

# The Die Hards

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT  
(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



VOL. IX. No. 6

JUNE, 1950

PRICE 1/-

## 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.

"Mysero," "Serlingapatam," "Alubera," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyrenes," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsular," "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1900-02," "The Great War—46 Battalions—1 Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "La Bassée, 1914," "Messines, 1914," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "17, 18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Bellewaarde," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "18," "Albert, 1916," "18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Ponnières," "Ginchy," "Fiers-Coucrolette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "18," "Bapaume, 1917," "18," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "18," "Arleux," "Pilekem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrück," "Bailleul," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambré," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suva," "Landing at Suva," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18," "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murman, 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.  
1/7th Bn. 595 L.A.A., R.A., T.A.  
1st and 2nd Bas. 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.

### 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. Preston.

### Allied Regiment of New Zealand Military Forces

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

### Colonel of the Regiment:

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

### Officer Commanding Depot:

Major R. C. H. Bellers.

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

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## NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

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

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

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

Starting in the war, the Colonel of the Regiment has, for a number of years, issued a News Letter.

Originally the information about other units of the Regiment and of individuals was almost unobtainable from other sources and this News Letter, which was, of course, a restricted document, was a priceless means of keeping in touch with Regimental news.

Now the Journal is going again and should be an adequate means of distributing information.

Needless to say a Colonel who is so tireless a correspondent as Col. Browne, has a vast post-bag and the News Letter has achieved proportions which rival the Journal both in size and circulation.

It will be appreciated that to go through the News Letter and extract suitable items means a great deal of work and considerable delay and duplication of effort.

The Colonel of the Regiment has decided that in future news which is not confidential and is of general interest to readers will be included in the Journal. A new item therefore starts this, issue called "From the Colonel's Post-bag."

After completing and sending to the printers the first of these articles some more letters arrived, but there is unfortunately neither time nor space to say more than that one was from Major Denis Binder, now in civil employment at home and living at Milton, Chalford Hill, Stroud, Glos.

Once more we have to apologise for being late, owing to the non-arrival of the 1st Battalion Notes. We hope that there is a very good reason and that it is not merely complete lack of understanding of the amount of extra work this lateness throws on Major Clark and of the impossibility of putting the Journal together until the Battalion notes are received and proofs printed.

All material was due at the printers at the beginning of the month and we have now hung on until the middle of the month.

### FROM THE COLONEL'S POSTBAG

This first instalment of this new feature must be short as the germ has only just hatched and printing time is approaching. The first item of interest is from Lt.-Col. Mervyn Crawford, and perhaps the shorter it is kept the better.

Briefly, he has been appointed Commandant of the Royal Army Pioneer Corps camp at Saighton Camp, Chester, where he expects to hang out and on until June.

Secondly, comes news of Col. W. A. Stewart. He says that he is trying to nerve himself to attend the Regimental Dinner this year but always feels such a hopeless back number. This is, of course, quite

ridiculous and shows a lamentable lack of the "Die-hard" spirit. On his own admission he is a "young under 70" man holding down a profitable 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. job and in addition is a J.P., president of the local Boy Scouts, vice-president of the local British Legion, chairman of the Rhodes Memorial Trust, lay chairman of the Church Committee and of the Disabled Persons Panel. This scarcely seems a summary of the activities of a back number but rather every good reason to attend and contribute something up to date on a variety of subjects.

It is the fate of most of us when we retire or leave the Colours to get out of date very quickly, but I doubt if the serving soldier expects us to be anything other, and if a back number unwanted complex is to become prevalent, then our gatherings will fail in their object and cease to be representative.

And so, Col. Archie Stewart, we shall expect to hear all about this tiny house and 9-acre garden at the Regimental Dinner.

The last letter is from Capt. R. W. J. Smith, who needs no introduction. Dick Smith and family are in Accra, Gold Coast, and we have already heard from Mr. Justice and Mrs. Lewey that the Smith family had been visiting them and that they had enjoyed the visits. Dick and family like the Gold Coast and he describes all that he and they have seen and experienced in a lively fashion. But this might be expected since he, and doubtless they, belong to that all too rare category of people who have a zest for life and are out to be interested wherever they are, with the result that they are always happy.

The letter is too long to quote in full but the following will illustrate what I mean.

Starting with a reference to the Colonel's News Letter No. 54, he describes a variety of erstwhile inter-Regimental scraps which have no doubt died out with the introduction of the Group (?).

After an account of a decent storm which enabled him to prove that lightning does strike twice in the same place, he gives a graphic account of a visit of the Smith family to watch unloading at Accra through the surf, followed by a description of Smith, Jr., at the dentist's. He ends with the following: "Life is full of wonderful things for the family—that includes me too—and there is never a dull moment. We are all very happy and every day seems to be one long song. There is always something of interest to see, to hear and to do."

How right he is. And with that we empty the post bag for this number.

### FROM RECENT PUBLICATIONS

#### (i) "GREEN BERET"

"*Primus inter pares*"

There was a time when people would choose their reading matter by browsing in booksellers and then purchasing such volumes as attracted them or by reading the reviews in the papers and ordering those which were well reviewed. Nowadays the price of books and everything else has driven most of us to the use of the libraries and inevitable Library List.

I find this a tedious business as, week after week, I search the papers and fail to find anything even faintly attractive. My list, in consequence, grew very slowly, but at last I handed it in and the other day, on my way to London, I went in and was handed *Green Beret*, by Hilary St. George Saunders.

Long before I reached Waterloo I read on page 39 the following: "No one class or part of the country furnished the best type of Commando soldier, but it seems to be generally agreed by those who had most to do with leading them in battle that *primus inter pares* was the full-blooded Cockney, a grand soldier in peace or war."

As a Cockney by birth, a Londoner by habitation for many years, and a "Die-hard" for more years than I care to remember, I was thrilled, and I must admit that the rest of the journey was spent, not in reading, but with my own thoughts.

We who have had the privilege of serving with the Middlesex Regiment need no introduction to the Cockney, even though our personnel have for many years got less and less full-blooded as conditions of enlistment and drafting have changed, since despite dilution the units have remained predominantly of Cockney blood and Cockney characteristics.

It would be easy, and one is tempted to do so, to hold forth at length on prejudices of all soldiers in favour of their own men, Lancashire for Lancashire and Devon for Devon, and on the use of the characteristics of men of the various parts of the country and even Colonies and Dominions, in order to make the best use of these characteristics, but the fact remains that wherever one meets him the real Cockney is a welcome addition to the unit and the Cockney unit to any formation.

I should have been less sure in making this assertion ten years ago, when my experience of men other than Cockneys was limited. During the late war, however, it was my good luck to spend almost exactly three years with Yorkshiremen and another three with Lancashiremen, and I value deeply the experience and chance of studying these men. One learnt to admire them immensely and one learnt that there was no special method needed to command one or the other. But I doubt whether, with all their fine qualities, they can be compared with the Cockney as mixers.

It stands to reason that this characteristic in itself would not be sufficient to earn them the tribute paid in *Green Beret*. If I were writing this for any other paper I should feel that I was called upon to analyse the qualities of the Cockney but for this Journal I feel that it is quite unnecessary since you, the readers, know them just as well as I do. The really important thing is that these qualities should be appreciated and our fervent hope is that the Cockney may retain them and this despite all temptations to become a mere diluted imitation of the wireless and cinema models of the ideal man.

#### (ii) "ABYSSINIAN PATCHWORK"

We all experience at times that annoying incident when, travelling in a bus or car, we see someone we

have not seen for ages but are gone before we can stop or communicate with that old friend.

It was with much this feeling that when reading Kenneth Gandar Dower's book I read on page 139: "Colonel Bruce plunged through with his Adjutant, Captain Symes..." and on page 141: "He (an Italian Colonel) was fished out of bed to hear some pointed remarks from Major Watson, couched in language he'd never heard before probably in the whole course of his career, while Adjutant Tom Symes primed the Major with such details of punishment as he forgot."

It is only a glimpse, but it brings back many memories and one is left, like the passenger in a bus, with a feeling of frustration and one realises what our present meetings, cricket, golf and football, lose by his untimely death at the very end of the war.

### OBITUARY

#### Mr. H. V. Ireson, M.V.O.

Just as we go to press the cutting reproduced below appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*:—

"WORKED 52 YEARS IN ST. PAUL'S"

"Service for Verger"

"Mr. Harry Vincent Ireson, Dean's verger of St. Paul's Cathedral, who died on Saturday, had served the Cathedral since 1898. His knowledge of the services and ceremonial detail was encyclopaedic."

"At evensong in the Cathedral yesterday the canon in residence, Canon Marcus Knight, paid a tribute to Mr. Ireson, and as a further tribute the funeral service is to be held in the Cathedral on Thursday."

"Mr. Ireson joined the staff as a boy and helped to install the mosaics in the choir. He was later appointed a guide and then for 30 years was a verger, becoming senior verger in 1944."

Harry Vincent Ireson will be known to many thousands of visitors to St. Paul's Cathedral as a verger, but he is better known to old 2/10th men as C.S.M. Harry Ireson.

It is a matter of conjecture whether visitors to the Cathedral or newcomers to the Company would have been more surprised on learning the other side of the activities of Harry Ireson.

I am certain that other more adequate tributes will come before the next issue of the Journal is due, but I cannot let this number go to press without paying mine. As far as the 1914-18 war is concerned, it is probably appropriate mine should be amongst the early ones.

When the 2/10th Battalion landed in Gallipoli, Ireson was my Platoon Sergeant. When I was detailed (undoubtedly because I was the only officer with a new S.D. jacket!) to take a guard of two Sergeants, one Corporal, two Lance-Corporals and four men from each Company as one of the guards on Sir William Birdwood's H.Q. on the island of Imbros, Sgt. Ireson was the senior Sergeant, and when at a later date I took over command of "D" Company, C.S.M. Ireson was my Sergeant-Major.

Being a very green youth of under 21 when we first met, Harry Ireson was an ideal guide, philosopher and



friend to me in the numerous situations in which I found myself. He was about 15 years older than myself and his greater experience of life, of soldiering and of men was always available for me to draw on and it could always be relied upon as sound but never thrust upon one unless asked for.

At the battle of Gaka our ways parted as I was wounded, and upon my return, as "C" Company was vacant, owing to the translation of Dick to the realms of the Staff, I took over "C" Company.

Two incidents stand out when I think of Ireson. The first was in the early days of the landing. The Platoon was in reserve and quite happily trusting to some totally inadequate scrapes made by equally inadequate intrenching tools. Rations had arrived and been issued from a wooden box which was still beside us as it had some rations in it for men away. Ireson and I made some tea and were enjoying this, comparatively at ease, when we decided that the sniping, which was always with us, was getting distinctly annoying.

It dawned upon us that the box might have something to do with this unwelcome attention and we set about rectifying this. In so doing I noticed that my equipment, which I had loosened, had been struck and the horn removed from the revolver. At the same time Ireson turned to his mess tin (it had been beside his head) and I heard him say "Blimey! The blighter has hit my mess tin," and true enough a bullet had pierced the tin low down and all the tea had run away. Personally I was rather shaken but Ireson was quite unperturbed, apart from being emphatically in favour of a vigorous drive to dislodge the blighter who had robbed him of his tea. The sniper was not found, but then we had not been trained to look for green snipers in green trees and had no "Tommy" or Sten guns to spray the trees with.

The second incident occurred many months later. I was then commanding "D" Company with Ireson as my C.S.M. One afternoon he came to my bivouac and said "Pte. 'X' refuses to be inoculated, sir. Shall I put him in the Guard Room?" I have no doubt that by all the rules I should have said "Yes," but men were scarce and first-class No. 1 Lewis Gunners' jewels beyond price. I therefore said "No" and ordered "X" to be brought before me. "X" appeared and "X" was inoculated on the understanding that if he was ill he would not be stabbed again. There were no ill-effects and "X" was given his second dose and went into the show with his gun. Although I had achieved my object I was probably wrong and many C.S.M.s would have been resentful, but that was not the way with Harry Ireson, because whether he agreed or not, once his Company C.O. had made a decision he accepted it in the best spirit.

I had few chances of meeting him once we parted company, but when in the late war I was given a Brigade, Ireson got to know and one of my most treasured letters arrived from him.

St. Paul's Cathedral was his life, but when patriotism called he devoted himself whole-heartedly and devotedly to the Regiment. Judged by any standards, he was an outstanding C.S.M. and friend.

### Henry V. Ireson, M.V.O.

Many regular worshippers at St. Paul's Cathedral will surely miss the alert figure of the Dean's Verger, even though he may not have been known to them by name. The death of Harry Ireson on April 22, after a brief illness, brought to a close 52 years of service as boy and man to the Cathedral. Those of his friends who sought him out there became aware of his wide knowledge, not only of details of ritual, and of church music, but also of every nook and cranny of the vast building. For these things his loyalty and enthusiasm never waned.

At the funeral service in the Cathedral the Dean paid tribute to Ireson's sterling character, and some old soldiers among the congregation knew by his words of simple beauty that he had lost not only his verger but one whom they too were privileged to count as their friend.

"Loyalty," said the Dean, "was Ireson's outstanding characteristic." How well the men of the 2/10th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment knew it, for in their ranks, long years ago, he served and fought in many actions in Gallipoli and Palestine. Unswerving in his sense of duty, he was a fearless soldier and a disciplinarian of the best type, in whom discipline was never divorced from kindness and humour. As a C.S.M. he was constant in his efforts to ease the cares, and perhaps succeeded sometimes in mellowing the judgments of a more youthful Company Commander. Imperturbable in battle, his was the courage that sustained and inspired others and in fact seemed to dispense an air of security even under most unpleasant conditions. For consistent good service he was awarded the Médaille Militaire. After the war the formation of regular reunions of the survivors of the Battalion owed much to Harry, and it was in his little office in the Cathedral Music Library that many of the plans and details were talked over—but perhaps that is a thing the Dean did not know!

Two years ago, to the great pleasure of his friends, his service to St. Paul's was marked by the award of the M.V.O. Harry Ireson's delight was in simple things. (How amazed he would have been to see the big congregation that honoured his memory at St. Paul's.) His happy home life with his wife and son, the Cathedral he loved and served so well, his old friends and his Regiment. His happiness in these was supported by his steadfast faith. Harry Ireson has passed. "Why, then, God's soldier be he."

N.B.Mc.I.

### OBITUARIES

It is with deep regret that we have to record the following deaths:

The late W. T. Harwood died on Saturday, April 22, 1950, and was cremated at Hendon Park Cemetery on Thursday, April 27, 1950. Sgt. Bignell of the Depot Staff attended the funeral and a wreath was sent on behalf of the Regimental Association.

Mr. Harwood enlisted on October 24, 1912, and was discharged to pension on February 4, 1935. He was called up on Section E Reserve on September 1, 1939,

and was discharged on medical grounds December 3, 1940. Mr. Harwood had been in ill-health for several months, and has not been able to pursue his employment for the last four months. Elder members of the 2nd Battalion will remember him as the majority of his service was in the Band, which culminated in him being appointed Band Sergeant. He was a good athlete and hockey player.

His ashes were scattered around the Regimental Memorial.

We also regret to record the death of the late R.S.M. J. Morgan, who passed away on Saturday, April 22, 1950, aged 75 years. A Warrant Officer attended his funeral at Rayleigh Parish Church on Wednesday, April 26, 1950, and placed a wreath on his grave on behalf of the Regimental Association.

42 Woodleigh Avenue,  
North Finchley, N.12.  
February 28, 1950.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,

Re No. 5740 C/Sgt.-Major H. A. EDWARDS,  
Pensioner, The Middlesex Regiment.

I wish to bring to your notice that the above-named passed away at his home, Flat over the Mart, Crowthorne, Berkshire.

He joined the Regiment in 1899 and was posted to the 2nd Battalion when the Battalion was in Cambridge Barracks, Woolwich. When the 2nd Battalion left, on December 2, 1899, for the South African War, he remained behind with the details. On the formation of the 4th Battalion, in March, 1900, he was posted to the 4th Battalion and served with them until the early part of 1903. Joining the 3rd Battalion at Stellenbosch, Cape Colony, he served with the 3rd Battalion afterwards in Hong Kong, Singapore, Lebony and Cawnpore, India, till March, 1914, being posted to the Permanent Staff, 5th Battalion. He rejoined the 3rd Battalion in Salonika, 1916, and at the end of the war, when the Battalion left for home, he finished his service in 1921 on the staff of the Depot. For some time after leaving the Regiment he was on the Recruiting staff at Harlesdon. During the whole of his service with the 3rd Battalion he was a Sergeant and afterwards Colour Sergeant of "G" Company.

Yours faithfully,

H. A. CLELAND.

P.S.—I have received word this morning that the funeral will take place on Saturday at 12 noon, which I will attend.—H.A.C.

45 Imperial Road,  
Gillingham.  
April 8, 1950.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed please find a cutting from the April edition of the "Old Contemptibles Magazine."

Yours sincerely,

T. J. GREEN.

"G. S. HACKER. Sidcup Branch regret to report the death on February 19 of Chum George S. Hacker,

formerly No. 9222, Sergeant, 4th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment. He transferred from the Duchy of Cornwall Branch two years ago. He was keen, enthusiastic, modest and unassuming. Thirteen Chums with standard and wreath were present at the funeral in Chislehurst Cemetery. Chum F. H. Hayward and Mr. Moss represented the Duchy of Cornwall Branch and the Air Ministry respectively. Sincerest sympathy is offered to his widow and daughter."

"Norlington,"

26 Chesham Road,

Annerley, S.E.20.

March 16, 1950.

My dear Nobby,

I enclose a press cutting re the late Mr. G. S. Hacker, who was one of the 4th Battalion in the early days. I recall him quite well. Thought you might like this for the "Die-Hards' Doings."

Hacker at one time was Officers' Mess Steward and quite a noise in his way.

Best of luck.

Yours sincerely,

GEO. H. E. DUFFIELD.

### MR. G. S. HACKER

The funeral took place at Chislehurst Cemetery on Saturday of Mr. George Samuel Hacker, aged 67, of 40 Birkbeck Road, Sidcup, who died in Orpington Hospital on February 19.

Mr. Hacker served as a regular soldier in the 4th Middlesex Regiment, and was wounded in the Boer War and in the First World War. For the past few years he worked at the Air Ministry.

Sidcup Old Contemptibles Association, of which he was a well-known member, carried their standard and formed a guard of honour at the cemetery.

Among the mourners were Mrs. Hacker (widow); Mr. and Mrs. Loveland, sen. (son-in-law and daughter); Mr. Loveland, jun., Mrs. Bagwell and Mrs. Wilkinson (grandchildren); Mrs. Baugh and Mrs. Stevenson (sisters-in-law); Mr. Stevenson (nephew); Mrs. Alder (niece); Mrs. Loveland, jun., Mr. Bagwell, Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. Baugh, Mr. Alder, Mr. Moss (representative from the Air Ministry); and representatives from the Duchy of Cornwall.

### GAVE CIGARETTE TO A KING

Treasured possession of Mr. George Samuel Hacker, of 40 Birkbeck Road, Sidcup, who died on February 19, was a box of cigarettes given to him as a Christmas present by the Princess Royal while he was in hospital in 1914.

He kept all the cigarettes except one until he died. The exception was the one which King George V accepted from him, and smoked, on a visit to the hospital.

My dear Nobby,

I'm sure you already know, but thought you might like to know some details of the passing of ex-C.S.M. Stanley Morris of the 8th Battalion.

He died at Mount Vernon's Hospital, Northwood, on Saturday, April 1, and was buried at Southall Cemetery



February 16, 1950.



**THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT**  
**REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION CHARITABLE FUND**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1949**

EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Grants and Allowances:			By Grants and Donations:—		
Regular Forces Employment			Army Benevolent Fund .. ..	950	0 0
Association .. .. .	100	0 0	51st Highland Division Trust		
Sundry Charities .. ..	41	15 0	Fund .. .. .	60	0 0
Cottage Homes .. .. .	200	0 0	M.C.C. Sunday Entertainment		
Individual Cases .. ..	1,602	6 10	Fund .. .. .	747	10 0
			P.R.I. 1st Battalion, Middlesex		
„ Donations to “Die-Hard” Clubs			Regiment .. .. .	35	0 0
„ Wreath .. .. .			P.R.I. 5th Battalion, Middlesex		
Inscribing Roll of Honour ..			Regiment .. .. .	10	0 0
O.C.A. Re-unions .. .. .	145	16 11	Sundry .. .. .	451	15 6
Less Contributed thereto ..	90	0 0			
				2,254	5 6
				792	3 6
„ Administration Expenses:—			„ Interest on Investments—Gross ..		
Postage .. .. .	53	0 1	Sale of O.C.A. Badges .. ..	32	15 6
Printing and Stationery .. ..	62	16 4	Less Purchases thereof .. ..	29	6 11
Salaries and Expenses .. ..	277	12 6			
Travelling and Office Expenses	21	8 0			3 8 7
Bank Charges .. .. .	4	0 0	„ Refund of Bank Charges .. ..		2 9 0
Insurances .. .. .		5 9			
Audit Fee .. .. .	24	3 0			
Furniture and Fittings:—					
Amount written off .. ..		52	0 1		
„ Excess of Income over Expenditure					
for the year .. .. .		523	15 1		
	£3,052	6 7		£3,052	6 7

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT  
RENNY CHARITABLE FUND  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1949

EXPENDITURE				INCOME			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Grants and Allowances .. ..				617	5	3	
„ Administration Expenses—							
Salaries and Expenses .. ..	60	0	0	By Interest on Investments—Gross .. ..	714	15	2
Postage .. ..	1	7	1	„ Refund of Bank Charges .. ..	2	9	0
Audit Fee .. ..	7	7	0				
				68	14	1	
„ Excess of Income over Expenditure				31	4	10	
				£717	4	2	£717 4 2

## BALANCE SHEET AT DECEMBER 31, 1949

[illegible]

We have prepared the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account from the Books, Vouchers and information supplied. We have verified the existence of the Assets and we certify that to the best of our knowledge such accounts are correct.

February 16, 1950.

G. DIXEY & Co., *Chartered Accountants*,  
9a Sackville Street, Piccadilly, W.1.

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT  
WAR MEMORIAL FUND

RECEIPTS STATEMENT FOR YEAR TO DECEMBER 31, 1949									
RECEIPTS :	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Donations (including income from seven year Covenants)	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,925	8	1
Interest on Investments—Gross	..	..	..	..	..	..	512	10	0
Interest on Post Office Savings Bank Deposit—Gross	..	..	..	..	..	..	89	12	6
Interest on Bank Deposit—Gross	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	10	8
							605	13	2
							4,531	1	3
PAYMENTS :									
Publicity and Advertising Expenses	..	..	..	..	..	..	54	4	0
Administration Expenses:									
Postage	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	6	2
Bank Charges	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	5	0
Secretary's Expenses	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	0	0
Audit Fee, 1949	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	8	0
Legal Charges	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	0	6
							27	19	8
							82	3	8
Balance carried to Balance Sheet	..	..	..	..	..	..	£4,448	17	..

NOTE.—SEVEN-YEAR COVENANTS:

June 16, 1947 .. ..	£71 8 7 gross.	October 4, 1948 .. ..	£9 1 9 gross.
August 30, 1948 .. ..	214 5 8 "	October 24, 1948 .. ..	9 1 9 "

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT  
WAR MEMORIAL FUND  
BALANCE SHEET AT DECEMBER 31, 1949

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
ACCUMULATED FUND:							INVESTMENTS at Cost:						
Balance at January 1, 1949	26,517	19	5				£19,000 21% National War Bonds,						
Add Balance as per Receipts Statement	4,448	17	7				1949/51	19,405	6	0			
							£1,500 21% Defence Bonds	1,500	0	0			
	30,966	17	0				1,000 National Savings Certificates						
							(10s. Issue)	500	0	0			
Add Refund of Income Tax for							(Mid-Market Value at December 31,				21,405	6	0
previous year	184	16	6				1949, £21,261 ss. od.)						
				31,151	13	6	CASH at BANK:						
							Post Office Savings Bank Deposit	3,675	5	10			
CREDITOR							Lloyds Bank Ltd., Deposit Account	3,003	10	8			
Audit Fee, 1949				8	8	0	Lloyds Bank Ltd., Current Account	402	14	9			
											7,081	11	3
							ESTATE ACCOUNT:						
							Eastern Electricity Board	154	16	0			
							Metropolitan Water Board	38	10	0			
							Roads and Sewerage	1,990	12	0			
							Architect's Fees on Account	450	0	0			
							Legal Charges	39	6	3			
											2,673	4	3
				£31,160	1	6					£31,160	1	6

The above Balance Sheet has been prepared from the Books, Vouchers and information supplied. We have verified the existence of the assets of the Fund and certify that to the best of our knowledge such account is correct.

February 16, 1950.

G. DIXEY & Co., *Chartered Accountants*,  
9a Sackville Street, Piccadilly, W.1.







THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT  
OFFICERS' CLUB ACCOUNT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1949

EXPENDITURE				INCOME			
To Donations:		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
O.C. Depot for P.M.C.	.. ..	20	0 0				
Rangoon Cathedral Fund	.. ..	5	0 0				
				25	0 0		
33 Expenses of Cricket Week	.. ..	193	19 1				
<i>Less</i> Received	.. ..	38	18 0				
		155	1 1				
<i>Less</i> Stock of Cricket Balls in hand		9	2 6	145	18 7		
				35	16 6		
33 Golf Meeting	.. ..	198	17 11				
33 Dinner	.. ..	132	3 0				
<i>Less</i> Received	.. ..			66	14 11		
				36	7 6		
33 "At Home"	.. ..			8	0 0		
33 M.C.C. Season Tickets	.. ..			11	18 6		
33 Wreaths	.. ..						
33 Administration Expenses:							
Salaries and Expenses	.. ..	60	0 0				
Postage, Printing and Stationery	.. ..	20	1 1				
Audit Fee	.. ..	6	6 0				
Sundries	.. ..	1	14 3	88	1 4		
33 Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	.. ..			77	7 2		
				£495	4 6		
						£495	4 6

## BALANCE SHEET AT DECEMBER 31, 1949

BALANCE SHEET		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		INVESTMENTS AT COST:		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
ACCUMULATED FUND:											
Balance at January 7, 1949 .. .. .		3,726	14	2			£48 48 s. id. Australian 3% Stock, 1955/58 .. .. .	48	0	10	
Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year .. .. .		77	7	2			£400 os. od. 2½% National War Bonds, 1949/51 .. .. .	400	0	0	
							£350 os. od. 2½% National War Bonds, 1951/53 .. .. .	350	0	0	
		3,804	1	4			£300 os. od. 2½% National War Bonds, 1952/54 .. .. .	300	0	0	
Less Grant to P.M.C. 1st Battalion in respect of Profit made on 1948 Winter Cocktail Party .. .. .		17	0	0			£796 78 s. id. 2½% National War Bonds, 1954/56 .. .. .	796	7	1	
					3,787	1	4	£1,000 3% Defence Bonds, 3rd Issue 1900 .. .. .	1,000	0	0
CREDITOR:							£400 os. od. 3% Savings Bonds, 1965/75 .. .. .	400	0	0	
Audit Fee .. .. .					6	6	0	£200 os. od. 2½% Savings Bonds (Mid-market price at December 31, 1949, £3,488 13s. 4d.)	202	2	3
SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID IN ADVANCE .. .. .					7	17	6				3,496 10 2
FUNDS HELD IN TRUST FOR 3RD BATTALION .. .. .					500	0	0	INVESTMENT HELD IN TRUST FOR 3RD BATTALION:			
								500 2½% National War Bonds, 1952/54 at Par Value .. .. .			500 0 0
								STOCK OF CRICKET BALLS .. .. .			9 2 6
								CASH AT BANK .. .. .			283 0 0
								LEGAL EXPENSES RECOVERABLE .. .. .			12 12 0
					£4,301	4	10				£4,301 4 10

We have prepared the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account from the Books, Vouchers and information supplied. We have verified the existence of the Assets and we certify that to the best of our knowledge such accounts are correct.

G. DINEY & Co., *Chartered Accountants*,  
9a Sackville Street, Piccadilly, W.1.

February 16, 1950.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Depot this year will be able to supply a number of inexpensive Regimental Christmas Cards. These consist of a SINGLE card with the Regimental badge in gold, and an appropriate greeting underneath. Cost, 3s. a dozen, or, if by post, 3s. 3d.

Should any branch of the Old Comrades' Association require any, Secretaries are asked to send bulk orders to the P.R.I., The Depot, The Middlesex Regiment.

There will also be a few more expensive cards of the normal folding type, with crest and Regimental ribbon. Cost, 3s. 6d. a half-dozen, plus postage.

## HOME COUNTIES GROUP GOLF MEETING

It was in no very optimistic mood that after a ghastly early rise and breakfast I set forth for Richmond and the Group meeting. The forecast of Secretary Bellers had been gloomy, and repetition of last year's sad and weary trip to Littlestone seemed probable.

As it turned out, although the weariness was present as far as my old bones were concerned, there was a sense of something accomplished, and it was particularly satisfactory that all six members of the team actually contributed to the Regiment's win.

In this competition the place of the three competitors of each Regiment doing the best scores and the places of the best two foursome pairs are added together, and the Regiment with the lowest total wins.

We, having come from the depths of the country, started last but got in to lunch in time to gather that The Middlesex and East Surrey Regiments were running very close, with the former slightly in front. All therefore depended on the foursomes.

A hurried conference was held and it was decided that as we were the lowest handicap and hitting the ball fairly well, and our youngest and longest handicap player, Wollocombe Minor, had also produced a worthy score, it was worth a gamble to pair these two and hope that if this combination did not work out that the other would prove steady pairs.

This proved a very good arrangement as it turned out, as the steady pairs proved steady and ended first and second.

As always nowadays, the meeting dissolved very quickly and it was not possible to get details of the adventures of all the team. I, I mean we, have plenty of reasons why our 73 was not in the 60s, and a vivid recollection of various joyous adventures during the afternoon, but doubtless everyone had similar experiences, and the thing which really matters is that we as a team brought home the Cups.

The scores and placings of our team were :—

Singles : Proctor, 73, 2nd ; Wollocombe, 74, 3rd ; Latham, 76, 5th. 10 points.

Foursomes : Kempster and Latham, 3 down, 1st ;  
Bellers and Byewaters, 4 down, 2nd. 3 points.

Team results : Middlesex Regiment, 13, 1st ; East Surreys, 19, 2nd ; Royal Fusiliers, 36, 3rd. The Royal West Kents and The Buffs also played.

## GOLF

### Regimental Spring Meeting

We find it very hard to start this spasm as "Much Binding-in-the-Marsh" is on the air and George (it may, of course, turn out to be Georgina) keeps painfully reminding me that I have been away for twelve hours and should therefore devote myself entirely to amusing her (or as it may turn out, him).

"Much Binding" is easily dealt with by turning a knob, but George (or Georgina) is a kitten of great determination.

Georgina, having read these words, has got huffy and gone off.

My desk and the air being cleared I must start by saying that I thought that this Spring Meeting got as

near as Cripps, British Railways and British Income Tax will allow to the atmosphere of something over a decade ago. The weather lived up to its tradition for our meetings and was kind, the course was in excellent order and some members, absent for too long, re-appeared, and how sorry we were that Frankie Hogg rattled at the last minute and Charles Whinney could not leave Ryber Dene, and that it was a question of how to catch the 6.54 from Waterloo instead of getting into a car when ready and driving quietly home. The past having gone beyond recall, let us be thankful for this near miss and be glad that the long centre table was full at lunch and tea, both very adequate meals, on which we congratulate the staff of Hendon Golf Club.

The morning round decided the scratch and handicap competitions. Conditions were just difficult enough to require concentration all the time, but it is not easy to achieve this when competitors rather than competitions are of chief interest. Hendon has several nodal points where holes converge and it is hard to remain aloof. Such a spot is the 8th tee, where we arrived in time to see the Junior Wollcombe standing at the flag whilst a sleek and grey-haired partner—good gracious, it's Jimmy Unwin!—see-saws to and fro across the 10th green.

Also at the 10th hole and practising a new, shorter and faster style, was Steve, partnered by an immaculate figure in daffodil yellow—*tres chic*.

At the head of the procession we spotted the stalwart figures of the evergreen pair "Sambo" and South. This blazing of the trail was not a matter of large-heartedness but, we regret, part of a plot. "Sambo" took well over two, but was really only escorting round the favourite, his job being to trample well round the hole after South had holed out. Fortunately, the favourite cracked up at the end of the round and the plot failed.

The efforts of the victorious team in the Group Meeting were distinguished only by light-heartedness and heads in the clouds.

The result of the morning round was a resounding triumph for Stephenson's present style, and he won both scratch and handicap prizes with 80 less 9, 71.

For lunch the crowd was swelled by the arrival of the Colonel of the Regiment, and after the morning winner and others had been persuaded to lunch, we went out to compete with bogey foursomes.

Unfortunately, owing to Hogg, Andy had no partner, and instead of playing, he brooded over the players appearing here and there and spreading morsels of information.

Meanwhile the actual games took their usual course and bogey were down one and all. The crowd (it swelled to four) attached itself to the Unwin-Green combination and were able to gloat over this pair's rapid descent from up on bogey to 4 down, all in the last 9 holes. They were relegated to second place by Wollocombe Junior and Bywaters who slid a little in both halves and reached the same result without any particular landslide. We were therefore delighted to see two new competitors in the meeting remove the trophies and only regretted that Wollocombe and



Wollocombe Jr. had not been combined, thereby setting up a new precedent of a father and son win. This has gone on too long and we must therefore end like the meeting.

After the second round we gathered round the tea table whilst practically everyone, with watch in hand, estimated how many minutes they could stay. With full mouths we therefore applauded the doling out of prizes, and, more important, the sweep money which enabled Steve to pay his debt (we hope) of 2s. 6d. to the runners-up.

The secretary, Major Bellers, announced that he would shortly be leaving the Depot and proposed that Lt.-Col. Green be elected in his place. Members made noises which were taken to mean assent and continued to eat. A vote of thanks was passed to Hendon Golf Club and its staff and to Major Bellers coupled with Major Clark for all their work. Bobbing up again Dick Bellers said that the Society should have a captain. This was unopposed and he was emboldened therefore to propose the Society's honorary reporter for the task. This also being unopposed he added as a footnote that the captain would be *ipso facto, ex-officio and sine die* a member of the committee. No doubt there is a catch in this.

By this time the table was covered with trophies and crumbs and several rapid moves were made to the car park. First were Guest and "Sambo" to a long, sleek prosperous car (the latter had presumably sold the golf course he was touting round at lunch), but their departure was not wholly smooth as South had to be routed out of the bar where he had met a friend.

The Wollocombes, McIvor and the captain were then packed into a sleek but not long taxi and left for Golders Green and a tour of the Underground portion of British Railways.

The Wollocombes had their heads buried in the evening papers to see if Richard was ski-ing against Gloucester for Oxford, but we all agreed that the train we entered was scheduled to go direct to Waterloo, but it decided to go to the Angel, etc. As a result the party took varied action to gain their objective; half going *via* Kennington and half *via* Elephant and Castle.

As the depression over Iceland had altered the arrival and departure platforms of all trains at Waterloo we have no idea what happened to anyone, but arrived breathless but in time for our own train and the storm-scarred area of Fleet.

The next meeting will be October 27, and please enter it now.

#### SCRATCH AND HANDICAP COMPETITION

Lt.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson	80-9=71 Winner.
Lt.-Col. T. South	90-18=72 Runner-up.
Lt.-Col. E. J. Unwin	95-18=77
Brigadier N. P. Procter	85-7=78
Capt. R. E. Guest	92-14=78
Major G. B. Anderson	94-13=81
Capt. N. B. McIvor	100-18=82
Lt.-Col. A. E. Green	99-16=83
Major G. W. Kempster	95-12=83
2/Lt. P. A. S. Wollocombe	101-18=83
Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe	104-18=86
Lt.-Col. W. H. Samuel	105-15=90
Major R. C. H. Bellers	104-14=90
Major J. G. P. Hunt	No return
Capt. J. Bywaters	No return

#### FOURSOMES v. BOGEY

Winners: Capt. J. Bywaters and 2/Lt. P. A. S.	
Wollocombe best last nine holes	4 down.
Runners-up: Lt.-Cols. A. E. Green and E. J. Unwin	4 "
Lt.-Cols. T. South and T. S. Wollocombe	6 "
Lt.-Cols. J. W. A. Stephenson and W. H. Samuel	8 "
Brigadier N. P. Procter and Major G. W. Kempster	9 "
Major R. C. H. Bellers and Capt. R. E. Guest	13 "
Major J. G. P. Hunt and Capt. N. B. McIvor	16 "

#### KING EDWARD VII'S HOSPITAL FOR OFFICERS

Sister Agnes, Founder.

When Sister Agnes founded this Hospital in 1899 she used her own home in Grosvenor Crescent for the purpose. Her intention, which was fulfilled, was to provide a Hospital for Officers on the active list of the Royal Navy and the Army, a privilege which was naturally extended to the Royal Air Force when it came into being. It has now been further extended so that all officers of the Fighting Services, active and retired, permanent and temporary, are eligible for admission.

The Hospital was bombed in 1941, but a new building was found and bought, namely, Beaumont House, Beaumont Street, W.I. This was opened in October, 1948, and is now a nursing home of the highest class.

The Hospital has both single rooms and ward beds, and in the latter serving officers are entitled to free nursing and maintenance. These beds are also available for retired officers at a very moderate fee.

The charges generally are kept constantly under review, and are far below those in similar institutions of a comparable status. It is hoped that as the number of subscribers increase it will be possible to further reduce the fees.

The Hospital is mainly for the treatment of surgical and medical cases. A part-time Medical Officer is attached to the Hospital, and patients can obtain preliminary advice from him free of charge.

The Hospital is equipped with an X-ray plant for the use of patients at a very moderate cost. Patients make their own arrangements for the payment of their physicians and surgeons.

The Hospital has not been taken over by the Ministry of Health, and is therefore entirely dependent on voluntary support.

Subscribers are asked to pay £1 yearly by Banker's Order, which can be obtained from the Hon. Appeals Secretary, Commander Sir Jameson Adams, K.C.V.O., C.B.E., D.S.O., R.N.R., 1 Chesham Street, S.W.1, who will also be pleased to receive donations.

#### REGIMENTAL HISTORY, 1939-45 WAR

At a meeting of the Regimental Association on March 9, 1950, a resolution was passed to the effect that it was highly desirable to produce a History of the Regiment during the 1939-45 War.

A Committee was appointed to investigate the position and to make recommendations to the Regimental Association. It met on April 5 for the first time and consists of:

Brig. N. P. Procter, C.B.E., M.C., B.A., Chairman.  
Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E., and Lt.-Col. G. P. L. Weston, D.S.O., O.B.E., Members.

O.C. Depot, Secretary.

An author for the History is under consideration, and the Committee hope that someone of the Regiment will be forthcoming who can and will take it on.

The general idea is to produce a nicely bound volume of some two hundred thousand words with maps and illustrations to cover the activities of all the Battalions of the Regiment, including, of course, the Kensingtons, in the various theatres of war. It is hoped to make it a very readable volume of more attractive style than the 1914-18 History with plenty of personal stories and anecdotes.

While making full use of the War Diaries to keep chronological order and to ensure accuracy of accounts, it is hoped to compile it chiefly from the more human records and accounts of officers and other ranks.

No recommendations have yet been made to the Regimental Association, or decisions taken, but meanwhile all our readers are invited to think up any true stories and reminiscences which could be used and to send them along to the O.C. Depot.

They should quite clearly show the Battalion, place and date concerned and include all possible details to assist in the recognition of individuals concerned. No guarantee can, of course, be given that particular stories will be included, but there is no doubt they will be of the greatest assistance to the author, whoever he may be.

Memories are short and we want the stories before they are forgotten.

It is hoped to report further progress on this project in the next issue of THE DIE-HARDS.

#### DEPOT NOTES

We have been glad to welcome home from Hong Kong several old friends recently, including W.O.2s Fuller and Pike, Sgts. Avery, Bignell, Kendrick, King and Spenceley. W.O.2 Pike is to be R.S.M. of 7th Middlesex (T.A.), and we shall be pleased to have R.S.M. Painter at the Depot until the end of the year. Sgt. Bignell is now on the Depot Staff.

Majors Marsh and Lerwill have been to see us and the former is now working on the Home Counties District staff at Shorncliffe, and the latter has recently taken over a G.S.O.1 appointment at East Anglian District H.Q. at Colchester. Major F. B. Whiting has recently returned from a three-year tour in Malaya, *via* San Francisco, on leave, and is now attending a course at the Senior Officers' School at Devizes.

We have been particularly glad to have a draft of some forty young soldiers due for Hong Kong attached to us for ten days prior to sailing. They have had a good introduction to the home of the Regiment and we were lucky to have 2/Lts. Lawrence, Wollocombe and Fothergill with them to help in running a useful and interesting programme of work. They sail on May 2 on H.M.T. *Devonshire* with a quantity of silver for the 1st Battalion Officers' Mess, under the care of Major R. A. Gwyn, going out as second-in-command, and Major W. P. M. Allen.

Our twelve new Officers' Married Quarters are now all occupied by those high up the London District priority list and all seem very satisfied with the houses,

and it is hoped the gardens will soon be turfed.

On March 17 the Depot Staff, with Brigade of Guards assistance, ran a Certificate "A" Examination for Mill Hill School C.C.F., and during April a party of a hundred boys visited the Depot and were shown around the Messes and Museum.

Parties of Cadets from Latymer School, Hammersmith, were at the Depot from February 25 to 28 and April 8 to 12, and carried out some useful training. The Combined Drums of the Middlesex A.C.F. have also been practising on week-ends here getting ready for the opening of the Royal Tournament on June 9.

Our recruiting campaign for Band Boys has so far produced six boys, four of whom will soon be on their way to Hong Kong. One is the son of ex-Sgt. Sheffield, now living in the Isle of Wight, and the lad was born when the 1st Battalion was at Ismailia in 1934.

Regular friendly games of football have been played with the A.A.O.D. and 10 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E., and scratch games of hockey have also been popular. A few have played badminton in the gym, and it is hoped that the new hard tennis court at the Sergeants' Mess will come in for a lot of use by all ranks this summer.

Preparations are going ahead for the occupation of a large proportion of the barracks by the Home Postal Depot, R.E., probably in September, and authority has just been given for the repainting of the whole barracks, inside and out. It is high time this was done as it is believed that the last inside painting was done some fifteen years ago!

These notes are up to the end of April and our next main event is the Albuhera Ball on May 13, at which we hope to see a large number of Old Comrades and their friends and relations.

Information has been received that Major Bellers' two-year tenure of command of the Depot is up in October, and that he is to be succeeded by Major G. O. Porter, who is completing an eighteen-month tour in West Africa in July.

#### MUSEUM NOTES

Capt. J. S. Butterfield very kindly presented one suit of Blue Patrols (Officer's Pattern) and one suit of S.D. The suit of "Blues" belonged to his uncle, Capt. W. J. Shall, who served with our Regiment during the 1914-18 War.

Mr. W. Hayes (Bittacy Cottages) kindly presented two volumes of *With the Flag to Pretoria*. These two books make most interesting reading, and are illustrated mainly from photographs and authentic sketches taken in South Africa during the Boer War, 1899-1900. There have been a large number of visitors during the last quarter and, as usual, very complimentary remarks have been made on our Museum.

We are preparing for an even larger number of visitors during the summer. The G.O.C. London District will be making his annual inspection in June; also each week-end the Middlesex County Cadets will be at the Depot and naturally the Museum is of great interest to them.





### ICE SKATING

We have to congratulate Pte. J. Nicks, who served with the 1st Battalion last year at home and in Hong Kong on his latest ice skating successes.

He and his sister, Jennifer, are now 20 and 17 years old respectively, and were British Pair Ice Skating Champions in 1947-48-49 and in the British Olympic team in 1948, when they were the youngest competitors. They were Internationals at 17 and 14 and are National Skating Association Double Gold Medallists, both being Gold Medallists at both solo and pair skating, Nicks was Junior Solo Champion of Britain in 1947.

In February this year they won an International Pairs Competition at Davos, Switzerland, and came third in the Championship of Europe at Oslo, after which they gave exhibitions at Copenhagen by special invitation of the Danish authorities.

On March 6 the pair came second in the World Fair Ice Skating Championships held at the Empire Pool, Wembley, and the following account appeared in the Press the following day:

"In the World Pair Championship 13 pairs contested the vacant title. Michael and Karol Kennedy (U.S.) skated with great precision and speed. It was a polished performance, absolutely first class in every way. John and Jennifer Nicks (G.B.) skated a programme full of difficulty with tremendous charm and vivacity. It was skated at great speed and faultless. Laszlo and Marianne Nagy (Hungary), the European champions, appeared slow and ponderous. Some of the jumps were landed on two feet and there was a bad fall in the death spiral.

Walter Muehlbronner and Irene Maguire (U.S.) are a good couple, but things did not go right for them. It is a very attractive programme, however, with some fine footwork. Of the other couples, the Swiss, Andre Calame and Elianne Steinemann, and R. S. Hudson and Miss Cooke (G.B.), and Gordon Holloway and Joan Waterhouse (G.B.) skated attractively.

The result was: M. Kennedy and Miss K. Kennedy (U.S.), 1; J. Nicks and Miss J. Nicks, (G.B.), 2; L. Nagy and Miss M. Nagy (Hungary), 3.

Immediately after the World Championship at Wembley the pair flew to Paris, where they succeeded in gaining first prize in the International Pair Skating Competition there against 12 couples representing nine nations.

### CAPT. H. N. C. GUDGEON

Although the late war has been ended for several years, there are still all too many of our old friends who passed on during those years of conflict but of whose passing we know nothing, save often the bald words "Died" or "Killed in action". And now, whenever one looks at some pre-war photograph, a face meets one and the thought comes that somewhere and at some time someone had mentioned that this old friend was dead.

Gradually further information, we hope, will come to hand of some, and when it does we hope to be able to pass it on to you through the Journal.

Within the last few days such information has reached us about Noel Gudgeon in the form of letters to his parents, and we are publishing the extracts given below for the information of his many friends amongst our readers and as a tribute to a fine young officer who lived and died a true "Die-hard."

Thurston,  
Coniston Lake,  
Lancs.  
October 24, 1945.

DEAR MR. GUDGEON,

I was Noel's C.O. for a long time in the Malay Regiment; I was also a P.O.W. in Singapore with him, but when he went to Thailand, in October, 1942, I remained in Singapore, so I am afraid can give you no details concerning poor Noel's death. However, Lt.-Col. Young and others who were up in Thailand are now back in England and I am quite sure will be writing to you.

I would like to say what a high opinion I had of Noel's capabilities. He was excellent with our Malays—who adored him—a very fine athlete, and a young lad of very high principles. His sad death is a loss both to the Army and a very large circle of friends.

While he was a P.O.W. with me his job was to look after our chickens and ducks and I can still picture him surrounded by poultry, with a chicken on top of his head and another balanced precariously on his shoulder.

Noel's principles and character made him an excellent and cheerful prisoner of war, and he set a good example to all.

Yours very sincerely,  
(Signed) J. T. BRETHERTON, Lt.-Col.



c/o Rydal Mount,  
Havering-atte-Bower, Essex.

To the Rev. C. J. Gudgeon and Mrs. Gudgeon.

DEAR SIR,

I have just returned to England, having been a P.O.W. for 3½ years in Japanese hands. In consequence of Noel having served with me, I thought you would like me to write and let you know what really happened.

After we were captured in February, 1942, we were moved to Changhi, which was used to form part of the barracks for the Singapore Garrison. Noel lived with the officers of the Malay Regiment. They were well off, occupied old married quarters and did themselves reasonably well with food. Noel used to look after a few chicken (he spent hours with them) and I think thoroughly enjoyed himself; he also attended the P.O.W. University, staffed by professors, and in his spare time tried to teach me Malay. About October 28, 1942, we were all moved to Thailand for the construction of the T'ai/Burma Railway, and from thence onwards conditions grew worse.

On arriving at Chungkai we were organised into working Battalions. I was ordered to command No. 1 Working Battalion, No. 2 Group, and selected Noel as my Adjutant. I was lucky enough to get Major Clark, Middlesex Regiment, as my second-in-command—we were almost Middlesex Regiment! Poor Nobby died of dysentery at the end of June, 1943.

At Chungkai, life was not too unbearable, although food, accommodation and hours of work for the men were bad; by this time we all had a little money, so

were able to buy a few eggs and bananas to supplement the rice. Noel did not work on the railway; he used to do a lot of voluntary work, wood chopping for our own cookhouse and similar work. From the time he arrived in Thailand he was continuously troubled with his tummy, but used to lead an active life.

In February, 1943, we started to move up "The River," changing camps as the railway progressed. During March and early April, 1943, I had to leave him in camp for three weeks on account of tummy trouble; he recovered and insisted in marching on. At the end of March we marched for nine days under most trying conditions, carrying all our possessions during the hot weather. We eventually made camp at a place called Takanon South, old numbering 203 kilometre, new numbering 218 kilometre. It was there that we discovered Noel had dysentery. Owing to lack of medical supplies, chiefly emertine, he gradually grew worse, and although he was given milk, he died and was buried in the Camp Cemetery by Padre McNeil, Chaplain to the Forces, C. of E. His death was a great blow; I had known Noel for several years and had always valued his friendship.

I think he knew he was going to die; he was very brave, never complained. I only hope that when the time comes I face the end as calmly and bravely as Noel did. He had the best medical attention possible in the circumstances—if drugs were short, McArthur, my Battalion M.O., did his very best. In my opinion, McArthur was one of the heroes of the line; he, too, suffered with dysentery, but was always doing his best for all of us and it was to his ability and ceaseless attention and advice that our death rate was lower than any other Battalion in Group 2. I hope you will forgive me if I have written the last sentence feelingly, but if you could only have seen Mac going about daily, doing so much good, you, too, would understand my feelings; without these wonderful doctors, God knows what would have happened. I am trying to get Mac's address and will send it along—I hope you will write him. Padre McNeil might possibly be able to add a little to the very sad story; the Padre and McArthur were great friends and both must have discussed Noel.

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed) J. E. DOBBS, M.C., Lt.-Col.,  
Middlesex Regiment.

5 Duchal Terrace,  
Kilmalcolm,  
Renfrewshire.  
December 1, 1945.

DEAR MRS. GUDGEON,

I am glad that you wrote to me and that I now have your address and can write to you about your fine son Noel. Col. Dobbs, or "Dobbo" as Noel and a few others called him, was a very close friend of Noel's and I know that he held Noel in very high regard and they were mutual counsellors in all their affairs, personal and military. They slept alongside each other on the flooring and had all their meals together until Noel became too ill and I had to take him into my hospital. Not a single day passed thereafter without Col. Dobbs asking me



what more we could do for Noel, what special foods we could get for him, by what means we could force the Japanese to get medicine and many were the visits we paid together and separately to the medical and administrative authorities to try to get more effective medicine to stay the progress of the virulent dysentery from which Noel, and many other fine lads, were suffering and dying. It was to no effect; the Japanese Medical Officer was ignorant, obstructive and malicious and now stands on trial in Tokio as a war criminal.

During the end of 1942 and the early months of 1943, Noel, Padre McNeil and I spent much of our time together and became very good friends. Many days we would slink out of camp through the bushes and wander many miles along the jungle paths, lying in the hot sun on a sand river bank or climbing to the top of the high hill, whence we could see the great waving ocean of tree tops stretching unbroken to the blue, shadowy mountains of southern Burma. We were not great talkers, any of us, but I know that Noel enjoyed the peaceful companionship and freedom from the crowded life in camp that we found together on these walks. We would gather orchids, or try to identify the birds and trees and rocks or we would speculate on the poisonousness of the many varieties of snakes that we saw; often again we would seek for mangoes or limes and having found them go to a tiny Siamese jungle village and have a "feast" before returning to camp; Noel was a great man for nuts or for wild tomatoes and was always coming back to camp with his big wide hat full of them. These are perhaps not very important things, but they were the things that the three of us enjoyed together and the days I remember most clearly from my time in Siam.

When we reached Takanun on the river Kwano during April, Noel, who had had indefinite stomach pains off and on for some months, developed definite signs of Amoebic dysentery. The medicine available to treat him and the many other cases was woefully inadequate in quantity and quality. Still, with careful diet and nursed by a splendid little cockney orderly, Noel was fairly comfortable and quite cheerful though the dysentery persisted.

During June the disease flared up again and without the specific drugs it was impossible to check its course. He was buried in the little cemetery cleared from the jungle beside our camp. We thought of you and of his father that day with very special grief as we knew that it must be so long before you knew of the disaster that had overcome you far away in the jungle.

His progressive weakness and anaemia during the last few days had made him very drowsy and he spoke very little to me and gave me no message. I doubt very much if he had decided that he was dying and I think that he gave his property to Col. Dobbs for safe keeping on the advice of Padre McNeil, who explained to Noel that he was too tired and weak to bother looking after it himself.

Your son suffered none at all of the Japanese sordid cruelties but their omission even to try to provide proper treatment is quite inexcusable and uncivilised.

(Signed) DR. MACARTHUR.

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

The past three months have seen considerable activity in the Battalion. The T.A. Centre at Enfield was returned to us on April 15, and the opening celebrations included the Beating of Retreat at Enfield, followed by an All Ranks Dance on Saturday, April 15, to which all the local celebrities were invited. The Centre was officially opened by Mrs. L. E. Daines, Chairman of the Enfield U.D.C., on Sunday, April 16, after the Battalion had attended Church Parade at St. Andrew's Church in Enfield. The Company now established there will continue to be known as "B" Company as it has always been in the past and will be commanded by Capt. H. E. Rawles.

There have been considerable changes in personnel of the Battalion. It is with great regret that we say good-bye to Col. and Mrs. Johnson, after three years. They will be sadly missed here by both Old Comrades and all ranks. We are extremely fortunate to have Col. and Mrs. Green in their place. Col. Green served with the Battalion during the war and is well known to many of the Battalion.

In addition, we welcome both Major Newman as Q.M. and R.S.M. Pike, both of whom have recently returned from Hong Kong. We wish every success to Capt. Honeybun and R.S.M. Painter, who have been relieved by Major Newman and R.S.M. Pike.

Preparations are now being made for Annual Camp, at Stanford this year, from July 1 to 15. It is hoped that the customary families' day will be held on the mid-Sunday, July 9. Preparations are also being made for the receipt of the National Service men commencing on June 22. Forecasts at present show that we shall receive about 15-20 every fortnight, and every endeavour will be made to encourage these men to become T.A. Volunteers.

With the rapid expansion of the Battalion, now over 120 strong, we have formed all the various elements of the Support Company and in our next issue of notes each sub-unit will submit its own news.

In Miniature Range Shooting Competitions our fortunes have been rather varied. We were beaten in the first round of the Middlesex T.A. Association Cup by 3 points by 11 Parachute Battalion. Best shots were: L/Cpl. Whitterton 87, C/Sgt. Payne 74, Sgt. Colbourne 74, out of a possible 100. The standard of shooting was not very high on either side. In a meeting with 1 L.I.R., on April 6, the result was a win by 39 points. Best scores were: Lt. Gunnell and Sgt. Colbourne, who scored possibles, and C/Sgt. Howes, Sgt. Harris, Cpl. Webb, L/Cpls. Wilson and Wotton, who were only one short.

We are hoping for success in the T.A. Cricket Competition, organised by London District. This is a knock-out competition and it will be remembered that we managed to reach the finals last year, only to be beaten by 482 (M.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A.

It is with regret that we announce the death of one of our youngest members of the Battalion, Pte. Soutter, on February 14, due to peritonitis.

We congratulate L/Cpl. King on his marriage, on March 25, and Cpl. Yates, L/Cpl. Potipher and Pte. Fairclough on recently becoming proud fathers.

#### HORNSEY "DIE-HARDS" CLUB

Many things have happened since the last notes appeared, the first and foremost being the formation of a new live Entertainments Committee. This Committee have really started going to town and have organised a whist drive, housey-housey session, a darts match against serving officers of the Battalion, and a dance held on April 29. No mean effort this and all functions held up to the present have been well organised and well attended. The whist drive could have been better attended and cost us a bit in prizes, but this has been more than covered by the profits from raffles and housey-housey. The darts match against the serving officers was a very close affair and although we had to "pack" their team with some of our best players, we just managed to come out on top.

The Darts Competition for the Col. Pringle Shield is now in full swing and has attracted a record number of entries. The draw has resulted in some real "needle" matches and the winner will certainly not have had an easy passage.

We have again been invited to take part in the Battalion "Families' Day" at Annual Camp, which this year is being held from July 1 to 15 at Stamford in Norfolk. If an enjoyable day is provided as was last year at Shorncliffe, everybody should be satisfied.

By the time these notes appear we shall have bidden farewell to our present Commanding Officer of the Battalion, Lt.-Col. Johnson, and welcomed our new C.O., Lt.-Col. Green. What is the Battalion's loss is, of course, our gain, and Col. Johnson will now be available to really take part in our activities, and I am sure he will be very much amongst us.

We send our usual greetings to all other "Die-Hards" Clubs.

HORNSEY "DIE-HARD."

#### 595 L.A.A./SL. REGIMENT, R.A. (9th BATT. THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT, D.C.O.), T.A. Presentation of Colours

An impressive ceremony took place at the T.A. Centre, Honeyput Lane, Kingsbury, N.W.9, on Saturday, May 13, 1950, when Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian G. Horrocks, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., on behalf of His Majesty the King, presented new Colours to the Regiment.

Gen. Horrocks has long association with this Regiment, having been Adjutant from 1926 to 1930.

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

The newly-formed Military Band played both before and during the ceremony, and the Corps of Drums of 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) (T.A.), by permission of the Commanding Officer, were also on parade.

A fuller account of this ceremony, with photographs, will appear in the next issue of THE DIE-HARDS.

#### Middlesex T. and A.F. Association Miniature Rifle Competition, 1950.

The Regiment were successful in the first two rounds of the Middlesex T. and A.F. Association Miniature Rifle Competition, 1950, winning against 484 (M.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), in the second round. In the third round the Regimental team was narrowly beaten by 452 H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.). Scores: 452 H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), 487; 595 L.A.A./SL. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), 484.

#### 1 A.A. Group Inter-Unit Association Football Tournament

The Regimental football team was successful in the preliminary round of the above Tournament, beating 571 (M.) L.A.A./SL. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), 3 goals to 2. In the semi-final we were drawn away against 24 H.A.A. Regiment, R.A., and although beaten by 6 goals to nil, the team put up a very good show against "Regulars."

#### 2/10th BATTALION REUNION

On Saturday, May 6, some 86 semi-evergreen, hardy perennials attended the twenty-second reunion dinner at Bolton's Hotel, Earl's Court.

Mr. Ronald de Pass was in the chair on this occasion. An excellent dinner and a pint of beer made a good foundation for the business of the evening which followed.

The Chairman proposed the toasts of "H.M. The King" and "The Regiment." In replying to the latter, Brig. Procter referred to the work of the Association and asked for more support for the "Die-hards" Journal.

Mr. McIvor, in a typically McIvor speech, full of Scottish wimsey and sincere feeling, referred particularly to the loss to all his friends which the death of Mr. Harry Ireson, M.V.O., meant.

The toast of "The Guests" was proposed, despite interruptions from Mr. Rush, by Mr. Warren, and Canon Rees, the Vicar of Chiswick, in replying, commented upon the wonderful spirit engendered by service in the 2/10th during the 1914-18 War which the gathering exemplified.

Mr. Rush had, of course, to be allowed to speak officially and, equally, of course, seized upon the opportunity of the toast of "The Chairman" to cover that unfortunate with as much confusion as possible. Mr. de Pass is probably still blushing.

After the Chairman had replied, the Committee were again re-elected, as usual, and the Treasurer produced some beautifully typed, unaudited and hotly discussed accounts, which gave him an opportunity to rise and address a nice selection of withering remarks to all his friends.

The replacement of the Memorial in Chiswick Church was then discussed and various vessels were passed round with a view to collecting more money for the Treasurer to explain away next year. He was naturally re-elected Treasurer and his name is Major B. K. Cattell.

And so another meeting drew to a close all too soon.



**O.C.A., 8th BATTALION (HOUNSLOW) DINNER**

One hundred and nine old comrades attended the first club dinner at the Horseshoe Restaurant, Tottenham Court Road, on Saturday, May 6.

We all regretted the unavoidable absence of our President, Gen. Horrocks. Col. Crawford, however, presided, and took us back over the days of his command from 1942 to 1945. He also gave us the opportunity to offer up a silent prayer for those old comrades who did not return.

The Colonel of the Regiment told us something of the activities of the other Battalions and it is to be hoped that some of the younger members will seriously consider his suggestion and again offer their much-needed services to the T.A.

We were very glad to see Brig. Baker and Col. de Salis, both of whom commanded the Battalion.

Comrades turned up from as far north as Newcastle and from as far south as the Isle of Wight; the Padre went one better and came from Germany—an ample proof that the spirit of the 8th, which Col. Crawford so admirably expressed, still lives.

Yes, it was a good evening, which we all thoroughly enjoyed. It was nice to see so many well-remembered faces and to talk of old times.

Leslie Honeybun and Jack Widows are to be congratulated on their splendid work in organising the dinner and we all hope it will take place every year.

May we, the Committee, take this opportunity of reminding our members that the Club meets every first Friday in the month at the Drill Hall, Hanworth Road, Hounslow (nearest tube station, Hounslow Central). We would also like to strongly emphasise that all "Die-hards" are welcome.

The Club membership is now 180 and we feel that a good many of you who served with the 8th would like to join us. Well! a line to Jack Widows at 97 Bulstrode Road, Hounslow, and "you're in."

**UXBRIDGE AND DISTRICT "DIE-HARDS" CLUB**

Although it is only in the early part of the year 1950, much has happened during the first three months.

The dance committee has run four very successful dances.

On March 1 the fourth annual general meeting was held at the Drill Hall, Uxbridge.

Brig. E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., A.D.C., J.P., was unanimously re-elected President of the Branch.

The following officers were re-elected *en bloc*:

Vice-Presidents: Major G. Hartley, T.D., B. R. Phelps, Esq., R. F. Finch, Esq., and J. P. W. Hutton, Esq.

Chairman: Lt.-Col. T. A. Hall, T.D.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: J. R. Bell, Esq., M.B.E.

Assistant Hon. Secretary: V. Ell, Esq.

Committee members: G. Hare, Esq., H. Hare, Esq., E. C. Lacey, Esq.

The following additional officers were also elected:

Vice-President and Vice-Chairman: W. A. Roberts, Esq.

Committee members: C. F. Weeden, Esq., and R. Wilkinson, Esq.

Our host at the Railway Arms, Uxbridge, Mr. G. Bowman, and Major H. Saunders (late Officer Commanding Local Home Guard Unit), two very loyal supporters of the Branch, were unanimously elected as the first Honorary Members of the Branch.

The Branch has been again active in the benevolent field. Three cases of hardship were recommended to the Regimental Association Benevolent Fund and received substantial help. We are grateful to Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E., the Secretary, for his help and prompt action in all cases. The Branch has also looked after its members in hospital from time to time by sending them parcels of fruit, cigarettes, etc.

Coaches were provided free by the Branch and parties attended the Hounslow Branch dance and a social at the Crawford Hut Branch, Inglis Barracks; several individual members also visited other branches and functions.

On March 31, 1950, we held our fourth annual dinner at the Golden Lion Hotel, Hillingdon, when we were honoured by the presence of the Colonel of the Regiment, the Chairman and Clerk to the Uxbridge U.D.C., Col. F. Walden, Majors A. W. Clark, O.B.E., and R. C. H. Bellers, O.R.Q.M.S. Waldron and C.S.M. Maloney, and a representative from each of the Local Ex-Service Associations.

Fifty-one members of the Branch and 26 members of the Ealing Branch attended, together with several individual guests, including four personnel from the local T.A. Unit, namely, 1561 Company (Para. Bde.), R.A.S.C. (T.A.). This Branch is extremely grateful to 1561 Company for the continued help and support which they have given us since they became the occupying Unit at the Drill Hall. We are pleased to hear that their numbers are increasing very considerably, and we wish them every success in the future. Actually, 112 personnel sat down to the dinner.

"Welcoming representatives from the Middlesex Regiment Depot at the fourth annual dinner of the Uxbridge and District 'Die-Hards' Club of the Regimental Association at the Golden Lion Hotel, Hillingdon, recently, the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Club, Mr. J. R. Bell, asked them to act as 'recruiting agents' for the Comrades' Association.

"If you go back and tell the young soldiers what these Old Comrades' Associations are like, I am sure we shall get the recruits and that they will support us when they come home," he said.

"When you go back among the young soldiers tell them all about us and what we do. Put to them the picture of what these branches are like and make sure they know it is well worth their while to join us as soon as they come home again. We seldom get the chance to see them, but I do feel you can be our best recruiting agents amongst the younger blood—blood which we must have if we are to keep flourishing."

"Mr. Bell, who was proposing the toast of the guests, welcomed the Chairman of Uxbridge Council (Coun. G. A. Suter, J.P.)—"Thank you for the help given us



since we were formed and between the wars, when many dining here to-night were part of the local T.A. Unit—and Mrs. Suter; the Clerk of the Council (Mr. John Poole); the Colonel of the Regiment (Col. Maurice Browne), Col. F. Walden, one of the old Battalion Commanders, the Association Secretary (Major A. W. Clark), and many other guests.

"Referring to Col. Browne, he remarked, 'We are sure that very few Colonels of Regiments keep their old comrades so up to date with regimental news as you do by your news letters. The members appreciate the amount of hard work this entails and the amount of time you spend on this and the welfare of the old and present members of our county regiment.'

"Replying, Col. Browne said it was a great occasion to be with the 8th Battalion, for all through the war he had visited the Battalions and followed their career through the long years with the greatest interest. He was now following their career 'in the guise of the 11th Parachute Battalion.'

"The dinner was a convivial affair. Speeches were a brief as possible, the major part of the evening being taken up with an entertainment given by Will Gardner (comedian and compère), Ming Chow (Chinese magician), Stephen Lang (comedian and impressionist) and Cyril Weller (pianist).

"Absent Friends' was proposed by the chairman (Col. T. A. Hall), 'The Regiment and the Association' by Brig. E. F. F. Baker, and 'The Club' by Mr. W. A. Roberts."

The annual outing this year will take place on Sunday, June 18, and the destination is Worthing.

Final arrangements have been left to Mr. J. R. Bell, M.B.E., who made the event such a success last year.

We would welcome any new members. Applications for membership should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, J. R. Bell, Esq., M.B.E., 88 High Street, Uxbridge. Annual subscription, 1s. 6d. The monthly meetings are now held at the Drill Hall, Whitehall Road, Uxbridge, on the first Monday in each month at 7.45 p.m. in lieu of the first Wednesday in each month as heretofore.

**2/7th REUNION**

39 Cyprus Avenue,  
Finchley, N.3.  
March 8, 1950.

Dear Major Clark,

With reference to the 2/7th Reunion which you kindly mentioned in the last issue of THE DIE-HARDS, the date has had to be changed from October 7 to Friday, September 29, 1950.

It would be appreciated if you would be kind enough to mention this change in the next edition of the Journal.

Yours faithfully,  
R. E. ROBOTHAM.

**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



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

In the last few weeks we have learned that our Brigade Commander, Brig. J. M. K. Spurling, D.S.O., is leaving to take up the appointment as Commandant of Tactical School. We are grateful to him for all he has done for our Unit, and in particular for the outstandingly successful exercises and TEWTS that he arranged in conjunction with the R.A.F. and Royal Marines. We wish him luck in his new appointment and at the same time welcome in his place Brig. J. A. Hopwood, D.S.O.

Until recently recruiting has been very slow, and new enlistments barely covered the normal wastage. However, in the last few months we are pleased to report quite a large increase in all Companies. We are also allowed now to recruit personnel of lower medical categories for administrative duties. This includes the Band, which we are now in the process of forming. Drum Major Wales, who was in charge of the Drums of the 2/8th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (later the 1st Battalion), has now enlisted again and our Drums, under him, are doing very well.

Camp this year is to be held at Branton, Somerset, which is a very popular choice. The last two years we have been around Salisbury and we welcome the chance to be by the sea.

Our first week-end for jumping, on April 22-23, was held up on account of bad wind conditions, which was unfortunate, as Sunday was arranged as a families' day and messes and canteens had been set up by the dropping zone in Bushey Park.

The Annual Rifle and Weapon Training Inter-Company Competition was held this year on April 1 at Hythe. Despite the usual wind and rain, keen competition was shown by all Companies. The Divisional Commander, Maj.-Gen. G. W. Lathbury, D.S.O., M.B.E., presented the prizes.

As we start so we finish with a hail and farewell. Peter Bates, Adjutant of the Battalion since the old 8th Middlesex was re-formed as the 11th Parachute on May 1, 1947, has now left us to become an Instructor of the N.C.O.s' Wing, Warminster. At no time did he spare himself, and much credit is due to him for the progress we have made in the first three years of the Battalion's existence.

A farewell party was held in the Officers' Mess prior to his departure, when he was presented with a silver miniature parachutist. We take this opportunity of wishing both he and his wife Pamela the very best of luck for the future.

In his place we welcome Ian Taylor, who has experience as an Adjutant with a regular battalion and who has already settled down to the hundred and one duties of a T.A. Adjutant.

9 Devonshire Crescent,  
Mill Hill, N.W.7.

The Secretary,  
Middlesex Regimental Association.

Dear Sir,

I am sorry to delay your request *re* letter from Mons. I am in communication with Chums of our Association,

the Old Contemptibles, in Ypres, and it is our duty to let our branches know of any deaths of our Chums. I wrote to the Burgomaster of Mons and told him of our late Chum Carter, who was the first sentry to be posted in Mons. I also have a personal friend who lives in Nimes, and who I usually see at our annual parades, St. Paul's and Whitehall. He told me to write to the Burgomaster, hence the letter enclosed from the Manager of the Mons Museum.

Can you let me know the address of our late Colonel, Col. Hull, and Capt. Glass, "D" Company, so I can get in touch with them in order that I can let Mr. Georges Licope have news regarding a request for the 4th Middlesex Memorial as per letter enclosed.

Yours faithfully,

A. J. MATTHEWS, M.M.  
(late 4th Battalion).

Hotel de Ville,  
Mons, Belgium.

December 30, 1949.

War Museum.

To Mr. A. J. Matthews,

Late 4th Middlesex,

9, Devonshire Crescent,

Mill Hill, London, N.W.

Dear Sir,

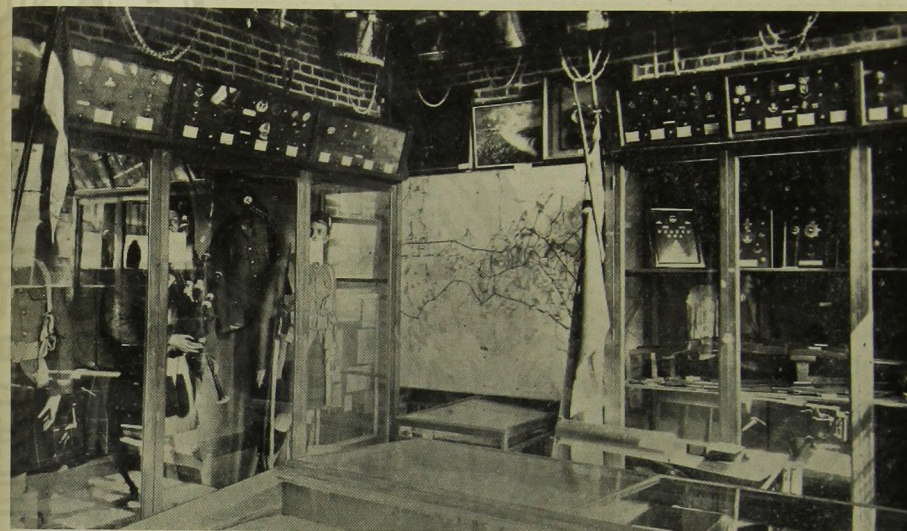
I was pleased to read the letter you sent recently to Mr. Maistriau, Burgomaster of Mons, and sorry to hear about the death of Pte. S. F. Carter, "the first sentry at Mons."

I was a boy of 14 in 1914, and, being on holidays, I was very interested to see British and Scottish soldiers near my home. My knowledge of your language was then very poor, but I had learned English at school in Mons College during one year, and I was very proud to act as interpreter between British soldiers and my neighbours.

I was there when, about 5 p.m. on August 22, 1914, Mr. Le Bon, engineer at Mons, took a picture of Carter taking the guard at "La Bascule," a spot situated 1½ miles east of the centre of Mons, at the crossway of the main roads Mons-Binche-Charleroi and Mons-Givry-Beaumont. I presented to him some plums and grapes, just ripe then, from home, and I remember very well that I said to him "This is for you." This was very easy for me to say; it was not too complicated.

Those events are very far away, now, but not for those who—as me—were there.

One among my most accurate souvenirs is to have seen and heard for the first time in my life the pipes and drums of the 1st Battalion The Gordon Highlanders, passing at "Bascule" two or three hours later, just at sunset of that day, and going to take their positions on the highest hillock in the region, called "Bois-la-Haut," on which were settled the H.Q. of the 8th Doran's Brigade. The following day, about 8 a.m., we heard, due north, along the canal between Nimy and Obourg villages, the first shots exchanged between the men of your 4th Middlesex and the outposts of the IXth German Corps (85th and 31st Infantry Regiments). "Bascule" was then held by a Company—or two—of the 2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment (disbanded



BRITISH SECTION MONS WAR MUSEUM

4th Battalion Regimental Badges (top left cases). 4th Battalion Side Drum (centre drum, top of picture)

now) until midnight, despite the severe shelling of that very important crossway during the whole afternoon of that "fateful Sunday." Major Maidlow of the 40th Group of R.F.A. (6th, 23rd and 49th Batteries) was mortally wounded by the bursting of a German shrapnel some 200 yards from home.

I am now first assistant to Mons Town Clerk, Private Secretary to the Burgomaster and founder-manager of the Mons War Museum, which I created in 1930. Aided by a friend, Mr. Pepin, I resolved to remember those far-off events, and now we could secure so many souvenirs that we can consider as a matter of fact that the British exhibits of the Mons War Museum are more numerous and more valuable than those of the Museums of Paris or even Brussels. Herewith enclosed you may see a picture of the British section, remembering the battle of Mons of August 23, 1914. We have now 26 British Regimental drums, and among them two side-drums of your old 4th Middlesex, found on the battlefield close by the Mons cemetery and the State Asylum for insane women, which was burned by Germans in the afternoon of that day.

## APPEAL

As from Headquarters,  
British Troops in Egypt,  
Middle East Land Forces, 14.  
March 9, 1950.

To the Editor,

THE DIE-HARDS.

Dear Sir,

I have been approached by the D.C.G. at the War

Office, through our S.C.F. (Church of Scotland), to ask if I would try and get the enclosed notice regarding the Nazareth Hospital put into our Regimental Magazine.

I know well of the good work the Hospital did for the troops in Palestine. It kept open house always for any officer or soldier, and it is more than likely that, during my period of command, when the 2nd Battalion were stationed in the Acre Sub-District, a number of our men received hospitality from Dr. Bathgate and his willing band of helpers. I believe that Dr. Bathgate's is still a name to conjure with in Palestine and Transjordan.

I would be very grateful if you would be good enough to have the notice published in the next issue of the Journal.

Yours faithfully,

F. WALDEN, Colonel.

## THE NAZARETH HOSPITAL

Do any of you who served in Palestine remember the Nazareth Hospital of the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society? Right through the war years and during the troubles which followed, Dr. Bathgate kept open house for soldiers, of whom you may have been one. Prices in Israel have now risen to such heights that the upkeep of the Hospital is becoming increasingly difficult. The Hospital needs help to carry on its medical work among the Arabs. Will you help? If you can, please send a gift to the

ORGANISING SECRETARY,  
E.M.M.S.,  
56 George Square,  
Edinburgh 8.



EXTRACTS FROM A MILITIA ENSIGN'S  
ORDERLY BOOK, 1760-61

(We are indebted to Lt.-Col. S. W. Cranfield, T.D., for the following notes which will be of interest to students of Military History and customs.)

Sidelights on the training movements of a Militia Regiment are disclosed in the pages of the above, which, after an interval of upwards of 200 years, has found its way from the Library of a Vicarage in Kent back to the Yorkshire Archaeological Society.

The author's Regiment appears to have been raised or embodied with many others to meet a National Emergency (we were at war with France and military operations were being carried on in India, Canada and the Mediterranean) and was commanded at one time by Lt.-Col. Finches and at another by Lt.-Col. Viscount Downes. It is not referred to either by a number or a Territorial designation, the custom at the time being to identify a new Regiment by the name of its Colonel. The word "Regiment" was used where now "Battalion" would be more usual. There is no reference to recruiting in the book. Pitt's Militia Act of 1757 gave Lord Lieutenants, assisted by Justices of the Peace, the necessary powers to raise recruits by ballot with a service liability limited for a definite period and for home service only, and the difficulties experienced when raising recruits for service abroad in the Army and Navy did not arise. These limitations are reflected in the duties carried out by the Regiment to which the Ensign belonged, which was employed in garrison duties and for furnishing escorts for French P.O.W.s marching from York to Winchester.

Of the strength or establishment of the Regiment no definite information is given, but mention is made of six Companies and two Grenadier Companies organised in two Divisions. The strength of a Company is given at one period as 57 Private Men with Drummers, Fifers, Corporals, Sergeants (including a Paymaster Sergeant), and a Tailor, four Ensigns, two Lieutenants, commanded by a Captain who was responsible for the pay and repair of clothing of his men. The Company was organised in half-Companies and Platoons. No reference is made to Buglers, or Bugle Calls, Drummers beat Reveille, "Travalle," Retreat and Tattoo. Troop and General Beating for Parades and the "Alarm" was sounded by Drum beat. Orders were read out to the men at Reveille and Tattoo when the Roll was called. Good conduct was rewarded by allowing men to carry on civilian employment. The punishments were those inflicted in regular units. Flogging, however, appears to have been rarely carried out. N.C.O.s were reduced or broken by the C.O.

The administration and discipline of the Regiment appears to have been good and there appears to have been little crime. Poaching, cock-fighting, drunkenness, gaming and malingering are mentioned, and the usual punishments included confinement in what was called a "black hole" for a day or two with a diet of bread and water, extra drills and guards, stoppage of furlough and stoppage of pay which was given to the sick men

of the Company. All punishments had to be reported to the C.O. and only a limited number of men were allowed furlough at one time. Many of the men were illiterate and the spelling of the order book includes the following peculiarities among others: Hats are spelt "hattes," discretion "discretion," carriages "carriges," sailors "salors," hindrance "hinderence," occasion "ocation."

The men were armed with firelocks, the Sergeants carried halberds, and the officers Espontroons, and were exercised with these weapons. Much attention was given to the proper fixing of flints in touch holes and the cleanliness of the latter. Wood was used as a substitute for flints for aiming drill and the flank men of the Company were always picked men. Only one reference is made to firing live ammunition, which was carried out by the Battalion firing five rounds at a mark. Ammunition was issued to men on guard.

A good deal of attention was paid to dress, and hair was powdered and tied, hats cocked, slings, belts, pouches, sticks, ribbons, lace on hats and spatter dashes are referred to. The Drummers and Grenadiers wore wings and red sticks. Compliments were paid to the C.O. by the Guard turning out once a day with "rested arms" and to the Major with "shouldered arms." During his absence the Major was paid the same compliments as those given to the C.O.

The Officer of the Guard (a picket guard is mentioned, commanded by a Captain, and a guard over the Regimental colours is recorded) handed over duplicate reports to the C.O. and Major and gave them the parole.

The Regiment was stationed in the course of a year or so at Scarborough, York, Pontefract, Wakefield, Leeds and Durham. At Scarborough the troops occupied a fort where sentries were warned to be vigilant in looking out for the enemy attempting to land.

Crying down credit was carried out by the Regimental Sergeant Drummer at all stations. On the march some troubles were experienced with pike keepers trying to levy toll on the baggage waggons which carried sick men and others unable to march. The King's Coronation and Birthday and victories were suitably observed, also a day of "fasting and humiliation."

The rates of pay prevailing were as follows: Private men 8d. a day, Drummers 10d., Sergeants 1s., Ensigns 3s., Lieutenants 3s. 6d., Captains 7s. The men appear to have been billeted with or without subsistence where possible in inns. They were always entitled to the use of a fire, salt utensils for preparing and cooking food and five pints of small beer a day. Men were frequently cautioned not to eat too much fish.

With the author of the book and various officers mentioned by name (the following names of officers appear in the Order Book: Lister, Freeman, Hewitt, Woodyear, Bright, Cooke, Shilletts, Hawley, Middleton, Kent, Gill, Watson, Davies and Bower) it should not be difficult to identify the Regiment and no doubt before long a more detailed account of the history will be compiled, perhaps by one of their descendants, from similar records.

## OFFICERS LIST—Regular Army

Rank and Name	Appointment	Address
Col. W. H. V. Jones, C.B.E., O.B.E.	Inspector of Trooping	South-Western Hotel, Southampton
Col. F. Walden	—	H.Q. British Troops in Egypt and Mediterranean Command, M.E.L.F.
Col. J. G. E. Reid	—	U.N.O., New York
Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O.	Commandant	Royal Pioneer Corps T.C., Chester
Lt.-Col. A. M. Man, O.B.E.	Officer Commanding	1st Battalion
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton	Labour Directorate	H.Q. Rhine Army, B.A.O.R. 1
Major M. A. Jacob	D.A.Q.M.G.	Allied Liaison Branch, Bad Salzungen, B.A.O.R. 15
Lt.-Col. L. H. J. de la M. Herepath	A.Q.M.G.	H.Q. United Kingdom Troops in Ceylon, P.O. Box 532, Colombo
Major P. D. ff. Powell	—	Lloyds Bank Ltd. (Cox's & King's), 6 Pall Mall, S.W.1
Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E.	Officer Commanding	7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, T.A. Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8
Major R. W. D. Sword, M.C.	—	6th Battalion The King's African Rifles, Mauritius
Major H. Marsh	—	H.C., B.T.C., Moore Barracks, Shorncliffe
Major F. B. Whiting	—	Lloyds Bank Ltd. (Cox's & King's), 6 Pall Mall, London, S.W.1
Lt.-Col. G. P. L. Weston, D.S.O., O.B.E.	A.A.G.	The War Office, A.G. Branch
Major R. A. Gwyn	Second-in-Command	1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, British Army Post Office 1, Hong Kong
Major R. C. H. Bellers	O.C. Depot	Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7
Major G. Lerwill	G.S.O.I East Anglian District	c/o East Anglian District, Colchester, Essex
Major J. E. F. Willoughby	—	1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment
Major G. O. Porter	Camp Commandant	"A" Mess, H.Q. Nigeria District, Lagos, Nigeria
Major T. W. Chattey	D.A.A. & Q.M.G. (Quartermaster)	H.Q. F.A.R.E.L.F., Singapore, Malaya
Major A. J. S. de S. Clayton	—	1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment
Major W. P. M. Allen, M.C.	—	1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment
Major J. W. G. Ormiston	G.S.O.II D.Q., Khartoum	H.Q., British Troops, Khartoum, Sudan, M.E.L.F. 4
Major A. G. Hewitt, M.C.	G.S.O.II	H.Q., Sierra Leone and Gold Coast Districts, Freetown
Major C. M. M. Man, M.C.	G.S.O.II, War Office (M.I.)	23 Rosary Gardens, S.W.7
Major G. B. Ayre	Instructor, School of Military Intelligence	Lulworth House, Horam, East Sussex
Major H. M. F. Langley	Instructor	7th Signal Training Regiment, Caterick Camp
Major J. G. Chiverall	—	Lloyds Bank Ltd., 6 Pall Mall, S.W.1
Major G. C. Dawson	Brigade Major	H.Q., Northumbrian District, Darlington
Major P. D. H. Marshall	Instructor	W.A.S.I.E., Teshi, Accra, Gold Coast, West Africa
Major I. H. Battye, M.B.E.	G.S.O.II	R.A.F. Cadet College, Cranwell, Lincs.
Major D. C. L. Nolda	D.A.A.G.	G.H.Q., F.A.R.E.L.F., Singapore, Malaya
Major A. R. Waller, M.C.	Brigade Major	H.Q., 27th Brigade, Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea
Capt. R. K. B. Allott, M.C.	—	H.C.B.T.C., Moore Barracks, Shorncliffe
Capt. F. J. Bennett	Staff Captain	M.S. Branch, G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.
Major J. W. Doyle, M.C.	—	1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment
Major E. F. Thompson, M.C.	—	—
Major I. R. Burrows, M.B.E.	G.S.O.II, War Office (M.I.)	2a Endsleigh Gardens, Surbiton, Surrey
Major P. Collins	—	47 Cassiobury Road, Watford, Herts.
Capt. P. L. Crutchfield	Staff Captain, H.Q., Home Counties District	—
Capt. H. N. McL. Martin	Staff Captain	Moore Barracks, Shorncliffe, Kent
Major P. L. Pearce Gould	Staff Captain	H.Q., F.A.R.E.L.F. (Q), Hong Kong
Capt. R. D. Hutchings	D.A.A.G., War Office (A.G. Branch)	33 Montague Square, W.1
Capt. D. Sax	The Staff College, Camberley, Surrey	50 Beechcroft Avenue, Croydon, Herts.
Capt. G. Kent	—	Military School of Science, Shrivenham
Major D. B. Rendell, M.B.E., M.C.	—	49 Arundel Road, Kingston, Surrey
Capt. C. N. Clavden	Staff Captain	1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment
Capt. S. E. Honess	—	H.Q., 28th Infantry Brigade, Hong Kong
Capt. E. A. H. Jeffcoat	Adjutant	7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, Drill Hall, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8
Capt. P. W. Galvin	—	Sierra Leone Regiment, Sierra Leone, West Africa
Capt. J. B. Matthews	A.D.C. to G.O.C., H.Q., Western Command, Chester	15 Pembroke Hall, Mulberry Close, Hendon, N.W.4
Capt. M. F. Leonard	Staff Captain (Quartermaster)	H.Q., Southern Command, Salisbury, Wilts.
Major J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.	G.S.O.II	1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment
Capt. A. D. C. Eales	—	H.Q., British Troops, Khartoum, Sudan, M.E.L.F. 4
Capt. C. H. Mievile, M.C.	—	1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment
Capt. P. G. V. Bellers	Adjutant	26 Gurkha Rifles
Capt. W. E. W. Morton	G.S.O.III	London University, Imperial House, South Kensington, S.W.7
Capt. J. de Gaye	—	Western Union Defence Organisation, 36 Whitehall, S.W.1
Capt. K. J. Carter	Adjutant	1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment
Lt. J. S. C. Flavell	Company Officer	do.
Lt. B. A. M. Pielow	—	do.
Lt. A. N. Jordan	—	1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment
Capt. H. J. A. Moore	Signal Officer	do.
Lt. R. A. Hodge	—	1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment
Lt. J. C. Bucknall	—	do.
Lt. H. J. Evans	—	do.
Lt. G. G. Norton	—	do.



## OFFICERS LIST—Regular Army—continued

Rank and Name	Appointment	Address
2/Lt. B. H. Marciandi .. .. .	—	1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment
2/Lt. C. L. Lawrence .. .. .	—	do.
2/Lt. D. A. S. Wollcombe .. .. .	—	do.
2/Lt. S. H. Fothergill .. .. .	—	do.

## QUARTERMASTERS

Major H. Farrow, M.B.E. .. .. .	—	Depot, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7
Major P. F. Newman .. .. .	—	7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, Drill Hall, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8
Capt. C. A. M. Trestain, M.B.E. .. .. .	—	1st Battalion

## LIST OF SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

Rank and Name	Appointment	Address
Major E. C. K. Kendall-Sadler, T.D. .. .. .	—	20 Battle Area Clearance Team, Wirston, Lanark
Major L. G. Lohan .. .. .	—	74 Broadfield Avenue, Edgware
Lt.-Col. G. C. D. Scott Lowe .. .. .	—	"Fairlea," Chester Road, Little Sutton, Wirral, Cheshire
Major E. W. Holding .. .. .	—	40th Infantry Division Battle School, Hong Kong
Major G. W. P. Hodding .. .. .	Commandant .. .. .	—
Major C. A. Phillips .. .. .	—	Depot, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7
Capt. V. A. Thomas, M.C. .. .. .	Adjutant .. .. .	—
Capt. H. Lambert .. .. .	—	210 D.C.R.E., B.A.O.R. 24
Major H. G. Wilde .. .. .	—	Lloyds Bank Ltd. (Cox's & King's), 6 Pall Mall, S.W.1
Major J. L. Gray .. .. .	—	do.
Major F. L. Howarth .. .. .	—	War Office, Officers' Mess, Woolwich, S.E.18
Capt. R. A. J. Cheffins, M.C. .. .. .	—	Berlin Sports Centre, B.A.O.R. 2
Capt. K. S. Simpson .. .. .	P. and R.T. School .. .. .	—
Capt. C. U. Sayers .. .. .	—	No. 2 Dog Company, R.M.P., M.E.L.F.
Major F. R. A. Hill .. .. .	—	416 G.C.L.O. (B.S.E.), c/o H.Q., 15 B.O.D., B.A.O.R. 3
Capt. A. E. Peasley .. .. .	—	H.Q., Eastern Command, Hounslow
Major E. C. Morey .. .. .	—	Barclays Bank Ltd., 37 Hill Road, Wimble- don, S.W.19
Major R. H. Last .. .. .	—	"Hoscote," 99 Offington Avenue, West Worthing, Sussex
Capt. J. Bywaters .. .. .	—	Lloyds Bank Ltd. (Cox's & King's), 6 Pall Mall, S.W.1
Major E. F. H. Earle .. .. .	—	—
Capt. R. G. Taylor .. .. .	—	1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment
Major C. E. Rome .. .. .	—	—
Capt. P. J. Livermore, M.C. .. .. .	—	—
Lt. D. H. Tripping .. .. .	—	—
Capt. J. A. Goebbels .. .. .	—	—
Capt. F. G. Ashby .. .. .	Staff Captain .. .. .	H.Q., Eastern Command, Hounslow, Middlesex
Capt. L. Hunt .. .. .	—	—
Capt. W. P. Lawrie .. .. .	—	17 R.S.D., R.A.S.C., B.A.O.R.5
Major E. L. Ellisdon .. .. .	—	—
Capt. L. W. Driver .. .. .	—	—
Capt. V. G. Fuller .. .. .	—	230 D.C.R.E., B.A.O.R. 34
Capt. A. R. Cowan .. .. .	—	5th Battalion The Nigeria Regiment Kaduna, Nigeria
Capt. F. V. Symes .. .. .	—	—
Lt. H. R. T. Butterfield .. .. .	—	—
Lt. P. A. Mead .. .. .	—	—
Lt. D. F. Cutts .. .. .	—	—
Capt. H. G. Harvey .. .. .	—	—
Capt. R. G. W. Scarlett, M.M. .. .. .	—	—
Lt. F. C. Brown .. .. .	—	—
Lt. V. A. L. Holding .. .. .	—	1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment
Lt. G. Sander .. .. .	—	do.
2/Lt. I. G. Thomas .. .. .	—	—

## QUARTERMASTERS

Capt. R. W. J. Smith .. .. .	—	W.A.S.I.E., Teshi, Accra, Gold Coast
Capt. L. T. Honeybun .. .. .	—	London District Assembly Centre, Con- naught Barracks, Woolwich, S.E.

If you have enjoyed reading this issue of "The Die-Hards," will you recommend to non-readers of your acquaintance that they should take it in. Please support us, in order that we may achieve our ambition, which is to publish the finest service magazine—Second to None.



The Colour Party and the remainder of the Battalion passing the saluting base during the 40th Infantry Division Ceremonial Parade on March 17, 1950

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

## EDITORIAL

The Battalion notes seem fuller than usual and therefore this editorial will be short and, we trust, "sweet." To be completely truthful, another important reason for brevity is that these notes should have been with the Editor some days ago.

The most important events of the quarter were the visits to the Battalion of Lt.-Gen. Sir Robert Mansergh, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., G.O.C.-in-C., Hong Kong, in January, and of Maj.-Gen. C. M. Barber, C.B., D.S.O., Director of Infantry at the War Office, in March, 1950. Both these General Officers toured the camp and lunched in the Officers' Mess. They seemed pleased with what they saw.

On March 17, 1950, the Battalion took part in the ceremonial parade of 40 Infantry Division at Sek Kong, which was followed by an Inspection by H.E. The Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, K.C.M.G.

We have said farewell to Majors G. Lerwill, M.C., H. Marsh, A. E. D. Michel and P. Newman, and Capt. P. F. Smyth, who have returned to U.K. on Python Leave, to Capt. P. G. V. Bellers on secondment to 2/6 Gurkhas, to 2/Lts. E. R. de B. Vare and P. H. Denning on release, to R.S.M. P. McLoughlin on posting to the Depot, and Bandmaster L. J. Barnett on retirement. In addition, Capt. J. S. C. Flavell and E. C. Osborne have been posted to H.Q. 27 Infantry Brigade to fill Staff appointments.

On the other hand, we have greeted with pleasure the arrival of Major J. E. F. Willoughby, Capt. C. A. Trestain, M.B.E., 2/Lt. D. N. Harrop and R.S.M. S. Weller, M.M.

We must also welcome the advance guard of wives and families. These are Mrs. A. de S. Clayton, Mrs. D. B. Rendell, Mrs. J. N. Shipster, Mrs. P. G. V. Bellers, to whom we say hail and farewell, and Mrs. J. S. C. Flavell. We look forward with great pleasure to the arrival shortly of the next batch, who, we understand, will include Mrs. C. H. Mievill, Mrs. G. C. Forman, Mrs. R. Tarrant and Mrs. P. Timpany and their children.

The presence of wives at Regimental functions adds a real family flavour which has been all too often absent since 1939. This amply repays all the worries, both financial and domestic, which have beset the majority of those who have arrived or are arriving.

Our most notable sporting achievement has been the winning of the Colony Seven-a-side Rugby Competition. This is reported most fully later on, but all concerned, particularly the officer in charge of Rugby, 2/Lt. J. C. Bucknall, deserve our heartiest congratulations on a magnificent achievement. This victory proves what determination and enthusiasm can achieve against great odds.

Our boxing team also did extremely well in winning the Brigade Inter-Unit Boxing Competition with ease. Pte. Saunders, in particular, finished the season with flying colours by being runner-up in the final of the bantamweight championship of FARELF. Well done!



Our cricketing star, Dmr. J. Cullen, has played regularly for the Army XI and heads the Colony bowling averages. He excelled himself in his very first match by taking 8 wickets for 13 runs.

### "H.Q." COMPANY

Since Christmas any spare moments that we have been able to spend away from our various Battalion employments have been fully occupied with sport. To date the black and white Company pennant flutters from the top of the pole showing the Company position for the Albuhera Shield.

Whatever the sport may be there are always the same old cries from the spectators, "Come on the old 'uns" and "Lucky old H.Q." Even now the old 'uns—R.S.M.S. Weller, M.M., C.S.M. Jennings, Drum-Major Holdford, Sgt. Street, Cpl. Hymas, Cpl. Hilkene, and the "Bandit" (Pte. Jenkins) are more than a match for many of the younger generation.

Unfortunately there is not enough space to give a full account of all our activities, but a brief résumé of each sport is given below.

### Soccer

This did not go at all according to plan. We got a bye in the first round, only to have terrific battles with "C" Company in the second. The first game was abandoned after twenty minutes' play, due to heavy rain, which made the airstrip (our football pitch) too dangerous to play on. The second game was a draw, 3—3, after extra time. The third time we were unlucky and lost 2—5. In the three games that were played the following represented the Company: C.S.M. Jennings, Drum-Major Holdford, Sgt. Street, Cpl.

Hilkene, Cpl. Hymas, Cpl. Purdon, L/Cpl. Taylor, L/Cpl. Simmonds, Pte. Jones 39, and Bds. Forsythe.

### Boxing

There was a tremendous amount of enthusiasm shown over the inter-Company boxing, with the result that we won the shield. It was a tough fight with "D" Company, who were equal with us on points, the deciding factor being the result of the welterweights. Pte. Jelly and L/Cpl. Noble won the heavy and light weights. Ptes. Hanshaw and Campbell (A.C.C.) got through to the finals in the feather and bantam weights, but, unfortunately, lost after some good fighting. We had three entries for the welterweight; Ptes. Farmer and Butler were out of the running in the preliminary bouts, leaving Sgt. Redmond to meet 2/Lt. E. R. de B. Vare in the final. Sgt. Redmond fought hard and well but he could not get the better of 2/Lt. Vare, who had plenty of experience and a longer reach.

Drm. Rudd, after little training, fought his way to the middleweight final and lost after a good fight. Pte. Thomas lost in the semi-final. Pte. Voden, our only light-heavyweight, got a bye to the semi-final, where he put up a game show, in spite of being outclassed.

### Hockey

In the first round we beat "B" Company 5—0. The semi-final against "D" Company was a great match, and "D" Company, who had not the same number of experienced players, made us fight to the bitter end, the score being 3—0 to "H.Q." Company. In the final we played "S" Company. At half-time the score was 3—0 to us. This spurred on "S" Company to greater efforts and after five minutes they had scored two goals. It was not until half-way through the second half that



The Battalion marching past H.E. The Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, K.C.M.G., at 40th Infantry Division Ceremonial Parade held at Sek Kong on March 17, 1950

we settled down and scored two more goals to win by 5—2.

### Basket Ball

In the first round we played "D" Company and won by 23 points to 16. The semi-final against "A" Company was a tough proposition which we eventually won by three points, after extra time. The score was 18—25.

The final against "B" Company, according to form, should have been an easy game, but not so; our team took a long time to settle down, with the result that "B" were leading 8—6 at half-time. With only 10 minutes to go and the light failing fast, Bds. Stevens and Ptes. Pantrini, King and Ingram settled down to attack, with the result that we won by 8 points, the score being 16—8. There is no doubt that without the band we would have been in a sorry state. C.S.M. Jennings, Drum-Major Holdford, Sgt. Cubitt, Sgt. Redmond, Drm. King, Bds. Stevens and Ptes. Ingram, Pantrini, Dawson and Duncan played in the three games.

The first Regimental Week-end was held on March 18-19. It was agreed that in the potted sports and seven-a-side football the Company should be split into "G" Group (Band, Drums and Signals) and "Q" Group (the remainder).

Unfortunately, due to a technical hitch, our teams for the sports were not properly represented, but in the seven-a-side, "G" Group beat "C" Company in the final.

In the Divisional Golf Competition, played over the Royal Hong Kong Golf Club course at Fanling, Cpl. Briggs (A.C.C.), Bds. Smith and Pte. Keywood with Major D. B. Rendell, M.B.E., M.C. (O.C. "A" Company), representing the Battalion, put up a very creditable performance.

Pte. Cullen had a difficult time establishing his reputation as a bowler, but after several games he played regularly for the Brigade, Division and the Army in Hong Kong. These days he considers he has had an off day if he gets less than 5 wickets for 10 runs.

C.S.M. Jennings recently had a very pleasant trip to Singapore and Malaya, playing rugger for the Army. No sooner had C.S.M. Jennings returned from Singapore than Pte. Saunders was off, having been selected to box for the Army. He did well to be runner-up in the bantam weight.

### Intelligence Section

Since the last issue several changes have taken place. Sgt. Kenrick departed a month ago, rather behind time, to be followed shortly afterwards by Ptes. Luckhurst and Lye ("Lulu" to his fellow tribesmen!). We who remain would like to offer our best wishes for their future success; we miss them all, but most of all that "ghastly moustache." Sgt. McGowan has decamped to the Orderly Room to assist them in coping with their day-to-day worries. There remains a somewhat depleted "I" Section which, nevertheless, manages to keep its head above the proverbial water.

In February the "I" Section came into its own during a scheme on nearby Lamma Island, when the

Battalion, thinly disguised as pirates, beat off determined attacks by the Royal Marines. Apart from their initial work of preparation for the scheme, the "I" Section was fully employed on Lamma itself, performing prodigies of labour in true "cloak and dagger" manner. The entire Section enjoyed several little jaunts over Lamma's gentle slopes (an average of 600 ft.), which left Sgt. McGowan nearly ten pounds better off. The scheme ended happily for the Section which, with the exception of the I.O., who "escaped" with the Commanding Officer over the same gentle slopes, was "killed" defending Battalion H.Q. and were thus freed from any further active service and were able to adjourn to the cookhouse for a "cuppa."

Frequent security checks of the camp by the I.O., aided (or should we say abetted?) by Sgt. McGowan and Cpl. Walden, are indicative of the criminal skill of the senior members of the Section, and earn us the plaudits of the "groundlings" but the opprobrium of the "visited" (short-lived, it is hoped!).

The "I" Section has enjoyed itself several times recently in supplying the "enemy" for the Battalion training patrols. Sgt. McGowan made one night's fun a roaring success by falling, or rather throwing himself, down a large hole filled with some particularly fragrant paddy water. His remarks on this occasion surpassed even his own estimation of his notorious fluency on such matters.

Pte. Butler, who joined us recently, besides taking over Pte. Lye's duties with the paint brush, has also excelled himself with plaster and trowel, his *pièce de résistance* being the cementing to the "I" office wall of the I.O.'s safe. During the construction of this masterpiece the I.O. lived in perpetual danger from bits of flying bricks and half-dry cement. Pte. Jones is already thumbing through his old address book in anticipation of his return to "England—home and beauty" very shortly. All these vacancies in the "I" Section will be filled by new recruits with group members of astronomical proportions, who are at the moment undergoing an "I" cadre. The normal work of the Section continues and one private soldier was recently heard to remark that he was "thankful that there was at last no more room in the I.O.'s office for yet more maps that needed frequent and careful vetting and marking!"

In conclusion, we must add that the second O.P. competition run by 40th Infantry Division saw the "Die-hards" team, led by Cpl. Walden and Pte. Jones from the "I" Section and completed by Cpls. Penhony and Judkins, Ptes. Harrison and French from Rifle Companies, shine once more. We gained tremendous "face" in Divisional eyes by being the only team on parade with the necessary cooker and materials for several sizable brews up.

### SIGNAL PLATOON

During the past three months the Platoon has been battling on in spite of many setbacks; the main one being release.

In the past quarter we have lost no less than 12 of the Platoon on release to U.K., but having completed one Cadre and being in the middle of another,



the picture is not so bad as it may first appear.

Cpl. Whitley and L/Cpl. Caswell are enjoying the delights of home on an R.S.I. Course at Caterick, but we hope to see them back in the not too far distant future.

Sgt. Michel is still Platoon Sergeant and as such is not what one might call idle. Much the same might be said of Capt. H. J. A. Moore, who is doubling the duties of Signal Officer and Assistant Adjutant.

With the hot weather fast approaching, we of the Signal Platoon will once more have to take our share of hill-climbing—a sport in which the Battalion is much skilled.

We would like to congratulate L/Cpl. Rowbottom on his promotion and extend a welcome to all our newly-joined Signallers and would-be Signallers. It might be said here that our two stalwarts, Ptes. Durston and Jordan, are still the backbone of the Platoon.

Due to an intensive drive on Unit Security, the Signal Stores are now wired, mined and booby-trapped with a small cave-like entrance not more than 3 ft. square. The entrance is locked at most hours of the day and at all hours of the night. With these precautions, we reckon that the stores are as safely guarded as the Bank of England—we know, we've done both!

Finally, to all our "has been's" and "will be's" we send our greetings, coupled with the hope that ere long we, too, shall be reunited with our families.

#### BAND NOTES

We have had to say good-bye to two more members of the Band since our last notes. This time it is to our Bandmaster, Mr. J. L. Barnett, and L/Cpl. Bentley. They left on M.V. *Devonshire* and M.V. *Empire Orwell* respectively, and by coincidence it was our turn to play the ship off from the docks at Kowloon, and Mr. Barnett conducted "Auld Lang Syne" from the stern of the ship as she pulled out.

Mr. Barnett is leaving the Army for a civilian appointment and we wish him the very best of luck in his new work. He will be a very great loss to us indeed. L/Cpl. Bentley (now Sgt. Bentley) is going on a long course at Kneller Hall and we hope we shall see him back with us eventually.

Bdsm. Leverington and Searle, aided and abetted by "Fat" Smith, still hold their weekly mothers' meetings in the Band practice tent every Wednesday. Anyone wishing to join please contact the Hong Kong Mothers' Union.

We are well represented in athletics. Bdsms. Stevens is now throwing an average distance of 131 feet and Bdsms. Duncan, Bentley and Holt are trying very hard to win the 220 and 440 yards.

We hope to be well in front in the inter-Company swimming in the near future.

We gained great distinction in the seven-a-side football competition in representing "G" Group of Headquarters Company.

We welcome ex-Boys Hiscock, Probert and Christopher on their "more service." The only remaining Boy—Rose—qualifies in October.

At the moment we are much looking forward to our Easter break.

#### CORPS OF DRUMS

During the last quarter the Corps of Drums have had a very busy time, apart from normal routine. Probably the most important occasion was the parade of the 40th Infantry Division and, according to reports, our effort was worthy of mention. The Drum Major was mentioned in a congratulatory message from the G.O.C. for his skill with the mace. As always, we all had breathless moments when it sailed through the air.

Since our last Journal notes we have lost two more old friends: Cpl. Brown, who has recently left us for the old "Island Home" owing to ear trouble, and Dmr. Barnes, our leading Drummer, who has left on release. We wish them both the very best of good fortune and hope that we will meet them again in the future.

We continue to maintain a high standard in the world of sport. Dmr. Munday has recently proved his running ability by emerging first in the one-mile and three-mile races, an effort of which we are proud. Drum-Major Holdford did great work by coming second in four field events—the pole vault, shot, hammer, and discus. Cpl. Purdon was placed second in the 100 yards, and Dmr. Kelly made a fine effort in the one mile. With the Brigade Sports Meeting almost upon us we hope to uphold our high standard.

Since our arrival in Hong Kong our training has been hard, thorough and interesting. Our role as Battalion Defence Platoon has taught us many different ways of climbing hills, especially with cookhouse equipment on our backs. Dmr. Weeks (our Quiet Boy) skilfully demonstrated a perfect dive from a ten-foot drop without injury, complete with a 180 lb. tent still on his back, a remarkable achievement.

The "Beating of Retreat" ceremony, which we perform every Tuesday, has become more interesting, and our friends, the Band, joined us in our last two performances, which were appreciated very much. Capt. K. J. Carter (Adj.), Officer i/c Corps of Drums, is successfully raising our Drum Fund, and has promised us white patrol dress for the summer.

Lastly, we take advantage of this opportunity to send best wishes to all old comrades, ex-drummers and our late Officer i/c Corps of Drums, Capt. R. J. P. Cummins.

#### M.T. NOTES

##### Training

Over the last few months the Platoon has lost many of its old faces, Ptes. Moores, Heasman, Saxbee, Walker, Dave and O'Connor, all on release, and very shortly we lose Sgt. Flannagan. We wish them all the very best of good fortune in civilian life.

Once more we are up to full strength and to our new members we wish a very happy stay in the Platoon. Commitments have steadily dropped off in the past few weeks and with the approaching hot weather no more high level schemes or exercises should take place until next September.

##### Sport

In the field of sport we have certainly made a name for ourselves. Pte. Jelley and L/Cpl. Noble have represented the Battalion in boxing, and only a few days ago Ptes. Jelley and Beesley played Rugby for the 2nd team.

Pte. Jenkins did extremely well in the Individual Athletic Meeting held in Kowloon by winning three 1st and one 2nd prize as well as a silver medal for the best individual performance of the day. Sgt. Wright surprised many not in the Platoon by winning the 440 yards and is now seen every afternoon practising for the forthcoming Brigade and Land Forces competition.

##### Recreation

Just recently the Battalion bought a Karrier bus and although Cpl. Smart is seen tending to its rugged beauty every day it does seem somewhat out of place in the car park. It has proved a great success and, in addition, it rests a 3-tonner that normally would take Battalion teams to Kowloon.

##### Inspections

In the next few months we look forward, with some trepidation, to the annual R.E.M.E. inspection in July and a great deal of hot and unpleasant weather. The rain at least should keep the vehicles clean if nothing else will.

#### "A" COMPANY

The first quarter of 1950 still finds us in Beas Camp, N.T., with plenty of work to keep us busy.

We have found training to be very difficult during the past three months, owing to continual comings and goings of personnel. This has been caused by release and postings to "H.Q." and "S" Companies. From Chelsea days, when we were almost 100 per cent. regulars, down to twenty-seven is a sad and large drop. However, our N.S. men are doing very well and we still manage to keep on top. It is hoped that we will keep a regular element of about thirty in the Company from now on.

During February 7, 8 and 9 we took part, together with the remainder of the Battalion, in an exercise on Lamma Island. This exercise was designed to test and prove our friends the Royal Marine Commandos. As the bandits, we had our hide-out on a hill of more than reasonable height. Here we made good positions and found good cover on ground that was familiar to most of the Company, who remembered the area well from their last visit. We were able to report fully all landings made, and repulsed the initial Commando attack. All ranks enjoyed the exercise, despite the continual manhandling of all stores, which became very tedious and very tiring after three days. We all returned to camp with the knowledge that we had certainly tested, if not proved, the Royal Marines.

Shortly after we spent a very pleasant week on the Peak Rifle Range, where the results of firing were very satisfactory. During this period we renovated the memorial to the 25th Battalion, which is situated just off the main footpath. The memorial is inscribed:

25TH BN. THE MIDDLESEX REGT.

"TYNDAREUS"

FEB. 16, 1917.

It commemorates the great courage shown by the Battalion during the sinking of the *Tyndareus* off the coast of Africa in 1917.

During this quarter we have had several promotions

in the Company, and we offer congratulations to the following: Cpl. Glazier on promotion to Sergeant, L/Cpl. Eastap to Corporal, and Ptes. Webber, Thorpe, Boag, Williams, Gibbs, Grummit, Gover and Watkins on their appointment to Lance-Corporal.

Release has taken its toll and we were particularly sorry to lose Ptes. Tyrer and Took, two of our original Chelsea Company. To all we wish the best of luck and happiness in civilian life. To Sgt. Cranfield we send special greetings and wishes for his speedy recovery and return.

In the world of sport we have done very well indeed. We are still top of the Albuhera Competition, but "H.Q." Company are now coming up very quickly. It appears that the shield will be won on the results of the athletics and cricket, so we have a very fair chance of being the ultimate winners. Special mention must be made of the wonderful effort of Pte. Saunders in reaching the finals of the Far East Boxing Championships, and being runner-up in the bantam-weight competition.

The Company held a Rifle Meeting on the 25 yards range at the end of March, which proved very successful. It was run on an inter-section basis, the results being: No. 1, 1st; No. 2, 2nd; Employed Section, 3rd.

The winning team were: L/Cpl. Thorpe, Ptes. Pritchard (59), Pritchard (09), Houchen and Clark.

In the inter-Company boxing we finished third. The following took part and put up a very fine performance: 2/Lt. E. R. de B. Vare, 2/Lt. E. B. Thomas, Sgt. Whiteley, L/Cpl. Thorpe, Ptes. Millar, Johnston, Prestcott, Holland, Bourne, Gilbertson and Downes.

Company Hockey Team.—L/Cpl. Gover, Pte. Tunstall, 2/Lt. G. M. Lock, L/Cpl. Millard, L/Cpl. Gibbs, C.S.M. Tarrant, Pte. Ward, Pte. Welch, L/Cpl. Webber, Pte. Smith and Pte. Johnston.

Company Basketball Team.—Cpl. Eastap, Cpl. Lefevre, Cpl. Thwaite, Cpl. Weaver, 2/Lt. E. B. Thomas, C.S.M. Tarrant, Pte. Hawkins, L/Cpl. Webber, L/Cpl. Thorpe, Pte. Took and Pte. Johnston.

During the Regimental Week-end our obstacle team came first, and we were runners-up to "S" Company in the whole competition. In the hockey we have to play "D" Company for third or fourth place, and in basketball we won third place from "S" Company.

#### "B" COMPANY

The last few months have seen numerous changes in the Company and many of those who embarked on H.T. *Dunera* for Hong Kong in June last year are no longer with us.

In early February thirty-two ranks of the Company returned to U.K. and an equal number arrived to take their places. By some strange turn of fate, those departing once again embarked on H.T. *Dunera*. To say "good-bye" to so many friends at one time is difficult, but those who have arrived to take their places have settled down extremely quickly. The long familiar cry of "Things are not what they were" has once again been proven to be incorrect.

C.S.M. Wild has arrived in the Company from U.K. and, despite one of the longest sea voyages to China since Vasco de Gama sailed out here in the fifteenth



century, his enthusiasm and keenness have remained unimpaired.

Besides the change in faces the next most noticeable change has been the weather. Each day is hotter than the last, and those of us who are fortunate or unfortunate enough to visit Kowloon or Hong Kong find a similar increase in Chinese smells. To the connoisseur there are, of course, some above average smells on our own doorstep!

In early February we made our second journey to Lamma Island, this time with the Battalion, where we competed against the Marine Commandos in a tactical exercise in which the Battalion played the part of the pirates. Unfortunately fancy dress was not allowed. The exercise lasted three days, during which we learnt many lessons and gained much experience. The Company were congratulated for holding up the enemy's advance for so long. The credit for this must go to No. 4 Platoon and Company "H.Q."

In the field of sport our main success has been in the Inter-Company Basket Ball Competition. In this we reached the finals, but were beaten in a good clean game by "H.Q." Company. The success of the team is due in no small measure to the hard work of Sgt. Sharp.

In the Inter-Company Boxing L/Cpl. Beasley reached the finals and only just lost on points. In the early rounds Pte. Nattrass put up a very plucky fight, and astounded everyone, including himself.

Our hockey team, which we consider to be the second best in the Battalion, had the misfortune to be drawn against "H.Q." Company in the first round and, despite a very hard game, we lost. Great enthusiasm has been shown for this game, and this has been due to the keenness of Cpl. Potts.

In early March the Battalion held its first Regimental Week-end, one of the main activities being potted sports. This was of great value to the Company, as we found quite a few potential athletic stars, whom we later entered in the Battalion Individual Sports Meeting. One of our athletes, Pte. Thomas, had three successes—the 100 yards, 220 yards and the long jump. The rest of the Company representatives put up a good show and we have great hopes for the coming Inter-Company Athletics to be held in the near future.

The following are at the moment doing training for the Battalion team: Cpl. Potts, Cpl. Card, Ptes. Thomas, Flanagan, Paget, Beech, Sterne, Phipps and Ledger.

#### "C" COMPANY

The Company has seen many changes since the last report. Major A. E. D. Michel and his wife have left to return to the U.K. All ranks wish him success and happiness in whatever his next appointment may be. We hope that we shall see him again at future reunions. We welcome Capt. C. H. Miville, M.C., who has taken over command of the Company on joining us from "S" Company.

C.S.M. Burrell, who had the misfortune to break his leg while playing rugby, has now returned from hospital. Though still handicapped by a considerable limp, we are all delighted to have him back with us and hope he will soon be fully recovered.

We have lost so many of the original personnel of the Company on release that we have had to start training over again. We have now completed individual and section training and have made a start on platoon training. Hill climbing is part and parcel of this training and our new members become expert goats in next to no time.

#### Soccer

The enthusiasm and expert coaching of C/Sgt. Griffiths brought the Company to the end of the soccer season with flying colours.

The departure of Pte. Wallis and Cpl. Pascoe threatened to be the ruin of our chances in the "Albuhera" Competition, but some hasty trial games produced the necessary talent from the new drafts in time for our first game (we had a bye in the second round) *versus* the powerful "H.Q." side, which, amongst other former members of our team, included L/Cpl. Hyland. The game was abandoned in a storm with the score at one all. At the next attempt a further draw was the result after extra time. Eventually, however, in the third encounter we came out victors with the score at 5—3 after an exciting game. Our next opponents, "S" Company, drew 2—2 with us in the final, after extra time had again been played. They fell from grace, however, in the replay, the score being 3—1 in our favour.

The team which represented the Company through the competition, including changes, was: Ptes. Henderson, Maloney, Cpl. Cheeseman, Pte. Watson, L/Cpl. Gatland, Ptes. Bonner, Reeves, Buckle, Cpl. Conroy, C/Sgt. Griffiths, Cpl. McHenry, Ptes. Nelles and Gilliard. Of these players the following have played for the Battalion 1st XI: Pte. Longhurst, the captain of the Company team, Ptes. Buckle, Bonner, Nelles, Gilliard and L/Cpl. Gatland. Cpl. Burbage seems to have consolidated his position as Battalion linesman.

The basketball season has been a poor one for the Company as we were badly hit by release and postings to other Companies. In particular, C.S.M. Jennings' departure to "H.Q." Company has been a great blow, for he, along with Cpl. Small, was the mainstay of the side.

We lost both our "Albuhera" games by narrow margins to "A" and "D" Companies, and though beaten by the better side in each case the spirit was not lacking. It is felt that with more practice the team would have done, and will in future do, much better. Throughout the competition Cpl. Small and L/Cpl. Gatland were outstanding.

Team: Capt. E. C. Osborne, Sgt. Walsh, Cpls. Burbage, Conroy and Small, L/Cpls. Broom and Gatland, Ptes. Edwards, Elcombe, Streeter and Middleton.

In the boxing world our success was more marked. L/Cpl. Gatland and Pte. Woodman boxed with distinction for the Battalion, as did, in a lesser degree, L/Cpl. Rutty and Pte. Streeter. In the "Albuhera" Competition, L/Cpl. Gatland won the light-heavyweight series with accustomed ease; Cpl. Cheesman reached the semi-final of the middleweight series, winning his first fight by a knock-out and losing his second to Pte.

Passmore of "D" Company after three gory rounds. Pte. Watson knocked Sgt. Dive of "S" Company out in the first round of his welterweight contest, but lost narrowly to Sgt. Redmond in his next encounter. Pte. Streeter was unlucky to lose to Pte. Rogers in his first welterweight fight. Cpl. Conroy, after a close fight, lost his lightweight contest to L/Cpl. Noble of "H.Q." Company. Pte. Palmer lost to Cpl. Spicer of "D" Company. We eventually finished up fourth in the whole competition.

In the Rugby field we have had some success. Capt. E. C. Osborne, 2/Lt. J. C. Bucknall, Sgt. Bartholomew and Ptes. Bale and Edwards have played for the Battalion 1st XV, whilst Sgt. Walsh, Cpls. Small and Cheeseman and L/Cpl. Gatland played with distinction in the 2nd XV and are assured of better things next year.

Lt. G. Sander has left us to join "B" Company and Capt. E. C. Osborne is now Company 2 i/c. We wish them both every success in their new appointments. Sgt. Cooper, late of the Carrier Platoon, is acting as C.Q.M.S. and appears to have mobilised the stores to a great extent.

We wish every success to our founder members who joined the Company when the present Battalion was formed, and who have now left on release, posting or Python leave. We sincerely hope that we shall see them often at reunions and similar functions.

#### "D" COMPANY

"Whatever the year brings, it brings nothing new," says the poet or, rather, the poetess. But the lady who wrote that might have changed her mind had she been in "D" Company in the first months of 1950, where the comings-in and the goings-out have been incessant. First to go was Capt. P. F. Smyth, who had been commanding the Company since November. We were sorry to say good-bye to him and wish him all good fortune. In his place we welcomed Capt. P. G. V. Bellers from "A" Company. Another arrival was 2/Lt. B. H. Marciandi, who passed out of Sandhurst last July, winning the Infantry prize.

When the *Dunera* left on February 11 we said a sad farewell to Sgt. Jones, the "Old 'Un," who is leaving the army; we miss him in many ways, especially in our football team. With him went Cpl. Cushing and Pte. Dobbs, who was prominent in Hong Kong's yachting activities, and 23 others, most of whom had been on public duties with the Battalion in London and whose departure we regret. We welcomed their replacements, numbering 25, of whom, however, we have not seen a great deal as they have nearly all been on unit cadres since their arrival.

The *Devonshire*, which arrived on February 27, brought us our new Company Commander, Major J. E. F. Willoughby, whom we welcome, hoping that his stay with us will be a long and happy one. It also brought us seven more replacements from Shorncliffe. On its return journey it took away Sgt. Burgess, who will not get back from an M.T. course in the U.K. until about Christmas time, and Ptes. Rich and Baring.

On March 13 Mrs. P. G. V. Bellers arrived in the Colony with her small daughter. We were sorry to hear that Capt. Bellers, who was due for secondment

to his old regiment, the 2nd/6th Gurkhas, on April 1, was flying to Singapore on that date. Fortunately Mrs. Bellers will be able to join him there shortly. We wish them the best of luck in Malaya, and hope that we shall see them again before long.

On March 27 the *Empire Orwell* brought us nine more replacements, and we lost Pte. Passmore, who gained fame as a member of the Battalion seven-a-side rugby team which won the treasured Blarney Stone Shield amid a blaze of glory and publicity last month.

Among the constant drain of men to "H.Q." and "S" Companies, we were particularly sorry to lose Sgts. Thorogood and Waterfield, to whom we wish every success in their new jobs. In their stead we welcome Sgt. Whiteley and Cpl. Salkeld from "A" Company and Sgt. Finch from "C" Company.

During recent months our training has been less hectic than formerly. A great difficulty has been the large numbers who seem to be permanently away on cadres. We hope, in future, to work together as a Company more than we have been able to do recently.

We spent three very pleasant days on the Peak Range, where we fed very well under C/Sgt. Thom's able supervision, and with two days on Kai Tak Range later on we completed the firing of the Annual Range Course with excellent results, including 12 marksmen. On a recent exercise we spent two and a half days on Lamma Island, which provided an enjoyable holiday as well as some exciting training. When the Battalion was attacked, "D" Company distinguished itself with a spectacular counter-attack which arrived on "B" Company's position at the critical moment and held up the advance of the Commandos for several hours.

In the inter-Company soccer we were unlucky to be beaten in the first round by "S" Company, after a replay. In the reverse draw we played "B" Company and won.

We did very well in the boxing, tying on points with "H.Q." Company for first place; this was awarded to "H.Q." Company, because we had not been able to enter a welterweight in the competition. We congratulate the Company team on a very fine effort.

In the basketball competition we drew with the very strong "H.Q." Company team in the first round, and after a very hard game lost 18—26. We met "C" Company to decide fifth and sixth places in the tournaments and won 16—3.

In the first round of the hockey competition we beat "C" Company 7—1, C.S.M. McMillan scoring five goals. In the semi-final we were beaten 3—2 by "H.Q." Company in a very hard-fought game.

We congratulate Cpls. Lloyd, Spicer, Smith (37) and Warner, and L/Cpls. Porter, Beasley, Cornwall and Stalley on their promotions.

#### "S" COMPANY

Since the publication of our last notes many changes have taken place. The O.C. Company, Major G. W. P. Hodding has left us to take an appointment as 2 i/c 40th Infantry Division Battle School in Kowloon. We wish him, Mrs. Hodding and their daughter the very best of luck and happiness in the future. We welcome our new Company Commander, Capt. G. C. Forman, late



commander of the Assault Pioneer Platoon and look forward with pleasure to serving under his command.

The Company has changed quite a lot since December. We have lost nearly all our National Servicemen who came with us from Mill Hill, excepting Ptes. Young, Butler, Yeomans, Wood and Ferrier.

The training of the Battalion and the Company has quietened down in the last quarter. The emphasis is on individual training, although we have and we are now still conducting two cadres, M.M.G. and 3-in. Mortars. The Company has had another outing to Lamma Island, but this time on a big exercise. We abandoned our specialist roles for the exercise and acted as a Rifle Company. Unfortunately, after being in position for nearly four days, the scheme came to a halt before the Marine Commandos had reached our positions. We must congratulate Sgt. Hummerstone and his anti-tank gunners for putting H.M.S. *Black Swan* out of action.

The Company did very well in the Albuhera Shield soccer competition, being beaten by "C" Company after extra time. The team played a good hard game and were very unlucky to lose. We have our eyes on the hockey, cricket and athletic shields now and the Company athletes are out training every evening on the airstrip, under the careful eye of C/Sgt. O'Keefe. The Company won the Au Wai Lam Shield, which was presented to the Battalion for our first Hong Kong Regimental Week-end. We congratulate the two sports teams and the Assault Course team, who represented the Company. We shall do our utmost to keep this trophy at the next Regimental Week-end.

We have a few new faces in Company H.Q. now, including C.S.M. Shrubbs, M.M., C/Sgt. O'Keefe and Pte. Young, who has returned to us from Singapore and is back again at his desk in the Company office. Pte. Murrell is still working out our debts and credits and in his spare time is the bus conductor of the Regimental bus. The Company were sorry to see C/Sgt. Yeomans go; he has a posting to Singapore and we wish him success in his new job. Pte. Nelson has left us for civilian life; we wish him the very best of luck. To all ex-"S" Company personnel we wish all the luck in the world; we would like to hear from you if you can find the time to drop us a line or postcard.

#### Carrier Platoon

The Platoon at the moment is only a shadow of its former self, being about 12 strong. However, by the time these notes are in print we shall have been brought up to strength again by postings in of approximately 20, who have been undergoing intensive M.M.G. training for the last eight weeks and have also been trained as Wasp Operators. In fact, by the end of April we shall be in the happy position of having a platoon well trained in both M.M.G. duties and handling of Wasps.

Practically the whole of the Carrier Platoon who left the U.K. as such are now well settled at home or on their way. Only a few regulars remain; of these, Cpls. Walker (74) and Walker (11) are still going strong, both at photography and the other sport they share in common. Cpls. Brazil and Burke and L/Cpl. Freakley,

besides getting all the "griff" on M.G., are training hard with the Battalion athletic team, while L/Cpl. Dench is doing a thorough job in getting all our carriers in order.

We must offer our heartiest congratulations to Capt. G. C. Forman on his promotion and on taking over command of the Company. We trust he remains with us and commands the Company for many a long day. Also to Cpls. Walker (11), Walker (74), Wagner and Burke, and to L/Cpl. Dench on their promotions.

In the field of sport the Platoon has been very quiet of late, due chiefly to lack of inter-platoon competitions, but we have been supplying more than our share to various Company teams, in particular at soccer.

Of our footballers we must mention L/Cpl. Larkin, Ptes. Anderson and Norris, three of our stalwarts who have left us for Civvy Street, and a special mention for "Flanger," who, we hope, keeps well clear of "Dubarry's."

After so many good-byes it is grand to say welcome to our new members: firstly, 2/Lt. G. G. Norton from "B" Company, who we all feel sure is going to be a grand Platoon Commander, and, secondly, to Sgt. Thorogood from "D" Company, who has fitted into the Carrier Platoon system straight from the start. We hope the present team will keep together until the job out here is completed. We would also like to welcome our new friends from the M.M.G. Cadre, who are due to be posted on April 1.

#### 3-in. Mortar Platoon

Soon the successful students of No. 2 Mortar Cadre will be joining the Platoon and once again we shall be up to strength. There has always been an excellent spirit and feeling of *esprit de corps* within the Platoon and recently it has increased somehow, and this pride in our ability has shown itself in our work.

We have fired on Castle Peak Ranges. Again our fire was accurate and good, which, of course, afforded us no end of pleasure. We fired again on Lo Wu, after spending half the day clearing the range, and even then, in the middle of a shoot, a jeep from a neighbouring unit quite calmly drove over our target area, causing the O.P. no end of high blood pressure.

Our old ex-members have been very busy performing general duties within the Battalion, but old faces remain: Ptes. Ferrier, Low, Swindells and Keat all seem to be now more attached to the Mortars than ever. Swift has rejoined us and he is very busy driving a carrier. Our two Corporals, Cpls. Rump and Parker, continue to be the backbone of the Platoon and work like trojans. Sgt. Landreth is with us only on paper; we wish him success in his new job. Sgt. Dodkins is at present away revising his knowledge, as is L/Cpl. Richardson. These two N.C.O.s should come back and put us in the latest picture as far as mortar work is concerned. Sgt. Waterfield still hobbles around as he has not yet recovered from his broken bone, the result of a rigger match. Our carrier expert, L/Cpl. Fisher, is for ever teaching the intricate parts to eager youngsters. Pte. Moore has gone to the Regimental Police for a short stay. Two very welcome additions to the Platoon are L/Cpls. Bennett and Walters, who have shown great enthusiasm and keenness.

Finally we welcome all those who have joined us recently and wish all those who have left us good luck and prosperity.

#### Assault Pioneer Platoon

Now that the Battalion is on lower establishment and the Platoon is reduced to a minimum, its activities are considerably curtailed.

It is with deep regret we bade farewell to Sgt. Bignell, who proceeded home on a well-earned Python in January. The Platoon owes much of its success to his untiring energy, hard work and good will. He was shortly followed by L/Cpls. Croucher and Munday, Ptes. Aylott, Beeching, Beasley, White and Lawrence. We wish them all the best of luck in civilian life.

We congratulate Sgt. Dive on his promotion and wish him the best of luck in the future as Platoon Commander.

#### Anti-Tank Platoon

Having lost the able guidance of Sgt. Hummerstone at the end of the year, the detachment calmly faced an uncertain future at the beginning of the quarter. In a small unit the loss of one man for a duty can disrupt a day's training programme, and as there are always plenty of duties we cannot claim to have done a lot of training.

Pte. Vincent was the only member of the detachment to be sent home for demob; we all wish him the best of luck in civilian life.

The summer is coming soon and with it, we hope, more schemes, more night drives and a lot more "brew ups."

#### SERGEANTS' MESS

During March we said farewells to our Armourer, Sgt. Clifford, Sgt. Burgess, Sgt. Flanagan, Sgt. Burland and Bandmaster L. J. Barnett, the last three of whom are leaving the Army. C/Sgt. Yeomans also left for Singapore, and in his place we welcome C/Sgt. O'Keefe.

On Saturday, March 25, we had the Battalion Individual Athletics Meeting at Boundary Street, Kowloon. The Sergeants' Mess obtained the use of the Regimental bus for the day. The journey into Kowloon became somewhat hilarious as it was the birthday—the real one this time—of a certain C.S.M., and "refreshments" had been placed on the bus. At a very good meeting, at which the slightly thinning dome of Drum-Major Holdford was prominent, every one had a good time.

In April the Mess played the Corporals' Club at hockey and triumphed 2—1. A return match is being arranged.

On April 15 we were honoured by a visit of 20 members of the Hong Kong Defence Force Ladies' Section. They were entertained to dinner in the Mess and all present had a good time.

More useful contacts were made when the Mess played the Kowloon Cricket Club at snooker and billiards on April 25. C.S.M. Jennings distinguished himself at billiards.

Towards the end of April there were several birthdays which were duly celebrated. Sgt. Walsh had his 21st, while Sgt. Cleland and Sgt. A. Cooper, took one more step towards the primrose path. At these celebrations

C/Sgt. Martin proved himself a "tom-tom" expert. C.S.M. Tarrant has not given us any more of his famous snake battles, but we hope to see his latest version soon. C.S.M. Shrubbs, M.M., has shown that his voice is still in fine trim, and C.S.M. Jennings that he can still produce a "Sylvest" capable of rocking the very foundations of the Mess.

At the moment preparations are in full swing for the Albuhera Ball, which is scheduled for May 12 in the Kowloon Cricket Club.

#### CORPORALS' CLUB

The Corporals' Club is now in full swing. We held a Grand Opening Party in October, to which we invited several members of the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. Needless to say the Club now stands in solid foundations, soaked with lashings of beer.

Christmas, 1949, was celebrated as only the Corporals know how, and 1950 came in to a pint of black and tan. We have lost many of our old members, and have welcomed many new members to swell our ranks and we now have approximately 160 in the Mess.

With the hot weather coming now, we hope to make full use of the Regimental bus (posh wagon to the initiated) and get together with other Units' Corporals' Clubs for sports, outings, etc.

The Club funds are steadily swelling with the able assistance of Cpls. Dickens, Fairbrass and Brown running housey-housey once a week. Members extend their sympathies to all readers while they prepare for a smoker to beat all smokers.

#### ATHLETICS

On Saturday, March 25, 1950, we held our first Athletic Meeting of the season. This meeting was held on an individual basis at Boundary Street, Kowloon. The main object of this meeting was to find our athletes for the Brigade and Land Forces Athletic Meetings.

The meeting was well attended and the elements were very kind in providing us with a most lovely day.

Due to the heat, results were not outstanding, but it is anticipated that with training these will improve considerably. The results were as follows:

100 Yards.—Pte. Thomas, Sgt. Walsh, Cpl. Brazil.  
220 Yards.—Pte. Thomas, Sgt. Walsh, Pte. Beech.  
440 Yards.—Sgt. Wright, Pte. Whitehead, Pte. Paget.  
880 Yards.—Cpl. Smith, Pte. Collins.  
One Mile.—Pte. Munday, 2/Lt. J. M. Lock, 2/Lt. E. B. Thomas.  
Three Miles.—Pte. Munday, Pte. Mason, 2/Lt. E. B. Thomas.  
Hammer.—Pte. Jenkins, Drum-Major Holdford, Capt. Livemore, M.C.  
Discus.—Pte. Jenkins, Drum-Major Holdford, L/Cpl. Gatland.  
Shot.—R.S.M. Weller, Drum-Major Holdford, Cpl. Small.  
Javelin.—Bdsm. Stevens, R.S.M. Weller, Drum-Major Holdford.  
Hop, Step and Jump.—Cpl. Burke, Bdsm. Stevens, Bdsm. Pantrani.  
High Jump.—Pte. Reeves, Pte. Jenkins, Pte. Thomas.  
Long Jump.—Pte. Thomas, Sgt. Wright, Lt. B. K. Clayden.  
Pole Vault.—Pte. Jenkins, Drum-Major Holdford, Capt. P. J. Livemore, M.C.

R.S.M. Weller and Drum-Major Holdford represented the old school, and, as can be seen, acquitted themselves extremely well. Of the new blood, Pte. Thomas ran well in the sprints with Pte. Munday dominating the longer distances. Pte. Jenkins participated with great ability in four events and his discus throwing won him a silver medal for the best individual performance.





Mrs. A. de S. Clayton presenting Pte. Jenkins with a silver medal for the most outstanding performance in the Battalion Individual Athletic Meeting held at Kowloon on March 24 and 25, 1950

Mrs. A. de S. Clayton kindly presented the prizes at the end of the meeting.

As a result of this meeting, the potential Battalion team are now training daily under the able guidance of Major J. E. F. Willoughby. We are now looking forward with high hopes to the forthcoming Brigade and Land Forces Championships.

(Editorial note.—It has just been reported that the Battalion won the Brigade Athletics with consummate ease.)

#### CROSS-COUNTRY

In the 27 Brigade cross-country championships, held at Sek Kong on January 11, 1950, we ran a very gruelling 6½ mile race to finish third. It was, however, a very tight tussle between ourselves and 23rd Field Regiment, R.A., for second place.

We found considerable talent in the new runners, filling vacancies in the team due to release, and outstanding in these was 2/Lt. J. M. Lock, who finished ninth in a field of over 100. We welcome back to the team Pte. Munday, who has now recovered from a temporary illness and is running extremely well.

We entered a scratch team at short notice for the 26 Gurkha Infantry Brigade Open Kurd Race on January 11 and finished sixth in this most unusual hill-climbing race. All members of the team ran extremely well, but it was brought home fully that no one can compare with the Gurkhas when it comes to hill running.

Pte. Boulchin, whilst running very well, fell and broke his left arm and he has only just seen the last of the plaster cast.

#### BOXING

The season 1949-50 has been a very successful one for the Battalion; in spite of losing half the Battalion team in the middle of the season, we still managed to finish the season with a strong one.

The season opened with the 27 Brigade Individual Championships and the Regiment won five out of the seven weights. Ptes. Jelly, Craze, White, Woodman and Saunders were the victors. Ptes. Webster and Gatland and L/Cpl. Noble fought well, but were not able to make the prize-winners' list.

After the Brigade Championships the 40 Divisional Championships were held at Sek Kong, and Ptes. Saunders, Woodman and Craze won the bantam, feather and welter divisions respectively. Pte. White (lightweight) was very unlucky to lose his final fight and he fought very well indeed. After the Divisional Championships we lost the services of Ptes. White and Woodman and also Ptes. Webster, Walker and L/Cpl. Rutty who were very valuable second strings, and were an asset to the team with their never-failing good humour and hard work.

The individual phase of the season being over we concentrated on team competitions and won the Brigade Championships, beating the 1st Battalion Royal Leicestershire Regiment and 1st Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. It was intended to hold a Divisional Team Championship, but it was not possible owing to other commitments. In view of the successes the team had gained up to date the result would have been a foregone conclusion.

Ptes. Craze and Saunders by this time had gone to Singapore to fight in the FARELF Championships and they fought very well, Saunders getting through to the finals and then losing a very close fight.

We finished the season with a friendly match against a naval team organised by H.M.S. *Jamaica*. We lost 6-5 after a series of very hard fights and in spite of not having the services of Pte. Craze. We were losing 5-0 at one point during the evening but the team fought back gallantly and nearly made it.

The "Albuhera" Boxing Competition took place on March 7 and 9 and some very good boxing was seen. As the Commanding Officer said before he presented the prizes: "The outstanding feature of the boxing was the way that comparative novices willingly entered the ring against members of the Battalion boxing team and gave them very close fights."

The winners and runners-up were:

Heavy.—Pte. Jelly; Capt. P. J. Livemore, M.C.  
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Feather.—Cpl. Lloyd; Pte. Bessley.  
Bantam.—Pte. Campbell; Pte. Harris.

The regular members of the Battalion team throughout the season were: Pte. Jelly, Pte. Webster, Cpl. Hilkins, Pte. Gatland, L/Cpl. Rutty, Pte. Hutchins, Pte. Craze, Pte. Harrison, Pte. Rodgers, Pte. Streeter, Pte. White,

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Training and general supervision was carried out by C.S.M. Timpany, to whom the credit goes for always producing boxers who were very fit and full of fight.

#### RUGBY FOOTBALL

We were very badly hit by injuries in the second half of the season, losing 2/Lt. J. C. Bucknall, 2/Lt. H. J. Evans and Sgt. Waterfield through leg injuries—in fact, through injuries and release. Only C.S.M. Jennings of the seven Battalion representatives who played for 27 Infantry Brigade was left to hold the fort.

Incidentally, C.S.M. Jennings played for the Army XV throughout the season in the Colony and on the tour of Malaya and played consistently with distinction.

We were faced with the unenviable task of filling nine places, and, to add to the difficulties, only three players were found out of all the new drafts. Efforts are being made, not without success, to coach keen regular soldiers and thus form a solid nucleus of sound players in order to surmount the problem of ever-departing national servicemen. It will undoubtedly take time to show positive results of these efforts.

We had hoped, somewhat foolishly, to trounce 23 Field Regiment, R.A., on December 21, but the match was lost after a very hard game by 6 points to 5. We



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fielded a competent and lively pack with a thrustful threequarter line, but the effectiveness of both was completely nullified by a dreadful weakness of the base of the scrum. We were leading until just before the final whistle when the gunners scored from a penalty kick in front of our posts.

On January 18 Rugby in the Battalion received a most welcome boost in the form of winning an unofficial inter-unit seven-a-side competition before a large audience. We entered two teams, both of which covered themselves with glory by the end of the afternoon. The "A" team, consisting of Lts. E. C. S. Osborne, B. K. Clayden, 2/Lts. J. C. Bucknall, E. B. Thomas, E. R. de B. Vare, C.S.M. Jennings and Pte. Passmore, won the competition, beating 3rd Royal Tank Regiment "A" 6—0, 1st Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 11—10 after a most thrilling and close game in the semi-finals, and 3rd Royal Tank Regiment "B" 15—0 in the final.

Injuries and departures then came upon us fast and furiously and it became increasingly hard to field a representative XV. We suffered a couple of defeats at the hands of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (0—18) and 23rd Field Regiment, R.A. (0—25).

In view of the long list of injuries it was decided not

to enter a team for the annual Colony seven-a-side competition for the Blarney Stone Shield. However, at the last minute, it was found that our cripples had improved so much in health and vigour that we took our courage in both hands and put in a team. We were extremely lucky in having Capt. C. N. Clayden available to play for us and his presence assured us of hitting power behind the scrum. Thirty-six teams entered for the competition with the Hong Kong Football Club "A" and "B" teams as hot favourites. Our first match was against "China Old Hands," a civilian team of elderly players of class, who made up in guile what they lost in years. We were three points down at half-time, after some very scrappy play, but soon after half-time 2/Lt. J. C. Bucknall dribbled through from a loose scrum and then Capt. C. N. Clayden broke through with a fifty-yard run, which left the "Old Hands" standing. We eventually won by 8—3.

In the second round we met E.W.O., a team entered by Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., and we played a considerably more polished game and won by 9—3. Capt. C. N. Clayden scored twice and Pte. Passmore once. The team was obviously settling down and the threequarters were equally strong in attack as defence, whilst the forwards gave them all of the ball. This



WINNING SEVEN IN COLONY SEVEN-A-SIDE COMPETITION FOR BLARNEY-STONE SHIELD, SATURDAY, MARCH 18

Standing (left to right): Pte. Bale, 2/Lt. H. J. Evans, 2/Lt. J. C. Bucknall (injured in second round), C.S.M. Jennings, Lt. B. K. Clayden (injured in second round)

Sitting: Capt. C. N. Clayden, 2/Lt. E. B. Thomas, Pte. Passmore, 2/Lt. E. R. de B. Vare

match took its toll, however, as Lt. B. K. Clayden, who had played with a septic arm, and 2/Lt. J. C. Bucknall, whose old leg injury recurred, had to stand down from the following rounds. These were two serious losses to a well-balanced side and made us feel apprehensive of the next round against Club "A," the favourites. However, 2/Lt. E. B. Thomas and Pte. Bale stepped in as substitutes and both played sterling games in the remaining rounds.

Once again we started slowly and were soon three points down, but immediately after half-time Capt. C. N. Clayden equalised with a very neat kick ahead and also made the conversion. Three minutes later he scored again on the blind side, which he rounded off with another conversion, leaving us as very unexpected victors by 10—3. This convincing defeat of the favourites obviously shook the spectators to the core and, for the first time in the competition, the Regimental team became a power in the land.

Our next encounter, in the semi-finals, was a most gruelling game with the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, in which stamina was at a premium. There was no score at full time and it was not until the last few seconds of extra time that Capt. C. N. Clayden scored the all-important try to win the game for us by 3—0.

The final developed into a battle royal against Club "B," who were determined to avenge the defeat of their senior side and who incidentally appeared a much tougher nut to crack. Yet once again we were three points down at half-time but 2/Lt. E. R. de B. Vare levelled matters with a first-rate dash down the wing to score in the corner. As there was no further scoring till full time, extra time had to be played. In the first half of this extra time Capt. C. N. Clayden, in a brilliant solo run, cut straight through four men and scored under the posts. He converted the try and we thereby won the Shield by 8—3.

This victory in the Colony Sevens, in which the standard of Rugby was extremely high, was the best tonic possible for Rugby in the Battalion, which thereafter took on a new lease of life. Apart from praise for the players themselves, who put up a first-class performance, we must not forget those two stalwarts, Sgt. Bartholomew and L/Cpl. Took, who appeared evening after evening to push against the scrum and thereby assisted materially in our victory. The Hong Kong Football Club were very kind to us after the competition and entertained the team in the evening.

The players who took part in the competition were: Capt. C. N. Clayden, 2/Lts. H. J. Evans and E. R. de B. Vare, C.S.M. Jennings (in all games), Lt. B. K. Clayden, 2/Lt. J. C. Bucknall (in the first two games), Pte. Passmore (in all but the first game), 2/Lt. E. B. Thomas (in four games) and Pte. Bale in the last three games).

Mention has been made in these notes of the steady drain on players through Python leave, injuries and release and the difficulty in maintaining adequate reserves. With this in mind a big drive was organised to interest young regular soldiers in the game, and as a result thirty regular volunteers started their Rugby career on March 3. Intensive training and instruction continued daily until a 2nd XV, selected entirely from

these learners, played Royal Signals, 23rd Field Regiment, R.A., on the Battalion ground on March 28. These learners chalked up a most convincing win by nine points (three tries) to nil. This was Rugby as it should be played, clean, hard and earnest, and it fully repaid the enthusiastic trainers for all the spare time put into the instruction and training.

The standard and the way the team ran and threw the ball about was astonishingly high considering the lack of experience of every player. L/Cpl. Millard hooked the ball with unfailing regularity and the scrum maintained a steady service to L/Cpl. Gatland, who showed great promise at fly and who got his three-quarters moving admirably. The powerful running of Cpl. Small in the centre and the speed of Sgt. Walsh on the wing were outstanding features of the game and augur well for the 1st XV next year. The other centre, Pte. Amos, was conspicuous for his intelligent positioning and backing up. Pte. Jelly was prominent in the line-outs and Cpl. Lefevre led his pack well. Tries were scored by Sgt. Walsh after an opening by Pte. Amos, by Pte. Jelly, who used his weight to advantage after a run by Cpl. Small, and by Pte. Amos, who backed up an electrical run of Sgt. Walsh down the wing.

The team was: Sgt. Walsh, Pte. Amos, Cpl. Small, Cpl. Burke, L/Cpl. Gatland, Pte. Johnson, Cpl. Smith, L/Cpl. Millard, Pte. Beasley, Cpl. Cheesman, Cpl. Lefevre (capt.) and Pte. Jelly.

The following have played in the 1st XV during the season: Major J. W. Doyle, M.C., Capt. P. J. Livemore, M.C., Capt. E. C. S. Osborne, Lt. B. K. Clayden, 2/Lts. J. C. Bucknall, H. J. Evans, B. H. Marciandi, E. B. Thomas, E. R. de B. Vare, G. A. White, C.S.M. Jennings, Sgts. Waterfield, McGowan, Bartholomew, Dearner, Cpls. Lloyd, Smith, Bartrip, Dickens, Wagner, L/Cpls. Knight, Wilkins, Took, Ptes. Passmore, Bale, Johnson, Reeves and Edwards.

Pte. Passmore, who first handled a Rugby ball in August, 1949, has turned out to be a first-rate wing and played for the Battalion in every match with distinction. He has now left on release, which is a sad loss, but we hope that he will carry on with the game in civilian life.

Rugby in the Battalion is certainly on the upgrade and we have high hopes for next season.

#### SOCCER

Since we last wrote many changes have taken place in Battalion soccer. Even our football ground, which is always in great demand and probably ranks as one of the best among the units stationed in the New Territories, is not always available as it is part of an air strip which is being used by an Air O.P. Flight now stationed within the camp perimeter. However, we use it every evening, Wednesday afternoons and on week-ends, and have managed to make our own goal nets from discarded camouflage nets, a rare "luxury" in this part of the world.

In spite of the Austers, football has continued to flourish. We have not played so many games in this second half of the season, owing to heavy pressure of work, schemes and exercises. We have seen newcomers in almost all our matches recently, which helps



to account for our low number of wins. The matches played so far are:

Teams	Opponents	Place	Result	Goals
1	14 Field Regiment, R.A.	Home	Lost	3-2
2	14 Field Regiment, R.A.	Away	Lost	3-1
1	1st Argyll and Sunderland Highlanders	Away	Lost	2-0
2	3 R.T.R.	Away	Drawn	3-3
1	3 R.T.R.	Home	Drawn	4-3
1	18 Field Ambulance	Home	Won	2-1
1	14 Div. Pro. Coy. (Army Cup)	Home	Won	2-1
1	1st Royal Leicesters	Home	Lost	2-1
1	1st South Staffords (Army Cup)	Home	Lost	4-1
		(After extra time)		
1	3 R.T.R.	Home	Lost	3-1

Results: Won 2, drawn 1, lost 7; goals—for 16, against 26.

In the Army "Challenge Cup" Knock-out Competition we were beaten in the second round by 1st Battalion South Staffords after a very hard-fought game. The score was 1-1 at full time, but our opponents were able to forge ahead in extra time, finally beating us by 4-1. We hope to do better in the 40 Division Knock-out Competition, which is to be held very soon.

We have said farewell to a number of our regular players, most of whom have left us for release. These were: Sgt. Jones, L/Cpls. ("The Horse") Larkin, Heritage and Hyland, and Pres. Lingwood, Anderson, Jones (39) and Simmons. We were sorry to see them go and would like to wish them all good luck and good soccer in their new lives. Special mention must be made of Sgt. Jones, whose loss was particularly keen, as he has played for the Regiment for the last 17 years.

We have also temporarily lost our "resident referee," Sgt. Burgess, at present on a course in U.K., and Sgt. Cranfield, now in hospital with cartilage trouble, to whom we offer our sympathy.

C.S.M.I. Timpany continues to work hard for the team, looks after our ground and now referees most of our matches. C.S.M. Shrubbs, M.M., is still our team captain. Finally, our thanks to Cpl. Burbage, "C" Company, who has remained our ever-energetic linesman.

Within the Battalion the "Albuhera" Shield Soccer Competition has now been completed, resulting in a win for "C" Company, who thoroughly deserve their victory as they had to play five matches, two against "H.Q." Company in the semi-finals and three against "S" Company in the final, before finally emerging as the triumphant if somewhat exhausted victors. We saw some excellent games and discovered much new talent. The final placings were as follows: "C," "S," "H.Q.," "A," "D" and "B."

We heartily congratulate ex-L/Cpl. Hinshelwood on gaining a place in Fulham first team (we wonder whether he misses those steaks from the cookhouse!).

## HOCKEY

Though still handicapped by lack of grounds we have been able to play a number of Battalion matches recently. We can now book the Club de Recreo ground, Kowloon, several times a month and have had some very enjoyable games on their excellent pitch.

At the end of January we played 40 Commando, R.M., and 23rd Field Regiment, R.A. In the first a hard-fought match resulted in a 2 all draw, and a nasty cut

over the eye for Capt. P. J. Livemore, M.C. In the second we had the run of the play throughout most of the game and five minutes before the end were leading 2-0; quite what happened during the last few minutes no one can remember very clearly, but two sweeping movements by the Gunners resulted in another draw.

On February 15 an "A" team played Strange's Anti-Tank Battery, R.A., at Boundary Street and pulled a 2-1 victory out of a very scrappy game. Two days later we tried to improve on our previous score against 40 Royal Marine Commandos, but once again a 2-2 draw was the result. Our second shot at 23rd Field Regiment, R.A., provided another enjoyable match, in which our opponents got rather the better of a ding-dong battle. Fortunately they only scored once and Capt. P. G. V. Bellers was able to equalise. In an exciting finish a very powerful shot from the opposing centre-forward appeared to be slightly deflected by a defender's foot and the final whistle blew as it struck the goal post and bounced off.

A Sunday match against 1st Battalion Royal Leicesters at Sek Kong resulted in a 3-1 victory. And against the 1st Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at the Recreo ground, another pleasant game, though it was very hot, ended 3-1 in our favour.

In the games mentioned above the following have played: Major J. N. Shipster, D.S.O., Capt. P. J. Livemore, M.C., Capt. K. J. Carter, Capt. P. G. V. Bellers (whom we are very sorry to lose), Lt. B. K. Clayden, Lt. G. Sanders, 2/Lt. J. C. Bucknall, 2/Lt. B. H. Marciandi, C.S.M. Tarrant, C.S.M. McMillan, C.S.M. Shrubbs, M.M., Sgt. Street, Sgt. McGowan, Cpl. Hilkens, Cpl. Hymas, L/Cpl. Leat, Bds. Smith, Jenkins and Stevens. C/Sgt. Thom has acted as referee throughout.

The Battalion hockey pitch on the airstrip has been used very regularly for Company games and practices, and the Inter-Company Competition has just ended with "H.Q." Company emerging as worthy winners.

## GOLF

Possibly for the first time in the history of the Battalion, golf has become a serious sport and is played as often as possible by an increasing number of both officers and men.

This rise in popularity of the game has, to a large extent, been caused by the close proximity of the Royal Hong Kong Golf Club at Fanling, which consists of two very fine 18 hole courses. The Committee has very kindly extended the courtesies of the course to all other ranks, and made membership available to officers at a most reasonable subscription.

With the departure of our champions, Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., Majors W. P. H. Chattey and G. Lerwill, M.C., and Capt. P. F. Smyth, our ability to put a side into any competition was more than doubtful. However, at 40 Infantry Divisional Gold Meeting we managed to put in a team of four and finished as runners-up in the following competitions:

Cpl. Briggs—Greensomes Bogey Competition.

Pte. Keywood—Singles Medal Round.

Major D. B. Rendell, M.B.E., M.C.—Stapleford Competition.

At present we are in the middle of 40 Divisional Inter-Unit Knock-out Competition, and were fortunate in obtaining a bye into the second round. Here we met 24 Field Engineer Regiment, R.E., and defeated them by three games to one. In the next round we meet the R.A.M.C., where opposition is said to be very strong.

Pte. Keywood will be leaving for U.K. in the next ship, but his place in the team will be taken by Pte. Farrington, a most promising newcomer.

## BATTALION ENTERTAINMENTS

Our weekly programmes have followed a fairly regular pattern, beginning on Mondays with the always welcome visits of Miss Stevens of the W.V.S., for whose untiring efforts we are very grateful. Miss Stevens recently brought us a large selection of books, which she lends out weekly. We have film shows on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and though we have been let down once or twice, due to breakdowns of the A.K.C. van, the programmes are generally of a high order. Sgt. Wright and Cpl. Butters generously give up two evenings each week to supervise these performances. We usually have whist drives on Wednesdays or Thursdays, and now that Pte. Boast has gone back to the U.K., Pte. Ovenden is their very efficient organiser. We have also lost L/Cpl. Knight, but in his place Pte. Mann runs the table tennis. With three matches to play we stand third in the New Territories Army Table Tennis League Championship, having won seven out of the ten matches played, and though we cannot now overhaul the leaders, we are confident that we can hold our present honourable position.

The production of "Ten Minute Alibi" by the officers, which is reviewed elsewhere in this issue, was put on twice for the troops and once for the officers, W.O.s and Sergeants and their guests in the first week of March and proved very successful. It was also shown to the Royal Leicesters, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and Headquarters 27th Infantry Brigade. Whether or not the words printed on the backs of the programmes "Watch out for our next production" are to be fulfilled is still a matter for debate. But whatever their next attempt is to be we wish them a success to equal that of their first production.

## HONG KONG NEWS LETTER

Now that the whitewashed stables of Beas Camp have become our established home, let me be your host, reader in England, and join our little quartet in a loose box for one day.

When Reveille sounds in a few minutes it will be closing time at the "local" for you, ten thousand miles away; and it will be yesterday for us and to-morrow for you and you will have nothing to lose.

The sun is not up yet, but already it has lit the tops of the rough bare hills that rise about us in a wide irregular horseshoe. Already the valleys are sharpening into deep wrinkles and the chequer of paddy fields that lies between us and the foothills is visible; and smoke is drifting from the little Chinese village half a mile away; tranquil now, but yesterday an uproar of fire-

crackers, cymbals and processions celebrating a wedding.

Chinese weddings are a subject of their own. On the date of the marriage the bridegroom's parents send a decorated red sedan chair to fetch the bride. She is brought back to her future in-laws' house to the accompaniment of bands, or anything that makes a noise, and firecrackers to drive away evil spirits and make everyone happy.

Just to be different, the bride is playing "hard to get" within the sedan chair and crying and wailing at leaving her parents. At least that is what she is supposed to do if she is a nice girl. On arrival a great ceremony of formal introduction puts everything on a proper basis.

Of course, there is a tremendous amount of "build up" before the wedding, and, presumably, since she has to live with her in-laws, a certain amount of let down afterwards. It is interesting to note that the bridegroom's family foot the bill. However, thereafter the wife does all the work and the matter is very quickly evened up.

We are a little unlucky at the moment as we are in the middle of a drought and the nearest wash-house has had to be closed and the water heavily chlorinated, so that it tastes like the sweepings of a chemist shop. However, it might be worse, for there has been no water in the officers' mess for five days.

To-day we are doing a digging exercise and after breakfast we set out along the road and across the paddy fields to the hills. The green patches of seedling rice will soon be strong enough for transplanting when the rains come. The remainder of the arable land is being ploughed and rolled and vegetable gardens worked with all the industry of suburban allotments. These strips of cultivation manage to produce three crops a year. Prodigious growth is assured, even during the dry season, by the agency of numbers of abominable vehicles, which bring the sewage out from Kowloon that it may be broadcast over the fields. It is not, of course, safe for Europeans to eat these vegetables and ours are grown by more conventional methods. However, this is the way it is done, a disenchanting innovation and legacy of the Japanese; and the chief trial to us is that these areas cannot be traversed in one breath.

At the foot of the hills, tools and revetting materials are unloaded from our truck and we start the steep, wearisome struggle up to our area.

The first few hundred yards are not too difficult as a path leads to one of the many Chinese graveyards and shrines that are at the base of most hills. Here the ancestors can watch the seasons change the hard-worked ground in the full cycle of creation, harvest and rebirth. The veneration of ancestors fills a great part of Chinese belief. After seven years the dead are exhumed for ultimate re-interment in a tomb as elaborate and well-sited as the relatives can afford. The many who cannot afford any monument place their ancestors' remains in urns to await the time when enough money has been saved to build one; and as we climb we pass rows of these urns, side by side, marking the contour of the slope and awaiting their turn for translation.

Fortunately we have not far to go as the track soon stops and it takes four of us to drag up a single sheet of corrugated iron.



Below us winds and loops the Shum Chun River, marking the frontier with China, and beyond it a wide plain sprinkled with villages, each with its outcrop of characteristic white watch towers. And again, beyond and about five miles away rise the mountains of China, now a parched brown, shimmering in the heat, but in yesterday's dullness a deep cobalt blue and seeming very near.

The embankment for the Kowloon-Shanghai Railway stretches across the plain and disappears into a valley where the hills measure the horizon. Although a train from Canton to Shanghai has recently run, through traffic is virtually at a standstill. The line from Kowloon to the frontier is, however, busy. It is said that when the first special troops' leave train was run a great deal of ceremony was attached to the first journey. The entire station staff were marshalled in a line on the platform, each one equipped with new uniform, whistle and green flag. Excitement mounted to fever pitch as zero hour approached, and when the great moment arrived whistles blew, flags waved and the engine with a proud hoot drew out of the station. Unfortunately, no one had coupled it to the coaches and consequently an enraged and frustrated Board of Directors was left behind.

Close to the rail crossing over the Shum Chun River is the road bridge, hidden from us by a shoulder of hill. This is one of the sights for visitors to Hong Kong. On our side is a brick-built police post with a flagstaff flying the Union Jack. Across the short Bailey bridge stands a cadaverous lantern-jawed Communist sentry. Behind him a wretched grass hut has to serve as a guard-room and Customs house, for opposite, across the road, stands the blackened shell of the old Customs house, set alight a few weeks ago by a Nationalist fighter. The flow of foot traffic is continuous in both directions. Carriers of livestock and vegetables pay their dues to the Chinese Customs, cross the bridge and, after a quick search for arms and illicit goods, are allowed to pass our police post. Those, who for some reason are turned back, walk a short distance up the river bank to a ford, and in an ever-swelling mob await cover of darkness to cross over. The commonplace sight of a live pig sitting on the carrier of a bicycle is a reminder that we English miss something by our respect for convention.

Most of those who cross into China carry two or three new umbrellas and wear three or four hats pagodawise. No umbrellas or hats return and the inference is that these are in short supply under the New Order.

A few lorries are also allowed to cross from us in convoys, carrying drums of vegetable and mineral oil. When a sizable dump has been collected about half a mile further on at Shum Chun Hu a Nationalist fighter usually comes over and blows it to smithereens.

We, from our positions, get a grandstand view; but to-day it is not likely that anything will happen as the Nationalists are unlikely to send aircraft over in unsettled weather.

Do not suppose that we spend all our time on digging exercises or admiring the view. There is much else to be done and learnt. Though it is nearly four hundred years since Christopher Marlowe was born,

he speaks to-day for our Commander when he says:

"But now my boys leave off, and list to me  
That mean to teach you rudiments of war.  
I'll have you learn to sleep upon the ground,  
March in your armour through watery fens,  
Sustain the scorching heat and freezing cold,  
Hunger and thirst, right adjuncts of the war;  
And after this, to scale a castle wall,  
Besiege a fort, to undermine a town,  
And make whole cities caper in the air.  
The next to fortify your men—  
The ditches must be deep; the counter scarp  
Narrow and steep; the walls made high and broad  
And room within to lodge six thousand men,  
It must have privy ditches, countermined,  
And secret issuings to defend the ditch;  
When this is learnt for service on the land,  
By plain and easy demonstration  
I'll teach you how to make the waters mount  
That you may dryfoot march through lakes and  
pools,  
Deep rivers, havens, creeks, and little seas,  
And make a fortress in the raging waves,  
Fenc'd with the concave of a monstrous rock,  
Invincible by nature of the place.  
When this is done then are ye soldiers  
And worthy sons of Tamburlaine the Great."

As the shadows start to form again in the hills we return to camp, slithering down the rocky track past the graveyards and across the fields through the insufferable fetidness of forced cultivation, back to our loose boxes.

Some of us will be going to Kowloon to-night. Not many, however, because the cost of pretty well everything except fountain pens and pencils is too high for anything but an occasional visit to a cinema or a meal; and even the novelty of an imitation gold Biro pen doesn't last for ever.

However, we National Servicemen have much to learn and the newness of strange sights and sounds is with us for much of our short time out here. With plenty of work there is little monotony.

It must often seem a hard and thankless task to the regular soldiers, who no sooner start to realise the satisfaction of having made us into soldiers when we sail for England. Small blame to them if, now and again, they felt with Houseman:

"O oftimes have I washed and dressed  
And what's to show for all my pain?  
Ten thousand times I've done my best  
And all's to do again."

By the time we are stretched out on our boarded bunks beneath mosquito nets and the limitless night insect life has transformed our loose box into a miniature London airport, you, reader in England, will be having breakfast. You might reasonably ask of us out here what China is going to do. A man with a profound knowledge of China once said:

"Examine their history and psychology; consider all the factors that can possibly affect their choice of action and then tabulate the courses that they are most likely to take. You can then sit back, for you have at least got a list of courses that they will not adopt."

### "TEN MINUTE ALIBI"

Presented by Officers of 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), in the New Territories, Hong Kong, in March, 1950

The following two reports on the play were published in the *China Mail* and are re-published by THE DIE-HARDS for interest:

March 11, 1950.

"If anyone had told me that an evening of excellent entertainment could be provided in a stable, I should have asked myself—how big the stable, and whence the performing horses? We were, however, on Sunday evening, treated to entertainment of a non-equine nature in the old Jockey Club stables at Fanling.

"Under the able direction of Father M. Malone, R.C. Chaplain to the Forces, assisted by the Stage Manager, 2/Lt. J. Locke, and by wizards of the lights and 'props'—Sgt. Michel and Cpl. Long—officers of the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment demonstrated to an appreciative audience, what can be done by determination and ingenuity. The transformation from a horse stable to a most attractive little set for Antony Armstrong's 'Ten Minute Alibi,' made us feel that the Commanding Officer had for weeks past, somehow managed to spare his technicians for protracted leave. But knowing that the Battalion has been indulging in intensive training with military exercises thrown in to break the producer's heart, it is a matter for the warmest congratulations that the setting alone was constructed with most pleasing results. Many difficulties also beset the players—postings, transfers, rehearsals in Fanling and Kowloon, unpredictable military exigencies including postponement for replacement of cast losses, etc.—all these threw a heavy strain on a cast the members of which instead of being stale, as might have been expected, were, in fact, as fresh as the grease paint they wore.

"Special mention in a play of this nature is not easy, particularly as most of the audience were friends of some members of the cast, and were—in the inimitable way of A.D.S. audiences—waiting to see their friends 'having a go.' But the actress (one only) and actors were real, and lived their parts. If it were possible to choose from among the cast, I would say that Jimmy Flavell's part as Colin Derwent was the best presentation of the evening.

"At the final curtain, the Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. A. M. Man, O.B.E., made a fitting speech of congratulation and thanks to all concerned in the production.

"The Commanding Officer then threw his Mess open to many of the visitors from the Territories and from Kowloon, and the evening finished in the well-known hospitable spirit which the Middlesex Regiment engenders.

"The evening was honoured by the presence of the Brigade Commander and his wife, Brig. and Mrs. B. A. Coad, who spoke to all members of the cast during the evening."

March 22, 1950.

### "TEN MINUTE ALIBI"

A GREAT SUCCESS

"'Ten Minute Alibi,' which was first presented some fourteen days ago by the 1st Battalion The Middlesex

Regiment, and was reviewed in a previous issue, has played most successfully to several military units in the Territories. We paid it another visit on Monday, when it was presented to the 27 Brigade Headquarters. With each performance they have become increasingly popular, and it is felt that the cast deserve special individual comment.

"Taking them in order of appearance, Capt. John Livemore, as a dignified butler—an old lag who puts up with his master's peccadillos with young ladies—played a small but telling part with dignity, producing realistically anger and fright at the right moment.

"Peter Bosworth—that snake in the grass (how I envied him his technique!)—made me most concerned over the likely fate of his latest butterfly on the wheel, and equally annoyed that he seemed to be getting away with it. His self-satisfied and confident approach to his crime made me feel that he had had much practice, as indeed the examination of his papers after his fully deserved sudden death demonstrated.

"Miss Hazel Slater (the unfortunate but charming butterfly) was really impressive. This poor little girl knew she was doing wrong, but couldn't resist it—you could see she was frightened, but she was drawn irresistibly to this wolf. In her portrayal of the part, Hazel took us with her through all the emotions one imagines would be felt under such unhappy circumstances.

"Capt. Jimmy Flavell, as Colin Derwent, gave an entirely life-like interpretation of the young man in love—too poor to offer his heart to Betty—knowing the trap she was falling into—knowing also that she was infatuated, and trying every way he knew to stop her elopement to Paris with a man who would leave her high and dry, and driven in desperation to murder. In his later reaction under suspicion, and his final lucky if unmoral escape, we were with him all the way, and equally unmorally on his side.

"Major Aymer Clayton, the Battalion second-in-command (need I say a very busy officer), playing Sir Miles Standing, gave us who knew him—and any that were present who didn't—an amusing glimpse of a somewhat self-important and impatient elderly solicitor, disturbed from his normal routine and in no uncertain manner demonstrating his disapproval of the situation to all concerned—particularly the Police. As a character study he was so realistic that his wife is seriously wondering if he will be like that in 20 years' time.

"The C.I.D.—Inspector Pember, played by Capt. George Forman, and Detective-Sergeant Brace, played by Capt. John Moore—gave us the well-known team from stage and screen—the perfect foils. Pember (who has made his way up the hard way and knows his onions) and Brace (the talented young beginner speaking French and very meticulous). The burden of unravelling the almost perfect crime was theirs; they brought us along with them, step by step, getting more and more unpopular with us as they neared the correct solution. A happy chance, and a slight suspicion of sympathy with the possible murderer, brought them back into our favour.

"We sincerely hope, training permitting, that the Middlesex may again produce a play as successful as this."



*The Die-Hards*



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