The problem remains unanswered and there is no prize for the correct answer.

During my browsing I came across a photo, on p. 267 of Vol. III, of the Royal Navy and Military Tournament, 1914 Squad. Well! Well! the O.C. Squad took 93 less 10 in the first meeting and who would have thought he would grow into the winner of the scratch prize, and such a fine big lad?





Who—When—Where?

To return to the fog and the present, time went on and by the time it began to clear it was obvious that the full rounds could not possibly be completed. The Committee therefore decided to make the morning round 12 holes in order to make sure of having a full round for the Cooper Cup.

Wollocombe and Anderson blazed the trail and the remainder hit off in turn as and when they deemed it safe. After that one knew no more until the players returned to the club house. Occasionally one saw a vague figure loom up and disappear, but the silence was not broken by Wortonian "neighs" or Stephensonian "whoops," and it would indeed have been a rash player who cast an erring club away in temporary disgust. The result of this was that there was complete uncertainty about the result for a long time, as under the conditions each pair assumed that the better of them had probably won. In point of fact the winner came in last and proved to be the deserving Secretary, Dick Bellers, with a very worthy score. Another popular win was when the scratch prize went once more to the O.C. 1914 Squad who, in case you do not recognise him, is now Lt.-Col. M. Crawford. We should like to have been able to add that he accomplished his feat with borrowed clubs, but apparently, however fast he moves between England, Scotland, China, Scotland and Hendon, his clubs manage to keep pace.

After a very welcome lunch we battled for the Cooper Cup. For the betting man the Crawford-Gilbert 1st Battalion pair looked obvious favourites, but as South had not been in the money in the morning I should have been inclined to invest in a place bet on the 2nd Battalion pair of South and partner, despite the handicap this would naturally be to South. In any event the betting man would have lost his money. The two favourites were drawn together and had an enjoyable tussle between themselves, which would have been even closer if South had brought his magic putter instead of an ordinary human one.

Unfortunately the gallery, distinguished but solitary except for a runner part of the time, also chose the

wrong horse, because all the time Bellers, riding on the crest of the wave and nobly supported by Guest, was quietly amassing a very satisfactory and steady number of points. There were other cards which looked promising at first sight but, as might be expected of a predominantly out of date infantry crowd, arithmetic beyond simple addition was too much and the bloom soon came of these cards when audited. And so, as has so often been proved before at Hendon, "local boys made good."

Before removing this from the accursed typewriter (borrowed) there are three tail pieces.

Firstly, for those who bemoan the small numbers. My researches show that the first meeting produced only three more competitors in the comparatively luxurious days of 1931, and this included several T.A. officers.

Secondly, for those who noticed that the Regimental flag was flying at half-mast until suddenly raised at 4 p.m., there was no ulterior motive but merely a certain honoured and respected member of the Regimental Association staff could not see the top of the flagstaff in the fog. Anyhow that's his story and he's sticking to it.

Thirdly, for all and sundry. There was what I believe to be an unprecedented notice on the board in the form of a cable from the 1st Battalion to the meeting. Certainly all attending the meeting were most appreciative of this token of interest from those in Hong Kong who must have so much to distract them from the noting of the dates of our home events.

To the 1st Battalion. Thank you from all at Hendon on the 28th, and we hope this account will be sufficiently detailed for you to judge the results of your good wishes. From Crawwell and also rans.

MEDAL ROUND AUTUMN CUP (SCRATCH AND HANDICAP PRIZES)			
Played over 12 holes			
Major R. C. H. Bellers	..	58—10½	= 47½
(Winner—Handicap and Sweepstake)			
Lt.-Col. M. Crawford	..	55—5½	= 49½
(Winner—Scratch and Sweepstake)			
Lt.-Col. T. South	..	59—0½	= 49½
Major J. W. G. Ormiston	..	59—8½	= 50½
Lt.-Col. W. H. Samuel	..	66—11½	= 54½

Lt.-Col. N. G. Gilbert	..	68—12	= 56
Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe	..	68—12	= 56
Capt. R. E. Guest	..	67—10½	= 56½
Major J. G. P. Hunt	..	70—12	= 58
Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall	..	64—6	= 58
Major G. B. Anderson	..	70—8½	= 61½
Lt.-Col. R. A. Gwyn and Brig. N. P. Procter—Cards mislaid in the fog.			

COOPER CUP (Inter-Battalion Pairs)			
Major R. C. H. Bellers and Capt. R. E. Guest (1st Bn.)	..	36	
(Winners and Sweepstake)			
Lt.-Col. M. Crawford and Lt.-Col. N. G. Gilbert (1st Bn.)	..	29	
(Runners-up)			
Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall and Major J. W. G. Ormiston (2nd Bn.)	..	27	
Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe and Major J. G. P. Hunt (11th Bn.)	..	26	
Brig. N. P. Procter and Lt.-Col. T. South (2nd Bn.)	..	25	
Major G. B. Anderson and Lt.-Col. W. H. Samuel (11th Bn.)	..	23	

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

### EDITORIAL

The scene has changed considerably for the Battalion since those seemingly far off days of public duties. We have crossed innumerable oceans and seas and climbed many hills, the tops of which should, in our humble opinion, be visible only to the Royal Air Force.

We have moved house three times. We started off after disembarkation at Lyemun Barracks, which were comfortable if somewhat cramped, but after some three weeks moved out to join the Support Company in the "unknown" at Sek Kong. This camp was located in former paddy and when it rained, which it did with military regularity, the whole area became a sea of churned-up mud. The camp was far from completed and doubling up and makeshift were the orders of the day. Just as we were feeling that the camp would be organised in the foreseeable future we were ordered to move yet again and to hand over to our old Chelsea friends, the 1st Battalion The King's Shropshire Light Infantry. Our move was put forward twentyfour hours, to the disgust and annoyance of all concerned, but the Staff had obviously consulted their G1098 crystal as a minor typhoon of some 70 m.p.h. hit the Colony just after we had left glorious Sek Kong.

As the Advance Party of the 1st K.S.L.I. were unable to compete with the striking of all tents in the camp we sallied forth at dead of night in the raging tempest to do the job for them. We completed the job and were back in our new camp by 4.30 a.m., sodden and bedraggled but in astonishingly good heart. The scene at Sek Kong next morning after the storm had passed was sad to say the least, and when we heard that the Battalion was arriving a day earlier we returned yet once again to resurrect the camp. We completed this by 2 p.m. and returned to camp.

Our present camp, Beas Stables, is probably the best camp in the New Territories and we appreciate our good fortune. We are snugly housed in permanent buildings belonging to the Jockey Club. We live in stables, unused so far by ponies, which are clean, cool and airy. The ratio of four men to a loosebox is definitely reasonable when compared to the French standards of *quarante hommes ou huit chevaux*! The Dining Hall and N.A.A.F.I. are improving in appearance daily. The former has developed a homely atmos-

phere with American cloth and a pot of flowers on each table.

The most momentous event since our arrival has been the departure for U.K. of Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., our greatly loved and respected C.O. It was a very sad moment for us all when he spoke to the Battalion before he left and we did our humble best to show him our feeling when we saw him off from the Guardroom to embark in H.M.T. *Lancashire* on September 17. He has commanded most successfully through thick and thin since the amalgamation of the 57th and 77th in August last year, and no matter what or where he was always just the same, thoughtful and understanding. We have certainly said farewell to a grand C.O. We wish him, Mrs. Crawford and their children the best of good luck and every happiness for the future.

We welcome our new C.O., Lt.-Col. A. M. Man, O.B.E., who arrived two days ago by air. We look forward with pleasure to serving under his command. We hope that his tenure of command will be long and happy.

We have had many visits from high-ranking General Officers who all show a great flair for mountaineering. Lt.-Gen. Sir John Harding, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, F.A.R.E.L.F., has visited us twice. Lt.-Gen. F. W. Festing, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Hong Kong Land Forces, twice, and Major-Gen. G. C. Evans, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., General Officer Commanding 40 Infantry Division, times without number. We are very sad to hear that Gen. Festing has been invalided home. He gave us a most interesting address and we were looking forward to serving under his direction.

The tempo in the training world has been fast and furious. The Battalion has shaken down wonderfully well in these strange surroundings and is pulling together with a will. We have a lot to learn we know, but we are improving visibly on every exercise. Many of us are inexperienced but we are rapidly becoming veterans, and points which never entered our heads at Chelsea are now dealt with automatically and with no fuss or bother.

The National Serviceman is enjoying himself without doubt and finds new interests daily. Much of the training takes place on hills of no mean proportions. Some men are more agile than others but everyone is quickly developing into a modified version of a most intelligent goat. The record-breaking goat was 2/Lt. M. B. Devine, who has now left on Special Class B Release to resume the study of medicine. We wish him the very best of luck and we hope to see him again soon at Reunions. We also hope to see his goat-like activities have got him into sufficient shape as to gain him an Irish rugger cap this season.

We have had great difficulty in getting going in the sports world, the major snags being the lack of grounds. However, with the help of bulldozers and many willing hands, we have now got our own grounds for all types of games.

Considering all things we have done well with L/Cpl. Hinshelwood, since left on release, gaining a place in the Army Football Team, C/Sgt. Shrubbs, Cpl. Hilkene, Cpl. Pascoe and Pte. Wallis getting into the Army



Football Trials, Drum-Major Holdford, Cpl. Baker and Pte. McDonald swimming for the Army, our whole water polo team of C.S.M. Tarrant, Drum-Major Holdford, C/Sgt. Ure, Sgt. Corner, Sgt. Waterfield and Cpl. Hymas being selected to represent the Army in the Inter-Services Matches, Major Hoddling, Capt. Livemore, Capt. Carter, Lt. Bellers, O.R.Q.M.S. Waldron and C.S.M. Tarrant gaining Army Hockey Trials and 2/Lt. Bucknall, 2/Lt. Evans and C.S.M. Jennings being selected to represent the Probables in the final Army Rugby Trial. Drum-Major Holdford deserves a special mention as he won the Inter-Services Individual Diving Championship.

Capt. D. Sax, our Adjutant, left in early September for U.K. by air to attend the Technical Staff College. We bid him a sorrowful adieu for the time being and wish him good fortune on the course. We congratulate Capt. K. J. Carter, our new Adjutant, on his appointment and recent promotion.

Lt. K. J. Jeffery has also left us for civilian life and was the very first to start the homeward trek. We wish him the best of luck.

#### "H.Q." COMPANY

Since the publication of our last journal notes many moves and changes have taken place. After having settled down in Lyemun Barracks on Hong Kong Island, we moved on August 6 into the New Territories to a tented camp at Sek Kong, and after a month there we moved to Beas Camp, formerly the stables of the Hong Kong Jockey Club, thought to be one of the best camps in the district.

On September 17 our C.O., Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., departed for U.K., much to our sorrowful regret, and we wish him and his family all the very best for the future. Capt. D. Sax, our Adjutant, left at the beginning of September to attend a course at the Military College of Science. Sgt. Davis, M.M. and Pte. Fewtrell left the Company due to medical reasons and we hope that they will have fully recovered by the time these notes have been published. Pte. Nicks, the ice skating champion, has been released to compete in the British and European Championships. Cpl. Baker, the M.T. Corporal, has left for U.K. being time expired, and Cpl. Butters of "B" Company has taken his place. Capt. P. F. Smyth has left the Company and has taken over the duties of 2 i/c "D" Company, his place having been taken by Capt. F. W. Doyle, M.C., who has recently arrived from H.Q. Rhine Army.

We congratulate Cpt. K. J. Carter on his promotion and also to his appointment as Adjutant. Congratulations are also extended to O.R.Q.M.S. Waldron on becoming a father and to Cpl. James and L/Cpl. Knight on their recent promotions. Cpl. Simpson, our representative at G.H.Q. 2nd Echelon, keeps in close contact with the Battalion.

In the sports field Drum-Major Holdford is a regular member of the Army Swimming Team and O.R.Q.M.S. Waldron and Capt. K. J. Carter have taken part in Army Hockey Trials.

By the time these notes are published our new C.O.,

Lt.-Col. A. M. Man, O.B.E., will have taken over command of the Battalion. We welcome him and may his stay be a long and happy one.

#### SIGNAL PLATOON

Since our arrival in Hong Kong the Signal Platoon has been doing stalwart work. On the various schemes in which the Battalion has been involved they have been seen toiling up the mountains with untold equipment and one hell of a thirst.

In the Company sporting world we are holding our own most successfully. Two of our stalwarts, Ptes. Ward and Mackay, acquitted themselves so well that they had a rest for the whole week in the B.M.H. Hong Kong with (alleged) strained knees.

Ptes. Caswell and Regan have been promoted Lance-Corporals and are shouldering their new-found responsibility well.

Our short notes must not end without mention of Sgt. Michel, who is to be found at all hours of the day and night delving into the insides of wireless sets muttering the while "ABC 1"—such is life in Hong Kong.

#### M.T. PLATOON

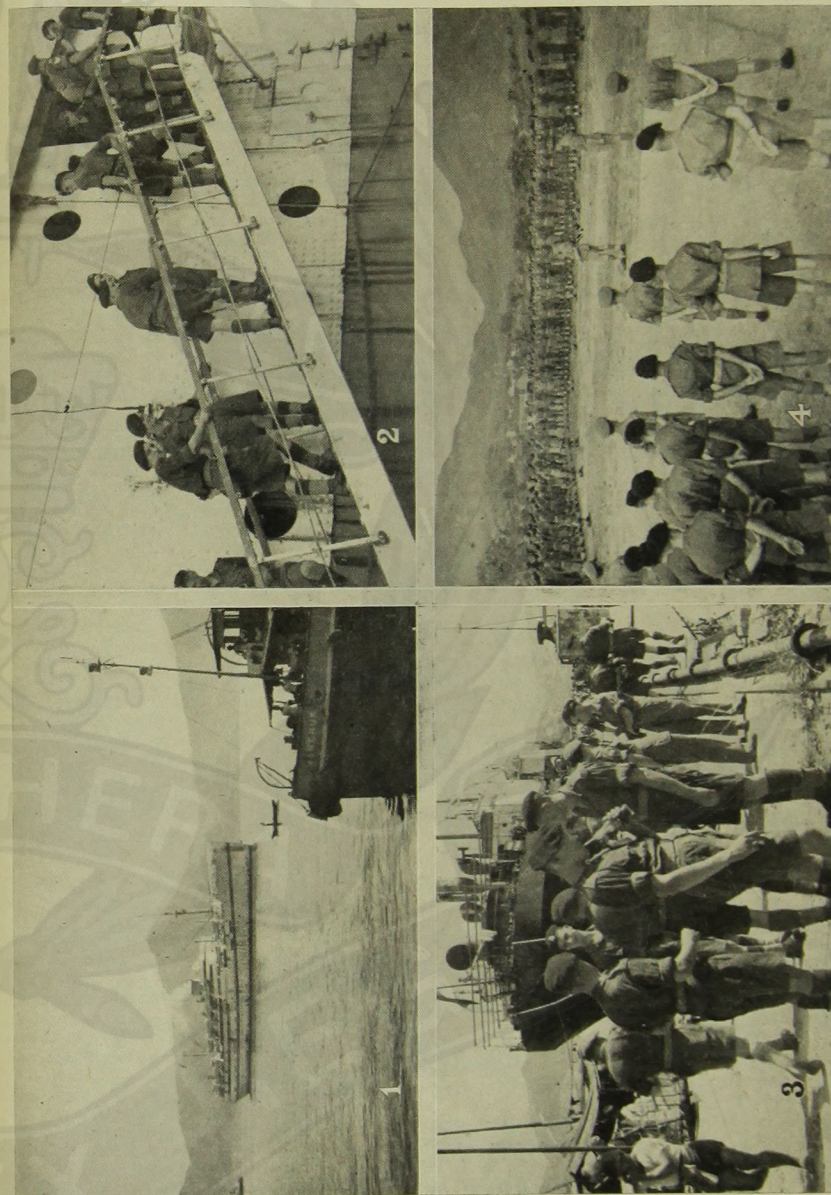
July 18 marked the end of a very enjoyable holiday for the M.T. Section, the last holiday for many a month.

At 1400 hours a large percentage of the M.T. Section set foot for the first time on British soil in China. On Tuesday the 19th, most of the Section had had their first swim in Chinese waters off Lyemun, which is situated at the entrance to the most unique harbour and port in the world.

For the first few days at Lyemun the M.T. Section, under Sgt. Davis, M.M., had a period of settling-in. An office was established just off the drill square and the M.T. Section went into action. On Monday, July 25, the transport ship S.S. *Glengyle* arrived and with it the Unit vehicles. All M.T. personnel went to Hols Wharf at Kowloon, arriving at a very late hour. Beds were made down on the wharveside, but owing to the multiferous insect life no sleep was forthcoming, and on Tuesday morning unloading was carried out by very tired and bleary-eyed drivers. All the vehicles were taken to a field called Hong Hum, which was a matter of a mile and a half from the wharf.

After a few days at Hong Hum awaiting R.E.M.E. inspection, during which time L/Cpl. Kirpatrick and Pte. Tomlin excelled themselves over the cook-pot, the vehicles were ferried from the mainland and Kowloon to the island of Hong Kong and Lyemun Barracks. Almost immediately all vehicles were brought into use and from then till the present day have been working like Trojans.

Cpl. Baker and the rear party joined us on July 26 and the Section was once again complete. Quite a number of the Section were a little too quick to sunbathe, Cpl. Snell in particular, and he suffered for about three weeks afterwards. Pte. Douglas had a lucky escape when, attempting to turn his vehicle on one of the narrow mountain roads, finally came to rest with the rear wheels of his 3-tonner hanging over the edge.



(1) M.V. "Dunera" coming in to dock, July 18, 1949. (2) Carrier Platoon "S" Company joining a chain for unloading sea kitbags. Ptes. Cass, Hampshire, Anderson, Cannon. (3) Group of "S" Company men drinking Coca Cola provided at the docksides. (4) Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., speaking to the Battalion prior to his departure for U.K. September 15, 1949. Beas Camp, Hong Kong.



On Wednesday, August 3, the *Amethyst* arrived in Hong Kong. It was with great pride that the M.T. saluted her as she passed through the Lyemun Gap. Ptes. Scamp, Walker, Morin, Sgt. Davis, Capt. Livemore and Cpl. Snell and a few others stood to in the pouring rain and pressed as many motor horns as possible. The noise was not as great as we would have liked, but it was a salute.

The week-end August 13 found the M.T. moving the Battalion baggage to Sek Kong, our new camp. Our stay at Sek Kong was a hectic one. The technical stores were sorted out and straightened under the stern eye of Sgt. Flannagan, who got down to a difficult task and performed sterling work.

The petrol point grew from a few jerricans to a full-blooded barrel point (the next best thing to a petrol pump). Cpl. Fairbrass soon had a very busy concern going.

Sgt. Morris, our R.E.M.E. representative, has not stopped work for more than a few hours since landing with the Battalion. His aides, L/Cpl. Pillar, whom we congratulate on his promotion, and the other R.E.M.E. fitters have taken Sgt. Morris's example to heart. Thanks to this R.E.M.E. team the vehicles of the Bat-

talion have been able to cope with the unusually large and continuous calls for transport.

In the M.T. Office quite a few changes have taken place. Prior to the move of the Battalion on September 8, Sgt. Davis, M.M., was sick and he was immediately whisked away to hospital in Hong Kong, where for five weeks he was given treatment. On one or two occasions it was rumoured that he would return but much to our disappointment and sorrow the powers decided to send him to Singapore, where, I am told, he will be sent back to England. The M.T. Section, from the M.T.O. to the newest and latest arrival, L/Cpl. Herring, wish Sgt. Davis the best of health for the future and hope that he will find another appointment in England which will be as much to his liking as we know this one has been to him in the past.

Cpl. Baker, upon whom so much depended, is due to leave us in the very near future for England and discharge from the Army. We wish Cpl. Baker happiness and prosperity for the future. Cpl. Wright is now acting M.T. Sergeant, and Cpl. Butters is in the process of taking over from Cpl. Baker.

At the moment the whole M.T. Section has had a boost to its morale. Pte. Heasman has reared a pheno-

menal frog which he intends entering for the "World's Frog Jumping Championships" to be held on Monday next. This frog has been credited with a single jump of twelve feet.

On Saturday, September 17, Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., left the Battalion. Many members of the M.T. were with Lt.-Col. Crawford in the 8th and 57th P.T.C. L/Cpl. Kirpatrick and Cpl. Snell have been under the Colonel's command for a number of years. Col. Crawford's departure has been deeply felt by the M.T. Section, who wish him and Mrs. Crawford every happiness.

Lt.-Col. A. M. Man, O.B.E., has not joined the Battalion but by the time this journal has been published Col. Man will have taken over command. The M.T. Section extend a hearty welcome to our new C.O.

### INTELLIGENCE SECTION

For the first time since the amalgamation of the 1st and 2nd Battalions in August, 1948, the Battalion Intelligence Section has been able to function in its correct role.

On arrival in Hong Kong Lt. K. J. Carter and the Intelligence Section, consisting of Cpl. Walden, L/Cpls. Smallman, Knight and Quilter, began their Intelligence work proper. Since our arrival here the Intelligence Section has been in "operation" on several Battalion, Brigade and Divisional Exercises and, as practice makes perfect, the Battalion "I" Section is fast approaching efficiency if not perfection!

On the promotion of Lt. K. J. Carter to Captain and Adjutant on September 3, the duties of Intelligence Officer were taken over by Lt. B. A. M. Pielow. The only other change in the personnel being a "swop" with "C" Company whereby L/Cpl. Quilter went as their Company Clerk and Pte. Lye came to the infamous Intelligence Section. L/Cpl. Knight combines the duties of 2 i/c's clerk with his Intelligence commitments.

The Intelligence Section at the moment revels in the variety of work it has to do. This work varies from maintaining the Intelligence and Information Room both in camp and in the field to controlling the Chinese workers' passes and also, as L/Cpl. Quilter found himself doing in a recent typhoon, rescuing stray horses!

### BAND

The past three months have been notable for their variety if nothing else.

Arriving at Lyemun Barracks from the *Dunera* in July we found ourselves without a practice room and for the first three weeks each morning saw us creeping stealthily into the Battalion Dining Hall with our instruments and posting sentries to give the alarm when the Messing Officer appeared. Moving to Sek Kong at the end of this period we asked the Quartermaster for a Band Stores and practice accommodation. He gave us one long look, so we walked away in reverent silence.

After a fortnight at Sek Kong we found a temporary haven in Whitfield Barracks, Kowloon, where we lodged for a month and we were able to put in a good deal of progressive practice and also to give several concerts. Meantime the Battalion moved to Beas Camp,

and the accommodation problem being rather less difficult there we were able to rejoin our own unit. Here, besides giving concerts whenever training duties have permitted the Battalion to attend, we have been able to enter into the Regimental sporting activities after a regrettably long absence. Cpl. Hilken and Bds. Forsythe have gained their places in the Battalion soccer team, whilst Cpl. Hymas has got into the water polo side.

It is with more than a tinge of envy that we say *bon voyage* to L/Cpl. Bayton and Bds. Bentley who are returning to U.K. to attend a Pupils' Course at Kneller Hall. Far be it from us to "count our chickens" as it were, but we shall study the Kneller Hall prize lists with keen interest twelve months hence.

In conclusion may we borrow and amend slightly a slogan which during the recent war graced the walls of many a fine English pub and say "There is no depression in this house, and we are not interested in the possibilities of early repatriation. They do not exist!"

### CORPS OF DRUMS

Since leaving you in the last issue whilst still sailing the seas quite a number of exciting events have happened.

We finally reached our destination in Hong Kong on July 18, and as we pulled into the docks we were welcomed by the Band of the 1st Battalion The Royal Leicestershire Regiment. After we had rendered our services in the unloading of the Company baggage we were marshalled into transport which conveyed us to Lyemun Barracks where we were to be housed for the next three weeks. Practice in drum, fife and bugle was the order of the day but we were able to find time for bathing from some of the excellent beaches which abound on the island and where some enjoyable times were spent. A test of 100 yards had to be passed before we were allowed to go in the water on our own. This was done under the supervision of C.S.M.I. Timpany and the Drum-Major. Nearly all managed to pass with the exception of Drmr. Barnes who is still trying, but we can assure you that he will be a swimmer by the time we have finished with him!

We were eventually ordered to move to Sek Kong in the New Territories and we were very sorry to leave Lyemun. When we arrived in the New Territories we saw from the first view of the camp that we were in for fairly hard living. Here we were to live under canvas and none too pleasant weather conditions made the surroundings something of a quagmire. After settling-in, and together with our normal drum practice, we were busy being instructed in the Bren and rifle so that we shall be trained in an operational role of Defence Platoon to Battalion H.Q. After two weeks at Sek Kong we went to Kai Tak Ranges for 24 hours, but unfortunately we were unable to classify owing to the rainy conditions and bad visibility.

A Frog Jumping Competition was organised within the Battalion and the Corps of Drums were required to act as escort to the frogs of "H.Q." Company. Many and varied were the costumes in the parade, making a colourful display but alas, failing to imbue the frogs with the necessary energy.



"Mortar Platoon at Work" (or "The Tea(m) Spirit")

Cpl. Seymour



We were sorry to lose Major Marsh as Officer i/c Corps of Drums but welcome Capt. Carter in this capacity and congratulate him on his promotion and appointment of Adjutant.

At the beginning of September yet another move was made to Beas Camp where we have excellent accommodation.

Our sporting activities have been almost nil with the exception of one game of football which resulted in a win for the Signal Platoon, the score being 4-2. We hope to have a return match in the near future when we will be a1 out for our revenge. We wish to congratulate Drum-Major Holdford on his great effort in gaining 2nd place in the Army Individual Diving Championships and subsequently winning the Inter-Services Diving Championships.

We welcome ex-Boys King, Bennett and Weeks on their arrival at man's status and wish them all the best of luck in a new phase of their Army career. We are sorry to report that we shall soon be losing the services of L/Cpl. Harry Winsborough who has decided that the time has come to go into civilian life as a shoemaker, for which trade he is training in the Battalion Shoemaker's Shop at the moment. We wish him all the very best in his new life. He will be greatly missed in the Drums, both as a first flute player and for his sporting activities.

A sad note in recent events was the departure to U.K. of our C.O., Lt.-Col. Crawford, D.S.O. The Corps of Drums had the privilege of escorting him on his journey down the drive at Beas Camp en route for the ship. Col. Crawford always took a great interest in the Corps of Drums and he will be greatly missed by both ourselves and the remainder of the Battalion. We very humbly offer our best wishes to Col. and Mrs. Crawford and trust that they will enjoy a long and well-earned retirement.

We leave you now, for this issue, to carry on with drum practice preparing for the forthcoming massed Tattoo of all Regimental Bands and Corps of Drums, which is to take place in Hong Kong on October 22. We would like to give our regards and best wishes to all our ex-Drummers, wherever they may be, and we will be only too pleased to answer any letters that they might wish to send us. We hope that Capt. Cummins reads our notes and would like him to know that he is still in our thoughts.

Until the next journal issue we bid you farewell.

#### "A" COMPANY

Since last we wrote our Company notes sweltering somewhere in the Red Sea, we have visited Colombo and Singapore and finally disembarked at the Sugar Factory Wharf, Hong Kong. We went straight to Lyemun Barracks where we stayed for about three weeks sorting out stores, etc. On August 7 we moved to Sek Kong to a camp only partially constructed and situated in a paddy bowl surrounded by high hills on all sides. We went into tents and for a month were alternately roasted or flooded according to the will of the elements. We christened the place "Shangri La"! The arrival of our old Chelsea friends, the 1st K.S.L.I.,

made it necessary for us to move again so that they could occupy glorious Sek Kong. On September 7 and 8 we moved into Beas Camp near Fan Ling. Since our arrival at Beas we have been training absolutely "flat out." In spite of the heat, the very steep hills and difficult type of country, all ranks are going to it in the traditional "Diehard" manner.

In the sporting world we have also been well represented. C.S.M. Tarrant was selected for an Army Hockey Trial and also represented the Battalion in the Inter-Unit Swimming Championships held at Victoria Barracks, whilst Pte. Pegg swam for the Army in the 200 yds. Free Style team. Our congratulations to them both.

We welcome Capt. Young, who has come to us from "D" Company, and also Cpls. Jones and Thwaite and Ptes. Gonzalez, Kimber, McLoughlin and Smith. We hope their stay will be a long and happy one. Our only departures to date have been Ptes. Norris and Byatt who have returned to civilian life, and we wish them the very best of luck.

L/Cpls. Weaver and Vincent are to be congratulated on their promotion to Corporal.

We all deeply regret the fact that we have lost Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., who has gone home, and all ranks of the Company wish him a belated *bon voyage* and every happiness in the future. Departures, however, mean new arrivals and, this being the case, we offer a hearty welcome to Lt.-Col. A. M. Man, O.B.E., who is arriving shortly to take over the Battalion.

Finally, before we leave Fan Ling to catch the air mail en route to the Regimental Depot and the printing press, we wish you at home the very best. We are all in good heart here and are looking forward to a speedy return on the completion of our task.

#### "B" COMPANY

The Company spent their first three weeks in the Colony at Lyemun Barracks in comparative comfort compared to the cramped troopdecks of the M.V. *Dunera*.

Our early days were spent in getting acclimatised and on elementary training. On one occasion we marched to Big Wave Bay where we had a bathe, which was most enjoyable, and a haversack lunch which, strange to relate, was not so enjoyable. No. 5 Platoon proved themselves undisputed Company Champions at softball and football.

We then moved to our paddy-field camp at Sek Kong in the New Territories. The camp itself was only partially built and left much to be desired; however, everyone set to with a will and eventually Baker Street was built running through the Company lines. Work became far more interesting (and arduous) but great progress was made in training. We were privileged to be the first Company to visit Lamma Island, a small island some two miles west of Hong Kong, where we spent a week in bivouac concentrating on patrol work. The weather was not altogether kind but we managed to survive the various drenchings that came down upon us. Water football, ably refereed by C.S.M. Pike, proved a great success and again No. 5 Platoon came out as

clear winners. Pte. Dey was invaluable as the official responsible for holding up the goalposts.

On our return to Sek Kong we found we were on the move to yet another camp. Rumour had it that our destination was Beas Camp and that it was quite the best camp in the Territories. We were truly astonished when rumour became reality and we found that tents for sleeping in were a thing of the past.

We have carried out two Battalion exercises so far and are rapidly becoming old stagers at the game.

We were all very sad to say "goodbye" to Lt.-Col. Crawford and we wish him and his family every success in the future.

Capt. J. N. Shipster, D.S.O., has completed one month's staff attachment with H.Q. 27th Infantry Brigade and left last week for Singapore to attend a Pre-Staff College Course. We are sure he will do well on this course and are looking forward to his triumphant return in six weeks' time.

We congratulate most heartily C.S.M. Pike and his wife on the safe arrival of young Ernest. The contents of the all-important telegram was broadcast at great speed by "bush telegraph" throughout the Company.

We miss L/Sgt. Perkins who is doing a three months' attachment to the Local Forces as an instructor. We are sure he is doing an excellent job and we look forward to his return to the fold.

The Company welcomes Ptes. Howland and Aylward from "D" and "H.Q." Companies respectively, and Pte. Hunt who has rejoined after a period in hospital at Singapore. We say farewell and the very best of good fortune in civilian life to Pte. Chesney (our No. 2 Company "wag" and "No. 1 Barrow Boy") and Pte. Dene who embarked for the U.K. recently.

Congratulations to the following on their recent promotions and appointments: —Sgt. Riley, Cpl. Brown, L/Cpls. Ashby, Beasley 14, Borthwick, Chuter, Cox, Deacon, French, Gardner, Holt and Noble.

We look forward with pleasure to the arrival of our new Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. A. M. Man, O.B.E. We understand that he is expected by air early in October.

#### "C" COMPANY

Since the arrival of the Battalion in Hong Kong life for the Company has been fast and furious. After a short stay at Lyemun Barracks we moved with the rest of the Battalion to a tented camp at Sek Kong in the New Territories. This camp has been ably described in the Editorial and so we shall leave it at that. We must add, however, that this camp was called many names, mostly lurid though seldom the correct one.

Having been in this earthly "paradise" for about a month we were ordered to move to Beas Stables near Fan Ling. The move, on the whole, was a popular one, especially so when a typhoon hit the Colony within 24 hours of the move, and, despite the stable atmosphere, we soon made ourselves at home.

We are now training hard and are experts at climbing hills, digging defensive positions and have even had some success at patrolling. Shortly we are off for five days to Lamma Island to try our hardest living under field conditions.

As time goes on we are finding our feet on Company and Battalion Exercises and Palace Duties seem a very long way away indeed!

Since our arrival we have lost Lt. Pielow, who left us to take over the duties of Intelligence Officer, and Lt. Osborne, who has become Messing Officer. Pte. Lye has also gone to the "I" Section, where his ability to draw will prove most useful.

From other Companies L/Cpl. Quilter, Ptes. Reid and Ellis have joined us and to these new arrivals we extend a hearty welcome.

Shortly to leave us on demobilisation are Ptes. Thorp, Nash and Long and we wish them the very best of luck in civilian life.

Congratulations to Sgt. Stimson, Cpls. Small, Reynolds and Conroy and L/Cpl. Burbage on their recent promotions.

We now have our own Company M.T. and all the drivers have done very well under the able direction of Pte. Thorp, despite the occasional brush with the M.T. Office, to keep their somewhat old and hard worked vehicles on the road. Pte. Brady, in particular, must be singled out for his fine efforts with the Company motor cycle.

We turn once more to sport for our major relaxation. Our soccer team, ably coached by that fountain of knowledge, C/Sgt. Griffiths, have more than come up to expectations. So far we have not lost a game and our victories over "H.Q." and "B" Companies have been very certain. One of the mainstays of the team has been C.S.M. Jennings, who somehow manages to be always in the position where he is required. It has been said that our white and green turnout has helped us by dazzling our opponents. That, however, has now been put right by the dhoobi, who, after washing our kit, returned it a rather muddy green colour.

In basket ball the Company has been well represented in Battalion matches. In one game no fewer than seven members of the Company helped to make up the Battalion team: C.S.M. Jennings, Cpls. Small, Pascoe and Walsh, L/Cpls. Wells and Hyland and Pte. Marlow.

Under the direction of Capt. Rendell we have made a start at softball and we hope with more practice to form a formidable team.

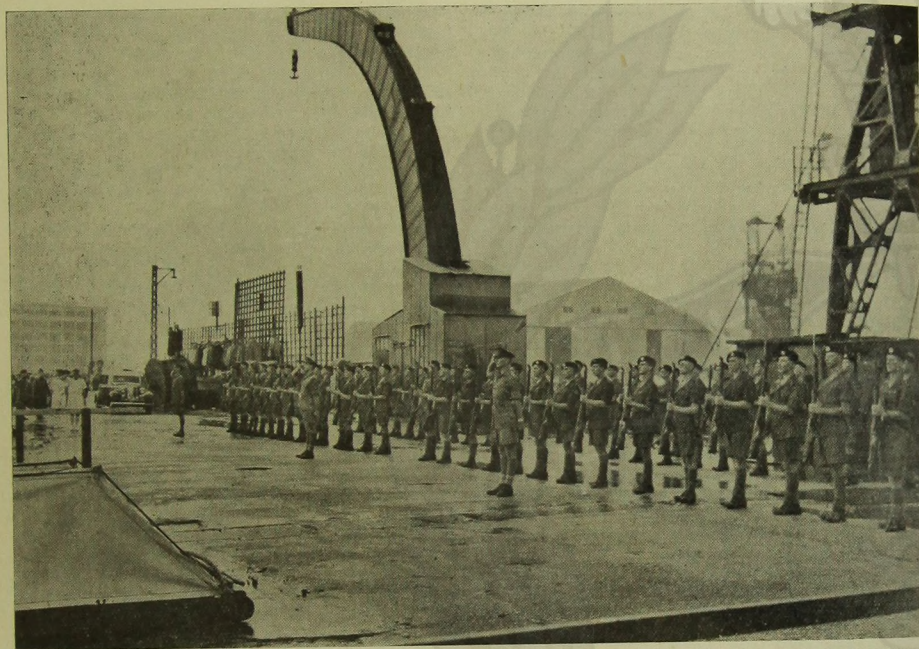
With Christmas rapidly approaching, we will take this opportunity of wishing all our old members and friends good luck and best wishes for the New Year.

#### "D" COMPANY

It was with the greatest regret that all ranks of the Company learnt, early in September, that the Commanding Officer was leaving and returning to the U.K., and it was with even greater regret that we bade him *au revoir* on September 17, 1949. We wish him God-speed and a safe journey home.

On July 18, 1949, the *Dunera* arrived at Hong Kong and the first person we saw was Major Kendall-Sadler, who joined the ship as she was moving up the harbour bringing on board with him a large bag of most welcomed mail. Disembarkation was carried out smoothly, it being no doubt greatly assisted by the most generous gift by the makers of unlimited iced coca cola, which





"China Mail" Photo

#### PRESENTING ARMS ON THE ARRIVAL OF THE COMMODORE, HONG KONG

Guard of Honour for H.M.S. "Amethyst" commanded by Major E. C. K. Kendall-Sadler, T.D., on August 3, 1949.  
King's Colour: 2/Lt. M. B. H. Devine. Subaltern: Lt. B. K. Clayden

was served on the dockside from very smart mobile bars. Our first home was at Lyemun Barracks, where, although we were "packed like sardines," we were well off, as the accommodation was good and the site delightful; the bathing beach below the barracks was greatly appreciated.

As is usual, the Company soon settled down in its new surroundings and some ten days later Major Kendall-Sadler re-assumed command.

After a month of being stationed on the Island we moved to a tented camp well out in the New Territories. One could hardly describe this site as a "Garden of Eden."

Our next home, after a month under canvas, was a former racing stables and here we are "bedded down" in our loose boxes! We moved not a day too soon as the night after we left our tented camp a typhoon struck Hong Kong and the camp was nearly razed to the ground.

Our present camp is comparatively luxurious as we live, somewhat airily it must be admitted, under brick and mortar, and have electric light.

All ranks are training hard, *inter alia* we spend a large part of our time climbing the innumerable hills that

infest the district; we believe there are people who do this for relaxation, perhaps, however, they do not do it carrying everything except the kitchen stove; in any case it is the considered opinion of the Company that such people are first class cases for the "trick cyclist."

On the occasion of the visit to the Battalion of the G.O.C.-in-C., FARELF, on August 15, 1949, a special Guard was mounted by the Company. The following formed the Guard: Sgt. Waterfield, Ptes. Claydon, Dew, Pannell, Pratt, Wells ('73) and Winkworth.

On August 3, 1949, the Battalion mounted a Guard of Honour, with Band, under the command of Major Kendall-Sadler for H.M.S. *Amethyst* on its arrival in Hong Kong after its heroic dash down the Yangtze. The following members of the Company formed part of the Guard of Honour: Lt. Clayden, 2/Lt. Devine, C.S.M. McMillan, Cpl. Sharp, L/Cpl. Spicer, Ptes. Griffin, Shotbolt and Wells ('73).

On September 19, 1949, the Company moved to Lamma Island, a small island lying off Hong Kong, for a week's training. In spite of the weather, we were seldom dry, everyone enjoyed themselves immensely. We bivouacked on the foreshore of a small bay and, after the day's work, bathing was a most popular pastime.

C/Sgt. Thom and L/Cpl. Smith worked heroically, under very trying conditions, and fed us "like fighting cocks." At the end of the week one and all were very sorry to leave and return to the "comforts" of the Battalion camp.

In August Capt. Young left us for "A" Company and Capt. Doyle, M.C., took over as second-in-command. His sojourn with us was brief, as, after a few weeks, he left us for "H.Q." Company and Capt. Smyth took his place. We wish Capt. Young and Doyle the best of good fortune; the gain of "A" and "H.Q." Companies is our loss. We welcome Capt. Smyth and trust we shall see his "sturdy" figure amongst us for many a long day; his broad shoulders and robust physique will, no doubt, survive any strain placed upon them.

In mid-September 2/Lt. Devine left us to return to the U.K. on Class "B" Release. We wish him the very best of luck and every success on the resumption of his medical studies. We miss his broad smile!

#### "S" COMPANY

The Company arrived safely at Hong Kong and was the first to disembark from M.T. *Dunera*. Having disembarked on the Hong Kong side we were taken back by ferry to Kowloon Steps, where trucks were awaiting to take us out to the camp at Sek Kong in the heart of the New Territories. Here our task was to prepare the camp for the advent of the Battalion. At first the heat and the mosquitos were rather trying, but the Company soon settled down and got acclimatised. Some useful and strenuous training was carried out pending the arrival of the remainder of the tents. Unfortunately their arrival coincided with five days continuous rain and most of the tents were pitched in a downpour. Under the excellent guidance of C.S.M. White the tents went up like lightning and when the Battalion arrived the Company was given a well-earned 48 hours' rest.

The remainder of our stay at Sek Kong was short and, early in September we moved to Beas Camp near Fanling. Two days after our arrival we had a typhoon warning and although the typhoon missed Hong Kong nevertheless all ranks spent a very wet and uncomfortable night.

We were very sorry to lose Sgt. Redpath soon after our arrival at Sek Kong but wish him every success in his new job in the Orderly Room. C.Q.M.S. Yeomans has been a tower of strength and coped very ably with the catering, under very difficult conditions whilst the Company was on detachment at Sek Kong. A strange coincidence occurred when the N.A.A.F.I. first opened at Sek Kong: L/Cpl. Walker (911) walked in and was immediately recognised by one of the Chinese staff who had been in the canteen with the 1st Battalion at Sham Shui Po in 1939.

Our two drivers, Ptes. Blyghton and Nelson, have been kept very busy on duty and recreational trips. It is to their credit and to all the other Company drivers that so far that have had an accident-free record, despite the difficult and dangerous roads of the New Territories. Long may it last. Our storeman, L/Cpl. Penny, was unfortunate to sustain severe burns as a

result of a nasty accident. He is still in hospital, but we wish him a speedy recovery. Our two clerks, Ptes. Young and Franklin, are now settled in permanent offices after several temporary homes. They are ably assisted by Pte. Jorgensen when he is not operating his wireless set on the hill tops. Last but not least we ask the Company to join us in extending a very hearty welcome to Major Hodding, our new Company Commander. May his stay be long and happy.

#### Mortar Platoon Notes

It is a far cry from Mill Hill and Pirbright to the wilds of the New Territories, but the 3-in. Mortar Platoon is almost unchanged and up to much the same sort of tricks.

We still manage to get carriers bogged and ditched with remarkable ease and we still rely on Cfn. Wheeler to get us out, assisted verbally by Pte. Moore and more practically by Pte. Fisher (35).

Apart from the usual antics of the Carrier drivers (we still hope to have all seven of our carriers on the road one day) we have achieved a lot and learnt a great deal since we have been here.

We have done quite a bit of practical firing with good results and plenty of field exercises and schemes in the hills. We are getting used to rigging up bivvies and cooking in the rain and generally getting back to nature. We soon discovered that the New Territories are not so new; in fact, the number of old bones and skulls in little pots dotted round the hills is incredible. It is often difficult to find a sleeping place without disturbing these Chinese ancestors!

Before we left U.K. we were joined by Ptes. Rump (now L/Cpl.), Keat, Swift, Horne, Wood and Gore, who have now settled down well to mortar work. Keat is our unruffled storeman who fights against typhoons, rain, dust and rust to keep our stores in order. Swift is now our Platoon Commander's (Lt. P. G. V. Bellers) faithful aide as well as performing many other jobs in the Platoon, including cooking on night schemes.

Of the old hands, we are still cheered up by Swindells, who has not lost his sense of humour. In fact most people seem to have retained their sense of humour, and such types as Johnson, Ferrier, Low, Smith (69) seem to revel in wading waist deep in paddy fields. In fact the whole Platoon seem to enjoy the open-air life and have developed a great spirit in spite of often trying conditions.

We have started a Platoon football team, which, we hope, will do well, but as yet other games have been difficult to organise. We have several sportsmen and we discovered a few sprinters the other day when one mortar had a "cock off" bomb land a few yards in front of the crew! No names! We have learnt better since.

Cpl. Seymour amuses us with his cartoons and we will be sorry to lose him fairly soon on release. We welcome Sgt. Sharp from the Carrier Platoon and hope he will be happy with us.

#### Anti-Tank Platoon

With the remainder of the Company the Platoon proceeded immediately after disembarkation to Sek Kong



in the New Territories. Working stripped to the waist in the intense heat of the day, and at one period throughout five days continuous monsoon rain, we soon learnt and conquered the art of erecting E.P.I.P. tents. Gradually, as the camp took shape, we were able to include periods of realistic training.

Patrolling was priority number one in order to get to know the ground. Having carried out numerous patrols in and around the paddy fields and hills that surround the camp it can be said without doubt that the "recce" patrols made of the water pipe line were the best liked. At the water source there was a natural swimming pool and it was just the place to refresh our weary bodies.

Route marches, map reading, R.T. and night exercises were also carried out, so much so that we began to think that we were just another Rifle Platoon.

Soon, however, our Windsor carriers and guns were to arrive, plus mountainous quantities of the Platoon's G. 1098. The latter part of our detachment days consisted of little else except receiving, cleaning and re-issuing of these stores.

During our "off duty" periods, parties of the Platoon took to climbing hills, swimming at Castle Peak Bay, killing snakes and singing heartily at Company "camp-fire sing-songs."

The Battalion, soon after joining "S" Company from Hong Kong, moved once again to its now permanent camp, beside Fan Ling golf course. Since the move the Platoon has taken part in numerous Company and Battalion exercises. A tremendous amount of experience is being gained by all ranks, especially in the spheres of approach marches, occupying positions, digging gun-pits and fox-holes, man-handling, gun drill and, last but not least, when and how to brew up!

#### Carrier Platoon

In company with the remainder of Support Company we went to Sek Kong camp to prepare for the arrival of the Battalion. We found that the country was not entirely suitable for carriers, but we gained a lot of experience in hill climbing.

At our latest camp, Beas Stables, we find our time fully occupied with training. Sgts. Corner and Finnis have produced two machine gun sections and Sgt. Palmer a "Wasp" section. The "Wasp" is a new weapon which we have adopted and have now reached a high standard of training. The "Wasp" section have been selected to partake in the Divisional Demonstration on October 17, 1949.

Mention must be made of Cpl. Baker and Pte. MacDonald, who have been swimming regularly for the Army team. We are proud to have such representation in the numerous Inter-Service and Civilian matches.

L/Cpl. Walker (74), Wagner and Cfn. Pitcher have had the arduous task of training members of "The Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Force" in carrier driving. To their credit all the Chinese trainees passed their tests with flying colours.

On the whole life is very pleasant. We find the rain and mosquitos a little trying, but, with the more pleasant winter months ahead, we look forward to hard training and plenty of sport.

#### Assault Pioneer Platoon

Under the able guidance of Lt. Forman and Sgt. Bignall the Platoon did some noble work draining the camp at Sek Kong and levelling an air landing strip under the most adverse weather conditions.

Daily the Platoon toiled and sweated beneath blazing sun and pouring rain in a frantic endeavour to prepare the camp for the Battalion to move in. Blessed were the friendly nights that soothed our tired eyes and permitted weary bodies to relax.

The Platoon claims the honour of being the first to organise a morning brew up which met with stupendous success and rapidly spread to the rest of the Company.

During this period we gained some very valuable experience in the use of explosives for blowing gun pits and weapon pits.

Best wishes for a speedy convalescence are extended to Sgt. Bignall and Pte. Betts, who were recently discharged from hospital.

Now that Cpl. Dive and Pte. Galvin have attended an Education Course the intellectual standard of the Platoon is expected to soar—especially as they have even been observed reading newspapers.

#### CORPORALS' CLUB

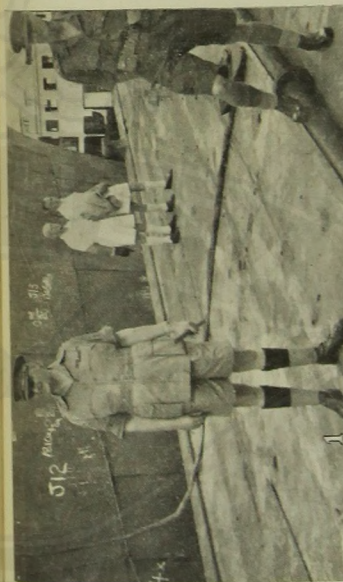
Now that we have more or less settled down in Beas Camp, where there are some permanent buildings, it has become possible to open the Corporals' Club once again. The Club rooms consist of a Mess, Ante-Room and Games Room. They were very drab and dirty when originally handed over, but, by the efforts of the General and Entertainments Committees, the rooms have improved beyond recognition and are now becoming more like a Corporals' Club than a disused barn.

The opening of the Club has proved most popular and plans are already in hand for an official opening night in the very near future. We are also planning to hold socials to which Corporals of other Battalions of the Brigade will be invited.

#### W.O.s AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Since the last issue of Journal notes were sent off quite a few events have happened. We embarked on June 15, 1949, and after an uneventful voyage we arrived at Hong Kong in that mysterious land of China, but, by the time that these notes are published we will have become fully acclimatised.

The voyage itself was very pleasant. It was the first time that the one Battalion had been together for a long time. During the voyage, several little get-togethers were held in the W.O.s and Sergeants' Lounges and the officers were invited; the socials usually ended in a good sing-song with the Regimental Sergeant Major well to the fore with his rendering of "I'll take you home again, Kathleen," etc. R.Q.M.S. Blackman rendered yeoman service as i/c of that unaccountable game of "Housee-Housee," and in the dim background could be seen several members of the Mess trying their hand in the threepenny swindle. Needless to say, our George lost the use of his voice, plus several pounds in weight.



Photos: "Strait Times," Singapore  
(1) Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., on the dockside, July 18, 1949 (2) Sek Kong Camp, July 19, 1949 (3) Middlesex Hong Kong Veterans' Reunion Dinner held at Ying King Restaurant, Hong Kong, on Thursday, July 28, 1949. Major Lervall, M.C., Mr. Carr, Cpl. Hymas, Mr. McDougall, Pte. Jackson, Major Marsh, L/Cpl. Winborough, D/M Holdford, Cpl. Dickson, Cpl. Hilkene, Pte. Asyward (4) A group of N.C.O.s at Singapore, July, 1949, en route with the Battalion to Hong Kong



We arrived at Hong Kong on time, and were met on the quay side by our Commanding Officer.

Support Company were the first ashore and soon disappeared to the mainland to assist in preparing the tented camp there for the Battalion. The remainder of the Battalion then proceeded to Lyemun Barracks. Several members of the Mess met old friends of the days when the Battalion was last in Hong Kong.

The Battalion eventually moved to its camp in the New Territories and once again the Mess was together as a whole. Our Mess was situated in a Romney hut and the scene of an evening was very picturesque with lamps and candles dotted around the tables and members of the Mess writing to their wives and friends back in the far-off U.K., intermingled with the calls of "JONG" and "Nothing on it." (No names.) Later, due to the efforts of our caterer, we managed to get some electricity laid on, much to the chagrin of the Officers' Mess.

On September 7 we moved from our tented camp to our present location and, on the whole, the camp is much more pleasant and comfortable, being better than our previous quarters. We had only been in our new location a few hours when a typhoon hit us and members were most thankful that tents had become a thing of the past.

The "JONG" schools were soon again in session and iced oranges were the order of the day.

The following members of the Mess are heartily congratulated on becoming proud fathers: O.R.Q.M.S. Waldron, C.S.M. Pike and Sgt. Spencely. (Wot! Only one each!)

In the field of sport the Mess has been well represented; O.R.Q.M.S. Waldron and C.S.M. Tarrant were selected to play in the first Army Hockey Trial at Sookumpoo, and, judging by the results, they both did very well. C.S.M. Tarrant was again selected to play in the Final Army Hockey Trial, which shows that there is still plenty of life in the old ones. In the swimming events Drum Major Holdford also upheld his reputation by obtaining first place in the Diving Competition held on September 14 and was selected to represent the Army v. Y.M.C.A., Kowloon. C/Sgt. Shrubbs, M.M., is taking part in the Army Soccer Trials soon to be held and we wish him all the best of luck. (Got to get that fat off!)

The Regimental Sergeant Major has become an enthusiastic aviator and 88 set operator. He has flown twice over Lamma Island to drop newspapers and mail to "C" and "D" Companies, and his code sign, Roger, Sugar, Mike, is often on the ether.

Sgt. Davies, M.M., has been admitted to hospital and we shall be very pleased when we see his smiling face again.

During the month of August we received the sad news that our Commanding Officer was leaving us and returning to U.K. It was a sad Sergeants' Mess on the evening of September 15 when the Commanding Officer paid a visit to our Mess to say good-bye to us all. The Colonel arrived at about 9 p.m. and was soon made to feel at home.

The Regimental Sergeant Major, on behalf of the Mess, gave a farewell speech to the Commanding

Officer during the evening. It is always sad and difficult to say good-bye to any friend, but when that friend is also your Commanding Officer the task is far more difficult and the sorrow far harder to express. On the morning of September 17 all members were again present to draw the Commanding Officer in his car as far as the main gate and to say a last farewell. "Good luck, Sir, and a speedy and safe journey home."

All members take this opportunity in welcoming our new Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. A. M. Man, O.B.E., and may his stay be a long and a happy one.

Best of luck to all "Die-Hards" all over the world.

### RUGBY FOOTBALL

Preparations for the forthcoming Rugby season were immediately made on arrival at Sek Kong. We constructed a pitch and bought posts, but unfortunately our plans came to nought as the move to Beas Camp intervened. Now we have the Chinese equivalent of a ploughed field at an angle of 1 in 20 to serve as our rugby field. However, we are finding it very useful for training and finding hidden talent. New faces, playing for the first time, are showing considerable promise. In particular, Pte. Passmore shows the making of a very sound centre threequarter.

Despite these difficulties the Battalion has achieved some success in the Army Trials. 2/Lt. Bucknall, 2/Lt. Evans, C.S.M. Jennings, Sgt. Waterfield, L/Cpl. Knight, L/Cpl. Isaacs, Pte. Sharp and Pte. Everton played for 27 Infantry Brigade in the first two trials and the first three mentioned have been selected to play for the Probables later this month in the final trial.

A varied fixture list has been arranged, including our rivals 1st Battalion, K.S.L.I., but we feel confident of a successful season. We should have plenty of reserve talent for the 1st XV as we can provide a quite reasonable 2nd XV.

### SWIMMING

On September 1 and 2 the Battalion had its first chance of competitive swimming since we landed in July, entering for Land Forces Swimming Championships, Hong Kong. Considering the small amount of practice that the team had had, the results were most encouraging. Drum Major Holdford, "H.Q." Company, came first in the diving with a perfect performance. Cpl. Baker was 3rd in the 66 yards free style. Pte. McDonald 3rd in the 66 yards breast stroke and L/Cpl. Dobbs 3rd in the plunging. The Battalion team was 3rd in the Unit Championships.

On September 20 we sent a water polo team to the Y.M.C.A. Pool to play the 1st Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, who, unfortunately, were unable to compete. Instead, our team played a scratch side and won comfortably by 8 to 0. The team was as follows: C/Sgt. Ure, Drum Major Holdford, Cpl. Hymas, C.S.M. Tarrant, Capt. Mievile, L/Cpl. Dobbs and Sgt. Corner.

On September 21 a representative Army team swam against the Y.M.C.A. From the Battalion Cpl. Baker came 3rd in the 50 yards free style and Pte. McDonald 3rd in the 100 yards breast stroke. At the end Drum Major Holdford gave an excellent display of diving.

Later, on October 8, we again sent a water polo team to compete in a knock-out competition to find the best Army side to play in an inter-service tournament. The Battalion played 25th Field Regiment, R.A., and again won 6-0. The team played so well that it was decided it should represent the Army against the Navy and R.A.F. The team was as follows: C.S.M. Tarrant, Drum Major Holdford, C/Sgt. Ure, Sgt. Corner, Sgt. Waterfield and Cpl. Hymas.

On October 9 the Battalion held its swimming gala at the Victoria Baths, Hong Kong. We were very lucky in the day, it being blazing hot from start to finish. At 2 p.m. the meeting commenced and soon we had run through the first half of the events; during the interval the band played some popular music. In the second half much amusement was caused in the Old Soldier's race by C.S.M. Tarrant and C/Sgt. Ure, who dressed up and acted the perfect clowns. The last race was an invitation relay, in which the 1st Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 1st Royal Leicesters and 25th Field Regiment took part. The Swimming Shield and prizes were presented by the Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. A. M. Man, O.B.E. The results were as follows:

2 x 66 Yards Free Style—1st, "S" Company (Cpl. Baker and Pte. Wheeler).  
2 x 66 Yards Back Stroke—1st, "S" Company (Cpl. Baker and Pte. Wheeler).  
1 x 200 Free Style—1st, "A" Company (Pte. Pegg).  
Boys' Race—1st, Boy Smith.  
3 x 66 Yards Medley—1st, "S" Company (Lt. Bellers, Pte. Bullock and Pte. Anderson).  
Diving—1st, "S" Company (Cpl. Baker and Pte. McDonald).  
Plunging—1st, "D" Company (Capt. Smyth and L/Cpl. Dobbs).  
6 x 66 Yards Relay—1st, "A" Company (2/Lt. Thomas, Cpl. Hook, L/Cpl. Millard, L/Cpl. Jones, Pte. Sudders and Pte. Pegg).  
Egg and Spoon Race—1st, "D" Company (L/Cpl. Spicer and Pte. Lockwood).  
2 x 100 Yards Breast Stroke—1st, "S" Company (Lt. Bellers and Pte. McDonald).  
Old Soldiers' Race—1st, Sgt. Jones.  
Company Race—1st, "S" Company (Lt. Bellers, Sgt. Corner, Cpl. Baker and Pte. Wheeler).  
Invitation Relay—1st, 1 Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

The final placings were: 1st, "S" Company; 2nd, "A" Company; 3rd, "C" Company; 4th, "H.Q." Company; 5th, "D" Company; 6th, "B" Company; points for which went towards the Albuhera Shield.

### ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

At the time of writing, the soccer season is only just commencing and consequently little has as yet taken place. There have been, however, some events since the last issue of the Journal which are of interest for soccer news.

Firstly, on our trip to Hong Kong the Battalion was challenged to a soccer match by the Colombo Garrison. The team was met when the *Dumera* docked and taken ashore in an R.A.S.C. launch. Transport met us at the quayside and we were given a conducted tour of Colombo before the commencement of the game.

The game was watched by a large proportion of the Battalion on shore leave and was played in blazing sun. It says much for the team that, until about 15 minutes from the end, the score was 4-1 in our favour. How-

ever, the heat proved too much for our unacclimatised men and, despite a very gallant effort, the Garrison team was just able to draw level and the game resolved into a draw 4-4.

After a hurried lunch, the team were driven back to the docks, having expressed the desire for a return game on our way home. Next time we will be acclimatised and the story will no doubt have a very different ending.

The team was as follows: Pte. LaBarre ("H.Q." Company); Sgt. Jones ("D"), Cpl. Hillkene ("H.Q." Band); L/Cpl. Hinshelwood ("H.Q."), Pte. Wallis ("C"), L/Cpl. Heritage ("B"), L/Sgt. Pascoe ("C"), Pte. Passmore ("D"), C/Sgt. Shrubbs, M.M. ("B"), capt., Pte. Reeves ("C"), Pte. Jones (39) ("D").

Scorers were: L/Cpl. Hinshelwood 2, Pte. Wallis 1, L/Cpl. Heritage 1.

Since our arrival we have had the usual difficulties with finding space for soccer grounds. Since our move into the New Territories we have had to do with small plots of land levelled by hand and usually waterlogged.

However, things are improving and inter-platoon and inter-Company competitions are due to begin shortly.

In addition we have a number of players tried out in the recent Army Trials. These were: Pte. Wallis, L/Cpl. Hinshelwood, Cpl. Hillkene and Cpl. Pascoe, who all played on September 24 at Sookumpoo, Hong Kong.

L/Cpl. Hinshelwood was selected for the Army team and the others were noted for future reference.

There is considerable talent in the Battalion and it is hoped that this season will prove a most successful one for us.

### BASKET BALL

In common with most of the other Battalion sports, we have experienced considerable difficulty in achieving a rightful place among the Battalion's activities. Lack of equipment, moves from one station to another and lack of a suitable ground have all interfered with team training.

Soon after our arrival in the Colony, we were asked to enter the Land Forces Inter-Unit Basketball Competition and, though we had no training and no ground on which to practice, two teams were entered.

Through the kindness of a neighbouring unit, we managed to squeeze in two short periods of training on their court before our "A" team played its first match. It says much for the zeal and enthusiasm of C.S.M.I. (P.T.) Timpany and the team that they beat their opponents, The 1st Royal Leicesters "A" team, 9-4.

Unfortunately, in the next round of the competition, neither the skill of Timpany nor the hard work of the team could deliver us from a beating by the Leicester's "B" team with a score of 11-9. Our second team, too, suffered a similar fate from the same opponents' third team.

However, now that we are in a new location, with two basketball courts of our own, we face the future with confidence. In the first week of October we started the Inter-Company League, which will serve to promote a spirit of rivalry between Companies and it will give



everyone a chance to display any hidden talent he may possess in this direction. In addition, it will give valuable practice to those selected to play for the Unit.

In conclusion, a word of praise must be paid to the Pioneers who, despite other urgent calls, have worked splendidly to supply our needs in equipment in the minimum time.

Members of the Battalion "A" team were: Capt. J. Livemore, M.C., 2/Lt. B. Thomas, C.S.M. Tarrant, L/Sgt. Pascoe, L/Cpl. Hinshelwood, Lt. E. Osborne, C.S.M.I. Timpany, C.S.M. Jennings, Cpl. Small, L/Cpl. Yerby.

### HOCKEY

So far we have not been able to get down to much hockey in the New Territories owing to the lack of grounds and also equipment.

However, we soon hope to have a ground of some sort on the camp airstrip and enough serviceable sticks to start Inter-Company games and then outside 1st XI fixtures can be arranged. We have taken part in a six-a-side competition and we have had players in the Army Trials in Hong Kong and we are confident that we can produce a good 1st XI in next to no time once we have our own ground.

On August 17 the Battalion won the 27th Infantry Brigade six-a-side hockey competition and qualified to go forward to the Land Forces contest. In the semi-final we beat the 1st Royal Leicesters by 4 goals to 3 after extra time. This was a very close game and a gruelling pace was set by both sides in the hot sun. The extra time nearly finished us all but Lt. Bellers managed to score the winning goal a fraction of a second before the final whistle. Scorers were: Capt. Livemore 2, Lt. Bellers 2.

We then had to recover sufficient strength to take on 50th Field Squadron, R.E., in the final only 20 minutes later. However, we won this game fairly easily by 3 goals to 1, our scorers being Capt. Livemore 2, Lt. Clayden 1.

The team for both these games was as follows: Lt. K. J. Carter; C.S.M. Tarrant, O.R.Q.M.S. Waldron; Lt. P. G. V. Bellers, Capt. J. Livemore, M.C., Lt. B. K. Clayden.

We were represented at Army Trials in Hong Kong during September by O.R.Q.M.S. Waldron, C.S.M. Tarrant, Lt. K. J. Carter, Lt. P. G. V. Bellers, Capt. Livemore, M.C., and Major G. W. P. Hodding.

The hottest time of the day seemed to be picked for these trials and we had some very tiring games. Lt. B. K. Clayden and C.S.M. Tarrant were selected as reserves for the Army team.

### DEPOT OFFICERS' MESS NOTES

Six fine oil paintings belonging to the Officers' Mess, 2nd Battalion, have recently been repaired, restored and hung by Messrs. Daborn of Mill Hill, and on rearranging the hall and anteroom a place has been found for all of them.

The 1st Battalion "Steady the Drums and Fifes," painted by Lady Butler, is now back in its old position over the fireplace, and on either side are the colourful

portraits of Gen. Sir Thomas Picton, 5th Colonel of the 77th, 1811-1815, and Gen. Sir George Cooke, Colonel of the 77th, 1815-1834.

Lt.-Gen. Sir George Brown, Colonel of the 77th from 1850-1854, under whom the 77th served in the Crimea in the Light Division, faces the window; and Col. George Paris Bradshaw, who served with the 77th from 1808-1848, and commanded them for 20 years, has taken the place of the Duke of Cambridge, whose portrait now finds a better position in the hall.

Gen. Brown is flanked by two magnificent medal cases of the 2nd Battalion, one of which contains Pte. Wright's V.C., and is faced by the two 1st Battalion medal cases containing Dmr. Stagpoole's and C/Sgt. Gardiner's V.C.s. The original oil painting of Col. T. Graham Egerton and Sentry in the Crimea has also found a place. He commanded the 77th from 1850-1854 and was killed at Inkerman under particularly gallant circumstances.

The repair and cleaning of the 2nd Battalion silver has now been completed by Messrs. Carrington, and the majority is in their store for safe keeping. Some dozen or more items of particular and sentimental value have been placed in the Officers' Mess silver room and are displayed on special occasions.

It is hoped that all past and serving officers who are interested will in due course come to see the pictures and the silver.

### DEPOT NOTES

July to September was perfect for cricket and the ground came in for a good many matches by 10 Command Workshops and ourselves. The Middlesex Old Comrades played two matches and the Depot turned out on several occasions, visitors being the M.C.C. Colts, Amherst C.C., A.A. Ordnance Depot, and 10 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E. The 7th Battalion (T.A.) also played some enjoyable matches at Mill Hill.

During August 2/Lt. Marciandi came to us for three days on being newly commissioned from the R.M.A., Sandhurst. He was shown round the home of the Regiment and taken on a visit to the 7th Battalion (T.A.) at Hornsey. We hope to see two or three more young officers come through this winter who have close family ties with the Regiment.

We were sad to hear that Lt.-Col. Crawford was retiring and will always remember his and Mrs. Crawford's very close association with the Depot when he was O.C., 57 P.T.C., and later when the 1st Battalion was here. We were very glad to welcome Mrs. Crawford here in September, and Lt.-Col. Crawford later on his safe return home, and take this opportunity of wishing them all the best for the future. They will always be assured of a very warm welcome at the Depot.

We were very pleased to welcome Lt.-Col. Man on two occasions before he left to take over command in Hong Kong, and did our best to give him all the information he required. Mrs. Man also visited us with Mrs. Crawford, and a special meeting was arranged for them with the wives of those who are abroad with the Battalion. We hope to see a lot more of Mrs. Man both at the Children's Christmas Party and on other

occasions in future, and wish Lt.-Col. Man a successful and happy tour in command of the 1st Battalion.

Week-end camps for the Middlesex Army Cadet Force were held in September for the 461 (Middlesex) A.A. (C.) Regiment, R.A., 2nd (C.) and 9th (C.) Battalions, 5th (C.) and 7th (C.) Battalions in early October, in the Barracks. They were very successful and were followed by a course on October 22 and 23, attended by 30 Cadet N.C.O.s. Designed to improve their instructional ability, the course gave them the chance of taking a squad and class, and afterwards all said that they had had very good value for their week-end with us.

A Children's Christmas Tree Party Committee has been formed and many presents have already been bought in London, and preparations are also going ahead for a really good New Year's Eve dance.

Lt.-Col. N. G. Gilbert is now attached to the Depot pending retirement. He has obtained a very good job in West Africa and we wish him and Mrs. Gilbert the best of luck there. Major E. J. Unwin has been to see us; he is also retiring and will be a sad loss to the Regiment. Another visitor was Major P. D. H. Marshall, who had motored home from West Africa and is now posted to U.K., and he was followed by Capt. T. A. Moller, who we have not seen since 57 P.T.C. days.

The Colonel of the Regiment is as active and energetic as ever and only his duties at his Court keep him from coming to his office every day. His mail, from General to Private, and visitors of the same category, show no sign of decreasing.

On October 28 a most successful Officers' Club Cocktail Party was held at the Officers' Mess. Some 50-70 came, and we were delighted to welcome many old friends who we see much too seldom. Last-minute preparations were completed in a rush, as the rooms had just been rewired and redecorated, and the fine 2nd Battalion portraits had only just been received back from repairs after years of storage.

Among those we were particularly glad to see was Lt.-Col. Crawford, who looked none the worse for his trip to the Far East, and who gave us all the latest news of the Battalion.

On October 29, the O.C. Depot and Adjutant accompanied the Colonel of the Regiment to the ceremony of the unveiling of the War Memorial at Mill Hill School. We are arranging to keep up our liaison with the School by having parties of boys along to see the Museum and Mess Silver, and to shoot on the ranges.

With the concurrence of the Colonel of the Regiment the affiliation of Latymer Upper School C.C.F., Hammersmith, to the Middlesex Regiment has recently been approved. They were previously affiliated to the Kensingtons. We hope that this new affiliation will prove profitable both to them and the Regiment.

During recent weeks most of the Depot "Holdees" have been posted away, and we are now experiencing the difficulties of running the place on our bare establishment. Not the least of our problems is issuing coal to the 43 Married Quarters on our charge. In order to do this, Mess, Office and Q.M. staff and drivers are taken, and other work almost ceases till the job is done. We have rumours of a unit coming to occupy the

Barracks soon but nothing is firm yet; if one does come our maintenance problems would be eased a good deal.

Despite our commitments we turn out for a game of football on Wednesday afternoons and so far have played 10 Command Workshops and the A.A.O.D. Major Heywood distinguished himself on the wing with brilliant centring, but found he was a little out of touch with the latest rules. Some of the younger though bigger members of the opposition found play unexpectedly tough on that wing!

### ARMISTICE DAY, 1949

On Sunday, November 6, the Remembrance Service and ceremony of laying of wreaths at the Regimental War Memorial was held at the Depot.

At 10.40 a.m. the Depot party, consisting of 16 of the Depot staff and 14 R.A. attached under Capt. Thomas, followed by 60 Old Comrades led by Mr. G. Kerswill, marched to the gymnasium. Visiting relatives and friends then came in to make the congregation up to about 130.

The altar had been arranged at the west end with a Union Jack draped in the background, wreaths and flowers arranged and the Book of Remembrance placed in front.

This very moving service was conducted by our padre, the Rev. J. S. Naylor, C.F., and the Lessons were read by the Colonel of the Regiment, Col. M. Browne, and the O.C. Depot, Major R. C. H. Bellers. Miss Annette kindly played the piano for the hymns and Pte. Fleckney blew the Last Post and Reveille for the two minutes silence.

After the service the Depot party and the Old Comrades marched to the War Memorial, and when everyone had taken their places the following wreaths were laid: the Regimental Association, by the Colonel of the Regiment; the Depot, by the O.C. Depot; the 1st Battalion, by R.S.M. Weller; the Old Comrades, by Mr. G. Kerswill; the 3rd Battalion, by Mr. T. Harrison; private wreath, by Mrs. Blackman.

The Colonel of the Regiment then gave a short address welcoming all serving soldiers of the Regiment and the Royal Artillery and Old Comrades and their friends and relations who had come to pay their respects to the memory of those of the Regiment who had fallen in both World Wars. He reminded them ever to be mindful of those who had given their lives in the defence of their country, asking for no honour or reward but determined to maintain unblemished the glorious name of the Regiment.

The Colonel of the Regiment then presented to 2/Lt. B. Marciandi the Infantry Prize won by him as the best Infantry Cadet passing out of Sandhurst the last term. The prize consisted of a small silver statuette of an infantry soldier with silver regimental badge at the back, and the Colonel pointed out it was a great honour to win it and an excellent start to an officer's career.

Having taken up his position at the saluting base with the O.C. Depot, the Depot party and the Old Comrades then marched past him and dispersed to the Old Comrades Hut for refreshments.





### MUSEUM NOTES

Mrs. Arthur Horne of New Brunswick, Canada, daughter of the late C/Sgt. George Whelan, No. 2544, very kindly presented to our Museum her father's South African War Medal. C/Sgt. Whelan joined the Regular Army in 1889 and served 21 years with the Regiment. He served also at St. Helena. Unfortunately all other military data which C/Sgt. Whelan had was destroyed by fire. The Colonel has written to Mrs. Horne and thanked her for her very kind present.

C/Sgt. Whelan died on October 26, 1948, following a heart attack.

The 1/7th (T.A.) Battalion borrowed two Bandsmen's uniforms for their fun fair which they held on Saturday, September 17, 1949, at Priory Park, Hornsey. The two soldiers who wore these uniforms looked very smart indeed.

The following were presented to the Museum by Major Broderip :-

Two Hart's Army List, 1868-1870.  
One tomahawk.  
Two necklaces made of teeth.  
Four fish hooks.  
One carved wooden head.  
One carved wooden snuffbox.

Presented by Mrs. Rowley, wife of the late Brig.-Gen. F. G. M. Rowley :-

Two cups, LVII Albuhera.  
Two saucers.  
One milk jug.  
One egg cup.  
One Colonel's uniform.  
One pair dress spurs, dress belt, sash and sword.  
One cigar case.  
One photograph of the Crossing of De St. Quentin.  
One plume (feathered).  
One bugle, Battle of Loos, September 25, 1915.  
Two toast holders made from shell cases.

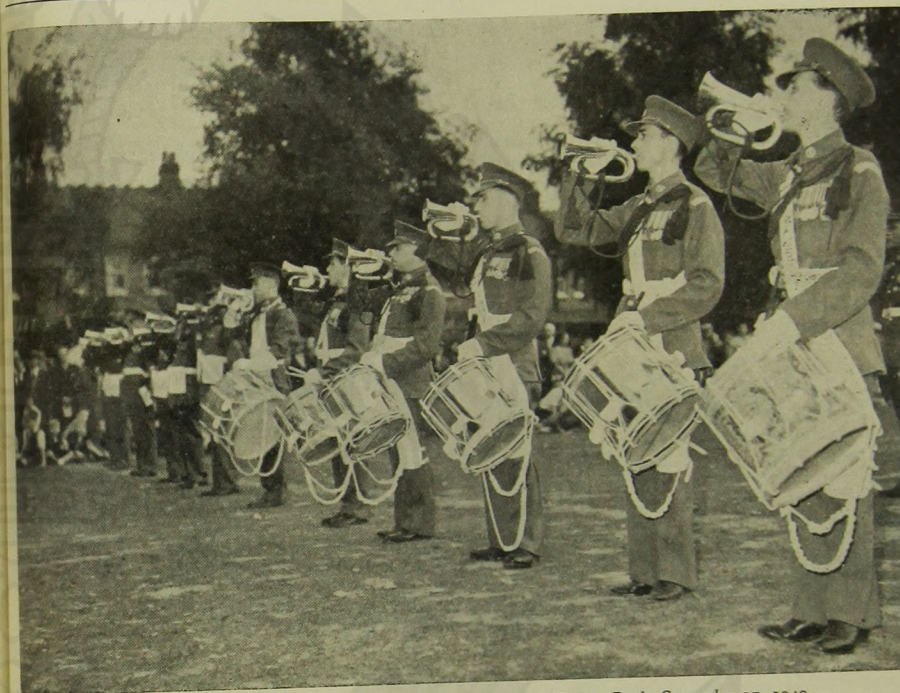
Sights of German M.G. II, November, 1918. Taken at Lassies, near Belgian Frontier.  
One German Lock M.G.  
One German rifle bolt.  
One chocolate box and one packet of cigarettes, Princess Mary's Christmas Gift, 1914.  
One German knife, taken at close quarters at St. Pierre. Shrapnel, December 19, 1917.  
Chessmen made from chalk of Somme. Taken from a German dugout at St. Pierre, November 20, 1918.  
A piece of the fringe of the 57th Regiment Colours carried at Albuhera, 1811.  
Rifle ammunition picked up March, 1915, at Battle of Loos.  
One German matchbox holder.  
Two Middlesex Public Works Pioneer Battalion badges.  
One German bayonet.  
One Middlesex Regiment helmet badge, 1905-1914.  
Three German helmet badges.  
One pair binoculars and case, and various diaries and photographs.

Mr. F. Endicott, ex R.S.M. of our Regiment, very kindly presented to the Museum "Fifteen Years' Soldiering and Travel in India" (approximately 25,800 words).

### 7th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

The Battalion, having closed for a month after annual camp in July, has been fairly active in the past two months. The first post-war Autumn Fun Fair was held in Priory Park on September 17, and, thanks to the fine weather and hard work by the Unit Recruiting Committee (Capt. Rawles, Lt. Garbett, Lt. Lloyd and C.S.M. Perry), it was considered to be a great success.

The officers and other ranks organised all the various stalls and sideshows, and the Corps of Drums "Beat Retreat" before a crowd of over 1,000 people in the evening. We were honoured by the presence of the Deputy Mayor of Hornsey (Councillor Cleary), the



The Corps of Drums, 7th Middlesex. Beating Retreat in Priory Park, September 17, 1949.

Colonel of the Regiment (Col. M. Browne, M.C., J.P., D.L.), the Hon. Colonel of the Battalion (Brig. H. A. D. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.) and our own Brigade Commander (Brig. J. O. E. Vandeleur, D.S.O.), together with a host of Old Comrades.

This was the first public performance by the Drums since they were re-formed in April this year, and a very creditable performance was given under the capable direction of Drum Major H. T. Poulter, to whom must go great praise for the hard work and enthusiasm shown by all. On October 22 the Drums took part in the opening of Savings Week in both Hornsey and Finchley, attracting a large crowd in both places.

It is hoped, before the next issue, to be able to give better news of the Battalion Band, which is also being re-formed, but, at present, we are sadly lacking in musicians.

The Battalion, having reached the final of the Cricket Championship for T.A. units in London District, were unfortunate to lose by seven wickets against a very good team from 482 (M.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A., in September. We batted first and scored 75 runs (R.S.M. Painter 16, Capt. Oehl 12, Lt. Lloyd 10); the excellent fielding of our opponents, together with a good average standard of bowling on a drying wicket, was responsible

for our low score. Unfortunately, when our opponents batted after tea, our own fielding and bowling was not up to its usual standard and they passed our total with 7 wickets in hand. If we had seized the opportunities offered early in the innings, our opponents might have had considerably more difficulty in passing our total.

In November the Battalion is holding a Recruiting Concentration from November 6 to November 12, when it is hoped that we will be able to encourage more recruits to join. We are, at present, very proud of our total, having reached three figures at last and hope that this steady increase will continue. The Week is being organised in the form of social entertainment every evening during the week, the motto of the week being "Service with Comradeship."

In the past month we were sorry to have to say good-bye to Sgt. Carter, who has been released to civilian life, and our best wishes go with him for success in the future. We were fortunate to secure Sgt. Morgan in his place, who was in the 1st Battalion pre-1939.

### 2/7th BATT. THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.) OLD COMRADES

The second dinner of the Old Comrades of the 2/7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) was held



at the Horse Shoe Hotel, Tottenham Court Road, W.1, on Friday, October 7, 1949. Just under 100 members of the Battalion were present, at which Lt.-Col. S. Mirams, M.C., T.D., D.L., took the Chair.

After the loyal toast and the toast to fallen comrades, Col. Mirams expressed the regret, shared by all those present, at the absence of the Colonel of the Regiment, who was unable to attend owing to another engagement. He especially welcomed the Battalion Padre, the Rev. G. H. Parks, M.C., and those members who had travelled long distances to attend. A unanimous vote of thanks was passed to Lt.-Col. R. E. Robotham, M.C., the secretary of the Club, for his work during the year and for organising the Dinner.

It was decided that the Dinner for 1950 should be held at the Horse Shoe Hotel on Saturday, October 7.

J.D.R.

#### 595 L.A.A./SL. REGIMENT, R.A. (9th BATT. THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT, D.C.O.), T.A. Annual Camp, August 14-28, 1949

The annual camp at Cleave, Cornwall, was a success from all points of view. The weather was wonderful and remained so during the 15 days. First class air co-operation during the training enabled a high standard of shooting to be attained, and many aircraft returned to base before time minus all towed targets.

The Regiment trained also in their new role, that of shooting at night with the aid of searchlights, and were most successful, shooting two wireless controlled targets out of the sky before either had been flying more than three minutes.

A very impressive Regimental Parade was held on Saturday, August 20. The honorary Colonel, Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., inspected the parade and presented T.A. Efficiency Medals to the following:—B.Q.M.S. M. Brindley, Sgt. R. Hughes, Bdr. W. Lockyer, Sgt. R. Packer, Gnr. F. Bradley and D. Fisher and Pte. A. Windows.

In addressing the Regiment he complimented them on their fine bearing, turn-out and high standard of training, and urged them to carry on the fine traditions of The Middlesex Regiment, of which they are a part.

Social and recreational activities were of the usual high order. Bathing parties were regularly to be seen on the beach at Combe Bay, where beach games were also part of the after duty relaxation. Coach parties were out every night visiting Bideford, Bude and Clovelly. Longer trips to Newquay and Ilfracombe were arranged at week-ends.

Guests to the camp included Major-Gen. G. W. E. Heath, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. 1st A.A. Group; Brig. B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., Capt. Wise and W/Comdr. Hulbert of the Middlesex T. and A.F. Association; Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, and Brig. R. G. Holmes, C.B.E.

This camp was voted first class, and 85 per cent. of the regimental strength attended for the full period and the remainder attended for the first or second week.

At the first parade after camp, at the T.A. Centre,

Kingsbury, one of the best attended parades took place, and the members of the Regiment were still talking about the fine camp, high standard of training and first class holiday they had enjoyed.

#### MOTOR CYCLE TRIALS

The Regimental team competed in the following Motor Cycle Trials: 1st A.A. Group Motor Cycle Trials at Brands Hatch, Kent, on September 18, 1949; London District Motor Cycle Trials at Bagshot on September 25, 1949; and the R.A. Motor Cycle Trials at Blackdown on October 2, 1949.

In the 1st A.A. Group Trials the Regiment achieved a very good result, being placed third in the event in which 33 teams competed, thereby qualifying to enter for the R.A. Motor Cycle Trials.

The final results of the London District and R.A. Motor Cycle Trials are not yet to hand, but the Regimental team put up a very good performance in both these trials, particularly B.S.M. N. Copcutt and Gnr. L. Butler.

#### T.A. REGIMENT'S RIFLE MEETING

595 L.A.A./SL. Regiment, R.A. (9th Bn. The Middlesex Regt. D.C.O.), T.A., commanded by Lt.-Col. H. W. W. Gray, M.B.E., T.D., recently held their first Annual Week-end Rifle Meeting since re-forming in May, 1947. The meeting was held at Purfleet Rifle Range and over fifty members of the Regiment, together with members of the O.C.A. and a team from "C" Battery 461 Cadet Regt. travelled down on the Saturday. The meeting commenced early on the Sunday morning, and although strong cross winds, rain and poor visibility lowered the standard of shooting, keen rivalry was exhibited during the competition.

The Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Col. G. Beach, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., arrived shortly before lunch, and on completion of the meeting presented the trophies and silver plaques to the winning Batteries and personnel of the Regiment.

Battery Rifle Cup—Schoil Cup—"P" Battery.  
Battery Rifle Cup—Passington Cup—"P" Battery.  
Individual Rifle Cup—Dancoek Cup—Gnr. L. Butler.  
Individual Rifle Cup—British Legion Challenge Cup—Gnr. F. Milson.  
Officers' Rifle Cup—Harris Bowl—Major H. M. L. Price.  
Sergeants' Rifle Cup—Challenge Cup (9th Battalion Sergeants' Mess)—Sgt. J. McCarthy.  
Regimental Champion Shot (Rifle and Bren) (All Ranks)—Harrow Rifle Challenge Cup—Gnr. A. Mason.  
Cadet Rifle Championship—Presented by 595 L.A.A./SL. Regt., R.A., to "C" Battery, 461 Middlesex A.A. (C) Regt., R.A., for competition at T.A. Regimental Rifle Meeting—Sgt. Luker.  
O.C.A. Champion Rifle Shot—Pewter Mug—Mr. Wagstaff.

Thanks of the Regiment were expressed to the O.C.A. for acting as butt markers and "C" Battery Cadets for acting as scorer telephonists and runners.

#### HORNSEY "DIE-HARDS" CLUB

Very little of note has happened since the last issue of the Journal was published except on the social side. A hitch in the affairs of the Darts Section was taken in

hand by the Chairman and now seems to be straightened out.

A good gathering of the ex-7th Battalion members turned up on Wednesday, October 19, as the Secretary had written round to the effect that a presentation was being made in the Club room to Major and Mrs. Denton. The presentation was sponsored by the members and honorary members of the N.C.O.s' Club, but a very good percentage of "Die-Hard" Club members had supported it, and turned up to see a very nice barometer presented to Major Denton and a compact to Mrs. Denton, on Major Denton's retirement from the Army.

Major Denton officially retired from the Army on October 1, after over 40 years' service, the last 19 of which have been directly connected with the 7th Battalion. He has rendered invaluable and untiring service both to the Battalion and to the "Die-Hards" Club during these years and it is indeed fortunate that he will still remain with us to continue his services in the future.

On Saturday, October 22, an "Alamein" reunion and social was held at the T.A. Centre. This was not as well attended as had been hoped, but those who did turn up had a most enjoyable evening. The proceedings were opened by a bugler of the Battalion sounding Last Post and Reveille, and the Corps of Drums of the Battalion then played the march "Old Comrades." Credit is due to all who had the arrangements in hand, and also to Lt.-Col. Johnson, T.D., for giving us the Saturday night to run the show.

HORNSEY "DIE-HARD."

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

At the time of writing these notes, we find ourselves at the end of the Territorial training year, and whilst we look back on the past year with some satisfaction, we must remind everyone that until we reach full strength our real object has not been achieved.

Annual camp this year was spent with the rest of 4 Parachute Brigade at Ludgershall Camp and the main party proceeded by road on Sunday, August 14. On arriving at the outskirts of the camp area the Battalion debussed and marched in with our newly formed Drums playing.

Training in camp very largely consisted of individual training with two full-scale Battalion exercises during the middle of each week, and the centre week-end being free for all ranks to do what they liked. Transport was laid on to Bournemouth, which proved very popular.

The Secretary of State for War visited the Brigade and watched each Battalion drop on Netheravon Airfield and in his speech afterwards emphasised the importance of the T.A. and how much he was impressed with the training he had seen.

A drum-head service was held in camp, followed by the Brigade marching past the Divisional Commander. The Colours of the 8th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment were carried by the Battalion for the first time since that Battalion was in camp in 1939. On the same afternoon the sports were held at Tidworth, and though

we did not win, it was apparent to all that our Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. Stephen Terrell, is not only active but agile.

We are sorry to say good-bye to our Q.M., Lt. George Drury, who, well known in the Middlesex Regiment, has at last left the Army, taking with him our best wishes. In his place we welcome Lt. Paddy Moran of the King's Own Royal Regiment.

#### "H.Q." Company Notes

"H.Q." Company have already fielded the Battalion football team, consisting mostly of their Company, under the wing of an old "Die-Hard" stalwart, Jack Haggerty. Their success this year remains to be seen.

Arnhem Day was celebrated by a reunion at the Drill Hall, organised by Sgt. (Blondie) Rea.

During the last year the Company have trained a cadre for the following platoons and sections in preparation to welcome those National Servicemen who will, we hope, be joining them in June next year: M.T. Platoon, Mortar Platoon, Carrier Platoon, Signals Section, Intelligence Section, Sniper Section.

#### "C" Company Notes

Now that camp and the annual close season is over we are starting our annual training programme again, with instructor training and advanced W.T. for the trained soldiers. We shall, as usual, have regular smokers and social evenings for our members and their friends and families. Friday evening each week is being set aside for badminton, fencing, shooting and other recreations and we hope that members' wives and friends will turn up in force to take part. Lastly, we have started forming a second platoon and by this time next year we want two full platoons with a third one started. If each Territorial can bring in one recruit we shall achieve our object.

#### "D" Company Notes

"D" Company has now had a year in its new quarters at Church Street, Edmonton. During this period its strength has doubled, and is now around the 30 mark. Apart from ex-airborne and other soldiers rejoining, a surprising proportion of sailors have come in and justified the Navy's reputation for versatility by becoming good parachutists and infantrymen.

The Company, with its affiliated Cadets, sent a boxing team to take up a challenge from "C" Company at Wealdstone last April, and won 3 bouts out of 6, losing the cup on the welterweight result. At home in Edmonton we have indulged in frequent social evenings with the British Legion and local darts teams. We are looking forward to a year of increasing activity on all fronts.

#### "ICH DIEN"

Winning essay on "Ich Dien" by Cadet D. Swallow, "C" Company, who received the prize of £1 1s. od. from the Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. F. L. Pettman.

Cadet Penstone, "H.Q." Company, was awarded a consolation prize of 5s.

These words, "Ich Dien"—I Serve, proud boast of an ancient King, now adorns our equally proud badges



and flags. It is merited because of the fighting record of the men who wore and bore them. These words, so easily said yet so difficult to accomplish, comprise many different ideals; the loyalty of a man to the country of his birth makes him wish to serve it; loyalty to his family and to his friends is the service of fellowship and goodwill. The loyalty of a soldier to his regiment or a sailor to his ship is also service. Loyalty to your colleagues and superiors is service of a cause and indirectly of your country. Service is self-sacrifice, the placing of other peoples more important interests before one's own petty problems.

In a soldier it is the placing of the well-being of his corps or his regiment, and thus ultimately his country, before his own interests. The readiness to sacrifice himself in the interests of the whole force or nation. It is the combined effort of every man that makes for the country's success.

The selfless patriots of our own Regiment, the men of the 57th who died so gallantly at Albuhera, and the 77th who attacked against such tremendous odds at Cuidad Rodrigo, knew the meaning of service to their country and the cause of freedom.

The men of the Middlesex Regiment gave their lives in the last two Great Wars, as had their ancestors before them, striving, we hope successfully, for the ideal of making this world a better place wherein to live.

This, the proud boast of a King, has become the equally proud ideal of a regiment. The motto is more than just a well-worn "tag," it is in fact the embodiment of all the selfless purpose which has animated men during the centuries in the service of their Regiment, King and country.

Now, the spirit of service has taken on yet another facet. In U.N.O. it has become the representative of the statesmen who are trying to place the ideal of world peace before even the demands of their own countries. They serve the ideal of the philosophers of the ages, a world in which all men respect and understand each other and live in mutual friendship and peace one with the other.

DENNIS SWALLOW.

#### MIDDLESEX REGIMENT WAR MEMORIAL

List of donations received from August 4 to November 3, 1949, inclusive.

£250.—Anonymous donor, per Lord Latham.

£117 17s. 1d.—Mr. A. W. Hillman (second payment on covenant).

£9 1s. 10d.—O.C. 595 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A. (9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, D.C.O.), T.A., further donation.

£5.—Mrs. John Whiteman, Queensbury Householders' Association; Lt. L. F. Baker (second payment on covenant); Brig. E. E. F. Baker (first payment on covenant).

£2 2s. 0d.—Major H. B. Williamson.

£2.—Mr. F. Harragan.

£1 3s. 3d.—Ladies Guild Collecting Box, further donation.

£1.—Mr. A. Todman (stamp collecting card).

5s.—Mr. P. Stephens; Mr. E. R. Furness.

2s. 6d.—Mr. J. R. Carter.

#### A JOURNEY THROUGH SOUTH AFRICA

By Lt.-Col. S. F. W. M. del-Court, M.C.

I left London on January 20 and had a calm and pleasant voyage in the *Athlone Castle*, arriving at Cape Town on February 3. There were some agreeable people on board including Hector West. The most well known passenger was probably Mabel Constandaras who gave an amusing show at one of the concerts.

I got up early the day we arrived to get my first glimpse of Table Mountain and to see if the tablecloth was laid or not. Often a white cloud lies on the mountain, but it was clear that day, a perfect summer day.

Cape Town itself is a town of quality with fine buildings, some skyscrapers, excellent shops and broad streets.

The country around the Cape reminds one of the South of France and in some ways of Hong Kong, excellent roads such as the Grand Corniche with hairpin bends and glimpses of lovely sandy bays with steep rocks behind them with the villas, white or gaily painted, perched precariously on some steep slope. It might be Biarritz, Naples or San Tropez or even possibly Cornwall except for the heat. I was soon introduced to the "tickey," a word I had not previously encountered. It is the old-fashioned threepenny bit. It is the most important coin in South Africa. It is the universal tip you give the boy for bringing you a drink or any other service. You cannot telephone without putting a "tickey" in the slot.

I stayed on my arrival at Fishhoek on the False Bay coast about 20 miles from Cape Town, not far from Simonstown, the naval base, a pleasant town very much like any other naval port, Portsmouth or Gibraltar. I spent a fortnight at a hospital above the town in a room overlooking the dockyard and a view across the bay to the Hottentot Hollands, a range of mountains running down to the sea. At sunrise the sun gradually appeared from behind the mountains and the colours were superb.

I spent another month in an excellent hospital in Cape Town itself and then we went to Hermanus, the Riviera of South Africa, and a fisherman's paradise. It is 70 miles from Cape Town, approached by a fine and well engineered macadamised road, which winds between well tended vineyards before ascending the magnificent Sir Lowry Pass. It continues through richly spectacular settings to Elgin, famed for its orchards and forests, and thence by way of the Houw Hoek Pass, from where colourful vistas of fertile wheatlands unfold.

The nearest railway station is at Bot River, 20 miles away. Not many years ago it was a simple fishing village, but it has become increasingly popular in recent years and rich stockbrokers from Johannesburg have built attractive villas there.

The sea fishing is amongst the best in the world. It is a dangerous coast, steep rocks and large rollers break over the rocks and sweep the fishermen into the sea. There are very strong currents and caution is needed. Each year there are fatalities. It is necessary to have a native ghillie, and you can easily get them through the hotel. They get you bait, take you to the likely spots, depending on the direction of the wind and tide. I

caught many galjoen, a deep and short fish averaging about 5 lbs. each. They are strong fighters and on being hooked try to dive to the bottom of the sea and get behind a reef. If they succeed your lines are invariably broken. It is better to hold them at the beginning of the fight and steer them, if at all possible, into open water. Landing them on this rocky shore is full of difficulties and one gets immense satisfaction when the fish is finally in the bag. There are many other varieties to be caught, and some of the bigger fish take a spinner. I was convalescing and fished with only light tackle. When I first arrived I fished one day at False Bay from a yacht and caught some big fish, Cape salmon and cod, the largest over 40 lbs. There is an excellent golf course at Hermanus and the hotels are first class. It is the only place I know in the Union where the waiters are not natives or Indians. They are white girls, daughters of local farmers and are bilingual, speaking English and Afrikaans.

After a month at Hermanus I started on my travels. The distances between different places are immense in this vast country, and it is hardly surprising that the roads vary greatly. In time all the main roads will be tarmac, but the cost is great. The gravel roads are very dusty and corrugated. I was told one should drive over these roads at not less than 40 miles an hour, and indeed that is quite true. One jolts less than when riding at a slower speed. I had relied on the advice of a friend out here. He had ordered me a Studebaker, which was waiting for me on my arrival. They are 21 h.p., and are looked on out here as quite a small car, in fact many men who own a huge Cadillac, Buick or Hudson have a Studebaker Champion as a runabout for their wives. Gradually English cars are becoming more popular, but they are sometimes referred to as "tar babies," implying that they are alright on the excellent roads in and around the towns, but not so hot on the gravel national roads.

The Studebaker is certainly an excellent car. I never had an involuntary stop or puncture, or any trouble. One advantage of an American car is that all garages understand them, there is an agency in every town and the charges for servicing are the same at every garage.

I spent the first night after leaving Hermanus at the "Wilderness," a luxurious hotel and a famous beauty spot; it seemed to have been created for honeymoon couples.

Next day I passed along a string of lakes over a shocking road to Knysna. This is another very good fishing centre, both loch and sea, and also renowned for its boating. Here one finds a mighty forest where the last members of a tribe of wild elephants, said to be the largest in the world, still live. I did not come across them on my way to Plettenberg, where I stayed for nearly a fortnight. The hotel is built on an island in the sea and is linked to the mainland by a causeway carrying a road. It was once a whaling station and is now a popular holiday resort. The country near there is very picturesque and wooded. The road climbed and descended many passes. I arrived at the "Forest Inn" in the Tzitzikama Forest and close to the sea at Storms River. I went down to the sea in the hotel jeep, over an appalling road, so steep that I had no intention of

risking going down in my own car and not being able to get up. It was worse than any test hill I have seen. The sea was rather rough and although I fished for two or three hours I never touched anything.

I moved on to Port Elizabeth. Everyone out here calls it "P.E." It is a thriving town and a busy port. I was there on Empire Day, a word I thought was out of favour, but I was in time at 9 o'clock in the morning to see the Mayor emerge from the church in his robes accompanied by the Aldermen and lay a wreath on Queen Victoria's statue.

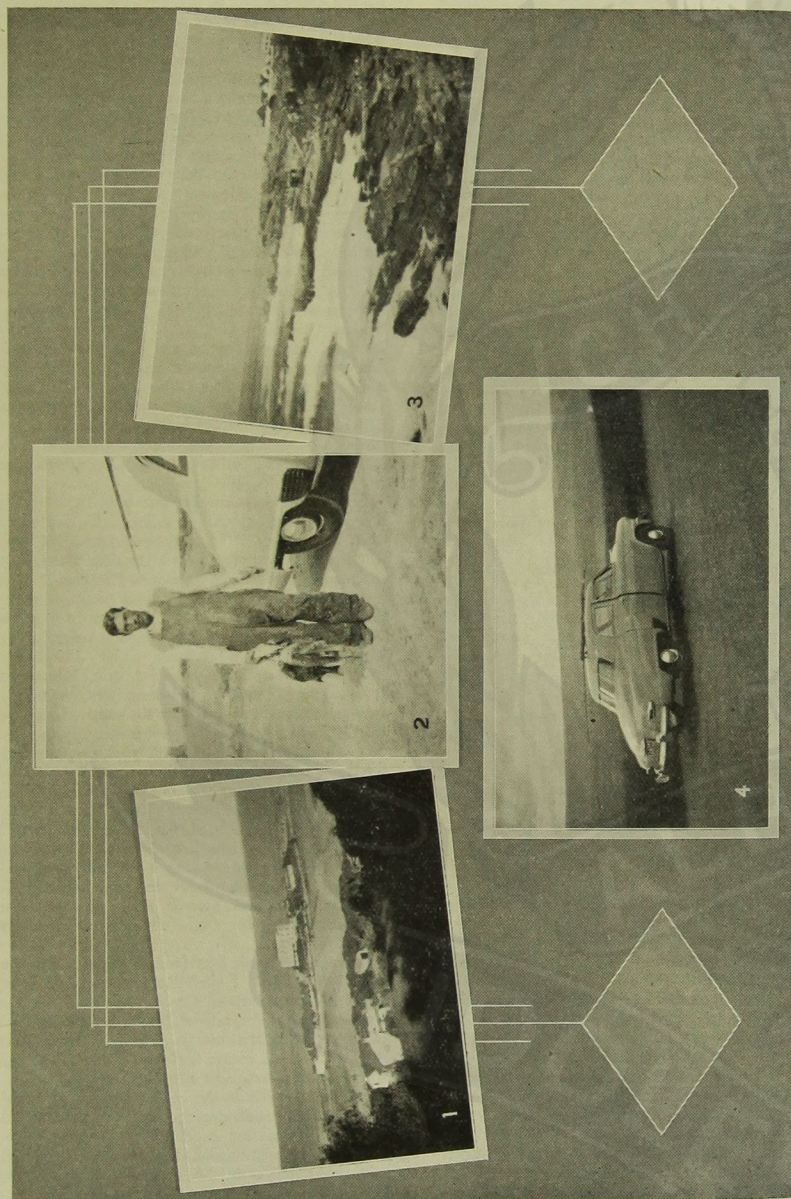
From "P.E." I motored to Grahamstown, where I had lunch. It is a university town, and there are many schools there as well. It is an attractive and well laid out town. At the end of the High Street is a fine old gateway with sentry boxes on each side and a lamp above the central arch, which leads not to a barracks but to Rhodes University College. After lunch I drove to East London, another port and a pleasant seaside town. I had been recommended to stay at the Beach Hotel on the front, which I did and found very good. The reason I had been told to go there was that East London has suffered terribly from a continuous drought for the last three years and water is strictly rationed. My hotel had hot seawater laid on and one could have a hot salt-water bath.

From East London I went into the Transkei, the native territory, a tract of country the size of Holland. The native reserve, as such parts are called, are closed to European settlement and are administered through the Ministry of Native Affairs in Pretoria. The scenery was grand but from an agricultural point of view dreadful owing to the prolonged drought and soil erosion. In the course of the next few days I travelled up from Umtata to the Natal border.

Umtata is a small city with a little Gothic cathedral. It is a pretty place in grand mountain country, miles from anywhere. I came from the south along a beautiful road where you can see enormous distances, passed native huts like mushrooms on the high places, aloe and prickly pear on the side of the roads. I stayed the night at Umtata in a delightful hotel and had a better meal than you can get in London today. Next day I lunched at Kokstad, surrounded by mountains with Mount Currie behind it. It is a small place with fine shops and roads with pleasant houses. I went for an hour's walk round the town before lunch and saw blanketed Pondos, Tembus and other natives strolling about the town shopping with their wives all in attractive native costumes.

In the afternoon I arrived at Pietermaritzburg, the capital of Natal. I stayed three days and enjoyed it. Many Indian Army officers have retired there and one suburb, built on a hill overlooking the city, is known as "Poona" for that reason. There is a splendid country club with tennis courts and a well laid out golf course; another golf course and the Victoria Club in the centre of the city. It lies in the hollow and though it is nearly 3,000 feet above sea level it can be very hot indeed in the summer. There are good polo grounds. When I was there the polo championship was in full swing, and I saw the holders of the cup, Natal, beaten by East Griqualand.





3. Coast at Hermanus.

2. Naitive Ghillie with a few Galjoen.

1. Beacon Island Hotel, Plettenberg Bay.

4. Car:—Note the fishing rods on roof.

I visited the Voortrekker Museum. It is a modest building devoted to the relics of that not so distant day. What interested me most, however, was the bird sanctuary. Every evening as dusk begins to fall you hear the sound of wings, the birds arrive from all directions, some in flocks and others singly. There is a five-acre lake surrounded by a park where you see every kind of wildfowl, teal, mallard, stately cranes and egrets who fly in to spend the night there and leave at dawn for their feeding grounds.

I moved on to Durban which is 56 miles away on a fine and hilly road with numerous hairpin bends. On my way I stopped for morning coffee at the hotel of a Thousand Hills. I admired the view, the most well-known view in the Union after the Table Mountain.

I stayed for ten days at the Durban Club. It is very like any other well run club in the East and the servants were Indian. Durban is, I imagine, not unlike some cities in the States. There are numerous skyscrapers, broad streets, very good shops and stores, excellent hotels and cinemas. There is a racecourse in the middle of the town and the links of the Royal Durban Golf Club in the middle. There is a country club close to the sea, an airport with a first class and very sporting golf course which is kept in first class order. I was not really surprised when I saw 50 Indian women weeding one of the fairways. There are several other excellent golf courses in the neighbourhood as well as a municipal course.

The fishing can be very good indeed and huge fish are caught each year as well as sharks. Early in July large shoals of sardines, several miles in length, move up the coast from the south pursued by the big fellows. To escape they come into the rivers and harbours, and the fun starts. In June everyone is on the "qui vive," and the newspapers report that the sardines have been seen moving north, only for it to be contradicted next day. They had not arrived by the time I left and it is no good trying till they do come in.

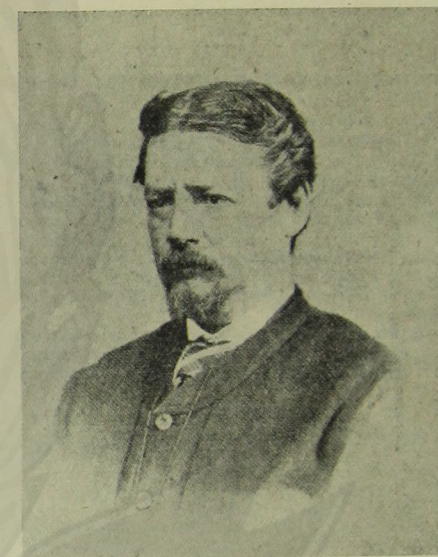
I returned to Pietermaritzburg, and after two days went on to Volksrust for the night. I lunched at Lady-smith and took the opportunity of visiting the charming English church, which is almost in itself a war memorial of the South African War. In the centre of the church, on both sides of the aisle, are two small chapels, and on the walls memorial tablets of nearly every Regiment. The tablet of our 2nd Battalion is between those of the 1st Battalion the South Staffordshire Regiment and the 1st Battalion K.R.R. It has the 2nd Battalion crest on the top and underneath the names of about 30 officers and other ranks who were killed. The first five names were Capt. Muriel, Lt. Galbrath, 2/Lts. Lawley and Wilson and Bandmaster Howard. I tried to take a photo but the church was very dark and it did not come out.

After Volksrust I left the main road and went through hilly and wooded country to White River near Nelspruit. I spent two nights there and took the opportunity of having lunch with a school friend and visiting some of his farms. Hall's father had started farming there before the Boer War. It is the largest citrus estate in South Africa, consisting of 17 farms all about 6,000 acres each. They have their own railway siding where

the grape fruit and oranges are graded and packed in boxes for England and the hotels in the Union. In addition to the citrus industry they do a large trade in winter vegetables. I was most interested and it seemed a most efficiently run show.

(To be continued)

### THE RESCUE OF A "DIE-HARD" GAINED THE FIRST V.C. PRESENTED



From a Photo by W. P. Floyd, Hong Kong  
Rear-Admiral H. J. Raby, C.B.

Rear-Admiral H. J. Raby, C.B., has the distinction of being the first man upon whose breast the Queen pinned the Victoria Cross; the ceremony took place in Hyde Park, opposite Grosvenor Gate, on Friday morning, June 26, 1857. Admiral Raby then held the rank of Commander. It was while serving as lieutenant with the Naval Brigade in the trenches before Sebastopol that this heroic officer gained his V.C. After the first disastrous attack on the Redan, our officers and men retreated towards the trenches in as orderly a manner as possible, although scores of gallant fellows fell during that same retreat.

On reaching the sorry "shelter" of the trenches, which were simply ploughed with shot and shell and rifle bullets, Lt. Raby heard a cry of pain. Looking up, he saw lying on the missile-swept slope outside, one of the 57th—a raw recruit who had come straight from England to join the famous old "Die-Hards" of Albuhera.



The wounded man lay some 80 or 90 yards beyond the breastwork, and was repeatedly seen trying to rise; this he was utterly unable to do, however, having been shot through both legs. Young Raby's mind was at once made up. Calling for assistance, two seamen of his brigade—Henry Curtis and John Taylor—promptly responded, and the three heroes rushed out towards their helpless comrade. Eye-witnesses tell how the ground around them was instantly swept by a perfect hail of missiles, poured forth by the riflemen who swarmed on the ramparts of the Redan. Unheeding, the little rescue party raised the prostrate youth and quietly bore him in under cover, amid the enthusiastic cheers of their comrades in the trenches.

#### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF REGULAR SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN

A new A.C.I. will shortly be published to replace A.C.I. 742 of 1948, which deals with resettlement information and advice service. This A.C.I. will seek to give more prominence than hitherto to the functions of the National Association for the Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen in connection with resettlement procedure. In addition the last Annual Report (for 1948) of the Association is to be distributed down to units through the Army Publications Depot.

In the meantime it would be greatly appreciated if you would give prominence in your regiment—perhaps through the media of regimental magazines and journals—to the objects of the Association, the scope of its activities, the measure of its success and its importance to all infantry soldiers.

The declared object of the National Association is to recommend to employers selected men of good character and of all qualifications and trades, and in connection with this the Association seeks:—

(a) To discover in each man his existing and potential employment value in civil life by close enquiry into his character, past experience (both in and out of the Service), hobbies and family surroundings;

(b) to inspire employers with a true appreciation of the value of these men;

(c) to provide much needed guidance to men ignorant of the commercial and industrial world regarding the best chance of earning a living (particularly long service men who, by virtue of their service, often abroad, have lost personal contacts), and to help them to solve the often difficult problems created or intensified by domestic responsibilities and restricted choice of residence.

It is of course, true that the general planning for the resettlement of the Regular rests with the Government, which is engaged through committees of the Ministry of Labour and National Service in implementing proposals both for training and for negotiating vacancies in various fields of employment. The National Association has no desire, nor is it qualified, to compete with the Ministry of Labour's Employment Exchanges. The Association does, however, claim to be in touch, through its job finders, with many vacancies in fields of employ-

ment which would not normally come to the notice of the Ministry of Labour's officials, and claims, quite justly, to provide the special help which past experience has proved to be needed by many ex-Service men and particularly by ex-Regulars.

In connection with the success of the Association you may be interested to know that 49,845 Army personnel who registered or re-registered in 1948, 38,652 were placed. These figures include non-Regulars who were entitled to the help of the Association. The figures for Regulars only were 11,236 registered and 11,107 placed.

I am sure you will agree that the aims and the results are worthy of more publicity and, although I shall publish them in the Infantry Bulletin, I shall be most grateful if you will act on my suggestion above and for anything else you can do to make the aims and objects of the National Association better known throughout the Infantry and more fully utilised by Regulars leaving the Service.

#### ROMFORD NOTES

Since our notes appeared in the June issue of the journal we have increased our membership by two, one through the direct medium of our regimental magazine. We are still open for more members and can promise that any new members will get a warm welcome amid very congenial surroundings at our H.Q.

For those of you who care to visit us, announced or unannounced, we extend a hearty welcome. The address is: 4th Essex Home Guard (O.C.A.) Headquarters, 25 Market Place, Romford, Essex, and we meet at 8 p.m. on the first Thursday in every month. There is a very well stocked bar, a nice lounge with piano, and darts, billiards and snooker as well as table tennis. Any visitors?

Most unfortunately it has not yet been possible to work out any social programme due to the fact that the majority of our members are working on the shift system in their various employments. We have not sufficient strength to be able to fix up visits to various other clubs due to this but it is our hope and aim to remedy this failing.

Again we say to any "Die-Hard" living in the eastern area of London and in Essex, if you want to join us write to our secretary, Mr. T. G. Fitzgerald, 142 Osborne Square, Dagenham, Essex.

We bid all "Die-Hards" wherever they may be a very Merry Christmas and the Brightest Prospects for the New Year 1950, with special emphasis for Colonel Man and his "Merry Men" in Hong Kong.

#### NEWS FROM INDIVIDUALS

Sgt. D. Hunter, pre-war 2nd Battalion, is now employed as Officers' Mess Sergeant with the Depot, South Lancashire Regiment, Peninsula Barracks, Warrington, Lancs., and on completing his Colour Service hopes to remain in his present employment as a civilian caterer.

Sgt. Hunter is well known to all pre-war 2nd Battalion personnel as a hockey player.

Correspondence received re the late Capt. M. W. Farrow.

Major R. C. H. Bellers,  
Commanding Officer, The Depot,  
The Middlesex Regiment,  
London, N.W.7.

October 31, 1949.

Dear Sir,

May I express to you, and through you to all ranks of the Regiment, the very sincere thanks and appreciation of the family and relatives of the late Capt. M. W. Farrow, who died on October 23, for the beautiful wreath and tribute paid to him by the Regiment which was officially represented at his funeral at Brighton in the person of Capt. L. Honeybun. The deceased was a "son of the Regiment" indeed, for he spent the greater part of his life in, and for the Regiment. He was a living example, especially in his more active days, of the motto of the Regiment "I Serve."

My own personal contact with him, almost daily, during the past thirty years, makes me proud indeed to think that I was privileged to have served (1914-18 War) with a Regiment that produces such splendid "sons."

Yours faithfully,

J. E. HARRINGTON  
(Son-in-Law).

November 8, 1949.

Dear Editor,

During my work with the Imperial War Graves Commission I came across the enclosed photograph of

a monument erected to the memory of those of the Royal 1 Middlesex Regiment buried in St. Symphorien Military Cemetery, Belgium.

The enclosed note is extracted from a report on this memorial which one of our staff in Belgium has sent me.

I expect the Regiment know all about it but I thought you might care to see the photo and the note. Would you be good enough to let me have the photo back in due course as it is our only copy and the negative cannot be traced.

Yours sincerely,

T. F. G. CARLESS  
(late Captain, 5th Battalion).

Extract from letter from T. A. Turner, N.W.E.D., to Mr. T. F. G. Carless, M.C., dated October 18, 1949.

The Middlesex memorial is in the centre of Plot III of St. Symphorien Military Cemetery, and bears the inscription "Here repose 46 English Soldiers of the Royal Middlesex Regiment" on the front of the stone. Actually (for the sake of accuracy) there are 44 Middlesex 1 Royal Irish Regiment and 1 Gordon Highlander in Plot III. There is no other inscription on this memorial which is also of grey granite, and which is in very good condition.

The thuya trees in the background of the photograph and the oak hedge do not now exist, the trees having been moved before 1939 and replanted outside the right hand boundary of Plot III. The shrubs and trees in the middle distance have grown and they fill in the background.

There is another memorial also erected by the



St. Symphorien M.C., Belgium. (Plot III)



Germans in Plot VI. This is to the memory of the Royal Fusiliers and the Royal Irish Regiment, and I enclose a rough sketch which may be of interest. This memorial is the one shown on the Register Plan to the south of the G.W.C.

From local information it is learned that Prince Ruprecht of Bavaria inaugurated the three memorials in 1917.

I remember in the old days we had a record that the first British soldier killed in the 1914-18 War, Pte. J.

Parr, Middlesex, August 21, 1914, was buried in this cemetery. If this is authentic it may be of interest to record that since the removal of the bodies of Pte. J. L. Price, Canadian, and the two others from Havre Old Communal Cemetery to St. Symphorien, the cemetery now holds the first soldier and the last soldier killed in the 1914-18 War. It is also noted that Lt. M. Dease, V.C., who we always regarded as the first soldier to earn the V.C. in France in 1914, is buried in this cemetery.

### OFFICERS LIST—Regular Army

NOTE—The Journal Committee have decided that only amendments to this list will be published, unless the number of amendments require republication of the entire list. A revised list will be published with the September issue annually, so will readers kindly retain this copy for reference

Rank and Name	Appointment	Address
Col. W. H. V. Jones, O.B.E.	Inspector of Trooping	South-Western Hotel, Southampton
Col. S. F. Hedgcoe	Officer i/c Records	St. Johns House, Warwick
Col. F. Walden		H.Q., British Troops in Egypt and Mediterranean Command, M.E.L.F.
Col. J. G. E. Reid	Director of Labour	H.Q., Rhine Army, B.A.O.R. 1
Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O.	Officer Commanding, Retiring	1st Battalion, Hong Kong, F.E.L.F.
Lt.-Col. A. M. Man, O.B.E.	Officer Commanding Designate	do.
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton	Labour Directorate	H.Q., Rhine Army, B.A.O.R. 1
Major M. A. Jacob		H.Q., Ceylon Garrison, P.O.B. 532, Colombo
Lt.-Col. L. H. J. de la M. Herepath		Lloyds Bank Ltd. (Cox's & King's), 6 Pall Mall, S.W.1
Major P. D. H. Powell		The War Office (INF 2), London, S.W.1
Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O.		6th Battalion King's African Rifles, P.O.B. 2000, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanganyika
Major R. W. D. Sword, M.C.		1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment c/o O.C. Depot
Major H. Marsh		Rostrevor, Fleet, Hants.
Major F. B. Whiting		1 Grange Mansions, Tottenham, N.20
Brig. G. P. L. Weston, D.S.O., O.B.E.	Joint Services Staff College, Latimer, Bucks.	Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7
Lt.-Col. R. A. Gwyn		1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment
Major R. C. H. Bellers	O.C. Depot	Billingbear Lodge, Binfield, Bracknell, Berks.
Major G. Lerwill, M.C.	Second-in-Command	Lloyds Bank Ltd. (Cox's & King's), 6 Pall Mall, S.W.1
Major J. E. F. Willoughby	Joint Services Staff College	1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment
Major G. O. Porter		V.I.S.T.R.E., Netheravon, Wilts.
Major T. W. Chattey	H.Q., F.A.R.E.L.F., Singapore	Royal Military Academy, Camberley, Sandhurst, Surrey
Major A. S. J. de S. Clayton		Lloyds Bank Ltd. (Cox's & King's), 6 Pall Mall, S.W.1
Major W. P. M. Allen, M.C.		23 Rosary Gardens, London, S.7
Major J. W. G. Ormiston		6th Liaison H.Q., Jever, B.A.O.R. 25
Major A. G. Hewitt, M.C.		Lloyds Bank Ltd. (Cox's & King's), 6 Pall Mall, S.W.1
Major C. M. M. Man, M.C.	War Office	do.
Major G. B. Ayre		do.
Major H. M. F. Langley	7th Signal Training Regiment, Catterick Camp	do.
Major J. G. Chiverall		R.A.F. Staff College, Bracknell, Berks.
Major G. C. Dawson		41 Imber Close, Esher, Surrey
Major P. D. H. Marshall		Lloyds Bank Ltd. (Cox's & King's), 6 Pall Mall, S.W.1
Major I. H. Battye, M.B.E.		M.S. Branch, G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.
Major D. C. L. Nolda		1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, Hong Kong
Major A. R. Waller, M.C.	G.H.Q., F.E.L.F., Malaya	2a Endsleigh Gardens, Surbiton, Surrey
Major R. K. B. Allott, M.C.	H.Q., 27th Brigade, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea	47 Cassiobury Road, Watford, Herts.
Major F. J. Bennett	Staff Captain	1st Battalion, Hong Kong
Capt. J. W. Doyle, M.C.		Lloyds Bank Ltd. (Cox's & King's), 6 Pall Mall, S.W.1
Major I. R. Burrows, M.B.E.		33 Montague Square, W.1
Major P. Collins		50 Beechcroft Avenue, Croyley Gardens, Herts.
Capt. St. G. McC. Young	H.Q., H.C.D., Shorncliffe	Military School of Science, Shrivenham
Capt. P. L. Crutchfield		1st Battalion, Hong Kong
Capt. H. N. McL. Martin		do.
Capt. P. L. Pearce Gould	War Office	H.Q., 28th Indian Infantry Brigade, Hong Kong, F.E.L.F.
Capt. R. D. Hutchings	W.O. (A.G.2(O))	Barclays Bank Ltd., Sevenoaks, Kent
Capt. D. Sax		7th Battalion Drill Hall, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8
Capt. G. Kent		
Capt. D. B. Rendell, M.B.E., M.C.		
Capt. C. N. Clayden	Staff Captain	
Capt. S. E. Honess		
Capt. E. A. H. Jeffcoat	Adjutant	

### OFFICERS LIST—Regular Army (continued)

Rank and Name	Appointment	Address
Capt. P. W. Galvin		Sierra Leone Regiment, Sierra Leone, West Africa
Capt. J. B. Matthews		15 Pembroke School, Mulberry Close, Hendon
Capt. M. F. Leonard		Lloyds Bank Ltd. (Cox's & King's), 6 Pall Mall, S.W.1
Capt. J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.		1st Battalion, Hong Kong
Capt. Eales, A.D.C.		Middle East Centre for Arab Studies, Lebanon
Capt. C. H. Mievile, M.C.		1st Battalion, Hong Kong
Lt. P. G. V. Bellers		1st Battalion, Hong Kong
Capt. M. E. W. Morton		London University, Imperial House, South Kensington, S.W.7
Major R. E. Orr, M.C.		3rd Paratroop Battalion, A.A.C., B.A.O.R.
Capt. J. de Gaye		Western Union Defence Organisation, B.A.O.R.
Lt. J. S. C. Flavell	Adjutant	1st Battalion, Hong Kong
Lt. K. J. Carter	Assistant Adjutant	do.
Lt. B. A. M. Pielow		do.
Lt. A. N. Jordan		82 Marina, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex
Lt. H. J. A. Moore		1st Battalion, Hong Kong
Lt. R. A. Hodge		do.
Lt. J. C. Bucknall		do.
Lt. H. J. Evans		do.
Lt. G. G. Norton		do.
Lt. B. H. Marciandi		do.

### QUARTERMASTERS

Major H. Farrow, M.B.E.		Depot, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill
Major P. F. Newman		1st Battalion, Hong Kong
Capt. C. A. M. Trestain, M.B.E.		7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (T.A. Centre), Drill Hall, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8

### LIST OF SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

Rank and Name	Appointment	Address
Capt. V. A. Thomas, M.C.	Adjutant, Depot	Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7
Capt. L. T. Honeybun		30 Heathfield Gardens, Brent, N.W.11
Capt. F. G. Ashby, M.M.	Eastern Command	20 St. Heliers Avenue, Hounslow, Middlesex
Major L. G. Lohan	Lloyds Bank, Cox's & King's Branch, Pall Mall, S.W.1	125 Havering Road, Romford, Essex
Major E. W. Holding	"Fairlea," Chester Road, Little Sutton, Wirral, Cheshire	88 Special Investigation Section, R.M.P., B.A.O.R.
Major H. Lambert	Lloyds Bank Ltd., Cox's & King's Branch, Pall Mall, S.W.1	Capt. L. Hunt
Major H. G. Wilde	217, D.C.R.E., B.A.O.R.	Capt. W. P. Lawrie
Major F. L. Gray, M.C.	Lloyds Bank Ltd., Cox's & King's Branch, Pall Mall, S.W.1	Capt. E. L. Ellisdon
Major F. N. Howarth	No. 2 Dog Company, R.M.P., M.E.L.F.	Capt. L. W. Driver
Major F. R. A. Hill	1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), Hong Kong	Capt. F. V. Simes
Capt. P. F. Smyth	H.Q., Eastern Command, Hounslow, Middlesex	Lt. D. F. Cutts
Major E. C. Morey	Barclays Bank Limited, 37 Hill Road, Wimbledon, S.W.19	Capt. K. G. Harvey
Major R. H. Last	Lloyds Bank Ltd., Cox's & King's Branch, Pall Mall, S.W.1	Lt. F. C. Brown
Major E. F. H. Earle	H.Q., Sierra Leone and Gambo District, West Africa	Lt. V. A. L. Holding
Lt. R. G. Taylor		Capt. R. W. J. Smith





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