

The Die Hards

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



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THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN)

(57)

The Plume of the Prince of Wales. In each of the four corners the late Duke of Cambridge's Cypher and Coronet.
 "Mysore," "Serangapatam," "Albuhera," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyrenoes," "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," "17, 18," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "17, 18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg,"
 "Bellewaarde," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "18," "Albert, 1916," "18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood,"
 "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Fiers-Courcolette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "18," "Bapaume,"
 "1917," "18," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "18," "Arleux," "Plickem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road,"
 "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre,"
 "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrouck," "Baileuil," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal
 du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtal," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy,
 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suvla," "Landing at Suvla," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915,"
 "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18,"
 "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murmur, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

Regular and Militia Battalions.

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

Territorial Army Battalions

1/7th Bn. 2/7th Bn. 8th 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.
 102nd (Wentworth) Field Artillery, Royal Canadian Artillery.
 The Royal Rifles of Canada.

Allied Battalion of Australian Infantry.

57th Bn. Prestosa.

Allied Regiment of New Zealand Military Forces

The Wellington Coast and Taranaki Regiment
 Toki, 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 TRIPLICATE, AND BE ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY, and signed, stating whether it is desired to publish the contributor's name or not. Rejected manuscripts, etc., will only be returned if accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope. The Editor will thankfully receive communications from past or present members of the Regiment or others interested, but necessarily reserves to himself the right of publication. All contributions 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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Editor: Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E.

EDITORIAL

After all the doubts and delays which occurred in producing the December number, it is a great relief to know that, for the March issue, we have all the material in to time.

We feel that an apology is due to some of our contributors as it was found necessary to omit some items in December owing to lack of space. However, this is, in point of fact, an advantage to the Editor, as we badly need a reserve of articles if we are to be able to vary the readers' diet.

Talking of diet, we must remark that we were thankful that our own Christmas season had been quiet and frugal, otherwise we might have been nauseated by the task of sorting the material for this number. Every item seemed to contain references to food or drink, and if one was not reading of happily jammy and replete children one was faced by photos and yet more photos of men and glasses. Fortunately, cost of reproducing saves our readers getting the same surfeit of evidence that the festive season was indeed well and truly kept.

We congratulate Lt.-Cols. A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E., and S. F. W. M. del Court, M.C., on their engagements, and to the former on the award of the O.B.E. in the New Year Honours List.

Many of our readers will also have noticed with pleasure the award of the C.B.E. to Col. W. H. V. Jones, whose work for trooping has thus been acknowledged.

OBITUARIES

It is with regret that we have to record the death of an old comrade, Mr. Doel, at his home in Slough. He was embodied in July, 1914, his number being 14784. He was in France from the following October till July, 1915, and fought at Hill 60 and the Battle of the Somme, where he was wounded and sent home to Netley Hospital, Southampton. He returned to France and was again wounded and, after treatment in Northern Hospital, London, returned to France in January, 1916. He fought at Salonika and was again wounded and his leg was amputated in a hospital in Malta in February, 1916. After a long period in hospital he was finally discharged in 1918, after which, despite his artificial leg, he worked as an auxiliary postman, and later as a night telephonist, until his retirement through ill-health in February, 1949. His funeral was attended by Mr. E. Paris, who represented the Association.

The late Mr. E. W. Pasby died December 14, 1949, aged 77 years, whilst an in-patient at Isleworth Hospital, and was buried on Wednesday, December 21, 1949, at

New Isleworth Cemetery. A wreath was sent by the Regimental Association and a representative of the Depot attended the funeral. Mr. Pasby enlisted for the Middlesex Regiment on June 14, 1890, and was discharged to pension on July 31, 1900. He was wounded at Spion Kop on January 24, 1900, and as a result of his wound his right foot was amputated. Mr. Pasby was one of the first occupants of the Cottage Homes built after the South African War, and had to voluntarily vacate it in May, 1947, when he was first admitted to hospital.

We regret to record, also, the death, on December 29 last, of Lt.-Col. P. H. Graves, D.S.O.

We also have to record the death of ex-C.S.M. Haines, of 137 Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, whose funeral took place on February 4, and was attended by C.S.M. Maloney of the Depot. The Regimental Association sent a wreath.

DEATH

CHALLIS.—On November 17, at 8 Lowick Road, Harrow, in his 90th year after a very short illness, George Challis, widower, a resident of Hampstead for 85 years. Laid to rest in the family grave at Highgate Cemetery on November 22, an ideal husband, a fond parent and a good friend. R.I.P.

Volunteer of the '70s

Member of the Hampstead Companies of the old 3rd Middlesex Rifle Volunteers, the 1st Volunteer Battalion and, later, the 7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment, Mr. George Challis died last Thursday in his 90th year.

Born in Hampstead, and resident in the district for all but the last five years of his life, he served for nearly 35 years, retiring in 1911 with the rank of sergeant. His wife, who died in 1929, was a daughter of the late Sergeant-Instructor Nightingale, ex-Grenadier Guardsman and instructor to the Middlesex Militia at the Well Walk barracks.

Mr. Challis leaves four married daughters, one of whom is in Canada. It was at the Harrow home of his eldest daughter, Mrs. W. C. Le Blond, that he died. Funeral was at Highgate Cemetery on Tuesday.

We are grateful to Mr. Walter Smith, ex-Sergeant, 7th Middlesex, for this notice.

From "*Hampstead and Highgate Express*," November 25, 1949

ENGAGEMENTS

The following announcements appeared in *The Times* on January 26, 1950:—

LT.-COL. A. E. GREEN AND MISS R. FISHER-ROWE
The engagement is announced between Lt.-Col. Arthur Green, D.S.O., O.B.E., The Middlesex Regiment, only son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Green, 24 Radinden Manor Road, Hove, and Ruth Fisher-Rowe, of 17 First Avenue, Hove, younger daughter of the late Major C. V. Fisher-Rowe, M.C., Grenadier Guards, and of the late Mrs. Fisher-Rowe.

LT.-COL. S. FITZ-W. M. DEL COURT AND MISS E. GUBBINS
The engagement is announced of Lt.-Col. S. Fitz-W. M. del Court, M.C., only son of the late Mr. W. del Court van Krimpen (Knight of Mary of the Teutonic Order) and of the late Mrs. del Court, and Elizabeth, only daughter of the late Dr. John Gaspard Gubbins, LL.D., *honoris causa* (Witwatersrand), M.A. (Cantab), and Mrs. Gubbins, of Malmani, Ottoshoop, Transvaal.

OFFICERS' CLUB

Forthcoming Events

H.C. B.T.C. GOLF MEETING

April 23. Richmond Golf Club.

GOLF SPRING MEETING

April 27 and 28, 1950. Hendon Golf Club.

CRICKET WEEK

Commencing June 18, 1950. Mill Hill.

June 18—v. Hampstead Heathens

19—v. Cryptics

20—v. Incogniti

21—v. Free Foresters

22—v. I. Zingari

25—v. Romany

OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER

Junior United Service Club. June 23.

Dress dinner jackets or blue uniform.

OFFICERS' CLUB "AT HOME"

Date and venue to be confirmed at the next Committee Meeting.

Will any member of the Club who is desirous of playing in the above cricket matches, and has not received an invitation to play, kindly communicate with Major C. M. M. Man, M.C., 23 Rosary Gardens, London, S.W.7.

Two M.C.C. tickets will be available at the Secretary's Office, Inglis Barracks, for the benefit of members of the Club for the current cricket season. If required at short notice the tickets can be sent immediately upon receipt of a telephone call, but must be returned to the office immediately after use. Telephone: Finchley 2611, extension 79.

As we go to print, news comes of the sudden death of Mr. J. W. Greenshields, on February 6, 1950. Throughout his 22 years as Secretary of the Hendon Golf Club, he was, from its inception, a firm friend of the Regiment and its golf meetings. All the golfing members of the Regiment and many others who knew him will join with us in expressing our deepest sympathy with his widow and with the Hendon Golf Club on his sudden death.

He was cremated at the Golders Green Crematorium on Thursday, February 9, 1950, and Major R. C. H. Bellers attended the service on behalf of the Middlesex Regiment Golfing Society and Officers' Club.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

Additions

Major E. C. Kendall-Sadler, T.D. R.A.F. Station, Nuncham, Courtney, Nr. Oxford.

THE TOUR OF THE HONG KONG BATTLE-FIELDS OF 1941, CARRIED OUT BY THE OFFICERS OF THE 1ST BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.) ON NOVEMBER 28, 1949

Written by Rev. M. Malone, R.A.C.R.D., who has been Chaplain to the Battalion since leaving Mill Hill on June 15, 1949

When the 1st Battalion returned to Hong Kong in July, 1949, it was at once their duty and privilege to visit those places on the Island which the recent war had made a proud part of the regimental tradition. I was very glad to be able to accompany them. It was a return visit for some, and the officers of the Battalion set out on the tour of inspection of the ground fought over in December, 1941, under the very experienced directorship of Major Henry Marsh, who had already given us an entertaining and analytical lecture of the fall of Hong Kong. A little of it was off the record, some of it undoubtedly controversial, but it was all the product of first-hand experience and very genuine thought. He stressed the evil of that peace-time mentality which had existed prior to the Japanese attack—"The First World War had by-passed the Colony and so would this." Hong Kong was a privileged isle of the best good living, a secure shangrila in a hard world. He was, however, generous enough to admit that this unfortunate mentality was not confined only to the civilians. If there was lack of civil co-operation in defence preparations, there was also military neglect. Anti-malarial precautions, not properly enforced, seriously affected one battalion, while internal security was bad. About the defence plan itself he had some asides, but it is not felt to be within the scope of this small essay to comment upon them. The 1st Battalion were in pill-boxes around the island.

To quote the Second-in-Command, "We were in the picture" when we moved off in a jeep convoy from the Mess promptly at the scheduled hour of 0800 hrs. on November 28. It is about an hour's run to the Ferry. The constant chirping of the Assistant Director, Lt. B. K. Clayden, on the control set (with an occasional croak from the Director himself) did not quite harmonise with the glory of the morning, which might have been in April England, or the scenic beauty of the hills and inlets which might have been in Highland Scotland. However, we were interested to know that the Commanding Officer (according to the commentary) was missing, but were glad to see him in the car in front. We learned from the Director in one of his intermittent interventions that the house we were approaching had a tennis court and the owner offered its full use to the officers. We enjoyed the burst of songs of a certain 2/Lieutenant, until it was cut short by the Assistant Director, who was obviously jealous of his privileged perch. We learned that three infantry battalions in the new territories had formed the line of defence against the Japs on the border, and of the gallant actions and rearguards fought by those troops in these new territories. We skirted the main reservoir and just below, to the left on the edge of Kowloon, a flight of Spitfires circled the colony's solitary aerodrome. We

knew the grave disaster their loss had been in the Jap onslaught. Aboard the vehicular ferry we crossed the few hundred yards of sea which separates the island from the mainland. A very eminent Swedish news correspondent, who recently visited the Battalion, was asked what the average man in the street in Sweden thought of Hong Kong, and he said immediately that it had a magnificent harbour, and that we took it from the Chinese in an opium war! The average man was right, at any rate, about the harbour. It is naturally magnificent, although ships must still put out to sea to ride a typhoon. But tribute must be paid to the ingenuity and the enterprise which makes this modern harbour work. A commentator has said that if God turns His face away, if what we stand for and are ever blotted out by violence from Europe, and the student asks what we once did and what manner of people we were, he might be shown Hong Kong.

We were going to see today places where men of the Regiment had fought bravely and many had given their lives in the defence of that way of life. It was opportune that our first stop should have been at Wanchai and the O'Brien Street line, for it is fairly typical of the hardy adaptability of that way of life which is ours. It was manned by the inscrutable "Z" Company. The Japs were mystified by this unknown force. It fought bravely and well. Its members were the cooks, the orderlies and the runners of the Battalion. Through Lyemun Barracks, where the Battalion had first been quartered on its return to the colony in July last, we moved to Sai Wan Hill. Here we received a most interesting talk from Mr. L. Goldman. He had been in charge of an A.A. Battery in this area and we learned much from him about the Jap crossing of Lyemun Gap from Devil's Peak on to the island. Nearer the hill is the new cemetery in San Wai. Perfectly laid out, beautifully cared for, the cemetery is a noble and touching tribute to the dead. There were many Middlesex graves, set restfully in ordered rows along the grassy hillside, each crowned with a small white cross. Slightly apart was a group of eight and the last on the left bore the sign of David. This was the grave of Sgt. Rich who, with his seven comrades, had held to the death their pill-box on Brick Hill.

To Stanley Prison then, where now are held some Jap war criminals, who were paraded for us. We were glad to leave them and have lunch in the pleasant setting of the Prison Governor's beach. After lunch Mr. Norman, Prison Superintendent, and two other prison officials took us to Stanley cross-roads. A volunteer company of prison officials and warders had made a stand. From Repulse Bay a section of Middlesex, 15 strong, under Sgt. Manning, moved by night in slipped feet and took their position on a small mount just at the prong of the cross-road. They were well placed, they were good soldiers, they were brave men. The Japs suffered great casualties before they were finally overcome. The prison officers told this story with genuine warmth and appreciation. We all listened with pride. A little up the hill from the cross-roads, at Stanley, is the old cemetery. It is like an old English churchyard—grey and solemn, great trees with spreading branches, sombre tombstones with odd inscriptions, family

graves. Middlesex men are buried here, too. Here is the grave of Col. L. A. Newham, G.C., M.C., who won the George Cross for his bravery. When he was discovered organising the escape of P.O.W.s he was tortured and starved by the Japanese and, eventually, died under them.

We followed the coast road to Repulse Bay, where we stopped at a garage just below the hotel. Here some Japs were taken prisoner by a party of Middlesex men under 2/Lt. Grounds. It is claimed that these were possibly the first and only prisoners taken in the campaign. 2/Lt. Grounds was later killed in action. Further along the road to Brickhill and Pillbox 14. Brickhill is a small promontory slightly off the road, and Pillbox 14 was built into it so that it had a commanding position over the road and sea. For days Sgt. Rich and seven men made it highly dangerous and costly for Jap convoys moving along the road. They held the pill-box in spite of repeated assaults and casualties. Finally, with no water, they still held out. Attempts to get water through failed. They died together and their story has become almost a legend in Hong Kong. You will hear it from a variety of people, but their tribute is always the same. It is told, too, that, after the fall, two Jap officers were taking a party along that road and they halted opposite Pill-box 14, saluted and said: "Brave men died gallantly there."

After we had been very hospitably entertained to tea and refreshments by Mr. Emil Landau at the Parisian Grill Farm, we started the concluding stage of our tour. We set out for the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Force Headquarters, passing on the way another Middlesex defence point—Bennett's Hill. It was about 1900 hrs. when we reached Headquarters. The Director gave us a brief "recap" of details and then we had a general discussion on the situation as it had existed in 1941, causes of the collapse, possible remedies which might have been taken, and lessons to be learned. The Commanding Officer finally thanked the Director for a day that was not only absorbingly interesting but deeply inspiring. Later we met the officers of the Hong Kong Defence Force in their Mess. Many of them had served with the Volunteers in the campaign. They knew the Battalion well. Before we left for home we had enjoyed with them good talk, some drinks, and an excellent dinner.

We had crowded much into the day, but obviously could not see everything. Nor has it been possible, now, to mention all we did see, and learn. If certain people and places are mentioned here it is not intended to particularise or to exclude any. We name them to embrace all. The honour of the Regiment is high in Hong Kong and it was not achieved by a few only. We salute all, the officers and men of the 1st Battalion who, in the fighting in 1941 in Hong Kong, so well lived up to the traditions of their Regiment.

TO OUR READERS

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

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

EDITORIAL

Another strenuous quarter has passed and we can feel with quiet satisfaction that we have achieved much and that time has been well spent.

As before, the emphasis has been on training and it can be said that, although there is still much to learn, we have gained invaluable experience and the Battalion as a whole is extremely fit, both physically and mentally.

Work has been most interesting and instructive and this, combined with inter-unit and inter-company sport, welfare parties, concert parties, trips to places of interest, and good weather have made life quite pleasant in the new territories.

The various notable achievements in the sporting world have been dealt with in detail later in this issue and, therefore, are not repeated here, with the exception of the 27th Infantry Brigade individual boxing championships. We entered 12 boxers in the seven weights, had finalists in six weights and won five. Our boxers fought extremely well and fully upheld the traditions of the Regiment.

A most interesting tour of the 1941 Hong Kong battlefields was organised and conducted by Major H. Marsh and is reported in this issue.

A "Die-Hards" reunion party was held in camp on December 7, 1949, at which many ex-members and friends of the Regiment were present, and it proved most successful.

Christmas and New Year festivities went with a swing and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and made the most of the holiday period. The Christmas dinner was a truly magnificent spread and great credit is due to the A.C.C. and regimental cooks. It was served in the customary manner by the members of the Sergeants' Mess, whilst the officers doled out apparently unlimited supplies of beer.

The inter-Mess football Competition on Boxing Day was won by the privates, after extra time, in a grand game against the corporals by 2—1.

The corporals and privates put on an extremely good concert party, organised entirely by themselves, on December 28, 1949, and it was very well received by the remainder of the Battalion and numerous spectators from neighbouring units.

On New Year's Eve the Sergeants' Mess put over their own Crazy Gang Show for the Battalion. Again, the players received a great ovation for a first-class show. Drum-Major Holdford was actor, manager and producer and he, together with his cast, are to be congratulated on giving a very fine performance.

The face of the Battalion is changing as inroads are made by release, Python, restriction, and demands from other Commands. Major T. W. Chattey has left to join H.Q. Far East Land Forces; Major E. C. K. Kendall-Sadler, T.D., has left on Python; Capt. R. St. McG. Young has left on retirement; and Lt. J. S. C. Flavell has been posted to H.Q., 27th Infantry Brigade, as Intelligence Officer. We have worse to come in January, 1950, when Major G. Lerwill, M.C., Battalion Second-in-Command, Majors H. Marsh,

A. E. D. Michell and P. Newman, together with Capt. P. Smyth, are due to wave us farewell from the decks of H.M.T. *Lancashire* or our old friend, H.M.T. *Dunera*. We shall also be very sorry to lose R.S.M. P. J. McLoughlin, who is going home in the *Lancashire* to complete his last six months before his well-earned retirement after 23 years' service.

We welcome 2/Lts. B. H. Marciandi, P. H. Denning, of the Regiment, and 2/Lts. G. A. White, E. G. C. Sobey and J. M. Lock, R.A.O.C., all of whom have recently arrived.

"H.Q." COMPANY

The cooler days of autumn have been most welcome, both to ourselves and to the staff, who have kept us well occupied with numerous exercises, in which the greater part of the company have taken part. At first, life was a little difficult, but it did not take long for some of us to remember old lessons, and for the younger ones to learn for the first time. Even the Q.M. and "B" echelon, with all their impedimenta of war, have been levered out of their nooks and crannies.

So many changes take place, so quickly, that it is not possible to mention everyone, but the following old soldiers of the Regiment should not be allowed to fade away unnoticed; they are Major Marsh, who is now P.R.I., C.S.M. Fuller, who has gone to the Divisional Battle School and Rest Camp, and C.Q.M.S. Ure, who has gone to G.H.Q. at Singapore. Their places have been taken by Major Doyle, C.S.M. Jennings, and C.Q.M.S. Budden.

In spite of hard training there has been sufficient time for plenty of sport. In the inter-company soccer, cross-country, basket-ball and seven-a-side rugby we have done quite well but, unfortunately, have not managed to win any of the shields which hang in the men's dining-hall. Individuals have had their successes. Pte. Saunders and Pte. Jelly fought extremely well in the Brigade inter-unit boxing competition, held in the middle of December, and won the bantam and heavy-weight events. Cpl. Hilkene, L/Cpl. Simmons, L/Cpl. Hyland, Bds. Forsythe and Pte. Jones (39) have all played for the Battalion 1st XI. C.S.M. Jennings has been selected to play rugby for the Army in Hong Kong.

Unfortunately, there has not been a lot of cricket played this season, mainly because of the shortage of grounds and the long journeys to get to the few that are available. Pte. Cullen has, however, been most enthusiastic and has played for the Brigade XI.

It is hoped that the members of the new draft posted to the Company will have a happy and enjoyable stay, and will fill in the gaps that will be left by the large run-down in the New Year.

SIGNAL PLATOON

Up to date the Signal Platoon has lost comparatively few men but, with the advent of Group 134 and upwards, the trickle is rapidly developing into a flood. This has been counteracted to some extent by the arrival of a new draft, of which some 20 are now on a classification cadre. By the time this is finished, our Platoon will consist solely of 12 regular soldiers, with one or two high N.S. group men.

Very much the same tempo of training has been kept up and the signallers are still to be found mountaineering with a drum of cable on their backs.

We have, of course, no civilian telephone lines in Beas Camp and, consequently, there is an exchange to be manned, with all the ensuing brickbats. Up to date, however, we can praise ourselves in the fact that there have been few disruptions of camp communications.

Our congratulations to Pte. Williams on his promotion to L/Corporal, after having passed out well on an N.C.O.s' cadre.

Cpl. Whitely and L/Cpl. Caswell sailed for home last month en route to Catterick—certainly no rest cure.

Finally, to all our friends and relations, greetings for the New Year and our heartfelt wishes for a speedy reunion.

M.T. PLATOON

The tempo of life in the Platoon is more hectic and interesting than ever before.

Exercises and outside commitments are still frequent, giving little rest to men and vehicles alike.

In the last month we have lost five vehicles to workshops through the erratic and dangerous driving of the local inhabitants, rendering life a little more difficult and worrying.

Lt. B. K. Clayden and Cpl. Wright have now taken over from Capt. P. J. Livmore, M.C., and Sgt. Preston. The Platoon congratulate Cpl. Wright on his promotion and appointment to M.T. Sergeant. Sgt. Morris and his R.E.M.E. fitters are working harder than ever, and to him we must give our gratitude for a grand job well done under the difficult conditions.

In the near future, the M.T. is entering an M.T. competition organised by H.Q., 27th Infantry Brigade. Our feelings are mixed concerning the final outcome. However, we are all determined to win the competition, and much hard work is being put in by all members of the Platoon.

In January we lose many of our more experienced drivers; this is causing no little worry to those concerned. However, with cardres and drivers from the new draft, we will be able to surmount our difficulties.

INTELLIGENCE SECTION

Since the arrival on the border, early in October, of Communist elements, the work of the Intelligence Section has become even more interesting.

Sgt. Kenrick, who came to us from the W.T. staff to be Intelligence Sergeant, assisted by Pte. Lye, runs the work of the Intelligence Section in camp. This entails many late evenings, dealing with sitreps, and copious reading of the Chinese daily Press for details of the civil war, which are marked on the Battalion's war map.

The Intelligence Section continues to operate in many diverse roles. Sgt. Kenrick accompanied the Drum-Major and 12 drummers on a recent training patrol, which involved a trip in a local police patrol boat, and a very much longer trip on their flat feet. The Intelligence Officer, in common with Sgt. Kenrick, and on one occasion Pte. Lye, has flown various air

sorties in connection with training schemes and other duties.

In a recent O.P. competition run by 40th Division, the Battalion was represented by Cpl. Walden and Pte. Jones and, although the results have not yet been announced, Cpl. Walden assures us that the Battalion has won.

Sgt. Kenrick is, unfortunately for us, Python protected and is due to go home very shortly. His place is being taken by Sgt. McGowan. We have also lost Pte. King to 27th Brigade, where he is with the Brigade Intelligence Section. In his place we have Pte. Butler, a fairly recent arrival in the Battalion. Pte. Lye has been found painting everything from a wall-chart of the Chinese Civil War to the Intelligence Officer's motor-cycle, and Pte. Luckhurst has more than earned his keep as the *chef de cuisine* on training. In fact, as some wit remarked the other day, all the Intelligence Section has not mastered yet is Cantonese and Mandarin. And we have even made an attempt, not terribly successfully it must be admitted, at that.

BAND NOTES

The last three months have been difficult ones for the Band. There are now so many bands in the Colony that engagements are hard to get.

The reduction in strength on the overseas establishment has made the running of the Band no easy matter, as every instrumentalist is vital and there are no reserves. Sickness has taken its toll but, despite this and all the other difficulties, the Band has maintained its high musical standard.

An increase in establishment has now been sanctioned and it is hoped that reinforcements will soon be forthcoming.

Successful engagements have been fulfilled at Hong Kong race meetings and the Band made its first broadcast in the Colony in the feature, "Services Spotlight." Another successful engagement during November was at the big football match between the Colony and a Swedish team. At present the Band is busy rehearsing for the 40th Division massed band concert which takes place early in February.

Boy Christopher was rushed off into hospital during November and operated on for acute appendicitis, but he made a rapid recovery and is now back in his place in the band.

The Band reached the semi-final in the inter-platoon football competition, but were beaten by the Carrier Platoon after a very exciting game.

We take this opportunity to wish all our old members of the Band a happy and prosperous New Year.

CORPS OF DRUMS

By the time these notes appear in print Christmas and New Year festivities will be just a memory, but at the time of writing, with just a few days before we all indulge in the usual orgy, the Battalion is preparing to give one and all the Christmas spirit. Regardless of our position on the map, preparations for concert, cinema and musical programmes are forging ahead. With the great interest shown by our Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. A. M. Man,

O.B.E., in the arrangements, we have no doubt that a happy time will be had by all.

Remembrance Day Sunday was a day to place on record for the Battalion. Out of all the units of the Senior Service, the Army and the R.A.F. in Hong Kong, the Battalion was selected to perform the ceremony, with the Commanding Officer as Parade Commander for all Services. Our 12 best buglers rendered "Last Post" and "Reveille," for which the Commanding Officer received many bouquets. The G.O.C., in his letter, gave the Battalion his full praise. It was, indeed, a moving sight in memory of our fallen comrades in 1941.

Apart from the normal activities of the Corps of Drums, we have acquired the title of Battalion H.Q. Defence Platoon. Although this is a far cry from the Drum and Fife, we have reached a good standard in these new duties and are prepared for any emergency.

Drum-Major Holdford and eight drummers were selected for a day patrol in the new territories a short while ago. The route to be taken necessitated the use of a police launch to take us along the coast but, on arrival at the pier, we were told that the launch, owing to its size, could only take us part of the way as the sand and mud-banks were too treacherous. This change of plan resulted in our having to foot-slog almost 15 miles over exceedingly rough ground, and very warm work it turned out to be. On reaching the main road we had the good fortune to chance upon an ice-cream vendor. Did those ices taste good!

In the world of sport we were unfortunate to be knocked out of the inter-platoon football knock-out competition by the Regimental Band after a very keen game, ending with the score of 3 goals to 1. Cpl. Purdon and L/Cpl. Leat are both members of the Battalion football team and have assisted in raising up the "goals for" column. Cpl. Brown and Mrs. Jones, Newman and Kelly were selected as representatives of the Company cross-country team and all four made a very commendable effort.

Dmr. Rudd, the "voice," has just finished an education course and is back with us again. Who knows but what we might have a budding professor in our midst! Well done, Rudd. Dmr. Bennett has just commenced a similar course and we wish him luck.

Drum-Major Holdford and Dmr. Matthews have recently been informed by telegram that "It's a girl." Congratulations, fathers.

The Corps, at present, are getting down to a programme which will be recorded over Radio Hong Kong on Christmas morning, so we hope to be hearing ourselves very soon.

Our very best wishes to all old comrades, wherever they may be, and, in particular, to all old members of the Corps of Drums.

"A" COMPANY

Our last notes found us well settled in Beas Camp, Fanling, and training hard. Since then we have spent our time training harder than ever, both by day and night, and in passing have climbed more young mountains than we care to remember.

We were extremely sorry to lose Major T. W. Chattey to F.A.R.E.L.F. and Capt. R. St. G. McYoung to retirement, and to both we wish the best of luck. We welcome Capt. D. B. Rendell, M.B.E., M.C., and Capt. P. G. V. Bellers as our new Commander and Second-in-Command respectively.

The Company spent a very enjoyable week at Lamma Island in October. The island was ideal for training and much useful work was carried out. It was really first-class to be on our own for those few days, away from the arduous duties of camp. It is rumoured that Cpl. Jones and his troop are still searching for the cut-throat pirate gang, consisting of C.S.M. Tarrant, Sgt. Cranfield and Pte. Craze.

The Company obtained second place in the Brigade W.T. competition, which was a good achievement considering we had spent the last 12 months on public duties. In the Brigade patrol competition we again obtained second place, with a patrol led by 2/Lt. H. J. Evans.

We congratulate L/Cpl. Smallman and Cpl. Eastap on their excellent results in the N.C.O.s' cadre and, also, Cpl. Eastap on his promotion.

A new draft joined the Company on November 22 and we extend to them our hearty greetings and hope they will soon settle down to our own ways.

In the realm of sport our greatest success has been our win in the inter-company seven-a-side. In the final we beat "D" Company 3-0 in a most exciting game. C.S.M. Tarrant's first game of rugger for 17 years proved that he had lost none of his speed or cunning, and he helped a great deal in our final victory. We finished third in the inter-company cross-country run with, once more, our C.S.M. being a tower of strength. Basket-ball found us again strong and we are, at present, top of the league. No. 2 Platoon did well to reach the semi-finals of the inter-platoon soccer competition, but were beaten by a very strong side from No. 7 Platoon.

In the Brigade individual boxing competition Pte. Craze won his weight and Pte. Harrison reached the semi-finals. A very good performance.

The Company finished second to "S" Company in the inter-company swimming and the team are to be congratulated on their fine efforts.

In all, we have done well, both in work and play, during the last quarter, but we look forward to even bigger and better successes in the coming year. We are, however, going to feel keenly the loss of many of our champions, due to release in the near future. To all we wish the very best of luck in their civilian occupations. In conclusion we send, to all our friends, the compliments of the season and the very best of luck for 1950.

"B" COMPANY

These notes are being written on Boxing Day and, therefore, may be lacking in clarity and conciseness. If there are many grammatical howlers it will only go to prove what an excellent and successful Christmas was enjoyed by the Company in our stable home in the new territories.

In the last few months the Company has carried out

a lot of hard but interesting training and we flatter ourselves that we are now an efficient rifle company. We agree that we still have a lot to learn but, all the same, we think we are quite good.

The chief difficulty in building up an efficient company is that Age and Service Groups come and go and valuable specialists and trained soldiers disappear in homeward-bound troopers, with depressing regularity. We hope, however, that all our drafts from U.K. will be as keen and hard-working as the one which arrived some five weeks ago. They arrived and started their new life with a will and a smile, and they can be satisfied that they are doing a worthwhile job well. At times one is tempted to say that So-and-so is indispensable, yet, with unfailing regularity, the gap is filled most adequately and work proceeds.

Our performance on the field of sport has been patchy. We did very badly, indeed, in the Company swimming, finishing a poor last. This disaster was due more to faulty selection than anything else.

Our stock rose with a jump when Pte. Paget, since left on release, won the cross-country by the proverbial mile, and the team put up a magnificent show to finish second in the team event. It was a first-class effort by all concerned.

We entered a team of veterans, aggregate 210 years, for the inter-company seven-a-side rugby competition and, though defeated by "A" Company, the ultimate winners, we thrashed "S" Company and confounded the critics by beating "H.Q." Company, a team of Battalion talent, by 3-0. Our team played with great fire and dash and made up for lack of knowledge of the game by their boundless enthusiasm.

We offer our deepest sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Cox over the tragic loss of their son, Pte. Cox (52), due to an accident. He was buried with full military honours at the Military Cemetery at Happy Valley, Hong Kong.

We are delighted to welcome back Capt. J. N. Shipster, D.S.O., who has been attending a course at Singapore and carrying out a staff attachment.

We say hail and farewell to Sgt. McGowan, who has only spent a month with us and has now taken over the duties of Battalion Intelligence Sergeant. He made his name in the Company by the way in which he drove his 41 years round the rugby field, leaving destruction in his wake. Sgt. Sharp has just arrived from "S" Company to replace Sgt. McGowan, and we hope he will be happy with us.

Cpls. Steward and Crowther are off very shortly on a year's tour to the Home Counties Brigade Training Centre as instructors. We look forward to having them back again with us.

The greatest loss of all will be C.S.M. E. Pike, who departs in January on Python leave. He has always been a tower of strength and he will be greatly missed. We wish him the very best of luck. Our loss will be the gain of Mrs. Pike and E. Pike, junior.

"C" COMPANY

Since our last notes appeared in the journal many changes have occurred in the Company. Our 2 i/c, Capt. D. B. Rendell, M.B.E., M.C., took over command

of "A" Company, and C.S.M. Jennings and Sgt. Budden have been transferred to "H.Q." Company. We congratulate C/Sgt. Budden on his recent promotion and Cpl. Stimson on becoming a proud father of twins. Cpl. Pascoe and Pte. Wallis, our football stars, went home on release on November 26, 1949, on H.M.T. *Devonshire*. Lt. G. Sander rejoined the Company in October. C.S.M. Burrell was unfortunate in injuring his ankle whilst playing for the Company in a seven-a-side Rugby match; we wish him speedy recovery and hope that he will be with us again in the very near future. In November we received our first reinforcement from the U.K., all of whom have settled down in Hong Kong. During the months of November and December the Company was busily occupied with training and various schemes.

Even though we could not spend Christmas at home with our relatives and friends, we made the best of it and all had a very enjoyable time.

At the beginning of the season the Company was fortunate in being able to produce one of the best soccer teams in the Battalion, which maintained an unbeatable record until two of the mainstays, Cpl. Pascoe and Pte. Wallis, left for home on November 26. The team, in addition to these two, consisted of L/Cpl. Hyland, Ptes. Cheeseman, Crooks and Hills, Cpl. Stimson, C.S.M. Jennings, Ptes. Summers, Watson, Bonner, Longhurst and Buckle.

No. 7 Platoon, which contained six of the Company players, secured both the Company and Battalion inter-Platoon soccer shields in a series of matches whose scores left very little doubt as to the final result. Team:—Ptes. Drane, Cheeseman, Hills, Reeves, Watson, Wallis, Holloway and Crooks, Cpl. McHenry, C.S.M. Jennings and C.Q.M.S. Griffiths.

The Company team is augmented by several players from the new draft who already show promise, and things augur well for the future. C.S.M. Jennings's departure to "H.Q." Company was a great loss to the soccer team.

Rugby has been difficult, even on a Battalion scale, owing to lack of grounds, and Company Rugby has been limited to a seven-a-side competition on a home-made pitch near the camp; this was played off on the afternoon of Wednesday, December 21, and provided sterling entertainment for all participants and spectators; the preparations for this competition gave much publicity to a game which has lately been in eclipse. The Company team, consisting of two experienced players and five learners, was lucky to gain third place, winning by one try against "S" Company and losing 11-0 to "A" Company, the winners. Team:—2/Lt. J. C. Bucknall, Sgt. Bartholomew, Pte. Harrison, Cpl. Conroy, Ptes. Watson and Fleming; reserve, Pte. Elcombe. A great loss was sustained when C.S.M. Burrell, a player of great fire and experience, broke his ankle in a practice game against "H.Q." Company.

Up to now there has been no inter-Company boxing, but three members of the Company have achieved success in the Brigade boxing competition. Pte. Woodman won two fights and thus fought his way to the Divisional Championships as a bantamweight. Pte. Gatland, a boxer of promise from the new draft, won

his first middleweight fight by a k.o., and his second opponent was saved by the gong; he was, however, beaten on points in his last fight. L/Cpl. Ruddy was beaten in a close fight on his first appearance in the ring.

We were unlucky in the cross-country in that two of our best runners, Ptes. Webb and Woodman, were recovering from illness; we did, however, achieve fifth place. Team:—2/Lt. J. C. Bucknall, C.S.M. Jennings, Cpls. Conroy, Pentony, McHenry, Ptes. Webb, Woodman and Cheeseman. Cpl. Conroy and 2/Lt. J. C. Bucknall were first of the Company team, being 18th and 19th respectively.

We won several games of basket ball by a large margin, C.S.M. Jennings, Cpl. Small and L/Cpl. Wells being prominent, but play has been held up recently owing to the destruction of the posts by bad weather.

The Company team, however, is well able to take on all comers. We gained third place in the swimming competition, and the achievements of the Company Commander, Major A. E. D. Michell, Cpl. Small and Pte. Crooks did much to put us in this favourable position. Team:—Major A. E. D. Michell, Sgt. Bartholomew, Cpls. Small and Conroy, L/Cpls. Wells and Heavens, Ptes. Kirkbride, Brady, Schafer, Gent, Phillips, Levoir and Crooks.

"D" COMPANY

Our last edition of these notes left us settling down in our stables at Beas Camp, where we have succeeded in making ourselves very comfortable in comparison to our less fortunate neighbours, who are still under canvas. The advent of the cooler weather also helped to make life more pleasant.

Our time since arrival in Beas Camp has been spent on intensive training from which we have derived great benefit, and we have much enjoyed co-operating with our friends the "Gunsners" and "Tanks."

We congratulate our cross-country team, consisting of Cpls. Sharp, Weller and Slocombe, Ptes. Baring, Rogers, Willis, Gadd, Hayes, Voden and Shethelt, on winning the Battalion cross-country run in November, with special reference to Cpl. Sharp who came second.

At soccer we remain unbeaten in friendly games and are looking forward to the inter-Company competition in February.

In December our seven-a-side rugby team were runners-up to "A" Company after a very close and hard game.

We have also taken darts and table tennis in our stride and won the inter-Company dart competition.

In November we said good-bye to all those in release groups 129-132. They were given a good send off by the Regimental Band, and we wish them every success in their civilian jobs.

We were very pleased to receive a draft of 22 from England the same month, and extend a hearty welcome to them.

With much regret we said good-bye to our Company Commander, Major E. C. K. Kendall-Sadler, T.D., on his compassionate posting home in November, and wish him every success in the future. He handed over

to Capt. P. F. Smyth, who joined the Company as 2 i/c in October.

We also welcome 2/Lt. G. A. White, R.A.O.C., who has already proved an asset to our football and basketball teams, and to 2/Lt. P. H. Denning, who has joined us for a comparatively short stay before going on release.

We congratulate L/Cpls. Lloyd, Wells and Claydon on their promotion to that rank.

Owing to the comparatively high cost of entertainment and the distances involved, we visit the bright lights but occasionally, although several of our members have enjoyed dances organised by civilian services, also visits to the ancient city of Macao have proved popular.

We are at present settling down after an excellent Christmas break of four days, when everybody enjoyed themselves in the traditional fashion.

"S" COMPANY

The last three months have been very hectic, culminating in the Christmas festivities. We are now on a new establishment, the net result of which is that we have lost three anti-tank guns and the Carrier Platoon has been much reduced in numbers. Release is taking a heavy toll of specialists and it is a difficult task finding replacements for our losses. The Company easily won the inter-Company swimming competition and thus gained valuable points in the competition for the Albuhera Shield. Perhaps the most interesting feature of training was the five-day stay at Lamma Island. Despite typhoon weather for the first two days everyone enjoyed themselves, and some useful training was achieved with no interference except from the weather. There were several requests for an extension but unfortunately this was not possible.

The Company has sustained a great loss in C.S.M. White. He has returned to his parent Regiment, the Buffs. We were all extremely sorry to lose him and wish him luck in the future. Pte. Young is still on a clerk's course at Singapore, but returns shortly. Ptes. Jorgensen, Nelson and Franklin proceed on release in the near future and we wish them the best of luck in civilian life.

Mortar Platoon

Since the last issue there have been one or two changes within the Platoon. Primarily, we regret very much to have lost Capt. P. G. V. Bellers, who has left us to assume the duties of 2 i/c "A" Company. We wish him every success in this new capacity. Secondly, we welcome Capt. P. J. Livemore, M.C., to take command of the Platoon. We are confident that his stay with us will be as happy as that of his predecessor. We have also the addition of Sgt. Sharpe, who has come to us from the Carrier Platoon.

There was a very enjoyable and interesting break from the normal routine when we went with the remainder of the Company to Lamma, a very sparsely-inhabited island an hour's journey by landing craft from the Kowloon Ferry. We arrived at approximately 10 o'clock in the morning, slightly in advance of a typhoon, the full force of which we were due to receive the same

evening. However, we managed to accomplish the landing without mishap, complete with all our stores and equipment, apart from L/Cpl. Faint who received a ducking when the landing craft decided to drift slightly seawards as he stepped from the ramp. The week passed quite successfully with one or two minor schemes by day and night, finishing up the last afternoon by taking part in some potted sports. We were joined in these by members of the Royal Artillery and the crew of a Naval Patrol Launch. Special mention must be made of Cpl. Briggs and Ptes. Campbell (A.C.C.), Swindells and Johnson, who took care of the cooking arrangements. They turned out some really magnificent food for us under some very trying conditions, especially the first two days, when it rained continuously. Frying eggs and chips with the rain pouring down their necks was one of their minor triumphs.

Early in December we took part in the first battle inoculation scheme, of which there are many more to come, the "guinea pigs" in this case being "D" Company, the idea being to cause our mortar bombs to fall as closely as possible to our own troops whilst they were advancing. This was carried out with excellent results.

We say au revoir to Cpl. Seymour and Pte. Murphy, who have left us to return to civilian life. They will soon be closely followed by L/Cpls. Marstin and Burt, Ptes. Rance, Randlesome, Foster and Mears. We wish them good luck and prosperity in civilian life and hope to meet them again at our reunions in time to come.

Anti-Tank Detachment

During the last quarter the Platoon has diminished from over 20 to a detachment of five. The new establishment was introduced when the Platoon had reached its highest standard, and we were all sorry to see three of our guns leave us.

Lt. J. S. C. Flavell has left us for "D" Company, and we have also lost Sgts. Preston and Hummerstone. Six members of the Platoon have already sailed for home and demobilisation; they are Ptes. Arnott, Barnes, Bullock, Fry, Hills and Horwood. Most of the remainder of the original gun members are awaiting release, and the detachment is made up entirely of Regulars; two of them, L/Cpl. Bunce and Pte. Page, joined us just before we left Mill Hill. The detachment wish all ex-members of the Platoon the best of luck wherever they may be, in the Army or Civvy Street.

Carrier Platoon

The Carrier Platoon is still organised with two Vickers Sections and one "Wasp" Section. During the last quarter the Platoon has been commanded by Sgt. Cooper. We have taken part in all Battalion exercises and given several demonstrations. We assisted the Carrier Platoon of the Royal Leicester Regiment in giving a "Wasp" demonstration for all the troops in the Colony. Sgt. Palmer and Cpl. Baker succeeded in producing flame at such a great pressure and range that even the "Wasp" enthusiasts of our Division were surprised. We have been training the Carrier Platoon of the Hong Kong Defence Force in addition to our normal

duties. These keen and enthusiastic volunteers have spent a week camping with us. Thus we are helping to re-establish the close liaison started by our predecessors before the war.

Sgt. Corner has left us to take up the duties of Officers' Mess Sergeant. Cpl. Foster has been posted back to the Home Counties Training Centre as an instructor, and many more are due to leave on release shortly. To all these we wish good luck and success in their new tasks. We hope that they will keep in touch with us and that at future reunions we shall meet again.

Assault Pioneer Platoon

Since our last issue the Platoon has had a very busy time training on field works and using explosives, not to mention numerous exercises. This gave very valuable practice to those who had had no previous experience in this type of work. These parties, loaded with sufficient explosives to delight the keenest anarchist, sally forth every morning and return at dusk to argue the merits of gun cotton and electrical fuses with the casual air of experts.

We welcome Pte. Cook to the Platoon and hope he enjoys the change of employment from the Company Stores.

Civilian life has finally claimed Pte. Colebrook, who sailed for home on the *Devonshire*. He is soon to be followed by Ptes. Smith and Wells, who sail in January. We shall also miss the administration of Sgt. Bignell, who is proceeding home on Python in January.

SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES

It is a Venetian moon, romance is in the air and our thoughts speed out to those who would complete the picture for us.

The Christmas festivities are in full swing. A feeling of good cheer and rich fellowship pervades the Mess, whose decorations might be the envy of similar Messes under more congenial conditions, and for this we tender a special word of thanks to the artistic fraternity. Entertainments have gone with a full swing, ably led by C.S.M. Jennings. Members will long remember dancing the Conga to the strains of a cornet played by Band Sgt. Street. Tombola is a popular Friday night fare. Darts are rumoured to be coming to the fore and we anticipate admission to a league in the near future. Mah Jong ivories have provided many hours of enjoyment to some members and R.Q.M.S. G. Blackman, O.R.Q.M.S. A. Waldron, Sgts. Bignell and Redpath are fast becoming accomplished psychologists.

Crazy Gang, our popular concert party under the able leadership of D/M C. Holdford, have denied some members of their tranquillity. Their sufferings, we are assured, will be untold joy to the rest of the Battalion this festive season.

A special word of praise to the Messing Committee, with C.S.M. E. Pike at the helm, for doing a very good job under difficult circumstances; a peer in his ancestry reveals no light in accounting for his weakness in serving so many dishes from the labours of those who plough the seas.

We congratulate C.S.M. A. Burrell, C.Q.M.S. R. Budden and Sgt. Wright on their recent promotions. We welcome the return of Sgt. McGowan from a "cushy" job at H.Q. Land Forces. Congratulations to D/M Holdford, Sgts. Spenceley and Preston on their recent family increases.

C.S.M. T. McMillan, who in the past could not find his place in a Platoon XI at football, has sprung to the fore and is ably leading the Battalion 1st XI. C/Sgt. L. Shrubbs, M.M., played for the Army 2nd XI at soccer. C.S.M. H. Jennings played rugger for the Army XV. C.S.M. R. Tarrant and O.R.Q.M.S. A. Waldron have played in the Army hockey trials. We have a very good water polo team which represented the Army against the Navy; three of our members in that team were C.S.M. R. Tarrant, C/Sgt. Ure and D/M Holdford, the last-named also dived for the Army. The success of the Battalion sports is due mainly to the very able training of our quietest Mess member—C.S.M.I. Timpany.

We wish God-speed to R.S.M. P. J. McLoughlin; he has done a good job of work under trying conditions.

Crazy Gang certainly surpassed our wildest hopes; their endeavours were fully appreciated by all members on Christmas night. Boxing Day saw the Mess worthily represented at soccer against the officers, and a good time was had by all in real honest to goodness fun.

We exchanged the season's greetings in both Messes in the usual way.

It was with a feeling of regret that we said good-bye to C.S.M. H. White, C.S.M. E. Fullar and C/Sgt. W. B. Ure. We know our loss is a gain to their new formations and we wish them good luck in their new appointments. S/Sgt. Holmes and Sgt. Riley are now experiencing the rigours of an English winter. We offer our good wishes to them in our respective spheres.

C.S.M. E. Pike, Sgts. Bignell, Avery, Spenceley and Kenrick have recently, when on exercises, gone through shrub and long grass with a new zeal and zest. It was discovered that they were not afraid of snakes because of their Python protection.

We send hearty greetings for a happy and prosperous New Year to all old members. A line from them would be welcome. We take off our hats in adoration for all that is past, and take off our coats in anticipation for the future.

CORPORALS' CLUB

Two social evenings have been held in the last quarter and the united voices of the Club members ringing out over the countryside proved their success. A cabaret was organised by Cpl. Butters and his Entertainments Committee and proved a huge success.

We congratulate Cpl. Wright on his promotion to the higher realms of the Sergeants' Mess and wish him good luck in his employment as M.T. Sergeant.

It is with much regret that we have had to say good-bye to the Battalion 2 i/c, Major G. Lerwill, M.C., and the Officer i/c P.R.I., Major H. Marsh. Our best wishes accompany them wherever their future service may take them.

To our late President, R.S.M. P. J. McLoughlin, who has left us to return to civilian life, we say good luck and happy landings.

Demobilisation seems to be depleting our membership rather alarmingly, and to all who have left us we extend our best wishes for their happiness in their future life.

To all our new members we extend a hearty welcome and the hope that their stay with us will be a long and enjoyable one.

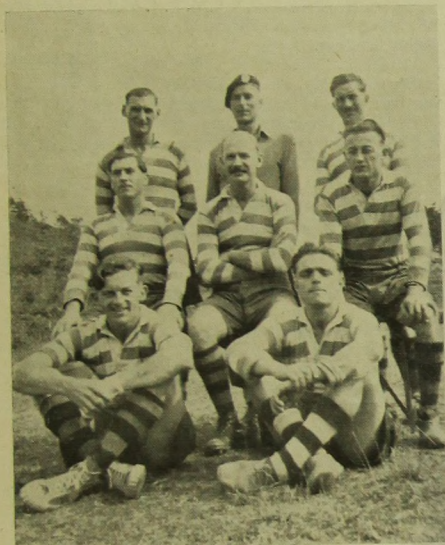
RUGBY FOOTBALL

The 1949 Rugby season has been greatly hampered by the difficulty encountered in obtaining grounds. The fluctuation of teams owing to National Service and the very poor quality of referees has not eased the situation.

We had played one 1st XV and two "A" XV games up to December 31. The first match occurred on November 5, when the "A" XV lost gallantly to the Hong Kong Football Club 2nd XV by a goal to one try and a goal. Capt. Livemore scored the only try, which 2/Lt. E. B. Thomas converted. Our next fixture was against the 3rd R.T.R., on November 17, when the "A" XV went down in a hard-fought game, losing by a drop goal and a penalty, both kicked by 2/Lt. E. B. Thomas, to two tries and a penalty. The 1st XV appeared for its opening game on November 27, when the 3rd R.T.R. were again challenged and beaten by three tries and a goal to two tries; the team lacked cohesion through lack of practice together and lack of training, both of which we hope to remedy by our next fixture against the 23rd Field Regiment R.A., on January 4. Capt. P. J. Livemore, M.C., scored three and Pte. Wenden once. C.S.M. Jennings converted once. Team:—Pte. Forrest, Pte. Passmore, 2/Lt. E. R. de B. Vare, 2/Lt. E. B. Thomas, L/Cpl. Knight, Sgt. Waterfield, Pte. Wenden, 2/Lt. H. J. Evans, 2/Lt. J. C. Bucknall, Sgt. Bartholomew, C.S.M. Jennings, L/Cpl. Took, Cpl. Dickens, Lt. B. K. Clayden, Capt. P. J. Livemore, M.C.

One of the most entertaining afternoons was enjoyed on a small home-made pitch near the camp on which, on November 21, an inter-Company seven-a-side competition was held to count towards the Albuhera Shield. The competition was hotly contested at every stage and no match was won without a hard fight. The standard of play was surprisingly high. The final order was "A" Company, "D" Company, "C" Company, "B" Company, "H.Q." Company and "S" Company. All Companies, and particularly "B" Company, who played three outstanding games, are to be congratulated on a first-class show.

The Regiment has been lucky enough to secure two playing and one reserve place in the Army Rugby side in the Colony. These are 2/Lts. H. J. Evans and J. C. Bucknall and C.S.M. Jennings. At one point in the four trial games held to pick the Army side the Regiment provided six forwards and three outsiders for the 27th Brigade XV. These were the above-mentioned three and Sgt. Waterfield, L/Cpls. Knight and Isaacs, Ptes. Sharp and E. Wenden, of whom all but Sgt. Waterfield and L/Cpl. Knight have now been demobilised.



"B" COMPANY SEVEN-A-SIDE RUGBY TEAM
Defeated "S" Company 16-0, "H.Q." Company 3-0.
Lost to "A" Company 0-9

Standing : Sgt. McGowan, C.S.M. Pike, Cpl. Steward
Sitting : C/Sgt. Shubb, Major A. S. J. de S. Clayton,
Sgt. Cooper

Front : Cpl. Crowther, Pte. Bradshaw

BOXING

The only competition held to date since the season began was the Brigade Individual Championships, which was held in the Battalion lines on December 7, 1949.

L/Cpls. Noble and Rutt, Ptes. Jelley, Webster, Gatland, Craze, Argent, Streeter, Rogers, White, Griffiths, Saunders and Woodman entered for the championships, and with so large a number it was inevitable that some were drawn together in the preliminaries.

On the final day we had seven boxers still in the competition—L/Cpl. Noble, Ptes. White, Saunders, Woodman, Craze, Gatland and Jelley.

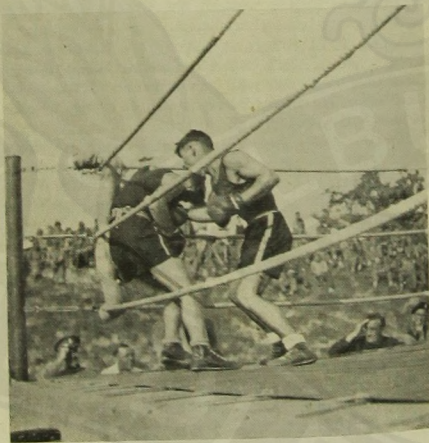
The first fights of the afternoon were the lightweight semi-finals, and the fight between L/Cpl. Noble and Pte. White was, according to many, the best of the afternoon. Pte. White won a very hard fight and went on to win the finals.

Pte. Saunders proved too strong for Pte. Elliot (1st Royal Leicesters) and won the bantamweight division without much trouble.

Pte. Woodman put up a very good show in beating Pte. Busby (1st Royal Leicesters) in the featherweights. His superior speed and punching power constantly had



Ptes. Craze and Gatland in action



Ptes. Craze and Gatland in the ring

his opponent in trouble and he came out a worthy winner.



Back row (left to right) : Pte. White, L/Cpl. Noble, Pte. Jelly, L/Cpl. Rutt, Pte. Craze
Centre row (left to right) : C.S.M.I. Timpany, Pte. Walker, Pte. Rogers, Pte. Gatland, Pte. Harrison, Pte. Streeter, Cpl. Hilkene.
Front row (left to right) : Pte. Saunders, R.S.M. P. J. McLoughlin, Lt.-Col. A. M. Man, O.B.E., Lt. E. C. Osborne, Pte. Woodman

Pte. Craze (a southpaw) punched much too hard for Sgt. Coleman (1st Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders), and it was only Sgt. Coleman's experience that kept him on his feet, leaving Craze the winner.

Pte. Gatland, a new arrival in the Battalion, won his preliminaries very convincingly, but against Pte. Warmel (1st Royal Leicesters) he disappointed. He is a very good boxer and will do well when he has more experience of southpaw boxers. Pte. Warmel's unorthodox stance unsettled him and he did not give of his best.

The heavyweight fight between Pte. Jelley and Lt. Fairrie (1st Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders) started off very quietly but soon livened up when Jelley, a novice, got accustomed to the ring and proceeded to box very well. He won his fight and with more experience and training should do well.

The Battalion finished the competition with five winners in seven weights, and we are all confident that the boxers will do well in the Division and Land Forces' championships.

The boxers were presented with their prizes by Brig. B. A. Coad, D.S.O., who commented on the fitness of the winners and the high standard of boxing. This was due in no small measure to all the hard work put in by C.S.M.I. Timpany (A.P.T.C.) and the keenness of the boxers themselves.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Since our arrival in Hong Kong there has been much keenness shown in Companies towards cross-country running; consequently as soon as the cooler weather set in, towards the end of September, cross-country training

began in earnest. The numbers attending this training were most encouraging and consequently produced a high standard of running in the inter-Company Championship which took place on Wednesday, November 9. The championship was for the Cross-Country Shield with points counting towards the Albuhera Shield. Companies were each represented by ten runners, who ran over a difficult course of approximately 5½ miles. The C.O. started the race and from that moment it was a keen, hard-fought contest. After many changes in positions during the race the final placings were:—"D" Company, "B" Company, "A" Company, "H.Q." Company, "C" Company and "S" Company.

Great keenness was shown by the remainder of the Battalion, who turned out in force to cheer on their respective teams, and showed only too clearly the keen Company spirit in the Battalion.

Pte. Paget ran a magnificent race to win easily from the rest of the field, and we were very sorry to lose him shortly afterwards on demobilisation. The "old stagers," C.S.M. Tarrant and C.S.M. Jennings, ran well for their respective Companies and finished well up in the field. The C.O. presented the medals and the Cross-Country Shield, and so ended a very pleasant meeting.

Since then the best 20 runners have been training daily, with their eyes on the forthcoming Brigade championships. These take place on January 11, 1950, and we look forward to them with high hopes.

BATTALION ENTERTAINMENTS

Since moving to Beas Camp our entertainments programme has generally followed the same pattern week by week. On Mondays Miss Stevens of the W.V.S. visits us, bringing a feminine touch, and assists with the men's many problems. Tuesdays are normally given over to competitions, table tennis, darts and, on occasions, some very good quiz competitions are held. Wednesday is generally recognised as band night. Bandmaster Barnett has been able to persuade the bands of the 1st Battalion The Buffs and the 1st Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders to come and play for us. Thursdays and Saturdays are very popular as it is on these days that the A.K.C. film unit show films on a portable screen. Friday night is normally whist drive night and many valuable prizes have been won in the last few months.

Over the Christmas period two excellent shows were given, one by the Corporals and Privates, the other by the W.O.s and Sergeants. The former show was produced by L/Cpl. Pillar. It was extremely well done and well deserved the praise received. The latter show was produced by D/M Holdford and was an unqualified success. There is plenty of first-class theatrical talent within the Battalion. It is hoped that in the New Year bigger and better shows will be produced.

SOCCER

Since the last issue of THE DIE-HARD Journal a great deal has taken place in the soccer world of the Battalion.

It has already been mentioned that in the new territories space for football grounds is almost non-existent. However, by dint of a little hard picking and shovelling and help, gratefully received from the 410th Independent Plant Troop R.E., we have now an excellent and almost full-sized football field. In this connection a vote of thanks is due to C.S.M.I. Timpany, who has worked unsparingly in the background both in the building of the field and the organisation of soccer within the Battalion.

To date the Battalion has had quite a successful half-season, though unfortunately we have lost a number of very good footballers with demob and the teams have not really had a good chance of settling down. The games and results to date are as follows:—

Team	Versus	Place	Result	Goals
1st 1st A. & S.H.	Home	Won	5-4	
1st 4th Hussars	Home	Won	4-2	
2nd 25th Field Regt.	Away	Won	4-0	
1st 25th Field Regt.	Home	Won	3-2	
1st 1st A. & S.H.	Away	Lost	1-3	
2nd 1st A. & S.H.	Away	Won	4-0	
1st 25th Field Regt.	Away	Lost	3-7	
2nd 27th H.Q., Inf. Bde.	Home	Lost	2-3	
1st 1st R. Leics.	Home	Draw	2-2	
1st 1st R. Leics.	Away	Won	2-1	
1st 1st Buffs	Away	Draw	4-4	
2nd 27th (Strangers A/Tk. Bty., R.A.)	Home	Won	5-2	
1st 23rd Field Regt., A.A.	Away	Lost	2-5	
2nd 410th Ind. Plant Tp., R.E.	Home	Won	6-1	

Results: Won 8; Drawn 2; Lost 4; Goals for, 47; Goals against, 36.

The teams this year have been as follows:—
1st XI.—L/Cpl. Simmonds ("H.Q."), Cpl. Pascoe ("C"), L/Cpl. Larkin ("S"), Pte. Cheeseman ("C"), C/Sgt. Shrubbs, M.M. ("B"), Cpl. Hilkene, ("H.Q."), Pte. Lingwood ("A"), Pte. Paget ("B"), L/Cpl. Heritage ("B"), L/Cpl. Hinshelwood ("H.Q."), Pte. Anderson ("S"), C.S.M. McMillan ("D"), Pte. Wallis ("C"), Pte. Jones 39 ("H.Q").

2nd XI.—L/Cpl. Hyland ("H.Q."), Pte. Moore ("S"), Pte. Scopes ("D"), Pte. Amos ("B"), Pte. Gadd ("D"), L/Cpl. Leat ("H.Q."), Pte. Longhurst ("C"), Cpl. Purden ("H.Q."), Sgt. Cranfield ("A"), Pte. Coleman ("B"), Pte. Dew ("D"), Pte. Maloney ("C"), Pte. Gatlin ("C"), Pte. Buckle ("C"), Bds. Forsyth ("H.Q."), Pte. Reeves ("C").

Referees.—Sgt. Burgess ("B") and Pte. Leaney ("D").

Linesman.—L/Cpl. Burbage.

Of those mentioned above, Cpl. Pascoe, L/Cpl. Hinshelwood, Ptes. Willis and Paget have returned to the U.K. for demob. In addition, Pte. Leaney, a very keen and enthusiastic referee, has been posted to the 1st Buffs. We are sorry to lose them but take this opportunity of wishing them good luck and good footballing in the future wherever they are.

Football within the Battalion has progressed quite satisfactorily despite heavy training commitments which have made it difficult to organise competitions. However, to date a number of friendly games have been played between Companies and their corresponding numbers in the 1st Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and have fostered a spirit of friendly rivalry between our two units.

The Battalion inter-Platoon knock-out competition

produced some very keen rivalry between Companies, and was finally won by No. 7 Platoon "C" Company after a hotly-contested battle with the Carrier Platoon of "S" Company. This result was something in the nature of a personal triumph for C/Sgt. Griffiths of "C" Company, who has done a great deal to encourage a keen spirit within his Company and who has taken in very good part much good natured leg-pulling over the number of "C" Company footballers put forward for the Battalion teams.

The culmination of the half-season's football has been the inter-Mess knock-out on Boxing Day, which was won by the Privates' Mess after a ding-dong battle with the Corporals' Mess. The result, 2-1 in favour of the Privates, was only decided by extra time in a game which produced some very fine football on both sides.

The highlight of the competition was the comic match between the Officers' Mess and the Sergeants' Mess, a thoroughly enjoyable game. Of those taking part, Lt. B. K. Clayden, the All-American full back, and Capt. P. Smyth, whose blank-faced brilliant goal-keeping saved the day for the Officers' Mess, stole the show. As most of the game was played amidst a pall of smoke and detonations, the final result was somewhat in doubt. The stout decision of the referee, L/Cpl. Burbage, that the match was a draw was hotly contested by both Messes, and L/Cpl. Burbage was consigned to the nearest river.

BASKET BALL NOTES

Since the issue of our last notes events have moved slowly but steadily in the basket ball world. Under the careful guidance of C.S.M.I. Timpany the standard of basket ball has improved.

The inter-Company knock-out competition is being held in early January, and this competition will help to solve the problem of selecting a Battalion team.

After the Company competition we shall start inter-Battalion games in which, we feel sure, we shall meet with considerable success.

HOCKEY NOTES

We are still unable to play as much hockey as we would like, mainly due to lack of grounds and commitments. We have, however, a very bumpy airstrip which the Companies use for a knockabout, but where it is quite impossible to play a competitive game.

The Battalion has entered a team for the Land Forces' hockey tournament, and out of the two games played we have lost one and drawn the other.

In the first game we played the 1st Battalion Royal Leicesters. The Battalion fielded a strong XI, but mainly due to lack of practice we were three goals down at half-time. In the second half the team played as of old, and in a matter of 15 minutes of the restart Capt. P. J. Livemore, M.C., and C.S.M. McMillan scored the necessary goals to draw level. After this we had the game very much our own way, the Royal Leicesters seldom being able to encroach in our half of the field, and so to full time with six goals shared and a hard-fought game enjoyed by spectators and players alike. In

the second match our team was depleted, Cpts. P. J. Livemore, M.C., and K. J. Carter, our most thrushful forwards, and 2/Lt. J. C. Bucknall were away on exercises. The 1st Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders opened the score with a fine goal ten minutes after the bully off, and try as hard as we did we were unable to draw level until five minutes before the final whistle. Only a matter of a few seconds before full time the Argyll's scored again through a misunderstanding between a back and the goalkeeper. A fast, robust game we lost by seconds. Of the players, O.R.Q.M.S. Waldron and Cpl. Hilkene in the half-back line played brilliantly, Pte. Jenkins in goal played a courageous game, stopping shots with all parts of his body.

Cpts. Livemore, M.C., and Bellers are still as fast and tricky as they were in England, whilst C.S.M. Tarrant appears never to be more happy at right half than when upsetting the equilibrium of speedy wingers.

Cpts. P. J. Livemore, M.C., K. J. Carter and P. G. V. Bellers, Lt. B. K. Clayden, O.R.Q.M.S. Waldron and C.S.M. Tarrant have all had trials for the Army. Lt. B. K. Clayden was chosen to play left wing but he was injured before the match and since then the Army appears to have lost interest. With good luck and constructive play we should enter into the finals of the tournament which we look forward to with confidence.

DEPOT NOTES

Since our last notes several meetings have taken place to decide on the future occupants of the main part of the barracks. It now seems likely that the Home Postal Depot, R.E., will come here, the date being dependent on certain engineer work to be carried out in minor improvements and alterations. The Depot will continue to function as it does now, but the larger unit will no doubt be of great assistance in improving the appearance of the buildings and surroundings, which suffer inevitably from neglect, with only our small maintenance party to keep the place tidy.

On the 19th and 20th the Middlesex County Cadet Committee held a useful and instructive conference of Company Commanders in the School and Officers' Mess, some 24 attending. On the 22nd the Colonel of the Regiment and O.C. Depot attended a service at the Garrison Church at Shorncliffe, when the 6th Battalion Colours were placed there on loan for safe keeping; on the 26th they attended the Old Comrades' Reunion at Slater's Restaurant at Kensington; and on the 28th a meeting at Hendon Town Hall, where the Hendon cheque for £1,300 was handed to the Lord-Lieutenant of the County, Lord Latham, for the Middlesex Regiment Cottage Homes Appeal Fund.

During December another course of instruction for Middlesex Army Cadets Force N.C.O.s was held for some 30 boys over a week-end. From the 13th to 16th a company of the Grenadier Guards was accommodated in the barracks during the power strike, while they helped to maintain a local power station at Enfield. On December 9 Pte. Nicks, who had recently returned from Hong Kong, won, with his sister, the pair ice-skating championship of Great Britain at the Empress Hall. He

now goes forward to the European championships at Oslo, various exhibitions in Europe, and finally, we hope, to the world championships at Wembley in April.

On December 11 a Parents' Sunday School Service was held by Padre Naylor in the Garrison Church, where parents saw how these services are conducted, and various hymns were sung by the children.

On December 17 the Children's Christmas Tree Party was held, described in detail elsewhere, and on the 23rd Christmas dinners were enjoyed by the rather small number of men present; served in the traditional manner by the officers and sergeants. On the 31st the gymnasium was filled to overcrowding by all ranks, past and present, and their friends for the New Year's Eve Dance. We were particularly glad to welcome Brig. and Mrs. Rackham, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Cubitt, and Major and Mrs. Weller at this dance and they met many old friends.

On January 18 we had, for an all-too-short visit, our latest-joined officers from the R.M.A., Sandhurst, 2/Lts. Lawrence, Wollocombe and Fothergill. They had time to look round the Depot and to visit the 7th Battalion at Horsey before going off to Hythe on a small arms course prior to embarking for Hong Kong to join the 1st Battalion. We are also having, for a short time, 2/Lt. Harrop, who has just obtained a National Service Commission and is to go to the 1st Battalion shortly.

We were glad to welcome Col. S. F. Hedgecoe here just before Christmas, and he is retiring early in February after being in charge of our Record Office at Warwick. Major A. G. Hewitt has also called during his leave from West Africa, whence he returns shortly for a second tour of 18 months.

The Depot football team turns out on Wednesdays, when possible, for a friendly game with a local unit, and our shooting on the range on Thursdays continues.

R.S.M. Weller left us in December to replace R.S.M. McLoughlin, with the 1st Battalion. We were very sorry to lose him and wish him luck in Hong Kong. He went with C.S.M. Wild and Sgt. Markham, and we have heard he soon organised his draft of some 30 National Servicemen and arranged a good training and recreational programme on board ship. Sgt. Markham, very well known for his boxing prowess some years ago, soon had the gloves on them and they have no doubt benefited from his keenness.

On January 23 the Colonel of the Regiment and O.C. Depot, accompanied by Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, were entertained to luncheon by the Secretary of the Victory Club, 73-9 Seymour Street, near Marble Arch. They were shown round the Club and were much impressed with the amenities provided, at very reasonable prices, for all ranks of ex-Service men and women. Some 60 ex-members of the Regiment had joined the Club to date, and it was hoped more would do so.

On January 24 a most successful reunion of the survivors of the Battle of Spion Kop was held, no less than 21 of them gathering in the Sergeants' Mess for the 50th anniversary of the action. The reunion was attended by the Colonel of the Regiment, Col. W. A. Stewart, O.B.E., and the Depot officers, and is described in detail elsewhere.



SPION KOP REUNION

On January 24, 1950, a reunion of no less than 21 ex-members of the 2nd Battalion who took part in the Battle of Spion Kop was held in the Sergeants' Mess to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the action.

With an average age of 78 years these veterans presented an impressive and bemedalled array and a fine example of the old "Die-Hard" spirit. The survivors of the battle present were :

Col. W. A. Stewart, O.B.E., Capt. F. Skinner, M.C., Bandmaster J. Kerwin, Sgt. H. Wells, Dmr. W. H. King, Pte. P. G. Jennings, Pte. A. F. Page, Pte. H. E. Crump, Pte. C. Buckman, Sgt. W. T. E. Pead, Pte. F. Hurst, Capt. G. Johnson, Q.M.S. R. E. Evans, D.C.M., R.S.M. F. J. Trezona, M.C., C/Sgt. J. Ryan, Pte. G. E. Ford, Pte. G. E. Edwards, Pte. W. Bailey, Pte. J. A. Knight, Pte. H. J. Ormiston, Sgt. H. Wright.

Those unable to attend were : Lt.-Col. H. P. Osborne, D.S.O., Sgt. T. G. Moore, Pte. R. F. Varney, Sgt. J. Dunstone, C/Sgt. C. Smith.

Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P., Colonel of the Regiment, opened proceedings by proposing the Loyal Toast to the King, and then went on to welcome the guests and to introduce Col. Stewart.

Col. Stewart gave a most interesting and amusing address on his early experiences in the Regiment and on incidents at Spion Kop. He recalled how he had joined at the age of 18 at Woolwich, and when marched in by Capt. Muriel the Adjutant, Col. Hill, a most awe-inspiring officer, said he thought he must be aged 15. He had arrived in South Africa the youngest man in the Battalion, and with no training for field operations, beyond bayonet drills, and remembered how the Bat-

talion had changed the colour of their helmets from blue to khaki, and dyed their white belts from a dye made of mimosa bark.

Our men were no match at the start with the Boer fighting skill, but soon learned from their mistakes. Orders for the battle had been very sketchy and few men knew what the plan was ; when they first came under long-range small arms fire they even thought it was the noise of dragon flies, of which there were myriads.

The climb up the hill, in single file, had sometimes to be on all fours, and they were hindered by wounded and panic-stricken troops coming down. The arrival of the Battalion had steadied everyone on top of the hill and here they found themselves exposed to heavy fire from front and flanks. At the critical moment, when a bold rush forward would have probably been successful, the order to retire was received.

Near the bottom of the hill he had met a young reporter, asking for details of the action, a Mr. Winston Churchill ; and a little further on their Brigade Commander, Gen. Talbot Coke. The General was suffering from gout and could not climb the hill, and two men were left with him, to assist him back. Here Mr. P. G. Jennings, one of those present, said he well remembered the incident as he was one of the men, the other being Pte. O. G. Smith.

Col. Stewart said he had always been conscious of the magnificent comradeship and fellowship that exists in our Regiment and was, indeed, proud and happy to be at the reunion that evening.

The Colonel of the Regiment then proposed the sad and solemn toast to those who had fallen at Spion Kop,



coupled with those who had since passed away and those who could not be present.

Capt. G. Johnson then replied on behalf of the others present, recalling some most interesting anecdotes of the Battalion at the time. All would remember the fine beards they grew there (here Col. Stewart disagreed—he said he could not grow one !) and the poor rations ; usually bully and biscuits, which caused a lot of stomach trouble. It was recalled how, one day, when rations and water were short, a voice was heard to cry out : " Mine's a mild and bitter, Miss." On hearing this the Colonel halted the Battalion, and ordered up the water cart. This was greeted with cheers by the men, at which the Colonel immediately called out : " If you can shout you don't need it. March on !"

Thanks were proposed to the Colonel of the Regiment for the excellent evening, and to the members of the Sergeants' Mess for their hospitality. Some group photographs were taken and the company then enjoyed the generous buffet supper provided and discussed old times together until a late hour. Beds were provided by the Depot for six of the party whose homes were too far away to reach that night.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY, 1949

As usual, arrangements for the party started in good time. A committee was formed, consisting of O.C. Depot, Major Heywood, Mrs. Farrow and Mrs. Dennis, and after a meeting on October 10 an afternoon's shopping expedition was arranged the same week. Mrs. Bellers, Mrs. Dennis, Mrs. Farrow, Mrs. Newman and Mrs. Smith set forth with long lists of names and ages of children, and they spent the afternoon selecting a fine array of presents for all, at wholesale prices, bearing in mind not only what the children had received last year but what it was thought they would like this year.

In due course vans arrived full of parcels and then the real work of sorting, wrapping and tying up and labelling started, which took several evenings, working till late at night, in one of the offices.

By Friday evening, December 18, the Christmas tree had been decorated, with a beautiful doll dressed by Mrs. Newman on top, and a lot of blowing expended in inflating balloons, Cpl. Gould displaying unexpected powers and speed in this line. C.S.M. Maloney seemed

to be everywhere at once, and by midday Saturday the tree was in position, chairs ready for the cinema, loud-speaker and lights prepared by our helpful R.E.M.E. friends, specially-built fireplace in position, presents laid out, and Mr. Ash and the faithful N.A.A.F.I. staff completing the laying of 200 teas. The late arrival of the Father Christmas kit caused a temporary panic, and hurriedly improvised arrangements (fortunately not needed) caused some amusement.

By 3.15 a good crowd of guests had arrived and the cinema started with a Jack and the Beanstalk cartoon, and went on with an excellent show, much enjoyed by the children, till 4 o'clock.

Tea then started, and the 1st Battalion cable, received that morning from Hong Kong, was loudly applauded. It said : " Happy Christmas and lots of fun to all children and their mothers, and thank you to all helpers from 1st Battalion fathers." Cakes, sandwiches, jellies and ice-cream disappeared with a remarkable speed, and by 5 o'clock everyone settled down to welcome Father Christmas (O.R.Q.M.S. Cook). Called up by telephone, his spectacular arrival through the fireplace, heralded by suitable noises, proved an exciting and loudly-acclaimed event. After a few well-chosen words on the loudspeaker names began to be called and each child went up to receive a present from Father Christmas and a packet of sweets and a balloon from the helpers.

By 5.30 this was over and Father Christmas, with a cheerful " good-bye," disappeared through the fireplace. After a short time with their new toys, mothers started to collect and dress their offspring, happy and tired after an excellent party.

Our thanks go to the organisers and helpers mentioned earlier in this account, and to Mr. Ash and his N.A.A.F.I. staff for their excellent tea.

The party was made possible by the opening gift of £15 from the Cambridge Club, followed by £50 from the 1st Battalion, a vote of £20 from the Depot Sergeants' Mess, and smaller amounts from the Depot Officers' Mess and P.R.I. funds, and the Depot R.C. Padre.

RECRUITING

We are badly in need of boys for training as Bandsmen with the 1st Battalion Band.

If anyone reading this note knows of any likely lad he is asked to let the O.C. Depot know.

Experience is not essential but a knowledge of piano or a wind or string instrument should be a great help.

O.C. Depot is in touch with all Cadet Units, Recruiting Authorities and Youth Employment Officers in the county, and advertisements are appearing in the local evening papers, but so far the results are disappointing.

With the offer of a career full of opportunity for promotion, and free musical training, it is an attractive life for a boy.

Past members of the Regiment are particularly asked to broadcast our requirements and to do their best to send some boys along.

They themselves know how very well many of our boys have done in the past, and they can be our best recruiters.

MUSEUM NOTES

On December 10, 1949, the Colonel of the Regiment received from the Military Historical Society at the Imperial War Museum a sampler of the Colours of the 3rd Battalion The Middlesex Regiment. It was given to the Society by an anonymous donor.

The sampler is in a wooden frame with glass front and embroidered in coloured silk on a black background. Above the Colours is a wreath of laurel containing the Prince of Wales's Feathers and inscription "Albuhera," and on either side are the Regimental Battle Honours up to South Africa, 1902.

The history of the sampler is not known, but it may have been made in South Africa after the presentation of Colours to the 3rd Battalion. These Colours were presented by H.E. The Right Honourable Viscount Milner, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., High Commissioner of South Africa, at Middleburg, Transvaal, on February 3, 1904, just before the retirement of the Battalion's first Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. E. V. Bellers.

The original Colours are laid up in the Guildhall, where they can now be seen. The sampler shows the Roman figure III in the centre of the King's Colour, and the red St. George's Cross on white background on the Regimental Colour. In the top left corner of the Regimental Colour is the Roman figure II, which appears to be in error.

Col. T. South very kindly presented to the Museum three muskets. These three firearms were captured by the 2/8th Battalion, in the Western Desert in 1916, being taken from three Arabs who were attempting to get past the outlying pickets of that Battalion.

Sgt. L. F. Garrett (No. 12214) sent an article from the *Sunday Pictorial*, showing a group of "Die-Hards" of "B" Company of the 1st Battalion, at Mons in 1914. This article is now in the Museum. The Colonel of the Regiment has written and thanked Sgt. Garrett.

Two South African Medals, awarded to the late Sgt. T. A. Fleckney (No. 6492), who served with the 4th Battalion, have been presented to the Museum. Sgt. Fleckney enlisted in September, 1900, and was discharged in October, 1912. This veteran of the Boer War passed away in November, 1949, aged 66 years. The medals were presented to the Regiment by his widow.

HANDING OVER OF COLOURS TO GARRISON CHURCH, SHORNCLIFFE

On November 22, 1949, a service was held, at 11.45 a.m., in the Garrison Church of St. Mark, Shorncliffe, for the dedication of the organ, by His Grace the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.

Part of the service consisted of the ceremony of handing over four pairs of Colours of Regiments of the Home Counties Brigade for temporary lodgment in the church. The church is a new and fine one, and these Colours will enhance the beauty of interior, and form a valuable symbol of the Regiments whose recruits undergo their early training at Shorncliffe.

The Colonel of the Regiment had given permission for the 6th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment Colour,

then in safe custody at the Depot, to be loaned to the church, and they were taken down by the O.C. Depot, with Sgt. Fawcett, the day before, and handed over to the 1st Battalion the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. As seen in the photograph, the 6th Battalion Regimental Colour has a white background with red St. George's Cross and the figure VI in the top left corner.

Our regimental representatives at the service were Col. M. Browne, Colonel of the Regiment, Major R. C. H. Bellers, O.C. Depot, and Mrs. Bellers, Capt. V. A. Thomas and R.S.M. Weller, and they formed part of a large and distinguished congregation representing all regiments of the group and many recruits.

The service opened with the singing of the hymn, "Through the night of doubt and sorrow, onward goes the pilgrim band," during which the officiating clergy and His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury took up their positions at the altar.

The four sets of Colours of the Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment), the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and ours were then brought slowly to the centre of the church, making a magnificent and deeply-moving display. Each set of Colours had its own Colour Party, our own under Lt. J. O. D. French carrying the King's Colour, and 2/Lt. L. C. Sharpe the Regimental Colour, with Sgts. G. Whitfield, L. Crittenden and S. Bartle forming the escort. The Colour Parties then slow-marched, one by one, to the altar, where the Colours were handed to the Archbishop and placed in pairs on either side.

After the service the Colonel of the Regiment joined other Colonels of Regiments at the District Commanders' Mess and lunched with Maj.-Gen. P. G. S. Gregson-Ellis and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

List of donations from November 4, 1949, to February 1, 1950, inclusive:—

	£	s.	d.
Borough of Hendon (further donation) ..	1,300	0	0
Legionaire Club, Willesden, Ltd.	34	12	6
Enfield District "100" Luncheon Club (further donation)	26	5	0
Col. A. M. O. A. Passingham (sale of stamp collecting cards)	8	0	0
9th Battalion O.C.A. Raffle at O.C.A. Reunion	2	7	0
Mr. R. E. Evans, D.C.M. (further donation)	2	2	0
Mrs. P. Lindley Smith	2	0	0
Maggs Pokey Die Fiends (further donation)	1	6	0
Mr. I. G. Peacock	1	1	0
A.M.M.S. (per Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D.), Mr. J. Hart, Mr. R. Leapman (stamp collecting card)	1	0	0
Mr. A. F. McDermott	5	0	



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

The Battalion held a recruiting drive during November, 1949, which took the form of producing a social function each night of the week (November 7 to 12 inclusive).

The week started on Armistice Sunday (November 6), when over 50 members of the Battalion and 50 Old Comrades were present on church parade and marched to St. Mary's Church, Hornsey, headed by the Corps of Drums. Wreaths were laid at the Battalion Memorial in the church on behalf of all ranks, ex-officers and Old Comrades of the 7th Middlesex. The Battalion Colours were carried on parade by Lts. Garbett and Bird, and advantage was taken of our Freedom of Hornsey Borough in letting the Colours "fly" during the return march from the church. A short film of the parade was taken by Lt. E. G. Daniels and shown to all ranks later during the week. A copy of this film is being included in the Middlesex County T.A. recruiting film which is being compiled at present. Events during the week included a band concert given by the R.A.O.C. Staff Band from Portsmouth and a darts exhibition given by well-known *News of the World* darts champions, including J. Ross, S. Head and S. Outten. Although the increase of recruits was not very great, it is felt that the week was a

success in making the unit more well known, locally, as part of Hornsey.

Several officers, including Col. Johnson and Major Hughes, attended the B.E.F. Club dinner on November 11, at the Trocadero, the annual dinner where past and present officers of the 7th Battalion indulged in reminiscences, and all present spent a very enjoyable evening together.

Lt. Lloyd has left us for a time whilst in South Africa, where his civilian work has taken him. Best wishes go with him from all ranks and the hope that he will rejoin us on his return to U.K. after two or three years.

Christmas in the T.A. is somewhat different to that in a regular battalion, in that Christmas festivities are organised on a personal or family basis, compared with the Battalion Christmas dinner and activities of the Regular Army. However, the New Year's dance and the children's party are very similar, and this year some 500 people celebrated the arrival of the New Year in the customary way, and over 90 children of serving members and Old Comrades enjoyed themselves at the children's party on January 7 at Hornsey T.A. Centre. The success of the children's party was mainly due to the hard work by Mrs. A. K. Johnson and Lt. Daniels, who organised the arrival of Father Christmas, Charles Denton, and C.S.M. Perry, who arranged all the

administrative details of the party, and to Drum-Major Poulter and his family, for the excellent tea provided.

On December 19 the officers and ex-officers of the Battalion gave Charles Denton a dinner in the Officers' Mess on the occasion of his retirement, after 41 years' service, and it was a very enjoyable occasion. We were very pleased to have present Brig. Murray, the Hon. Colonel of the Battalion, and several ex-officers, including Col Pringle, Col. Mirams, Majors Bartram and Cunliffe, and Lt. Gliksten. During January we have also said good-bye to Capt. Trestain as Q.M., who has been posted to the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong. We welcome Capt. Honeybun as his temporary successor until the arrival of Major Newman from the 1st Battalion in a few months' time.

The Corps of Drums, under Drum-Major Poulter, which is now 25 strong, gave an excellent display at the Ritz Cinema, Harringay, on December 30. The display was received with great enthusiasm by the local populace and it is hoped to give further displays of this nature in the local area in the near future for recruiting purposes.

Rumours are now very strong about the return of the T.A. Centres at Enfield and Tottenham. It is fairly certain that we shall be installed in Enfield before Easter and we hope that Tottenham will be returned to us soon after annual camp this year.

The officers and ex-officers organised a presentation to Col. Sir Edwin J. King of a very ornate and valuable clock on January 22, 1950, at Hornsey, in the Officers' Mess, on his relinquishment of the appointment of Hon. Colonel of the Battalion after nearly 25 years. Lt.-Col. J. K. Maitland presented the clock and gave tribute to the tremendous work by Col. King, both

during his period of service as an officer and Commanding Officer of the Battalion and, also, as Hon. Colonel of the Battalion during the latter years.

The Battalion organised a dance at the Hornsey Town Hall on January 26—this will probably become an annual social event in future years. A very enjoyable evening ensued but, unfortunately, the numbers were few, owing to the bad weather. Despite this, "C" Company has almost 100 per cent. attendance. Well done, "C" Company!



7th BATTALION OFFICERS' (B.E.F.) CLUB
TROCADERO, NOVEMBER 11, 1949

Lt.-Col. Kenneth Johnson, Commander, 7th Battalion,
Brig. Basil Rackham and Lt.-Col. Roberts



7th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS' (B.E.F.) CLUB 22nd ANNUAL DINNER
Held at the Trocadero, November 11, 1949. Chairman: Col. Sir Edwin King



Courtesy of The Hornsey Journal

11th PARACHUTE BATTALION (MIDDLESEX) T.A.

A period of relaxation followed the end of camp and the training year, in which time our harassed permanent staff had a well-earned rest. This was quickly followed by a first-class week-end arranged by 4th Parachute Brigade at the Isle of Wight. The exercise, arranged presumably for officers and N.C.O.s, was a theoretical drop to capture a certain valuable prisoner, with a withdrawal to the sea across country and evacuation by landing craft. This took place during the night of October 29 and at dawn the Royal Marines embarked the Brigade, together with some vehicles, in L.C.M. and L.C.T. from the N.-E. coast of the island, taking us back to Cowes, where we were stationed. In the afternoon they again kindly shipped us over to Southampton and we caught an evening train up to London. Our thanks are due to Brigade H.Q. and the Royal Marines for such an enjoyable and instructive week-end.

Again we have come to the front in the Divisional 22 Rifle Competition, with the Battalion winning the "A" Team Cup and "H.Q." and "C" Companies tying for first place in the "B" Team Cup.

Boxing has come to the forefront of our sporting activities and great keenness was shown in the inter-company competition, which was held at Hounslow on Thursday, January 12. "H.Q." Company were the winners, and the cup and prizes were presented by the Brigade Commander, Brig. J. M. K. Spurling, D.S.O. This was closely followed by a match, which we won, against the 10th Parachute Battalion, and for which a cup had been presented by the Hounslow Boxing Club.

Some excellent fights were put up and we must congratulate all contestants on the excellent evening's entertainment. The prizes were again presented by our Brigade Commander, and amongst our guests were our Honorary Colonel, Brig. E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., senior officers from Division and Brigade and members of the Committee of the Hounslow Boxing Club.

We understand that camp this year is to be held near the Devonshire coast and, since we are no longer

to be allocated a household unit, permission has been given to recruit men for administrative duties who are unable, on account of their medical category, to undertake parachute duties. Any old "Die-hards" who are interested should call and see us. Similar conditions apply to our Band and Drums, who have now been formed under Bandmaster Dean and Drum-Major Wales respectively, the latter being well known in the 2/8th and 1st Battalions.

Staff List

C.O.	..	Lt.-Col. S. Terrell, T.D.
2 i/c	..	Major C. P. B. Moggridge, M.C.
Adjt.	..	Capt. P. G. T. Bates
R.S.M.	..	G. D. Miller, M.M.

"H.Q." and "S" Companies

C.O.	..	Major W. D. Ellis
P.S.I.	..	C.S.M. Gray

"B" Company

C.O.	..	Capt. P. McG. Bulwer
P.S.I.	..	Sgt. Corboy

"C" Company

C.O.	..	Major R. A. Corby
P.S.I.	..	C.S.M. Roberts

"D" Company

C.O.	..	Major J. W. P. Baxter
P.S.I.	..	Sgt. Quinn

595th L.A.A. S.L. REGIMENT R.A. (MIDDLESEX)

Affiliation Parade

The affiliation parade, on Sunday, January 29, 1950, at 1100 hrs., of 33/3rd Cadet Regiment, R.A., to 595th L.A.A. S.L. Regiment, R.A. (9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, D.C.O.) T.A., was symbolised by changing the Escort for the King's and Regimental Colours before they were marched off at the end of the ceremony.

The senior cadet N.C.O.s who were granted the honour of providing the escort were Cadet Sgts. Brereton and Newstead and Cadet Bdr. Rose.



MARCH OFF OF KING'S AND REGIMENTAL COLOURS AFTER CHANGE FROM ESCORT OF T.A. REGIMENT TO ESCORT OF NEWLY AFFILIATED CADET BATTERY

Colour Officers : Capt. G. W. Hill and Capt. D. H. Spratt

Colour Escort : Cadet/Sgt. D. Brereton, Cadet/Sgt. G. Newstead and Cadet/Bdr. N. G. Rose

The parade, under Major H. M. L. Price, was drawn up on the parade ground at the T.A. Centre, Kingsbury, as two guards facing each other with the Colours in the midway between the two guards, and promptly at 11 a.m. Col. Maurice Browne, M.C., D.L., Colonel of the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), arrived at the saluting base, accompanied by Lt.-Col. H. W. W. Gray, M.B.E., T.D., Commanding Officer, 595th L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A. (9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, D.C.O.), T.A., and the Mayor and Mayoress of Wembley.

The general salute was sounded. After an inspection Col. Maurice Browne, in addressing the parade, said the affiliation had two objects :

- (1) The T.A. to provide instructors, equipment, accommodation and social facilities.
 - (2) That it was hoped that as he passed from Cadet to National Serviceman, and then to T.A., the Cadet would want to come back to the parent unit, and volunteer for four years as a Territorial.
- He also stressed the importance of the Regimental Colour and urged the Cadets to be loyal to their Regiment and their new badge.

Col. Gray then handed Col. M. Browne an R.A. pennant embossed with the R.A. badge and Middlesex

badge, to present to the Cadet Battery to fly at their mast-head.

Capt. F. P. Smith, O.C. 33rd Battery, came forward to receive the pennant on behalf of his Battery and, as he marched back to his position, so the youngest Cadet left his position at the flag mast and marched towards his officer to receive the pennant, and then returned to fly it at the flag mast. This cadet, height 4 ft. 6 in. and 11½ years of age, with white belt, is the son of the T.A. Unit's R.S.M. and is specially enlisted as O.C.'s runner, and his drill already shows he is going to follow his father's footsteps.

A very fine programme of music for the ceremony was provided by the T.A.'s own Military Band, under Bandmaster J. R. Turner.

Quite a large number of wives, parents and friends gathered to see this impressive ceremony.

Special guests included Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., Honorary Colonel of 595th L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A. (9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, D.C.O.), T.A., Brig. B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., Secretary, Middlesex Territorial and Auxiliary Forces' Association, Lt.-Col. Pritchard, representing Col. R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker, T.D., D.L., Commandant, Cadets, Mr. R. M. J. Pendred,

J.P., Chairman, Wembley Recruiting Committee, and Lt.-Col. E. T. Morgan, O.C. 3rd Cadet Regiment, R.A.

Christmas activities, 1949, at the T.A. Centre of 595th L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A. (9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, D.C.O.), T.A., were again presented against the background of coloured lights and decorations, that transformed the hall into a children's fairy delight.

The regimental Christmas party was again the highlight, and the 160 children, who arrived at 2 p.m. and left at 6 p.m., had every minute catered for, with musical games, films, Punch and Judy, conjuror, the biggest tea ever, and, finally, Father Christmas coming down a chimney and arriving on stage without a trace of soot, which was too much for the certain boy who was heard to say : "It can't be a real chimney."

To all the ladies who worked under Mrs. Avis, wife of the R.S.M., many thanks were expressed, and, best of all, was the remark of one little girl, clutching a toy in one hand, orange, apple, sweets and balloon in the other, while mummy was trying hard to put a coat on to take her home : "Mummy, I'm so happy I could bust."

The all ranks' party, on Friday, December 23, was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Wembley, Brig. B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., and the Hon. Colonel, Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., and we were only too sorry that the Colonel of the Regiment was unable to be with us.

Over 500 attended, and included wives, girl friends and members of our Regiment and 6th A.A. Workshop Battalion, R.E.M.E. (T.A.), with whom we share our premises, 9th Battalion Middlesex Regiment O.C.A., senior cadets from 33rd Battery and ex-cadets now serving in National Service.

The dancing, stage show, and good luck rifle shoot helped to get the evening going, and everybody was ready to tackle at 9.30 p.m. the buffet tables laden down with a spread of food that reminded us of pre-war days.

This was the first of the annual all ranks' Christmas parties, and will be long remembered, as it brought together many wives and girl friends and members of the Regiment who were just names but, at the finish, were firm friends.

These were two only of many functions which took place over 16 days, others including sergeants' ball, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve regimental dances.

Presentation of Colours

An impressive ceremony will take place at the T.A. Centre, Honeyput Lane, Kingsbury, N.W.9, on Saturday, May 13, 1950, when Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., will, on behalf of His Majesty The King, present new Colours to 595th L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A. (9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, D.C.O.), T.A.

Gen. Horrocks has long associations with this Battalion, having been Adjutant from 1926 to 1930.

The existing Colours were presented to the Regiment by H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenburg at the Regiment's former Headquarters in Pound Lane, Willesden, N.W.10, on June 28, 1913.

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

Service of Remembrance

On Sunday, November 6 last, the Old Comrades of the above branch mustered at Chiswick Parish Church for their annual Service of Remembrance.

The service was attended by the Mayor of Chiswick and about 100 members of the 1/10th and 2/10th Battalions.

Through the kind co-operation of the Vicar, the Rev. A. H. Rees, who arranged the service and preached a very inspiring sermon, the occasion was very fitting and, also, pleasing to the congregation of old soldiers.

The Act of Remembrance took place after the sermon, when, after the placing of the wreaths on the memorials of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, the Last Post was sounded, followed by the Reveille, which brought this ceremony to an impressive close.

After the service, a brief reunion took place in the Church Hall, kindly lent by the Vicar, when, once again, the refreshments were by the good friends of the 2/10th, Mrs. P. E. Cumming, Mrs. W. A. Lovegrove and Mr. R. de Pass. A collection made in the Hall to cover the expenses of this amounted to about £5 and was handed to the Vicar.

The name of the Secretary of the 2/10th Branch is Mr. A. H. Cumming, who would be glad to hear from any 2/10th men who are not already on his register. His address is 21 Hounslow Road, Feltham, Middlesex.

A.H.C.

MIDDLESEX ARMY CADET FORCE

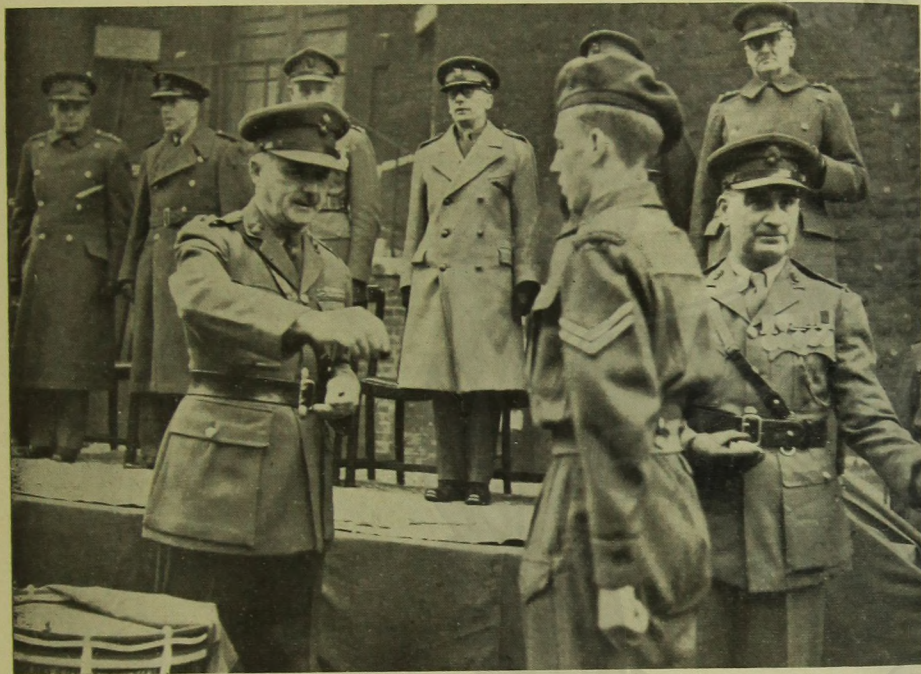
Rebadging Ceremony at H.M. Tower of London

On Sunday, January 22, 1950, a most moving and interesting ceremony was carried out at H.M. Tower of London. It was the formal affiliation and rebadging of members of Nos. 93 and 94 Batteries, 9th County of Middlesex Cadet Regiment, who have recently become affiliated to 604th (M.) L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A. (R.F.), T.A.

For the benefit of readers it is considered that a little of the background history leading up to this ceremony will be of interest. In accordance with War Office policy the County of Middlesex Cadet Committee have recently carried out a complete reorganisation of the Army Cadet Force units in the county. This has meant that, in many cases, sub-units who were formerly affiliated to the Middlesex Regiment have now been affiliated to their local Territorial Army units. By this it is hoped that closer liaison will lead to assistance on a mutual basis and, so far as the cadets are concerned, assistance on an "elder brother, younger brother" basis. It also means that what is now becoming a natural circle will be closed, i.e. from Cadet to National Service man to Territorial Army soldier.

All cadet units continue to be affiliated through their unit headquarters to the County Regiment. Sub-units are affiliated to various Arms of the Service, such as the R.A., Royal Signals, R.A.S.C., R.E.M.E., Parachute Regiment, etc.

The morning of the ceremony was cold and misty,



and the grey towers of this most ancient fortress lent a solemn background to the ceremony.

H.M. Tower of London is the birthplace of the Royal Fusiliers. This famous regiment was born from the ancient Ordnance Companies (gunners) who were stationed there in the 17th century. Their badge, the bursting fusil with the double rose enclosed in the garter, can still be seen on some of the old cannon in the Tower.

It was, therefore, right and proper that this ceremony should be held in such a place.

The ceremony commenced with the two Cadet Batteries, on the right (the place of honour), together with detachments of the male and female members of 604th (M.) L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A. (R.F.), T.A., forming up on the parade ground in front of the White Tower. The parade received the Colonel of the Royal Fusiliers, Maj.-Gen. J. F. Harter, D.S.O., M.C., with a general salute. Other distinguished guests present, among whom were included Group-Captain A. S. W. Dore, C.B., D.S.O., T.D., D.L., Chairman, Middlesex Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association, Brig. E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., A.D.C., J.P., Chairman, Middlesex County Cadet Committee, Brig. B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Secretary, Middlesex Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association and Cadet Committee, Col. Giles, C.B.E.,

Chairman, County of London Cadet Committee, Col. R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker, T.D., D.L., Commandant, County of Middlesex Army Cadet Force, and Lt.-Col. S. Mirams, M.C., T.D., D.L., Honorary Colonel, 9th County of Middlesex Cadet Regiment, proceeded to the saluting dais.

After inspecting the parade Maj.-Gen. Harter spoke. He referred to the long and close association that existed between the Royal Fusiliers and the Middlesex Regiment and of how they had fought together and both still celebrated the famous battle of Albuhera. He welcomed these young soldiers to the birthplace of the Regiment they were about to join through their affiliation to 604th (M.) L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A., who, he reminded them, were formerly Royal Fusiliers and who, by permission of His Majesty, continued to wear the badge of the Regiment, although they were now gunners.

Now followed what, to many, was the most moving part of the ceremony, the exchange of badges. After removing the cap badge of the Middlesex Regiment, which many had worn proudly for a long time, cadets came up to the dais in single file to receive their new badge of the Royal Fusiliers.

Having regained their ranks and inserted their new badge, the whole parade marched past the saluting base, Maj.-Gen. Harter taking the salute, and from there into the Church of St. Peter Ad Vincula for a service of

thanksgiving and dedication. Following the service, which was most impressively conducted by the Rev. R. M. La Porte-Payne, S.C.F., all filed out and officers, warrant officers and other ranks, including the cadets, each went to their respective Messes, where all were entertained in regimental fashion.

Later, by permission of the Resident Governor, everyone was privileged to see the Crown Jewels. What a magnificent sight they were! All the adjectives in the English language are exhausted in attempting to describe these symbols of British history and royal majesty.

So ended what, to many of these young soldiers, will undoubtedly be a red letter day and, it is hoped, an inspiration for their future lives and service, whether it be as soldier or civilian.

HORNSEY "DIE-HARDS" CLUB

By the time these notes have appeared in print, we should have held our fourth annual general meeting and be in our fifth year of existence. It is, therefore, fitting perhaps to review the activities of the Club over the last four years and see whether we have accomplished that which we set out to do.

Our object in the first instance was two-fold. First, to have a rendezvous where old members of the Battalion could meet and talk over old times, and, secondly, to help to keep the members together so that those eligible for rejoining could be kept up to date with the situation as to the reformation of the Battalion. It was then suggested that the O.C.A. should become local members of the Regimental Association and that all members of the Regiment should become eligible to join. We fell in line and became the Hornsey "Die-Hards" Club, and, as the Drill Hall was not open, we established our headquarters at the "Nightingale," and our old friend, Percy Shorten, put a room at our disposal every Wednesday evening.

In the first year 161 members joined. This dropped to 117 the next year, went up to 127 in the next, and dropped to 81 in 1949. It is hoped that the numbers will go up again in the coming year and the "stalwarts" can considerably help in this by making their pals come along and join.

The Club has subscribed approximately £75 to the Regimental War Memorial Cottage Homes, as the result of a dance, sale of "cottage stamps," and collecting boxes.

Many cases of hardship have been investigated by the Secretary and recommended to the Regimental Association for assistance, which has been forthcoming.

We were fortunate to have the Club Room at the Drill Hall put at our disposal on Wednesday evenings by the C.O. of the 7th Battalion when they re-formed, and some very good functions have been held there throughout the period.

From the foregoing, it is considered that we have accomplished that which we set out to do, and our thanks are due to all those who have helped to keep the Club going. There is still much that could be done. Are you doing your bit?

HORNSEY "DIE-HARD."

Conclusion of

A JOURNEY THROUGH AFRICA

By LT.-COL. S. F. W. M. DEL COURT, M.C.

I left White River in the morning and in about an hour arrived at the entrance to the Kruger National Park. The area of the park is the size of Wales. It is a completely natural reserve. It is not fenced. There is nothing to prevent the animals leaving or entering the park. Lately, owing to shortage of water, many have moved out and fell victims to poachers. There is a plan at the moment to try and raise a fund so as to improve the water by boring.

I paid my entrance fee and confirmed my reservations at the various rest camps. The Warden suggested to me that on my way to the camp at Pretorius Kop I should make a detour of some miles, as lions had been reported there that morning. I took his advice and after driving for an hour saw some cars drawn up at the side of the road. I talked to one of the occupants and they pointed out to me a pride of about nine lions who were sunning themselves on some rocks on a kopje 100 yards or so from the road. It was lucky I went out of my way, for they were the only lions I saw during the four days I spent in the reserve.

You must keep to the roads and stay in your car, and you must be in camp at sunset. The camps are surrounded by a barbed wire fence, and at the gates you can see at what time the gates are opened and closed. I was not aware that the park was dry, so I had not brought anything with me and had, perforce, to be on the "water cart" whilst I was there. There are excellent restaurants where you can get meals, or you can bring your own food and cook it on the camp fires. There are showers and baths and constant hot water. I slept each night in a rondavel, a small circular hut containing two beds, but the season had only just opened and I did not have to share it. The park is only open for five months in the year. The remainder it is closed to the public on account of the mosquitoes and in the rainy season the roads become impassable.

I made a list of the animals I saw: lions, giraffe, hippo, zebra, warthogs, water-buck, impala, wildebeest, kudu, sable antelope, buffalo and monkeys. The birds one sees most frequently are the hornbills, or toucans as they are sometimes incorrectly called.

My most interesting experience was when turning a corner I came face to face with a giraffe which was only 6 ft. high. I do not know who was the more surprised, the youngster or myself. I looked around, but saw nothing until with a leap the young giraffe joined its mother, who was standing motionless under a tree. They are so beautifully marked and camouflaged it is difficult to spot them unless they are on the move. I also saw some ostriches or secretary birds and numerous Franklins, very similar to the English partridge. As one approaches Letaba one comes across notices which read: "Beware! You are now in elephant country and you should on no account approach to within 50 yards of these animals, as they are highly dangerous." I saw some crossing the river near Letaba. They were a more brown colour than those I have seen in the zoos and they have very large ears, unlike the Indian

elephants. In their wild state they are uncertain-tempered animals. I met a New Zealander at Louis Trichard who told me he never wanted to see Kruger Park again. He had a most hair-raising experience. He had encountered a bull elephant on the road and, as the animal seemed to have no intention of moving, he started to turn his car round and the elephant started to advance, ending by charging the car just as he was going away. Luckily, he only caught it a glancing blow with his tusks and did not capsize the car, but I could plainly see where the paint had been scraped off the side of the car and the front wing smashed.

I spent the last night at the most northern camp at Punda Maria and next day went to the Mountain Inn at Louis Trichard, a very fine hotel about 4,500 ft. up with magnificent views over the surrounding country. I arrived just before lunch and thoroughly appreciated a gin and tonic after my enforced abstinence.

I spent two nights there and then moved on to Rhodesia, crossing the frontier at Beit Bridge. The roads in Rhodesia are strip roads; that is to say, there are two strips of tarmac the width of a car. It requires a certain amount of concentration to drive exactly on the strips. If you meet an oncoming car you give him the right strip. The rest of the road is gravel. In many ways they are better than the corrugated gravel roads in the Union. I stayed at Bulawayo. The streets are very wide and it is a well-planned modern town. The reason the streets are so wide is that when they were first built it was necessary for the roads to be wide enough to turn a team of oxen in.

Next day I drove to the Victoria Falls. I wondered if I should be disappointed. I had been when I had first seen the Pyramids, for it is, unfortunately, true more often than we care to admit that great natural phenomena are more impressive in books than in reality. I thought it simply terrific. It is fascinating and appalling. The width of the Zambesi at the Falls is 1,900 yd. The mean height of the main fall is 353 ft. The roar of the water and the height of the spray thrown up must make it one of the wonders of the world. There is a never-ending rainbow over the Falls caused by the spray. What appealed to me is that, although within a stone's throw is the most luxurious hotel in Africa, it is not commercialised or artificial. In the rain forest close to the falls themselves are small summer houses where one can sit and watch the falls without getting drenched, but there are no railings to prevent one falling or throwing oneself over the edge, no notices warning one. What makes it so impressive is, I think, that, until it falls into space, the river is quite tranquil, though the current above the falls must be very strong. I took the opportunity to fly over them one morning in a moth and received a "raspberry" from the A.O.C. at Bulawayo on my returning there and lunching with him. The country is so covered with shrub that if you have a forced landing you have had it. There had been a bad accident a month previously and I was told it was foolhardy in a single-engined plane over that country.

I made a launch excursion to Kandahar Island and saw numerous hippo and crocodiles sunning themselves on sandbanks or tree trunks. We went very close to one

on a tree and he slipped silently backwards into the river without a splash.

In the evening I went for an hour in a canoe paddled by four natives and trolled for tiger fish. They are similar to the mahseer: large scales, red fins and formidable teeth. You have a small spoon and wire trace and when you touch a fish you must strike very hard, for they have a very bony roof to their mouths. When hooked they fight very well and jump about a yard out of the water trying to shake the hook out. I caught four the week I was there; the biggest was 6 lb.

I returned to Bulawayo, passing the Wamkile coalfield on my way, the largest coal mine in the world. The difficulty is to get the coal away, for the railway is a single-track line and the nearest port is Beira, in Portuguese East Africa, several hundred miles away.

When I was at Bulawayo I went to the Matopos and saw Cecil Rhodes's grave. A path has been cut to the summit and when you reach the top you see the "World's View" stretching away for 50 miles. At your feet is Rhodes's grave.

It is not surprising that in South Africa, and especially in Rhodesia, you find statues and memorials to that great man. He left South Africa to return to Oriel College, Oxford, at the age of eighteen and would interrupt his studies of Roman history to buy a pumping machine and send it out to the diamond mines. He was a millionaire long before he was thirty and died before he was fifty. He died at a cottage near Muizenberg on the False Bay coast, which is preserved as a national monument.

I left Bulawayo for Salisbury and stayed a few nights en route at Gwelo, where I played some golf and visited Saluwki, where there are some gold mines, and watched a native soccer match. Salisbury is a fine city, with splendid avenues and impressive Government buildings. The streets are lined with trees and when the jacaranda trees are in flower it must be a marvellous sight. I visited the municipal gardens, which had a gay display of flowers, and I played golf at a very good course and also went to the Country Club, where there are facilities for every game, polo grounds, rugger grounds, tennis courts, squash, even badminton not being forgotten.

From Salisbury I went north through Portuguese East Africa to Nyasaland. The roads were very bad and dusty and we had an interminable wait at Tete before we could cross the Zambesi in a very primitive ferry. The luncheon at the hotel was a farce and, except for the soup and some fig jelly, quite unsuitable to our palates, as all the food was saturated in garlic.

Some way beyond Tete we had to stop at a tsetse fly post and an official came and sprayed the inside of the car with DDT.

After a short while we arrived at the Customs and eventually reached Blantyre, a pleasant place. My intention had been to go to Cape MacClear and fish on the Lake Nyasa and also do some duck shooting. However, instead of catching fish I caught a chill and retired to bed with double pneumonia and pleurisy. My friend went on to MacClear with a district commissioner, but the fishing was no good. It usually is first class. The rivers feeding the lake bring food down and you find the fish at the mouths of the rivers, but, owing to the prolonged drought, no water or food has flowed into the

lake and the fish have dispersed and gone elsewhere to seek their food, and as the lake is enormous it would be difficult to know where to begin. Owing to lack of water, the marshes and small ponds have also dried out and the duck were not in.

My friend took my car back to Salisbury and I returned by air. The distances are so great out here that air travel is undoubtedly the answer. Sir Alfred and Lady Beit, whom I know, were on my plane. They have a house at Cape MacClear and were going to Salisbury for one night and flying to Nairobi next day and going on a month's safari.

After staying at Salisbury for some time I moved on to Fort Victoria. Nearly the whole of Rhodesia is very high; Salisbury is about 5,000 ft., but Fort Victoria is much lower and it was much warmer, to my delight. I took a drive to the Zimbabwe ruins, an age-old riddle of Rhodesia, for no archaeologist has ever been able to say who built them or what tribes inhabited them.

I left Fort Victoria one morning at 6 o'clock, for I knew the day would be very hot. I had breakfast at 8 o'clock at an hotel at Lundi. Between there and Beit Bridge I saw quite a lot of game, including giraffe and zebra, and narrowly missed hitting a duiker, which leapt across the road in front of the car. They are a small but very graceful antelope.

I stayed two nights at the Mountain Inn at Louis Trichard, where I had stayed on my way up, and from there went on to Pretoria on a shocking road. They are at work on the road and there are many diversions.

Pretoria is a beautiful town. Upon the northern height is the great building erected to symbolise the union of the four provinces and to house the administration. It has been said that Cecil Rhodes never made a better investment than when he sent Herbert Baker, the architect, to Greece and Italy.

I went to President Kruger's house, which is one of the most interesting museums in the country. The house is a long white one-storied building. The stoep is covered and here the President used to sit and talk to all and sundry who liked to visit him. The stoep is flanked by two marble lions given him by Barney Barnato. Everything is just as it was half a century ago. What I found so agreeable was that there are no formalities or guides, no entrance fee. You just walk into this small house and in the hall is a visitors' book and a notice asking one to put one's name down in the book. There were only two other visitors when I was there, and the only official in the place was a gardener tending a flower bed in the small garden at the back of the house.

I went over to Johannesburg and stayed one night there on my way south. It is a very busy business town with many skyscrapers and you have the feeling that everyone is in a hurry. It is 6,000 ft. and at that height I sleep badly. Perhaps I am not alone in that respect, for the town is awake the most of the night and there is a great deal of night life going on.

It is fascinating to drive along the Rand and see the mine dumps. The Rand is a gold-mining entity just as the Rhondda Valley, in South Wales, is a coal-mining one.

I returned to Durban from Johannesburg, staying at Pietermaritzburg. On this visit I went to look at some

sugar estates, of which there are many near Durban and villages are entirely Indian. The colour problem here is a delicate one and it is not in my province to offer any criticism of the present Government, except to say that in some respects the Malan Government is more reactionary than the previous one. The colour problem, particularly as it affects the Indian question, is a legacy of the good or bad old days. Cheap labour was needed in South Africa and the sweepings of India allowed in. When their contracts ended they were permitted to



Native villages or kraals in the Transkei

remain in the country. Being astute and far better at business than the natives, they have prospered, own shops and stores and are in many cases men of substance. They have been accused of being unscrupulous and over-charging, and these have led to riots. They say that if it was not for the white man the natives would murder and liquidate the lot. The vast majority of the Indians have been born there and have never set foot in India.

I returned to the Cape via Ladysmith and the Van Reenen Pass to Harrismith. The road over the pass was very bad, but after Bethlehem it improved. I went back by easy stages. I lunched at Bloemfontein, but could not get a room at any hotel as the Supreme Court was sitting. It is the judicial capital of the Union.

I spent the night at Colesberg and the following night at Beaufort West. It is very uninteresting country, the



English church in Ladysmith

nigh veld or karoo as it is called. The road was marvellous. You could see for stretches for nearly 10 miles and no traffic. I left Beaufort West at 8.30 one morning wondering if I could get to Worcester for luncheon. It was 222 miles. I was there by 12 o'clock. I cruised most of the way at 80 m.p.h. and had an occasional shock when I glanced at the speedometer and saw I was doing over 90.

The scenery beyond Worcester is amongst the finest in South Africa. I went over du Toit's Kloof Pass, which was opened this year. There are innumerable hair-pin bends and a tunnel through one mountain. The mountains are snow capped and the sky a deep blue. I came to Paarl. Many say it is the most beautiful town in the Union. It is the great wine town of the Cape, and if you have ever drunk South African sherry or brandy it most probably came from Paarl. It means pearl. There is a lovely whitewashed Dutch church with a thatched roof and a superb modern town hall, a beautiful little building with a Spanish-looking atrium under an archway.

Next day I drove into Cape Town and arrived at the Mount Nelson Hotel. I had a very successful trip without one involuntary stop and had struck excellent hotels throughout my travels.

Anyone leaving the Service and contemplating emigrating out here might like to have a few of my personal impressions. Firstly, there is not the shadow of doubt that both South Africa and Rhodesia have a great and prosperous future ahead of them. Rhodesia has untold mineral wealth, the copper belt near Lusaka in Northern Rhodesia, vast coal fields and gold, as well as other minerals in Southern Rhodesia. Since the shortage of dollars tobacco farmers in Rhodesia are reaping a rich harvest. Farms have increased in value enormously. The devaluation of the pound will attract capital to the Union. South Africa is a young country and is awakening to the fact that she is a nation. They suffer in some ways from an inferiority complex and resent criticism. Mr. Havenga, in trying to get a dollar loan in the States, emphasised that it had to be one with no strings attached. They require no advice or interference in their affairs and are now about to stop relaying the 6 o'clock news from London, as the news has on occasions had a political commentary on South Africa. The

recent conference of Dominion Prime Ministers in London, when it was decided that a Dominion could sever its link with the Crown and become a republic, was welcomed here. There is no anti-British feeling in this country, but undoubtedly a wish to be independent, and whether they become a republic in the future or not, responsible opinion here realises that neither South Africa nor England can do without each other and that they are more firmly tied together in their own interest than before the war.

PARACHUTING INTO MID-CHINA

By MAJOR G. C. DAWSON

Ever since Pearl Harbour, a small body of British officers worked in the interior of China, running training schools for the Chinese armies in the forward areas. At the beginning of 1944 the schools were at Pihu in Chekiang, but owing to Japanese activity that summer they had to move back to Pucheng in North Fukien.

The line of supply to these schools was, first by air over "the Hump" to Kunming, then by road via Kweiyang to the railhead at Tu Yun, followed by rail via Kweilin and Henyang to Liugang or Kukong, and lastly by road to the schools. This trip took a fortnight to three weeks, depending on luck and the weather.

In 1944 the Japanese push from Changsha down the railway almost reached Kweiyang, and left us with an extremely awkward air hop over the Japanese lines to the U.S. air bases in Kiangsi. As a result a few personnel came and went, but no supplies of any description reached us.

In January, 1945, the Japanese sent columns to destroy these air bases at Nam Yung, Sui Chuan and Kanchow. Without supplies to maintain Chinese interest our schools could not function, and on January 28 we received orders to evacuate, leaving only skeleton staffs. The only vehicle at the school in working order was sent to collect our personnel from the forward Chinese units. All our transport was cheap U.S. civilian vehicles, assembled in Rangoon, with Burmese bodies. We brought them up the Burma Road with us in January, 1942, and had managed to keep them going ever since, in spite of a complete lack of spares.

We were extremely lucky in having a man of great mechanical ingenuity to run our workshop. He was a missionary who walked out of Japanese internment in Shanghai in 1942 and joined us. Starting with one small lathe from H.M.S. *Sandpiper* he set up a workshop with local personnel and, by 1945, had a re boring machine of his own making, was smelting railway steel and even casting aluminium pistons, besides producing such minor things as gears and pieces of jeep transmission for us and the Americans in our area.

The day we received our move orders he had the remains of two vehicles, and within 24 hours he produced one that worked. At midnight on January 29 we left Pucheng, but were back within an hour for further engineering. We left again at six in the morning, and by driving for 27 hours we made our neighbouring depot at Ning Tu, 400 kilometres away. At Ning Tu there was no official information, but this was quite a normal state of affairs. Local rumour and the Americans

had it that the Japanese had occupied all the bay, including Kanchow, so it was decided to head for Chang Ting where there was an airstrip of sorts.

Having given our vehicle a day for repairs we left for the airstrip. The road was a minor one, narrow and rough with very bad hill sections, and that area harboured over 200 active local bandits. By that evening we got to Jai Chin, but the last 40 kilometres were over a mountain range with a pass at about 4,500 feet. This stretch was a military road with grades up to 1 in 5 surfaced in mud, and most of the bridges were gone. We went through one culvert but got out without damage, assisted by a lorry load of U.S. Navy. There was snow on the pass, but we made it with a lot of pushing and arrived at about five in the morning.

Chang Ting is in a winding valley between high mountains, with an airstrip that had once been used for some fighters. The U.S. staff from Kanchow had just arrived and was getting the place organised. The weather was cold and wet, inclined to snow with a ceiling well below the local mountains.

During our wait we had a short banditry interlude. A U.S. officer going down the road we had just traversed was held up and his interpreter was shot. We joined in the rescue column in a jeep we had acquired. Later we found out that as the officer, his interpreter and driver had been slowly driving up a very steep gradient about 40 kilometres out of town, a shot had rung out and a bullet went through the windscreen hitting the interpreter in the face. This shot was probably intended for the driver. After the shot about 40 men armed with rifles came out on to the road all round the jeep. These were bandits who stripped the jeep and the U.S. officer of all valuables, including half his clothing. He managed to talk them out of shooting him, and after a while they went back into the mountains. The officer turned his jeep round and brought the interpreter back for treatment as he was seriously wounded. His trailer had to be abandoned as it was too heavy to turn round single-handed.

Luckily for us the bandits had moved on, as a few jeeps on one single appalling mountain road would have been just too easy to ambush. We found the jeep trailer, which was still full of wireless equipment; we also met one of our own lorries coming the other way. A tree had been felled across the road and it had taken them over four hours to clear it. As they were carrying four million dollars the bandits were probably laying for that.

By February 9 the "Homing" (a form of radar for guiding a plane to an airstrip over strange country), was working and the weather had cleared a little, so two Dakotas were sent over and landed successfully. Luckily they had arranged for parachutes for us because there were strict orders that each passenger must have a parachute. As they had lost eight out of the last ten planes to Kanchow it was a reasonable precaution.

We were put in the second plane and were only allowed a pack each as there were two 200 gallon petrol tanks inside the plane. The plane took 23 passengers. We had the officer-in-charge of our supply line and a D.A.Q.M.G. from Chungking, two doctors, one R.A.M.C. and one Czech refugee we had collected

from Wenchow, our Signals Officer, one of our Convoy Officers, five instructors from the school and the officer who ran our workshop. The Americans included a Pacific air ace, an Intelligence Officer from our area and two infantry officers. The crew consisted of a pilot and co-pilot, with a wireless operator and a crew chief. There were also a Chinese officer and two Chinese secretaries (sisters).

The town was about half a mile from the end of the strip, and we just cleared it. We had no trouble crossing the Japanese lines or from their airfields near Henyang, as the weather was too bad for their planes. Owing to a strong headwind we did not get to Chia Chiang till late in the evening, about 9 o'clock. Here we were offered accommodation, but as we only had another 450 miles to go the pilot decided to gas up and go on. The two American infantry officers and the Chinese officer left us.

The take-off from here was rather rough as the plane still had a lot of ice on it and the field was all mud and slush. As soon as we got going we ran into snow and climbed to between 19,000 and 20,000 feet to get above it. At this altitude it got bitterly cold in the plane in spite of the heating, while ice being thrown off the propellers made a terrific racket.

After about five hours some coffee was brewed up and we opened the odd K ration, which was very acceptable. At 4.20 a.m., after some seven hours' flying, the crew chief came into our compartment and said, "Put your chutes on." The sole reaction to this was annoyance at having to move a few feet, collect the chute and struggle into the harness. The shortage of oxygen and cold had a very noticeable effect, some people could not manage the effort and had to be assisted.

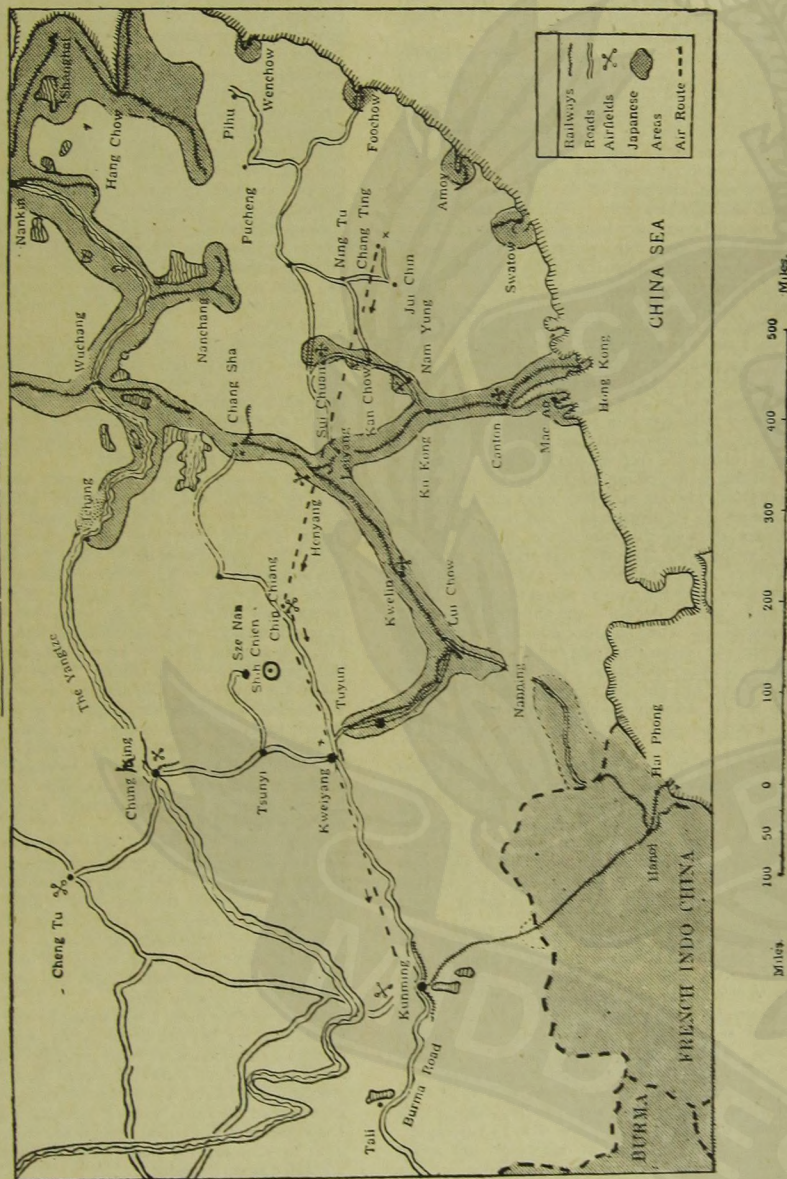
A few minutes later the crew chief came back from the crew compartment saying "Out we go." He pulled the emergency door inwards on to the floor and we queued up, getting out as quickly as possible. The curved ice-coated door on the floor did not assist, as it is essential to dive out and down to avoid the stabiliser. The crew chief stood by the door to ensure that no one hesitated, giving a push when necessary. As each body left the plane it made an uncanny noise like pulling one's leg out of a bog.

There must have been a five- to ten-minute lapse between putting on parachutes and going out. Owing to lack of oxygen my brain was just not functioning, so I did not experience that tenseness of a few minutes to go. Nor did it even occur to me to open my pack and remove money, valuables and records. No one took anything other than what happened to be in their pockets. The crew had escape kits and emergency rations, but none were taken.

On leaving the plane I was struck by the slip-stream, which tore my hat off, breaking my chinstrap. This distinctly annoyed me, as I had expended a lot of energy fixing it. I did not count but pulled the ripcord just as soon as I considered myself clear of the plane. After a slight pause the chute opened, wrenching me upright. I saw stars and took a few seconds to recover. This jar must have broken my watch strap as I could not find my watch when I landed.

As we baled out between 19,000 and 20,000 feet it

SOUTH CHINA



took about a quarter of an hour to come down. At first the sky was clear and full of stars, but as I descended I soon came into the clouds and snow was coming up past me. One has the most incredibly lonely sensation with only the wind whistling in the rigging, no stars above, no lights below, only the snow coming upwards. About this time I started to swing; I pulled the rigging first on one side, then on the other, and wriggled about in the harness, but was unable to stop it.

All the time I was peering down hoping to see lights or any sign of the ground. Suddenly I saw some trees go past and I hit a steep mountain side with my chute catching in some trees above me. After checking up that nothing was broken I tried to stand up, but the slope was too steep and slippery. I could not get out of the harness as my fingers were frozen and would not work, so I just had to hang and thaw them out. When I got free from the harness I climbed up the rigging to the trees above me, unhitched the parachute and, as it was still dark, I wrapped myself up in it and went to sleep, not waking till well after dawn.

I had landed near the top of a high pine and snow-covered valley, with some cultivation and a few buildings below. Making my way down I engaged a local farmer in conversation—not that I understood his dialect, but he was quite friendly and may have understood some of mine. After about 20 minutes two of our party turned up, the crew chief and one of our Chinese-speaking officers, who sorted things out easily. I had contacted the head man of the village, who sent out instructions that any of our party were to be brought to his house. I went out with guides and collected five more myself. Within two hours we had a party of 12, including one of the girls.

At about midday we decided to move to a township some 15 miles away, but the paths over the mountains were so rough and slippery that we only made about five miles, stopping for the night at a farm where we dined off rice and pickled turnips, sleeping on the floor in our parachutes under a lot of straw.

Next morning we found the other girl and moved on to the town of Shih Chien, where we were officially received. The magistrate was away, so his secretary did the honours. We also contacted some German Catholic Fathers who had a mission there. For "face" reasons we had to be looked after by the Chinese, but there is all the difference in the world between civilised company in a foreign-built house with good food, beds and bedding, and an official Chinese Yamen, a cross between a barn and a summer-house, with paper windows if you are lucky, no beds, but a door on trestles, with a verminous quilt requisitioned from some local, and very third-rate Chinese food at odd times, no washing facilities, and a crowd of guards, coolies and hangers-on, gazing in at all times. So we arranged for a few of us to stay with the Fathers, taking turns for a small number to have meals with them. The Fathers could not do enough for us and we were all greatly indebted to them for their hospitality.

By the evening of the second day all the party had assembled in Shih Chien. The only casualty had been the pilot, who had sprained his ankle. There had been

some very lucky landings, as the country was as mountainous as the Indian North-West Frontier. There were huge gorges with sheer rock faces and a great deal of rock outcrop rather similar to dragons' teeth. One of our party landed on a bit of sand in a boulder-strewn river bed, another up to his neck in ice, mud and water in a paddy field. One was 20 feet up a tree and nearly broke a rib when he cut himself down. Two passed within feet of each other, nearly colliding in mid-air. Both Chinese girls landed all right, one just alongside our youngest member. She lost her hat, scarf, bag, gloves and shoes; on the other hand her sister came down with all these essentials.

For 20 persons, 19 of whom had never even contemplated parachuting before, to bale out at night over this country and get away without a major injury was nothing short of a miracle.

The air routes over the interior of China are far from safe at the best of times. Although we had not lost any of our own personnel, quite a few in the plane had already had unusual experiences. In a Liberator over "the Hump" one had dropped 14,000 feet down a valley and just pulled out at the bottom with the engines white hot. Two had crashed on landing. One had been on fire in the air but the fire went out before they baled out. One nearly landed on an enemy aerodrome, but luckily some Japanese fired at the plane using tracer when it was 20 feet off the ground with its wheels down. Strangely enough we only had two spare parachutes in the plane, in spite of leaving three passengers at Chia Chiang.

From Shih Chien we moved in two parties, as 20 was too many to feed en route. On our first day's move we went 20 miles to a town on a river, where we found an airfield, but no plane had ever landed on it and it was very boggy. The officer in charge put us up, which was lucky as it was now the Chinese New Year and everything was closed down.

From here we went downstream in a boat through deep gorges and incredible rapids, arriving at Sze Nan, another country town; the local magistrate here looked after us very well indeed. We received information as to the whereabouts of the wreckage of our plane, and as we were carrying all forms of security mail, British and U.S., including consular mail, I organised a party of three to go and check it over. It was 45 to 50 miles away over the mountains, and we made this quite comfortably in two days. In places the going was very slippery as the snow was thawing at the lower levels, but it was still freezing up top.

The plane had broken up into small pieces which were scattered over 400 yards of scrubby mountainside. It had been looted by the locals for five days, so there was nothing of value left. I did manage to retrieve a number of documents scattered about and buried in the snow. Some of these were very interesting—a map of the latest searchlight positions on Formosa together with their organisation; there were U.S. intelligence reports from Japanese-crashed aircraft, and an application from the British Consul at Fochow for a pension for one of his gardeners as he had completed the requisite number of years with the consul on service; and last, but not least, I retrieved my hat from a Chinese soldier.

On returning to Sze Nan two of our trucks had arrived with some much-needed stores. The Americans and ourselves had sent 17 messages to our various headquarters by runner, wire and radio. The local communications were so inefficient that only two got through.

From Sze Nan to Tsun Yi on the main Chungking-Kweyang Road was 240 kilometres; this we covered in a day. Here the party split, the Americans going south to Kweyang while we went north to Chungking. We had a very reasonable farewell party at Tsun Yi, but I missed it as I had a relapse of malaria, and the following two days' journey to Chungking were a bit of a nightmare.

In Chungking we were well received by our headquarters, who had given us up as lost. We were all granted 28 days' leave in India to recover and re-equip ourselves. I had to spend five days in Chungking to recover from my malaria before I went on leave.

The journey by air via Chengtu to Kunming was uneventful, as was the trip over "the Hump" to Dinjan and Calcutta. After my leave, instead of flying back to Kunming I was just told to bring a few trucks in from the Manipur Road, but that is another story.

REMINISCENCES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR OF 1899-1902

I gained my commission on December 12, 1899, being gazetted to the 2nd Battalion The Middlesex Regiment. The Depot of the Regiment at that time being at Hounslow.

I have a vivid recollection when first buckling on my "Wilkinson" sword at Cambridge Barracks, Hounslow, of the pride that permeated my being in following the footsteps of my father, godfather (Gen. Kent), and many other distinguished members of the famous "pot hooks," holding such a long and brilliant record in a Regiment second to none.

In April, 1900, I was ordered to proceed with a draft of 140 Section "D" men, commanded by Lt. P. M. Large, from Hounslow to reinforce a regiment at Elandslaagte in Natal, and on arrival was assigned to "E" Company, commanded by Major Saville, D.S.O. I was indeed fortunate in being the subaltern of such a distinguished and gallant soldier, and living with him on many an isolated outpost in South Africa I gained an intimate knowledge of the Major's sterling qualities, being a born leader of men whom we all looked up to and admired, and of whom, on account of his capability and likeable personality, we would follow anywhere, even to the very jaws of death.

The Regiment did not stay long at Elandslaagte as the Battalion made a reconnaissance towards De Wet's farm, a distance of ten miles. This was the commencement of a movement which was to turn Laing's Nek, strongly held by the enemy, and thereby clearing the Boers from Natal, culminating in a victory over the enemy at Alleman's Nek, who were in possession of heavy artillery and pom poms. The 2nd, 10th and 11th Brigades were all engaged; the whole force subsequently advancing into the Orange Free State.

The "Fighting Tenth" (10th Brigade), under the

command of Gen. Talbot-Coke, was composed of the 2nd Middlesex Regiment, the 2nd Dorsets and the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

Incidentally, in the frontal attack on a kopje commanding the pass through Alleman's Nek I was nearly a casualty as after the battle I discovered a neat hole in each side of my "gippy" helmet made by a Boer bullet.

After occupying Alleman's Nek the Regiment moved to Volksrust. Space does not enable me to recount the further movements of the Regiment into the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony climaxing with the good news that Gen. Louis Botha had surrendered unconditionally to Field Marshal Lord Roberts, V.C., at Vereeniging.

During the war I served as the Transport Officer of the Regiment. My conductor, MacKenzie by name, who could speak fluently both the Zulu tongue and the Dutch Taal, had also served under my father in the Zulu War of 1879 in the same capacity.

I have a vivid recollection of taking part with my Company, "E," in escorting a large convoy of supplies to Gen. French's flying column, at that time sweeping the Eastern Transvaal. The force escorting the convoy was composed of half the Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment together with the units from the Dublin Fusiliers, York and Lancs., and with cavalry and artillery under the command of Gen. Burn-Murdoch of the 9th Lancers. From a climatic standpoint it was one of the worst experiences of the South African War as for three weeks it rained incessantly, the men's clothing being soaked by the rain night and day so that progress was very slow. The river was unfordable on account of the rain, so supplies for Gen. French's progress had to be conveyed across the river by means of rafts. Fortunately the Boer Commandos spirits must have been as damp as ours as they did not attempt to attack the large convoy, although the Boers were continually sniping as we advanced.

Another instance worth recording was a message the C.O., Col. Hill, C.B., received from the Boer commander a few days before Christmas Day, 1900, promising that we would be unmolested throughout Christmas if a quantity of flour, whisky and coffee is sent to him to Long Piet Uys Farm close to Utrecht, otherwise he would certainly attack. Needless to say the supplies requested were not sent. The Boers carried out their threat and attacked Utrecht with a strong force on Christmas Eve but were repulsed with heavy losses, the Boer commander himself being mortally wounded and was buried at Pudding Kop close by. The Battalion suffered no casualties.

I recollect playing in a Regimental cricket match at Newcastle in the Eastern Transvaal when, on receiving the sad news of Queen Victoria's death, we immediately drew stumps in our late Majesty's revered memory, mourned by the great nation and Empire over which she ruled.

Before closing my fleeting memories of the South African War I have a vivid recollection of my loyal and faithful batman, Pte. Platt, who looked after me like a hen looks after her chicks; of our C.O.'s (Col. Hill, C.B.) hirsute appendage that he grew during the war which was the pride of the Regiment; of the

smartness and efficiency of C/Sgt. Evans of "E" Company; of Capt. Havilland, who was familiarly named "Alphonse," and his subaltern, Lt. Stewart, whose congenial company I so much enjoyed on several occasions; the gallant Captain was somewhat of a gourmet being especially fond of a brand of tinned peas that won the grand prize in Paris, and those peas certainly were delicious. After our daily rations of Machonochie's rations, bully beef and the "khaki wafer," so named by Thomas Atkins, famous for his humour. I remember the funny man in each of the eight Companies of the Battalion. Whilst marching over the South African veldt in heavy marching order the funny man would strike up a popular song or some humorous joke that would infuse fresh energy into our tired bodies.

In conclusion, even with the hardships endured under the exigencies of active service I look back on the small part I took in the South African War as one of the happiest and momentous periods of my life where I made so many good friends, several of whom laid down their lives in gallantly fighting for their King and country in the last two Great Wars in which Great Britain and her Empire have been involved, and further in the honour of having served in a famous British Regiment which has so magnificently upheld the noble traditions of the British Army from 1787 when the 77th Middlesex Regiment was embodied to the present date.

LIONEL BENGOUGH

SOME AMUSING INCIDENTS

There often occur incidents which are amusing in all walks of life, and I remember a number of such incidents during my service in the army. They are noted as I think of them and not in any order.

TAKEN FOR A RIDE

In Singapore we were a half battalion commanded by a Major. At one parade the Adjutant could not control his horse and pranced around the parade ground for some minutes. When at last he had got back to his place at the Major's side he was greeted with "Hullo, you 'galloping Major.' Where have you been? Surely you know better than to go for a joy ride when you are on duty."

TONGUE TWISTING

One man was prone to be mal-a-prop on speech. A broom was wanted and he said "There is one down in the 'tureens'" (meaning latrines). Another time he said that "he is out on the 'revander'" (meaning verandah).

SIGHTS DOWN

At one exercise we had live ammo., and while running to cover with rifles at "high port" one went off. The chap said "Good job the sights were down or somebody may have got hit." Why, he could not say, but he stuck to his point.

A TALK IN THE BREAK

We had had visual training until we knew it off by heart and were all feeling fed up, in a group of about

50, with the Sergeant in front to give the lecture, etc. He started off as usual telling why it was needed. "It is found that the eye of men from the town moves more slowly than the brain, while in men from the country the brain is slower than the eye of the townsman." A voice from the rear interrupted with "Did you come from the country, Sergeant?" Of course no one knew who had spoken, the mirth ended the talk and we got on with practical work.

WEEK-END TO U.K.

In Hong Kong a man put in for a pass which was about to be signed when the R.S.M. noticed it was made out for England. The man was called to give an explanation for such a thing, and explained that he had had a letter to say that his wife had got a baby and he could not understand it as he was away, so he wanted to go and find out how it had happened!

PAMPHILLION

At Aldershot we had a man named Pamphillion. For pay parade we lined up in alphabetical order and the C.S.M. called us in from the roll. When he came to this name he hesitated, then said "And now I'm b——d," to which the man answered "That's me, sir!" Loud laughter in which the S.M. joined.

VODKA

When in Vladivostok one evening we were sitting about at cards, etc., as usual when suddenly there was a clatter and a fellow came running in, jumping over beds until he reached his own where he sat down and roared with laughter. When he quietened down and we could get some sense out of him he explained that he had had some vodka (a very potent drink) which had caused him to see double; each post was two, as were men and other things in his path. For safety he had come back at the run and made for the middle between each two objects, and so had got safely back.

PARLEZ VOUS?

Another man was asked by an officer if he had been to France (of course meaning in the army, as some of our men had been wounded earlier and transferred to us). He replied "Oh yes." "When?" "In 1910" was the reply, to the amusement of all and to the annoyance of the officer.

PULL-THROUGH

We had an officer who was tall and thin and we dubbed him "Pull-through" which, when he found out, caused him to remark that "A" Company were very nasty and rude, but it happened to be "D" Company who were the culprits.

This officer was in charge of the fort at Singapore for a time, and Standing Orders included one that no vehicle was to be allowed to enter after 10 p.m. without a special pass. One night this officer came into the Guard Room in a temper and standing before the Corporal of the Guard, tapping his leg with his cane, exclaimed "Corporal! What do they mean by it?" "By what sir?" "Why! They want let me in!" "Wont let you in sir" (in a surprised tone). "Yes, they wont let me in." This went on, to our amusement,

for some minutes, till at last he explained that the sentry had challenged him and had refused to allow the rickshaw to enter the fort as per the Standing Order. The Corporal had quietly to remind the officer of the Order which he had read out to us all. When the officer had gone the mirth was uncontrolled for quite a while. He was in the Guard Room saying he would not be let in!

POLITENESS

Another man was on Quarter Guard. He challenged one approaching his post about 11 p.m. "Halt! Who goes there?" "Orderly Officer." Instead of turning out the guard he said "Good evening Orderly Officer. Been a nice day again aint it?" What followed need not be described.

These are some of the amusing incidents I remember and I hope they will amuse others.

F. W. MORRIS.

OLD COMRADES' REUNION

The above took place on November 26, 1949, at Slater's Restaurant, Kensington High Street. Two hundred and twenty-four Old Comrades attended this reunion. Among the senior officers present were Col. M. Browne (Colonel of the Regiment), Gen. Bucknall, Brig. Tidbury, Cols. Beach and G. L. Brown, and Lt.-Cols. Roberts, Clowes and N. Moller. Gen. Horrocks regretted that he was unable to be present, due to a prior engagement.

The Colonel of the Regiment made a short speech,



welcoming the Old Comrades, some of whom had travelled a long distance, and after a toast to Their Majesties the King and Queen, and one to the Regiment, the party proceeded to the buffet and bar until the close of festivities.

During the evening a ballot was taken as to the nature of the reunion for 1950, and it was voted unanimously that the reunion for 1950 should be held in the form of a dinner, and it is hoped to hold this function in October.

REMINISCENCES OF 50 YEARS AGO

Sitting at home one wet evening recently I suddenly realised that October, 1949, marked the 50th anniversary of my "taking the shilling" and joining the "Die-Hards," and my memory took me back to those days and the various incidents and characters I had met with in the course of my 21 years with the Regiment, and I wondered how many of those still living recall to mind those days and would wish, as I do, to live them again.

Yes, the memory of those days. I joined just as the South African War commenced, and after the recruiting sergeant had filled me up with water to increase my weight I was duly attested and sent to the 7/57th Regimental District at Hounslow, where our Reserves had just been called up. How many remember the 1st Royal Dragoons leaving for the front while we recruits lined the route, their womenfolk and children hanging on to the stirrup leathers as they went by on horse-

back? The old women who used to sell great slabs of cake from a baby's pram at 1d. My first guard was at the top of the Keep, and how scared I was when I found I was locked in. Next came the disaster at Spion Kop, when the 77th lost, I think, some 120 killed and wounded—considered a catastrophe in those days. When the news was received Major R. O. Longe, the O.C. Depot, paraded the recruits on the square and asked those who would be prepared to avenge our comrades and volunteer for South Africa to take one pace forward. The whole parade moved as one man.

Soon we were moved to Woolwich to join the details of the 2nd Battalion, they having sailed for South Africa the previous November. Next were the first wounded arriving home, Dick Phillips, "Masher," Morris and a host of others I forget, but how keen it made us youngsters to have a go.

The formation of the 3rd and 4th Battalions, now, alas, like the 2nd Battalion, no more, was in March, 1900, when we were posted to one or the other battalion.

I remember next the funeral of Queen Victoria, our first big occasion, when we lined the street somewhere near Marble Arch, and the formation of a Mounted Infantry Company—what a tough riding course we had at Woolwich—then our move to South Africa.

Yes they were happy and exciting days for us youngsters. We all took an intense pride in "our" Regiment, and strange though it may seem we old retired soldiers still carry that pride. An instance occurred just recently worth relating. I met another old member in the British Legion here recently and we stood chatting for some time on one subject—*The Regiment*. A friend and ex-officer who was waiting for me said "That was another old 'Die-Hard' you were talking to." "Yes" I said, "but how did you know?" He replied, "It's just the same wherever you see a Middlesex man either in uniform or not, they appear to always be so 'clear cut,' and how they all love their old Regiment."

So much for that. And what about all those characters we met and served with in the 2nd Battalion, mostly because the majority of my service was spent in the 77th. Bill Essex, "Twinkle" Watkins, Bill Jack of Hackney, Tommy Adair, Bill Cox, Joe Morgan, Gussie Glass and others who crowd my memory. What fine characters all these were and what a crowd of Drummers too, "Boxer" Barker, Charlie Smart, Jim Dorling and Buxton, and who can recall when Charlie Smart fought Seaman Broadbent? All these men and a host of others were all men who upheld the finest traditions of the Regiment, and wherever they are now I pay my humble tribute to them all. Yes, they were great days and all these men and others were great men too, men who were often tough, but grand soldiers who would never let a comrade or the Regiment down, and to them and us all the "Die-Hards" was the finest Regiment in the British Army.

Last June I was at Mill Hill for the reunion of old comrades, and felt very sad at seeing so few. Many, I guess, live reasonably close to Mill Hill and cannot realise the great pleasure it gives to meet again, so next time there is a reunion do try and make it, especially those of you who live in town.

HARRY CROSS

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THE DIE-HARDS OF MIDDLESEX

"A Regiment, a Word and a Spirit"

THE COUNTY REGIMENT

BY CAPT. COLIN D. EDWARDS, *Military Observer*

"They are a proud Regiment," he had said when I told him that I intended visiting the Middlesex Regiment at their camp in the New Territories near Hong Kong.

A bit regimental, too, but a very good bunch. Some of them were here before, you know. The 1st Battalion was part of the garrison when the Colony was overrun in 1941. Those that survived spent the rest of the war in a prison camp down the road or in Japan. My informant pointed down Argyl Street, which ran off Nathan Road, Kowloon's main thoroughfare. We had crossed over from Victoria, on Hong Kong Island, and were on our way into "the territories." I tried to visualise the scene as it must have been for those gallant men during the years of heartbreaking internment but, somehow, strutting Japanese soldiers did not fit into the peaceful scene, which, if it were not for the Chinese faces, might well be an orderly suburb of an English town.

To get out to where the Middlesex camp lay meant a trip, one way or the other, around the circular route encompassing the main section of the New Territories area and which at the further side brought you near the border and running for a while on a parallel track before turning south again towards Kowloon.

It was wild, mountainous scenery most of the way, affording enchanting views that vie with those of the Scottish Highlands and Northern Italy. We were almost at our destination by the time the landscape had changed to flat, valley-bottom. On each side of the smooth, straight road stood warm-leaved birch trees, in neat order and, beyond them, for miles across the small plain, stretched the square, water-filled paddi-fields, where Chinese farmers carved the mud with wooden ploughs drawn by sleepy-eyed water buffalo.

I do not know Mill Hill myself but I imagine it is a great deal different from this scene to which the men of the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) have been transplanted.

PRESENT CAMP

Their present camp is one of the more permanent ones. When they first arrived in Hong Kong early last June, they were put under canvas on a site not yet completed. It was the time of the summer rains, which pelted down in massive drops hour after hour every day, turning the valley in which they were situated into a basin of mud. Everything they possessed was soaked on the outside and the humidity sickened the inside with its damp. To ward off the rain, one could wear a mackintosh or ground-sheet, but then underneath the heat would be stifling and nearly unbearable.

They were glad at heart when the Gurkhas vacated "the Stables" and allowed them to move into quarters that were made of bricks and mortar and roofed with

solid concrete. The weather changed to something like an English autumn and the rain stopped.

We had left the main road and gone up a narrow track to find them. At a sentry-box beside the two gleaming concrete pillars of the entrance gate was a number of the Regimental Police to check our passes. Set imposingly above us and back awhile on the other side was the guardhouse, neatly white-washed and with a trim lawn and garden on the mound before it.

The road wound up between landscaped banks—unless nature blessed its aspect so elegantly—and then we were upon the Regimental Offices and the Company "lines." Beyond them, the ground dropped very steeply to a long air-strip and some playing fields. On the former, the combined Bands of 27th Infantry Brigade, to which the Middlesex now belong, were at practice of a "beating the retreat" parade. The Argyll and Sutherland Pipers wore their traditional kilts and the drummers had on their spotted leopard-skins, while the Die-Hard and the Royal Leicestershire Regiment bandmen were marching up and down in their jungle green shorts and without shirts.

By now, almost all the troops have acquired a healthy tan from the strong sun. At the basket-ball nets glistening bodies swerved and strained in an enthusiastic game between company teams. Near the soccer field a section of the "Support" Company was listening intently to a sergeant instructor going over the 3-in. mortar drill.

AN OLD SOLDIER

Around the camp were a lot of Chinese, working as Mess boys, barbers, cobblers, tailors or coolies. Most of them were labourers on various kinds of construction work. The sanitary coolies tackle almost any kind of job under the guidance of their commander, an elderly Middlesex Corporal by name of Cpl. Mitchell Gears. He has spent almost a quarter of a century in the Army and has many years of experience with coolie labourers, who seem willing to work their hearts out for him—an unusual trait amongst Asiatics. He is an old soldier who knew the terrors of a Japanese prison camp, but whatever bitterness he feels seems to have been sublimated beneath his quiet, conscientious endeavours to do his job well.

Although the trouble which they came out prepared to face has not developed, the Middlesex are not idle. As my friend pointed out, they have a proud tradition to maintain and they are keeping on top line by strict training and imaginative exercises. Many of them are youngsters on National Service but, as their sergeant-majors assured me, they are of the same "stuff" as the Regular "Die-Hards," the name by which the Middlesex have been known since the battle of Albuhera.

RECREATION

That evening I went over to the Naafi canteen and watched a table-tennis tournament. There was plenty of spectator support for the contestants, as the troops rarely get into the town. The Naafi is their social club, public house, tea-shop, grocery store and games room. Once a week the Army Kinema Corporation brings them a film show and, occasionally, a concert party takes

the road for a tour of the units. Most of the time, however, the troops fall back on their own resources, their humour and their capacity to keep their spirits up with a sing-song. They are now able to get a little musical support from a "juke box" which an American restaurateur in Kowloon has loaned them. Half of the profits go directly into the P.R.I. fund, which is devoted to welfare and entertainment needs.

I heard some of the grouses during my short stay with the Middlesex. A renewed separation from wives and families was not exactly popular and the air-mail service from home was pretty poor. There was something, however, which impressed me through all this; something that over-shadowed personal consideration. It was an immense, if unspoken, pride in the Regiment. It was shown in many little ways. Every man who wrote down his particulars for me included after the number of his Battalion and the name of the Regiment, the initials "D.C.O.," signifying "Duke of Cambridge's Own." They were subtly conscious of a distinction conferred on their predecessors nearly 70 years ago.

Perhaps, it is from one word that most of their feelings take their course of loyalty, bravery and honour. That is "Albuhera," a symbol of the spirit of sacrifice, defiance and determination to which the Regiment still holds and which it strives to perpetuate. Clinging yet to the proud nickname given them in 1811 after Col. Inglis's exhortation—"Die hard, my men, die hard"—the modern Middlesex Infantryman promises well to maintain the fine fighting tradition that is the very life-blood of the British Army.

THE "DIE-HARDS" REGIMENT Its History and Achievements

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Last week we published an account by Capt. Colin Edwards of the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) in Hong Kong.

This week Major R. C. H. Bellers, Commanding Officer of the Depot, contributes the following account of the Territorial units of the famous County Regiment.

The regular portions of our County Regiment are the 1st Battalion, now serving in the Far East, and the Depot, at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill.

The Regiment is completed by its Territorial Army Battalions which are now the 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment at Hornsey; the 11th Parachute Battalion (Middlesex), T.A., at Hounslow; the old 8th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment; and the 595th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, R.A. (Middlesex), T.A., the old 9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, at Kingsbury.

The 7th Battalion dates back to 1798 to a Loyal Association formed at Hampstead, Highgate, Tottenham and Enfield; after various changes it became the 1st Volunteer Battalion The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) in 1898, and holds the proud record of the whole unit volunteering for service in South Africa. It was given its present designation in 1907, and was the first "Imperial Service" Battalion of

the Territorial Army. Serving as an Infantry Battalion in the First World War it won, among many other decorations, 21 Distinguished Conduct Medals and 82 Military Medals. As a Machine-Gun Battalion in the last war it fought in Belgium in 1940, throughout the operations in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Sicily, Italy and in North-West Europe.

THE 8th AND 9th BATTALIONS

The 8th Battalion dates back to 1797 to a Loyal Association at Teddington in which the Duke of Clarence, afterwards William IV, served as full private. After various changes it was given its title in 1907, and was the second "Imperial Service" Battalion. It served with great distinction in the First World War, and as a Machine-Gun Battalion in the last war fought in Belgium in 1940, and in the victorious North-West Europe Campaign later. Formed into the 11th Parachute Battalion after the war, it carries on its regimental traditions and still has its Middlesex Regimental Colours.

The 9th Battalion may fairly claim to be the lineal descendants of the old "Marylebone Volunteers" raised in 1803, and given their title in 1907, saw service in India during the First World War. In 1938 it was formed into a Searchlight Unit, in 1942 into Light Anti-Aircraft, becoming in 1947 595th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, R.A. (Middlesex), T.A. Though a R.A. Unit, it still wears the Middlesex badge.

Territorial Battalions not now forming part of the Regiment or disbanded, have also played a distinguished part in the history of the Regiment. In the First World War no less than 46 Battalions were formed and this account is too short to give the details. In the last war the 2/7th Battalion served in Italy and Sicily; the 2/8th Battalion, renamed the 1st in 1942, after the loss of the old 1st Battalion in Hong Kong, in North-West Europe. In 1938 The Princess Louise's Own Kensington Regiment formed part of the Middlesex Regiment until after the war, and the 1st Battalion fought in Sicily and Italy, and the 2nd served in Iceland and in the North-West Europe Campaign.

32 BATTALIONS OF HOME GUARD

The regimental record would not be complete without including the 10th Home Service Battalion (later named the 30th), the 70th Young Soldiers' Battalion, and three Independent Home Defence Companies, which were formed in the last war. Thirty-two Battalions of the Home Guard wore the Cap Badge, and, though not forming part of it, the Regiment were proud to have so excellent and public-spirited a Force thus connected with it. Others wearing the badge are Middlesex Army Cadet Force Units affiliated to the Regiment, in which the Regiment takes a close interest.

The Regimental Depot at Mill Hill is the headquarters of the Colonel of the Regiment, Col. M. Browne, M.C., and of the Regimental Association, Officers' Club and Old Comrades' Association, and of the Regimental Magazine, THE DIE-HARDS.

Supported by subscriptions from all ranks of the Regiment, the Army Benevolent Fund and grants from other Charitable Institutions, the Regimental Association helps hundreds of deserving cases of hardship of its old members every year. The Officers' Club and O.C.A. keep in touch with old members of the Regiment, and arrange periodical events such as cricket week in June at the Depot, reunions and dinners, and gatherings on "Albuhera Day," May 16, and Armistice Day.

PROVIDING COTTAGE HOMES

From money provided by contributions from past and present members of the Regiment, and by generous response to a public appeal, the Regiment are building 20 War Memorial Cottage Homes at Enfield for disabled, old comrades and their families. This excellent scheme, sponsored by the Lord-Lieutenant of the County, Lord Latham, has raised some £30,000, and building is to start shortly.

Branches of the Old Comrades' Association are run by keen and devoted members, and help enormously to keep up the old "Die-Hard" spirit of past members of the Regiment. These are situated at Kingsbury, Mill Hill, Hornsey, Staines, Uxbridge, Ealing and Romford, and form meeting places not too far distant for any Old Comrade to attend.

WAR MEMORIAL

Proud of its great traditions developed over the last 194 years, the Regiment commemorates its fallen on its War Memorial at Mill Hill. Its dead lie far scattered, in North America, West Indies, Spain, Portugal, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, The Crimea, India, Burma, Japan, China, South Africa, Malaya, Middle East, Sicily, Italy, Palestine, Australia, New Zealand and Aden.

At the Regimental Museum at Mill Hill are displayed historic colours, uniforms, medals and many other items of interest which trace the Regiment's activities in peace and war, and the collection of trophies, pictures and silver of the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes are rivalled by few other regiments.

Despite many vicissitudes and changes of fortune, and the recent introduction of the Group System, British Infantry Regiments still form the backbone of the Army. Their traditions and *esprit de corps*, though apparently threatened, remain as strong as ever, and will continue to do so, so long as the British character remains unchanged; and this may safely be said of the Middlesex, our County Regiment, the old "Die-Hards."



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